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Friday, March 14, 1919.

"Free" Must Continue.

Without in any way taking part
in any controversy over conduct
of war work, attention is called
to the following resolution adopted
by the Supreme Council of the
Knights of Columbus and trans-
mitted to Secretary of War
Baker:

"WHEREAS, the Committee of
Eleven of the United War Drive
and the Commission on Training
Camp Activities have proposed to
restrict the free distribution of
creature comforts by the Knights
of Columbus, and further pro-
posed to ask the Secretary of
War to require the Knights of
Columbus to observe such a regu-
lation. Now, therefore, the Board
of Directors of the Knights of
Columbus respectfully enter their
objection to this attitude on the
part of said Committee of Eleven
and said Commission on Training
Camp Activities; the Board of
Directors of the Knights of Co-
lumbus respectfully submit that
all moneys expended come from
the people at large, that in the
use of moneys so received and
collected from its own member-
ship before the United Drive they
had sought to interpret the wish-
es of the donors with the result
that a large proportion was ex-
pended for tobacco, cigarettes,
candy, chocolate, hot drinks, etc.,
and their intention for the future
is to expend moneys freely in the
same way.

"Our buildings are free, our
entertainments are free; our work
in the hospitals, on trains and
transports is free; our athletics
are free; our stationery is free;
our literature is free; our entire
service is free, so have been our
cigarettes, candy, chocolate and
hot drinks. Why must we change?
Why everything free except those
few little creature comforts, just
the things that a visiting father
or mother would bring to their
boy in the service? Why any re-
striction on the amount to be ex-
pended for this purpose when
there is no waste or extravagance
in the distribution?"

"In addition, of course, the
Knights of Columbus have con-
ducted many other activities for
the physical, moral, educational
and recreation welfare of all the
men in service freely.

"The Knights of Columbus
welcome advice and constructive
criticism. They make no com-
plaint as to the activities of other
societies; they claim no exclusive
right to give things away or to
any other war activities. As trust-
ees of these funds donated for the
welfare of men in the service,
the Knights of Columbus deny the
right of said Committee and
Commission to restrict them in
giving away the whole, or any
part of these funds for creature
comforts."

What little penance are you
performing as a Lenten sacrifice?

League of Nations.

While there appears to be op-
position to the League of Nations
upon the part of a majority of
the United States senators who
will sit in the next Congress, that
fact does not necessarily mean
that there will be no League of
Nations or that the Senate will
refuse to ratify the peace treaty
if the League of Nations covenant
is tied to it. Why so? Because
this very opposition to the League
covenant will insure its amend-
ment in such form that the Sen-
ate will ratify it. President Wil-
son will return to Paris able to
inform his colleagues in the
Peace Conference what sort of a
covenant and what sort of a
peace treaty will be ratified by
the Senate.

Probably the universal senti-
ment in the United States is for
a peace which will prevent war
in the future. If the League of
Nations will insure this, or rea-
sonably so, then we all favor it.
But if the League is only to be
the vehicle by which the aims
and ambitions of the greater na-
tions are to be conserved and
built up and if the United States
is to be catapulted into the seeth-
ing maelstrom of European poli-
tics and interests; if we are to
maintain a large standing army in
Europe to preserve the balance of
power; if our aid and assistance
to the European nations threat-
ened by German subjugation is to
be made the vehicle to saddle up-
on us a large share of what it
cost the Allies; why, then many
of us hesitate to enter into any
such compact, no matter how ad-
vantageous it may prove to Eng-
land, France, Italy, the Balkan
states or the neutrals of Europe.

However, if we all are agreed
upon the proposition that a league
of nations to enforce or to pre-
serve peace, it does seem that the
peace conferees cannot afford to
insist upon terms which would be
impossible of ratification by the
United States Congress. No mat-
ter how much they protest, the
nations of Europe need our aid
and assistance too much to insist
upon propositions impossible of
fulfillment while we are willing
to yield some points so long as
we do not surrender our rights to
rule our own land. It would be
intolerable were we to enter a
league on such terms that Japan,
for instance, might be able to
swing enough of the other nations
to apply to American conditions
and standards of the Orient. It is
not to be thought of that the
United States will permit one or
two or three European nations to
dictate our economic laws. No,
we may be willing to agree to
pool our supplies and men with
those of our Allies to preserve
peace to the world but not to per-
mit them to tell us how to man-
age our own affairs.

We have confidence that the
League covenant will be amended
upon President Wilson's return
to Paris so as to meet the objec-
tions that today would insure its
rejection by the Senate.

Should Be Squelched.

While it is entirely possible that
many of his associates sympa-
thize with William H. Anderson's
apparent dislike of the Catholic
Church because it refuses to af-
filiate with his politico-religious
organization, the Anti-Saloon
League, still we feel sure they
are not pleased at the brutal and
abusive air he has adopted in his
attack upon Cardinal Gibbons and
several Catholic priests who have
presumed to differ with his polit-
ical ideas.

Since Cardinal Gibbons has de-
clared that it is our duty to obey
this prohibition law, so long as it
is the law, this man Anderson has
the effrontery to rush into the
public prints with a declaration
that Cardinal Gibbons has chang-
ed his mind and apologized for
what he said before when the
fact is that what the Cardinal did
say was that he had not changed
his views in the way the national
prohibition was put over, its ul-

timinate effect or the injustice it
will work.

The Anti-Saloon League is a
peculiar institution. Now that the
saloon is to go, the League pro-
poses a bill at Albany whereby it
is proposed that the druggist be
the certified vendor of liquors for
medicinal, scientific or sacramen-
tal purposes—which are permitted
under the prohibition amendment—
it is said. But the druggists of
New York state come before the
Legislature and declare they will
not seek permission to dispense
straight liquors even upon pre-
scription. In other words the
druggists say that if saloons are
had, or liquors are had, they don't
want to handle them and will not
carry them in stock. This manly
stand angers Mr. Anderson
and he says the druggists must
be self-sacrificing patriots.

The effect the druggists stand
will have on the Catholic Church
is this: Under the Anti-Saloon
League prohibition enforcement
bill now before the Legislature,
the only persons permitted to pur-
chase and dispense liquor are the
druggists. Permission is given
clergymen, priests to purchase
altar wine from the druggists
but not direct from the manufac-
turer. If the druggist in a given
locality refuses to carry wine in
stock, where is the priest to ob-
tain it, because the Federal laws
prohibit transportation companies
from carrying or delivering wines
or liquors in dry territory. Should
the New York prohibition en-
forcement bill become a law, and
druggists refuse to sell wines or
liquors, just how is the Catholic
pastor to procure altar wine for
sacramental purposes?

Truly, we have fallen into
queer ways and habits of
thought.

Just Tribute.

"Theodore Roosevelt—he was
every inch a man". Thus opens
an editorial in one of our Catholic
exchanges. The editorial goes on:
"His principles were, in the main,
good and wholesome. He was
right in nine cases out of ten, and
honest in the tenth. He believed
in God, in faith, in men, in
strength; and also in kindness,
justice and in the American na-
tion. He had no fear before what
he thought was his duty, so his
mistakes were not the mistakes
of a coward, but those of the con-
fident and usually sure-footed
man. He stood for clean living,
and honest thinking; and against
what was destructive to national
and family life. He was religious,
according to his lights. It is too
bad that, in the strenuousness of
his worldly career, he forgot to
seek for more spiritual illumina-
tion. Had he sought it he would
have found it; and had he found
it he would have been still great-
er because he was fearless. He
was ambitious, but neither for
riches nor an easy load; only for
service and the heavy burdens
he knew he could carry. His home
surroundings and his home life
were both simple. He was a sim-
ple man living amongst simple
comforts, which he loved the
more because they were simple.
He exemplified the simplicity of
the pioneer even in his dress, in
the heart of the modern Babylon.
He was no enigma; everybody
understood him. He had no secret
thoughts; so he made many en-
emies. He is dead. Even his en-
emies are now his friends. The
kind of enemies such a man
makes are only temporary—en-
emies of convenience, as it were.
Theodore Roosevelt was greatly
honored by being President of
the United States. We think that
the United States also was great-
ly honored by having had Theo-
dore Roosevelt for its President."

That Catholic reconstruction
programme set forth by Bishop
Muldoon and his associates on the
Catholic War Work Council is a
sufficient refutation of the thread-
bare charge that the Catholic
Church is only concerned with
the rights of the property owners
and very little with the wrongs
of the workers.

The Sovereign Pontiff, Bene-
dict XV, has at no time postula-
ted a place in the present "Peace
Conference."

While the King and Queen of
England were passing the Sacred
Heart Convent at Rochampton in
the environs of London, the Sis-
ters and pupils stood on the pub-
lic road and presented them with
magnificent bouquets.

Ireland has now in mind the
erection of a great Basilica as a
national offering to Our Lady of
Lourdes.

In one place lately the Turks
slew 60 Armenian women and
children, and have vowed to ex-
terminate the whole Armenian
race.

Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of
State, presented President Wil-
son with a richly bound copy of
the new Code of Canon Law; a
like but differently bound copy of
the Code was presented him for
Princeton University.

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