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THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO THE POPE

To appreciate how much the situation is clarified by the peace negothe daily press on the Holy Father's or imprisonment." attitude. The Holy Father in no repetition of the charge that there was nothing practical in his appeal, over: he suggested a basis, or rather certain concrete bases, on which or from which discussion might begin. In striking contrast with the irresponsible press the belligerent powers without exception gave to the Holy Father's proposals mature and benevolent consideration. In contrast with the spiteful and unjust attribution of unworthy motives to the Holy Father the opening sentence of the President's reply is notable for courteous and sincere recognition of the considerations which prompted the Pope's appeal:

" Every heart that has not been blinded and hardened by this terrible War must be touched by this of the humane and generous motives which prompted it and must fervently wish that we might take the path of peace he so persuasively points out.'

There can be no doubt in the world that the President and the Pope are at one in desiring "no mere cessation of arms " but " a stable and enduring peace." The momentous declaration, clear-cut and definite, of the President that no covenanted peace can be concluded with the Government of Germany as at present constituted, is not intended as a bar to negotiations for peace with Germany; place the issue of the struggle clearly power is not the German people. powers. It is the ruthlesss master of the German people." This is a country or combination of countries statesmanlike advice. distinct and definite step toward has the right to impose a form of peace inasmuch as it is a distinct, government on Germany other than has been the occasion of so much definite and authoritative statement | that desired by the German people. | bitter controversy, honest and otherof minimum demand of the Entente But the objection is more specious wise, Sir Wilfrid said: Allies as a condition precedent to the than real. As spokesman for the That condition fulfilled, the President within his rights in declining to of which I did not and do not approve. opens wide the door to negotiations for a stable and enduring peace.

nized by those who do their own places the interest or advantage thinking; those for whom their of the State above all obligations of favorite paper usurps that function conscience, honor or international may be under the impression that law. the allied aims have always been The basic principle of democracy, clearly defined. The following ex- profound faith in the people's sense tract from so friendly a source as the of right and justice and equity, is the President's reply to the Pope:

"Although all the nations involved are longing for peace, their Governments are in no condition to discuss terms of peace. The political and ndustrial changes brought about by the War are tremendous; but they. are manifestly incomplete. Democ racies have been obliged to change many of their habitual modes of action; autocracies are facing in ternal agitations; one autocracy has just disappeared, but no stable government has as yet taken its place; many industries have to be government. President Wilson's and loyal citizens for every one malunder new conditions as regards both labor and capital; and war itself is conducted in new ways There is a general wondering as what is going to happen next, which indisposes responsible persons to large committals, or decisions which

Allies do not state clearly their minimum demands or lowest terms for Central Monarchies peace, and the state no terms at all.

'Under such circumstances it is wholly natural for combative and indignant men and women to say What is the use of talking with the German rulers about terms of peace they will not keep their word if they can obtain any military advantage by breaking it?" 'We must fight till we are plainly victorious.' other hand, the various official and unfflocial statements of the terms on which the Allies would be willing to make peace produce on the German so far as their opponents can mind, discover, only this effect: 'We are fighting a war of defense against dismust fight to the last gasp in the hope that some favoring chance or discord among our enemies may save us from the threatened destruction.' This is, indeed, a horrible dilemma, and many righteous men say that there is no way of escape from it, except by the overpowering of one or other of the combatants. Before settling down, however, to this long struggle is it not worth while to try a limited preliminary experiment on human capacity for good feeling and sound reasoning even under the

most adverse circumstances?" President Wilson has now stated clearly for the Entente Allies" their minimum demands or lowest terms split in twain.' for peace. And the German people can no longer be deluded into believtiations initiated by the Pope it is ing that they are" threatened with necessary to clear our minds of the destruction" and "are fighting a war confused and confusing comments of of defense against dismemberment

Not less important and significant sense assumed the position of an is President Wilson's unequivocal arbitrator making an award between and unreserved acceptance of the rival claimants. He was not laying Pope's clearly implied condemnation down terms of peace. To avoid the of the widely advocated economic boy- dian paper should bracket one of cott of Germany after the war is

"Responsible statesmen must now everywhere see, if they never saw before, that no peace can rest securely upon political or economic restrictions meant to benefit some nations and cripple or embarrass others, upon vindictive action of any sort, or any kind of revenge or deliberate injury. The American people have suffered intolerable wrongs at the hands of the Imperial no reprisal upon the German people, have themselves suffered all things in this war, which they did not choose. They believe that peace should rest upon the rights of peoples, not the rights of governments-the rights of peoples, great or small, weak or powerful—their equal right to freedom and security and self-government and to a participamoving appeal of His Holiness the tion upon fair terms in the economic Pope, must feel the dignity and force opportunities of the world - the German people, of course, included, accept equality and not seek domination.

There can be no manner of doubt that the Allied Governments fully assented to the terms of the President's reply. There can be little doubt that President Wilson's own great influence and the pivotal position of the United States were decisive in the matter of this definite rejection of the proposal to burden and endanger peace when it comes by vindictive economic warfare.

Thus two great steps are taken to before the peoples of the central

trust the word of a government which treats international agree-That this is a definite step of tre- ments as scraps of paper and

President emeritus of Harvard may splendidly asserted by the great be instructive; the article from democratic leader when he offers the sanction of His Excellency, the which it is taken was published a peace to the German people just as day or two before the publication of soon as they transform their government, now a ruthless master, into the responsible servant of the people governed. If the German people prefer to remain the willing slaves of their present ruthless master, then the War must go on until that menace to the peace of the world is

removed. There is a movement, and so far must realize that since it is law they as outsiders can judge, a real and must submit to it. There is a lot deep-rooted desire on the part of the statement must deepen that desire content." and give a tremendous impetus to war itself is conducted in new ways which disregard the ethics heretofore that movement. It is not extravaled and impartial observer as he thought to be universally accepted. gant to hope and believe that that is, reflects more accurately the feelway lies the path to peace.

magnificent faith President Wilson and actions are so widely advertised. cottages or other dwellings of differ. of righteousness. cannot be recalled. The Entente has pointed out a more excellent way In any case the idiotic demonstra-

than through the carnage of war by which the world may be made safe for democracy. It is a message primarily to the peoples of the Germanic countries, but it is a message also to the peoples of all countries. It is the dawn of peace.

The Pope's appeal has already borne abundant fruit.

AUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY

Deep down under many frothy and frivolous pronouncements in its name lies the profound truth that the cause of democracy is involved memberment or imprisonment; we in the great struggle now convulsing the world. Naturally democracy is the theme of every tongue and pen. It is not surprising then that many silly things are said and written.

Here is an example from the London Free Press:

"The Laurier rule in the Liberal party has not been less autocratic than is the rule of the Kaiser in the As a fact it is in the hands of autocracy. And in these days, when democracy aud autocracy have nothing in common, it is not surprising to find the Liberal party

Now we care little how the Liber al party is ruled or how the Conservative party is led. The democracy in which we believe is not dependent on the fate of parties; por are the lines of cleavage in both parties, quite visible to the least observant, of great interest or moment.

But it is interesting to examine why a leading and reputable Canathe foremost of Canadian public men with the Kaiser as an enemy of democracy "in these days when democracy and autocracy have nothing in common."

Now what has this Kaiser-like autocrat done? He has simply adhered to the view on conscription openly held and expressed by every man in Canadian public life for a considerable period of the War. German Government, but they desire | Others have seen reasons for changing their attitude on the question. Sir Wilfrid opposed the enactment of legislation putting conscription in force without consulting the people. If the people approved conscription they would have it; but it would not be forced on them without a man date or against their will. He did not make the acceptance of his position in the premises the touch-stone of Liberalism; he openly declared that his followers were free to follow their own judgment and conscience in the matter. One of these, Hugh Guthrie, M. P., expressly stated as a reason for voting against the referendum that he believed the people of Canada would reject conscription. It would be interesting to read the definitions that would explain the picture of the autocrat Laurier ruthlessly suppressing that Parliamentary champion of

There is another phase of the question which demands attention, and there are admirers of Laurier It may be objected that no foreign who should heed his patriotic and

Speaking on the question which

"Members of this House are aware But, while that is my sincere position it is also known that my opinion is not entertained by all the members of the Opposition. There are imof the Opposition who approve the principle of the Military Service Act, as sincere as my own. But the military service bill is a measure of such importance that I consider that whether we approve or do not approve of its principle, it having come law and having just received Governor-General, it behooves us all, as loyal British subjects, to do our part to see that it is carried out as harmoniously as possible."

Louis Wiley, manager of the New York Times, who spent some time in represented. Quebec before going west, speaking at the Winnipeg Canadian Club said

"I cannot think that there is any great body of hostile opposition to conscription in Quebec. The people heard, doubtlessly, from a few malcontents, but so far as I could gather

It may be that Mr. Wiley, training of Quebec than the noisy anti-

tions and speeches of certain sections to-date sanitary construction. Each will have, in all probability, sons of the population of Quebec, are home, under this suggested plan, is who are worthy of them. In the doing more to popularize and pro-mote the cause of conscription than dequate size and window lighting, the reasoned and eloquent appeals of properly equipped with kitchen its most sincere advocates. Conserip- range, with hot water fittings, stoves, tion has now become law, and " it behooves us all, as loyal British sub- (where available), with ample cupjects, to do our part to see that it is | board and storage facilities for food carried out as harmoniously as pos- or coal, and invariably with a fitted sible." At a general election the bath. Every cottage must stand in people will have the opportunity to its own garden of not less than oneexercise their right of passing judg- eighth of an acre. "We ought to ment on the measure. In the meantime it is the law of the land. And we are much mistaken in the temper | the great peace shall be a model for of our fellow . Canadians if any the ensuing generation." attempt to engraft the ideas of Russian anarchists on Canadian politics will not be warmly and emphatically resented by the Canadian people. Extremes meet. There is room for a saner conception of democracy a great spirit of unrest in England and autocracy. In a democracy as which, having the inherent rights of well as in any other form of govern- humanity as its starting point, evenment, there is need for education in tuated in the great Chartist movethe respective rights and correlative ment, the Repeal of the Corn Laws, duties both of those who exercise the Reform Bill and those numerous authority and those who are subject

Canada is not going to imitate Russia either in the despotism of her erstwhile autocracy or in the anarchy of her present democracy.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE PREVAILING idea that when the War ends there is to be an immense By the ordinary processes of this long-drawn-out conflict Europe is being largely decimated of its ablebodied male population, and those that survive will have employment enough and to spare in rebuilding their ruined cities, restoring the soil to cultivation, and in other ways overcoming the widespread ruin and in its train. That there will be some manhood of Europe is likely to find for all his energies and resource.

FOR EXAMPLE, to fit in with the re-Great Britain alone, the erection of ate decision as to the Government's | blessing. housing policy. One million houses 5,000,000 additional rooms) the committee states in a manifesto just housing schemes to pay their way. their devotion to their holy office

conclusion of peace by agreement. Allies President Wilson is perfectly that the principle of this bill is one of a million houses is made up, the committee points out that 100,000 additional dwellings will be needed a year. When the Rent Restriction Act expires rents in many manufacmendous significance will be recog- whose philosophy of statecraft portant and representative members turing towns and in mining and agricultural districts are, in view of and the policy of the Government in the undeniable shortage, likely to be applying it. Their convictions are advanced, causing severe distress. the committee that the Local Government Board should itself undertake the building, placing the work mittee appointed by itself, on which the Trades Council, the local trade

A STRIKING sign of the times in classes but of the very poor. Utilitarianism and æstheticism are joinwant," says the report, "a uniformly war bear more heavily. ent sizes and accommodations of up-

sinks, and gas and water laid on determine," concludes the report, "that the one million dwellings of

sociologist or no student of the past can misunderstand. The close of the Napoleonic wars gave birth to other measures for the betterment of social conditions which made the Lauzanne, head of the French Offi period memorable. In our own time we have seen further extensions of the principle of popular rights and with the coming of peace after this greatest of wars we are likely to see changes of a far-reaching character embracing not alone the condition of the toiler, but of every rank and condition in our complex influx of immigration to this continent civilization. That such changes may be doomed to disappointment. may be wisely guided and in full recognition of man's spiritual and moral as well as his physical wellbeing should be the concern of all.

OF THE many expressions of opin ion regarding the future of religion in France which one sees from time to time in the press, none is more entitled to respectful consideration desolation which the War is leaving than that of the late Major William Redmond who with his own blood movement of population westward is testified to the righteousness of the the latest British return, stating that certain, but for years to come the cause represented by France and her eighteen vessels of more than Allies in the War. Major Redmond's tasks nearer home which will call testimony first published, we think, in the London Daily Chronicle, is clear on this point, that the War, If there has been any discovery which manifold as are its resulting evils, adjustment of the social order in has led to the revival of religion in a most remarkable way. And this, he one million new houses will be re- opined, is especially true in regard quired. The Joint Committee on to France, where the enforced partic-Labor Problems after the War, which ipation of the clergy, which, from embraces the whole trade unionist some points of view was no doubt movement, is pressing for an immedi. wrong, has in effect turned out a Land and the United States. Until

This effect is summed up in a feeling paragraph which, emblematic published, ought to be completed of the whole article, deserves to be within four years from the declara- long remembered : "The spectacle tion of peace. The cost is placed at of thousands of priests marching and £250,000,000, of which probably fighting for the country and the flag £200,000,000 would be regarded as a has touched deeply the heart of France, sound financial investment, covering and many and many a man who was, not only repairs, management and perhaps, ready enough to proclaim interest, but also a sinking fund to himself anti-Cleric will never so repay the whole debt within sixty describe himself any more. The years. Thereal expense would be rep- bravery displayed by the French Exchequer to enable the several killed) has been only equalled by able to gain single success. The project itself is revolutionary Few things are more appealing than and marks but one aspect of the wide- the sight of the soldier-priest turnspread social changes to which the ing to administer the last consola-War has given an impetus and which tions of religion to his fallen commay re make the British Constitu- rades fround about. And this has been witnessed on every battle-field of France, and it has its natural character, and the effect will remain long after the last shot of the War has been fired."

"FORTES CREANTUR FORTIBUS"

" If you didn't want to go, Jack, I Where the local authority refuses to build its quota it is recommended by the committee that the Local Government made by "The Whistling Mother," the heroine of an excellent war-story that has lately appeared, when she learned that her enthusi under the supervision of a local com-sities on was among the first to vol-unitees appointed by itself on which unteer. She had little advice to give her boy when the hour of parting came, for as he remarks: union branches and the local women's hadn't done her level best, long beindustrial organization should be fore that, to teach me to keep clean, and think straight and 'hit the line hard,' it was too late to begin then. Mothers and sons whose sincere convictions nowadays are expressed in this connection is the movement thus inaugurated for the better housing of not only the industrial old Latin line: "Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis," "The brave are fortibus et bonis," "The brave are fortibus et bonis," "The brave are good." generated by the brave and good, and it is particularly true of mothers ing hand-in-hand. "We do not On no one else does the burden of ugly Government cottage dumped freely offer their means to their country, sons nobly offer their lives down all over the country. The but mothers in giving their boys model plans should be sent only as suggestions for the assistance of the local authority to be adapted to local conditions or to be improved on." sort of mother" they will make the sacrifice bravely, remembering that With magnificent courage and conscription crowds whose words The plans must of course provide for the call of their country is the call

Moreover, mothers of that kind

unable to meet a soldier's physical Secondly, requirements. patriot-mother has taught them from their earliest years, "to keep clean and think straight and 'hit the line " they will not easily forget hard, the lesson at the time it is most needed, amid the temptations of camp-life and the horrors of the Finally, if the influence exerted by the memory of a thoroughly patriotic mother will do so much to keep our soldiers, sober, chaste and courageous, what high-minded and day. invincible defenders of their country they will be, if they are also armed with a living practical faith in Chris-WHAT SUCH a movement means no tianity, particularly if they are consistent adherents of the only perfect form of Christianity there is: Cathol

ON THE BATTLE LINE

UNOFFICIAL REPORTS say that there is increasing evidence of the using up of foe reserves on the Western front. There is food for reflection, how ever, in the statement by Stephen cial Information Bureau in the United States, to the effect that the Central Empires have approximately 2,055 000 men on the Russian Roumanian fronts, including about 60,000 men each from Turkey and Bulgaria. Of the total force, Lauzanne says that Germany has eighty-eight divisions, roughly 1,420,000 men, of whom only 180,000 are of the active army, the rest being Landwehr and Landstrum troops. On the Western front, he says, the enemy has 2,220,000 men, of whom 1,200,000 are opposed by the French. The foe is strongly trenched, and while the forces of the Allies are strongest numerically, according to all accounts, demoralization of the Russian armies has greatly weakened their offensive power. It is plain that the Allies have still before them an amazingly difficult task, and that every man and every gun must be brought to bear in the solution of it.

THAT THE SUBMARINE MENACE is still a factor in the War is shown by 1.600 tons were sunk, compared with fifteen in the previous week, and five vessels of less than 1,600 tons, as against three. No fishing vessels were sunk. will enable the Allies to make a better fight against the U-boat it has not yet come into effect, and so long as the loss of British shipping is on the scale above given so long will there be cause for anxiety, in spite of reassuring statements recently made by Lloyd George and others as to the progress of shipbuilding in the Old the foe submarine bases in Belgium are taken by the Allies there can be little real hope of an effective coping with the U-boat problem.

GENERAL CADORNA'S irresistible friend, and looking at him kindly, he troops have so far reclaimed three said, "Something out of the com Irredenta. The War Office at Rome yesterday reported the repulse of he answered, "something quite un-counter attacks and the capture of common did bappen to me there, the waning military power of Austria of life entirely, but the matter would that every gain made by the Italians hardly interest you. I've only been in their present campaign has been an R. C. for eight months, and I firmly held, and that nowhere, even it there." There was silence for a though aided by the tremendous few seconds. The natural advantage of holding the resented by the free grant from the priests in battle (2,000 have been higher positions, has the enemy been

MAJOR GENERAL MAURICE, Director of operations at the British War tant. It was the Anglic office points out in his weekly talk the silence. "I should like to know that a pause, accentuated by stormy more, but one knows how sacred to weather, has come in the operation himself a man's thoughts are when Italian sea coast. He explains that religion." the apparent cessation of active searchingly at the young man's face. fighting on the Isonza front is necesitated by the advancement of the to talk about, but doubtless you had EVEN AFTER the present shortage effect upon the impressionable French artillery positions, which in the your reasons for the change. theatre is an exceedingly difficult elder Catholic leaned forward and task. General Maurice says that it said simply, "Tell us, we are all is a race between Cadorna's offensive | friends here and Austria's defensive manoeuvres. The enemy is rushing reinforcements tell you; there is nothing personal from the Russian front where their need seems to be daily lessening.

Before I studied medicine, I was at seems to be daily lessening. Little doubt remains in the minds of Marlborough. My father was a parson military observers that Cadorna can and though religion never pressed outspeed the foe.

"As MINISTER OF JUSTICE I abolished the death penalty, but as Minister of War I decided, if necessary, partially to re-establish it. This re-establishment hurts to the very soul, but for the salvation of the country we will kill with all our souls. The army must be organized and disciplined." Thus Premier Kerensky, at the conclusion of the Moscow Conference, showed how determined the new Government is to restore discipline and save the nation. The announce ment at the War Office at Petrograd yesterday that a large portion of two regiments had withdrawn from their positions in the Fokshani region on the Roumanian front without making any resistance clearly shows how urgent the need is for the sternest measures. A high British military official yesterday expressed his wonder that, in view of the paralysis of the Russian army, the Germans had not made greater progress on the East front.—Globe, Aug. 31.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS PRAISED BY DR. HALL

One of the most remarkable tributes ever paid to the Catholic educational system by a non-Catholic school man came a week ago from Dr. G. chaplain for the Brigade and had but

Stanley Hall, president of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., in an address given at a reception to the Catholic students at the State Teach. ers' college summer school, Greeley Colo., by the Newman club of that

Dr. Hall said that he was a Protestant, and his family had been Protestants for generations. Still, he must confess that the Catholic Church had some things most precious which the other churches do not have. Among these is religion in her educationa system? Our public schools, he said, are devoid of this, as a result of the work of politicians long ago, and we are not able to repair the damage to day. It is the most unnatural thing in the world, he declared, to expect to educate a child while denying him the knowledge he should have of God.—Catholic Transcript.

A PRIEST AT A FIRST DRESSING STATION

By Father Philip It was a dark winter evening in a small French town situated just within hearing of the guns. friendly little group of men in khaki were seated at a round table, lit by an overhanging lamp. Dinner was over, and the men looked happy and contented. The soup, well thickened with vegetables and bread, the delicious vellow omelette, so fresh and succulent, the delicately breast of yeal, with its accompanying pommes de terre salutes," camembert, the clear, clean flavoured gravy, had all come in for a word of praise. The smiling little French boy, who in his bright buttoned school suit, had served the dinner (for the party were in temporary possession of a billet with a well-to do family) had brought in the coffee and retired. There were five in number at the table, and them were chaplains. There was Father E., an R. C. chaplain in the Regular Army, who had served in Egypt and South Africa, and had been through the stress of the Mons retreat: there was Father G., who had done good work since the beginning of the War; there was Mr, of the Scottish Church, whose strong Protestantism never interfered with his Catholic friendships: there was Mr. L., a young Anglican clergyman, who but recently left England. The fifth member of the party was a young lieutenant of the R. A. M. C.

The conversation had been general; no one had prosed; each had contributed his share; the young lieutentant, who perhaps had spoken least, proved an attentive listener.

The elder padre in narrating a reminiscence, had mentioned the name of a small Flemish village, and some slight discussion of its precise position had ensued. The Lieuten ant at once located it, adding that he knew it well. Something in the young fellow's face as he spoke attracted the attention of the Presby terian, and turning to his ndred square kilometres of the I'm thinking, happened to you there. What was it, laddie?" prisoners. It is significant of something which changed my view padre looked grave; the R. C. padres looked pleased (for neither of them knew that their acquaintance was a Catholic:) the Anglican looked expecn who broke extending from the North Sea to the he contemplates a change in his The Presbyterian looked

'Well," said the young fellow, "I'll heavily upon me, I was, of course an Anglican -rather of the old fashioned kind, I think. When I joined the Army at the beginning of the War I was far too occupied in my new employment to give religion a thought.

You were speaking just now of that little Flemish village up near the firing line. I was stationed there about a year ago; and we had then an advanced dressing station, well to the west of it. You know the sort of thing—a ruined house with the roof mostly gone, and the walis supplemented by sandbags. On the day I have in mind there had been pretty severe fighting and the stretchers were coming in freely. We did what we could, but we could not get abreast of our work, and a number of cases had to be left lying more or less in the open waiting their turn. We had a C. of E. clergyman with us, a fine athletic young fellow, cheerful and efficient, who worked like a Trojan. When the work was at its hottest, I saw the R. C. padre ap proaching the station, dodging and crawling along as best he could, for the snipers were active and shells were coming all over the place had the wispof white ribbon, which he called his stole, fluttering about his neck, and I knew that he had come on duty. He was the only