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THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

Our declaration of war against Austria-Hungary is more than a formal and technical recognition of the Dual Empire's close alliance with our chief enemy. It is a recognition of the fact, too seldom recalled now, that however great may be the responsibility of Germany for beginning the war, it was Austria-Hungary that furnished Germany with the excuse for plunging the whole world into hostilities.

There has been in this country, as in England, a degree of sentimental pity for Austria-Hungary as a satellite of Germany, dragged against her will at the chariot wheels of Prussian militarism. We have had less occasion to condemn and hate Austro-Hungarian belligerency, because we know less about it than we do about that of Germany, because its manifestations have not been marked by so many acts of frightfulness as have marked the course of German belligerency. We are without confirmation of the suspicion that an Austrian submarine sank the Ancona, but even if we could fasten upon the Dual Empire that and other abominable crimes committed in the Mediterranean we cannot charge against it the wholesale murder of hostages, the wanton shelling of unfortified areas from the sea and the deliberate slaughter of women and children by Zeppelins and airplanes. But we can charge against it the delivery to Serbia of the most brutal ultimatum in modern history. We can charge against it a declaration of war made in the face of Serbia's surrender of substantially every demand made in that ultimatum.

The Eagle always regarded as illusory the hope that Austria-Hungary could be detached from the Prussian alliance and compelled or coaxed into a separate peace. That hope has been repeatedly advanced as a reason why we should not sever relations with Vienna nor make a declaration of war. We know from the recent speech of the Emperor Charles that Austria-Hungary is even more eager for peace than Germany is; but we also know that like Germany her conception of peace is one that leaves her in possession of all she had before the war began, a peace that would make Bosnia and Herzegovina forever her bondsmen and reduce Serbia and Rumania to the hopeless plight of vassal states. Such a peace contemplates no reparation for wrong done, no guarantee that Austria-Hungary would cease to be a mask for the German plan to make of the Balkans a highway between Berlin and Bagdad.

Germany and Austria-Hungary must stand together and fall together. The latter has nothing to gain and everything to lose from abandoning the alliance. The President, whatever may have been his opinion in the past, has now no illusions on this point. His request for a declaration of war makes that plain. Congress agrees with him by promptly putting Austria-Hungary in the same class with Germany, an enemy to be crushed by every resource at the disposal of the United States. Our ally, Italy, is asking today for even a handful of American troops to help in opposing the Austrian advance, not because a handful of them will be of military value, but because their appearance will have a stimulating effect upon Italian resistance. Such a request was made by the French Government through Marshal Joffre before we had been in the war many weeks. It was honored. The appearance of our men in France had the desired effect. The appearance of our men in Italy will have a similar effect. Congress has cleared the way for them none too soon.

FOR CITY MILK STATIONS.

Dr. Moscowitz, the City Commissioner of Food and Markets, proposes to establish milk stations, for the sale of milk to the poor at prices which they can pay, provided the aldermen will give him the authorization which is required under the law. Such a resolution is before the board and a public hearing by the Aldermanic committee. Under the new law the City Food Commissioner is empowered to buy and sell food to meet a public emergency, but the aldermen must declare that an emergency exists. The Board of Health has reported a considerable increase of disease due to under-feeding among children whose parents cannot pay the existing prices for milk. That condition surely constitutes "an emergency." To meet it the city will sell milk at a loss, but that is cheaper, as well as more humane, than to allow children to die for lack of their proper food. The English Government subsidizes bakers so as to insure cheap bread to its people. The rich city of New York can surely subsidize milk enough to keep the babies of its poor from dying.

WHERE DEATH AND MISERY STALK.

Even amid the horrors of a war of unparalleled and almost continuous disaster that part of the world in which human sensibilities survive is numbed by the catastrophe that has befallen Halifax and her people. The first news of the disaster, coming as suddenly as the blast that all but wiped out a fair city in one deafening roar, failed to compel a realization of the extent of the horror. As the story of destruction, of death and misery, has grown, one of the most appalling happenings in memory has been revealed.

It is baffling, almost incomprehensible. Halifax, one of Canada's proudest, most loved cities, and one of the portals of all America, has been in large part rendered a chaos of burning embers and twisted girders and fallen stones. Her streets are morgues, her habitable area an improvised hospital. Adding to the tragedy of the thousands of dead and the misery and suffering of the injured is the despair of those who are now fighting the bitterness of a northern blizzard without the protection of adequate shelter or sufficient fuel. And for the moment, at least, the sufferers are facing hunger.

Happily this distress can be reached and helped. Unlike other places where calamity has fallen during the years of war, Halifax is not so isolated that the boundless sympathy of a continent and the ready aid of willing hands need be withheld. Help is being sent as promptly as disadvantageous circumstances will permit, so that at its worst the suffering of the survivors will be but temporary. For the rest there remains only the sympathy of a world that knows better than ever before how close we stand to death and unsparing misery. That is the only compensation for the distraught people of Halifax, whose grief and suffering have become a part of the burden that lies upon the consciousness of humanity and will live in memory as a part of the greater tragedy of the world war.

SWANN ON ANCIENT ROME.

It is a little sad to have to note that District Attorney Swann of New York County seems to be falling into a habit that characterized many Southerners in Congress before the Civil War of slipping back to ancient Rome to point a moral or adorn a period. Judge Swann is quoted as saying that the fall of Rome had its inception in the wicked court dances of Nero's time, and adding:

> Just before the fall of the ancient city the people fell for such indecency, but the people of New York will not fall for such. I myself will not undertake to be the city's censor; we'll let the Grand Jury be that.

Now, as the old formula goes, The Eagle holds no brief for Nero or the customs of Nero's time. He was a bad fellow and he wrote execrable poetry, and if he fiddled when Rome was burning in 64 A. D. those who heard him had special reason for cursing the incendiaries. But the first tribute exacted by the Goths from Rome was nearly two hundred years after Nero; and, anyhow "post hoc, propter hoc" reasoning is to be deprecated. As for the people of Rome they "fell for" bread and circuses. Their morbid taste for seeing red blood flow was their worst weakness.

Seriously, our stage dances often offend the sense of propriety; more often they tend to demoralize taste in art. But why lug in ancient Rome? New York is not wholly virtuous. But even under Big Bill Devery she was freer from any street manifestation or demonstration of vice than any other city approximating her size; and the fellow who imagines there has been no improvement since then is a victim of his own delusions. Our judgment is that the whole duty of man, or the whole duty of a District Attorney, may be performed without any reflection on Nero; without any reference to the inglorousness of the glory that was Rome. We refuse to take too seriously the latitude and longitude of women dancers' costumes.

THE KRUPPS AT LUCERNE.

To those of us who have followed with admiring interest the course of little Switzerland since the European war began the announcement that the Krupps of Essen have opened a branch factory at Lucerne for the making of cannon and munitions of war comes almost as a shock. Incorporated under Swiss law, this concern will make shells and guns to kill Englishmen, Frenchmen, Americans. Technically, under international law, Switzerland, a neutral country, has the right to sell or ship munitions of war to Germany, as we had the right to send them to England when the United States was still neutral. But in effect much of the spirit of neutrality is surrendered by Switzerland in his new departure.

Lucerne people speak the German language. It is sometimes forgotten how thoroughly the speakers of German dominate Swiss politics. There are 189 members in the Swiss Congress, Zürich, 25; Berne, 32; Lucerne, 8; Basel, 11, St. Gall, 15; Argau, 12; Thurgau, 7; Cabauten, 6, make up the bulk of the representatives of speakers of German, a big majority of the whole Congress. Out of a total population of 3,741,971, according to the last available census, that of 1910, 2,594,203 spoke German in Switzerland as a whole.

Yet while the little republic has spent about $20,000,000 on maintaining her neutrality, she mobilized her army early for that purpose, she has stood out bravely against German claims; she has resented every misuse of her territory by Germany, and she has maintained a clearing house for the wounded and the civilians of both sides that has been immensely useful to the cause of humanity. If she wavers at last, the world will know that she bows to immediate pressure, and it will not forget her past services. She had in 1910 219,000 German aliens within her borders. Considering everything, the wonder is that she has held out so long in her policy of neutrality.

LITERATURE, ART AND POISON.

Otto Julius Merkel may be a very scholarly man; in touch with most of the graduates of German universities now in America. He is certainly well supplied with money, able to maintain three different expensive apartments in Manhattan, to boast eighty suits of clothes, and to live like a millionaire, wherever the cash may come from. But his pro-German communications to various other scholarly enemy aliens and sympathizers invite for him either internment or a term in prison.

Hans von Stengel may be a very clever cartoonist. We think he is. But a picture entitled "Seven Million Slackers," and drawn to ridicule the military plans of the United States, printed as it was four months after we had entered the war, is either alien propagandist work or treason, depending on whether citizenship may be claimed for Stengel, who was born in this country. In either case a penalty is provided by law.

The law takes no cognizance of Merkel's work before we were at war. It takes no cognizance of Stengel's "The Public Be Damned" cartoon of President Wilson, printed a year ago. While technical peace existed the poisoning of art, like the poisoning of literature, was non-punishable. Now the poisoners must take their medicine.

In times of peace we discount as "temperament" the outbreaks of word-artists or pencil artists. When war comes patience ceases. It ought to cease. Poisoned literature and poisoned art become like the ingenuity of the safe-breaker, a real menace to the community.

RUMANIA'S TRAGIC FATE.

It has been the fate of Rumania to be twice betrayed by Russia in this war. Her betrayal at the hands of the old bureaucratic regime is one of the blackest chapters in the story of the treachery of the "dark forces" that wrecked the Russian nation. Now by force of circumstances the men who have set themselves up as the antithesis of Russian imperialism have dealt Rumania a blow that is worse than any that has heretofore befallen her.

By forcing the Rumanians to join with them in a chimerical attempt to compromise with Teuton duplicity, the Bolshevik government gives the lie to its whole pretentious program. The "freedom of all nations, great and small," is made a mockery; the loudly emphasized principle of the "self-determination of nations" becomes a ghastly joke; even the "crude formula" of no annexations and no indemnities is made ridiculous by this betrayal of Rumania. Is it to be imagined that the Teutons will give up the rich oil and grain fields of Rumania while the Bolsheviki are waiting for their propaganda of social revolution to bring about the millennium?

The conquest of Wallachia was achieved largely through treachery. Rumania was honeycombed with spies and plotters. She was given Krupp guns by Germany so that her ammunition supply could be controlled from Berlin. Her army and government were poisoned with German intrigue as surely as were her little children and the civilian population by poisoned candy and germs. Her military plans were known to the Teutons before their execution was ordered, and help from Great Britain and France in the form of artillery and other supplies was diverted by treacherous hands in Petrograd.

The result was the swift destruction of most of Rumania, with the attendant horror of German atrocities rivaling those committed in Belgium. And still Rumania fought on. What was left of the Rumanian army remained in the field ready, as are the Serbians, the Belgians and other victims of Germany, to fight for the deliverance of their country. This the fanatics in Petrograd would now prevent. The Rumanians are forced by the nation in whom they trusted to throw themselves on the mercy of the foe. Next to the crime that is being committed against Russia the action of the Leninists in betraying Rumania calls loudest for redress.

DRY ZONES FOR FACTORIES.

The fires along our waterfront have proved the practical value of the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in sustaining the refusal of licenses to saloons in that section. They also indicate the wisdom of Deputy Excise Commissioner Ralston in getting ready to establish dry zones around various factories in Brooklyn in which Government work is being done.

Our first business is to win this war. We can have neither comfort, prosperity nor orderly and usual living conditions until the war is won. The winning is delayed somewhat every time a munitions factory is blown up or a grain elevator, a dock yard or a stock yard is burned. The German spies and agents in this country have shown both their ingenuity and their daring in this sort of warfare, waged upon us on our own borders. A saloon in the neighborhood of a factory gives excellent opportunities to approach the workmen, to secure information from them or to bribe those who may prove bribable. Reasonable discretion should of course be used not to interfere with the comfort of the people of the neighborhood more than is necessary.

WOMEN CAR CONDUCTORS.

The employment of women in industry to release men for war has been going on for some time in this country, although most of this has been in office jobs where the substitution did not attract much attention. Some women have been used in operating machinery at the Bush Stores here in Brooklyn and now nine women conductors have been introduced upon surface cars in Manhattan. If the plan works well other women will be employed in this and similar work.

Thus far the employment of women here in order to win the war, for which Dr. Hillis cries out so energetically, bears about the same relation to the work done by women in England as our restrictions on sugar do to the war feeding in that country. Women servants have replaced men at the men's clubs in London and people of wealth have given up their private cars, both in order to save gasoline and to release chauffeurs for war service. Either of those things would be regarded here as an extreme war measure, yet they are accepted as a matter of course in London and may become necessary here if we do not win the war next year. There are yet so many ways in which our social and business life can be further mobilized that the introduction of women as street car conductors, or even as motormen, will be merely a beginning. The change shows that we are at war, but we have felt it so little that we can well afford to smile at our personal discomforts. We have not accumulated troubles enough to justify carrying an old kit bag for them.

THE UNHAPPY "LIBERALS."

Pity the poor liberals, the intellectually elite, the philosophical anarchists and professional pacifists. President Wilson in his latest address has stripped them of their pretensions and left them without a plausible excuse for further existence. These elements, which have for so long been basking between the fires of public indignation and the friendly fagots of the martyr's stake, now find themselves out in the cold. The President by his generosity, his honest pacifism and constructive humanitarianism, has put the so-called liberals to shame.

What do they say for themselves? So far few have found their voices, but Scott Nearing has revived sufficiently to get back into the limelight. With a magnificent gesture he welcomes the President to fellowship in the People's Council, declaring that the President has adopted the Council's program "once for all." Let us see just how sincere are those "liberals" who have been agitating the ether for months with their insistence upon a "restatement of war aims" and a repudiation of the idea of crushing Germany. By their own confession the President has done just that. If it is not unconstitutional with them they should now shut up, or, better still, have the decency to support the one man who has a chance of making "their" program effective.

The trouble with most of these so-called liberals who have been talking about making democracy safe for the world is that they do not believe in democracy. In a democracy the will of the majority is supposed to prevail. The Scott Nearings want the minority to which they belong to rule. There is something that should be said concerning the "free speech" and "free press" martyrs as well. The Socialists in Petrograd have suppressed all the "bourgeois" newspapers. They have crushed the organs of opinion of the majority. Our "capitalistic" government does not go so far as that. The radicals have only one logical course open to them. They must now give their full support to the President. Any other course will show the inherent insincerity and hypocrisy of their pretensions.

Will Governor Whitman really name for the Supreme Court Bench in this district a man whom the people voted not to have there? Lawyers and politicians are equally interested in a representative form of government.

A human being, unconvicted of crime and innocent in the eye of the law, was burned at the stake in the public square at Dyersburg, Tennessee. In our struggle against Hun barbarism nothing could give more comfort to the enemy. "Tu quoque" isn't exactly German, but the Huns know what it means.

A hint comes from Washington that potteries will be treated as non-essential production plants. If so wooden dishes will soon come into vogue. The available supply of crockery for smashing by domestic servants has only been kept up with vast difficulty in times of peace. Wood would be harder to destroy.

Robert Field Stockton, nephew of the commodore who was also a United States Senator and forced the abolition of flogging in the [illegible] settled in Maspeth many years ago. He was once a Supervisor, always a good citizen. His death at the age of 62 will be mourned by his neighbors, who knew him best.

Fraternal assurances are cheap. Fraternal insurances are also cheap but deceptive. Fraternizers on the Russian front will do well to ponder on common experience.

Ecuador's latest rebellion is quelled. Hence it is not to be called a "revolution." But reflection of Robert Bruce's spider suggests "Try, try again" as a motto for the disaffected in Ecuador.

Personal and Impersonal

General von Below has a name that fits in with General Sherman's idea of war.

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It is urged that New York patriotically pay three-cent postage for drop letters. Why single out New York? If distance is no factor, why not put all cities on the same patriotic footing?

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It is the irony of fate that at last the Kaiser is brought to make terms with the Bolsheviki, the one organization that can teach him that a treaty is a scrap of paper.

* * *

The people who voted for Fusion without subscribing their quota, $9 each, have an offset in extortion on fish, which the monopolists have doubled in price since meat-eaters turned to fish to escape overcharging on meats. The family budget must show profit and loss.

* * *

Soldiers are crying for newspapers from home. If the Y. M. C. A. will undertake the distribution, thousands of Americans will gladly contribute the papers they have read. The home paper is appreciated best of all. The Brooklyn men at the front will want to see The Eagle, and the thing for Eagle readers to do is to get in touch with some soldier or sailor to whom the copies may be sent as quickly as read or once a week.

* * *

Mr. Asquith, who will approve Lord Lansdowne's speech at Birmingham on Monday, if President Wilson has not sidetracked him, told us in his Guildhall speech and many times since then that he would never sheathe the sword until Prussian militarism is wholly and finally destroyed. It will be for him to tell how he can do that and make a compact now with the Kaiser. A statesman of extraordinary ability will need to put forth his greatest efforts to show an alert world how that can be done.

* * *

If we had taken a real brotherly interest in Russia fifty years ago and had continued it with lecturers on democracy and school teachers of tried loyalty the visit of Elihu Root might have netted permanent and satisfactory results. On international efficiency we have been weak. The Russian peasants are paying from ten to twenty times as much for all they use and that condition means more to them than any theory. Famine will next sweep over Russia and in that fearful hour the reaction on Germany will undoubtedly exceed all the horrors of the war.

* * *

Postmaster General Burleson swings his axe again at the pneumatic tube service. Special delivery letters put into the tubes would be hastened toward delivery. If scientifically used the tubes might be made to serve the people. Put in competition with motor trucks and made to do a freight service when they were designed for an express service on a selective basis the tubes may make a poor showing. No system works well unless it is used by its friends. The postal tube is the shortest line between two points. It is protected from the weather and is swift and certain; nothing can be lost in it en route. It does not forget like a messenger boy and it does not spill its contents in the mud like a broken-down motor truck. Mails are dragging. In the suburbs the postal service has broken down. The morning mail half an hour from the postoffice is delivered at 10:30 or 11 a.m. That mail loafs along the way from 7 a.m. covering half a mile. More snap and less sinecure is the need of the postal service.

"NEGRO IS NO SLACKER"

His Loyalty Upheld at Meeting of Brooklyn League.

"The loyalty of the American negro has never been questioned," declared Professor William H. Pickens, dean of Morgan College, Baltimore, last night in addressing the meeting held in the Clinton Avenue Congregational Church under the joint auspices of the Brooklyn League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes and the Brooklyn Civic Club.

"While everybody is keeping eyes upon white people from the Central Empires, nobody ever thinks of watching the American negro," he continued. "Of course, they will fight, and are going to fight for their Government. They are going to stand by it and are going to die for it. We're going to remember it's our country. You have never seen an American negro disfranchised up here in the North, or 'Jim Crowed' or burned at the stake.

"The negro would not have broken down the economic or industrial barriers for a hundred years if it had not been for this war. Here he is in this year of 1917 getting his first chance to work as an agent, an industrial factor. He has heretofore been confined in a small area, and has been confined to a limited number of things which he could do.

"In South Carolina they have now discovered that he is capable of doing something. Nobody before ever worried about him because there was no use of worrying about one-tenth of the population. They were supposed to be of inferior humanity, their head being constructed of solid bone.

"The American negro troops were the first ones to set their foot across the Mexican border, they also gave a good account of themselves in the Spanish-American War, and were among the first to go across with General Pershing. It is a tribute to the colored people to have the Tenth Cavalry with him. The best friend that the white man has is the American negro and in its last analysis he will stand by the United States."

This was the first annual meeting of the society which has for its purpose the elevating of the American negroes and endeavoring to place them in a position wherein they will enjoy the same privileges and rights, and be given a place in the industrial world.

The meeting was opened with an address of welcome by the Rev. M. Russell Boynton, assistant pastor of Central Congregational Church, who said that the churches are always interested in the negroes, but are making mistakes by considering the negroes in the South and neglected the problems right at our gates.

"The Negro As a Unit in the Community Life" was the subject of the address delivered by Dr. Henry Neumann, director of the Ethical Culture Society and vice president of the Lincoln Society. "The negro," he said, "must be given that kind of occupation that will allow him to live properly and to raise a family properly. Then the children will not suffer.

WOMEN FORM ORGANIZATION

Elect Officers and Hear Addresses by Riegelmann and Kelly.

The newly formed Women's Democratic Association of the Sixteenth Assembly District at its first meeting, at Ulmer Park Casino last night, elected its officers and were addressed by several prominent men, including Borough President-elect Edward Riegelmann and County Clerk William E. Kelly. Mr. Riegelmann was introduced by William Texter, who occupied the chair. The Sheriff said that the men gave the women the vote, not as a confession that they were unable to run the Government themselves, but because women have done well in everything they have undertaken.

County Clerk Kelly congratulated the women on the large number of members present, and said that, if the women are good enough to go on the battlefields of Europe and succor the wounded, they are good enough to discharge any franchise given them. Alderman John J. Ryan of Ulmer Park also addressed the meeting.

About 125 members were enrolled, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Margaret Giradot; first vice president, Miss Caroline Zimmermen; second vice president, Mrs. William Texter; third vice president, Mrs. J. McGetrick; recording secretary, Miss Adeline Reiss; financial secretary, Miss Nora Joyce; treasurer, Mrs. James Cavanaugh; trustees, Miss May Hulse, Mrs. William Sipman, Mrs. John Ashley, Mrs. M. Keeley and Mrs. R. Jatzeck. The association will meet the first Monday of each month.

HOLD CHRISTMAS SALE

Work of Blind Shown on Tables at Holy Trinity Event.

The Society for Community Service of Holy Trinity Church is holding a Christmas Sale at the Guild House, at 122 Pierrepont street. A novel feature of this sale is that the needy have provided the articles that are to be sold and the proceeds will be turned over to them intact. On one table are wonderful creations of the basket-weavers' art—all the more wonderful because they were made by the Exchange and Training School for the Blind. On other tables are embroideries and fancy work by the Shut In Society, a veritable wonderland of toys from the Old Men's Toy Shop, conducted by old men over on Mott street, Manhattan, who slowly and painstakingly carve out these toys that gladden the hearts of the "kiddies," wheelbarrows, wagons, horses, jumping-jacks and all that St. Nick carries in his pack. At another table are rare Venetian laces and embroideries, the handiwork of Little Italy Settlement House.

On another table are useful articles of hand-woven fabrics made by the sightless women of the Training School for the Blind. The Employment Society of the Holy Trinity Church has a huge pile of towels, aprons, kerchiefs and things dear to the housewife's heart. Last but not least are the gaily colored Christmas cards. The patronesses in charge of these tables are Miss Hilda Green, Miss Marjory Stafford, Mrs. R. B. B. Foote, Miss Agnes Perera, Miss Louise Roth, Miss Dorothy Duncan, Mrs. P. H. DeMurguiondo, and Miss Annie Colson.

Not the least pleasing feature of the sale is the refreshment table, called the "Wassail Bowl," where they serve punch and "War Cakes." The revenue from this table is to be used to pay the expenses of the sales, so the profits from the other tables are net.

New Books Today

Full reviews of important books will be found on the Book Page.

"Airy Nothings; or, What You Will," by George Gordon (Sturgis and Walton Company). A new contribution to the Baconian controversy, with the author as Shakespeare's champion, particularly in regard to the Sonnets. It also contains the one-act playlet "Mary! Mary!"

"God and Myself," by Martin J. Scott, S. J. (P. J. Kenedy & Sons). An inquiry into the Roman Catholic faith and the claim that, according to the promises of Christ, that Church will last for all time.

"The Godward Side of Life," by Gaius Glenn Atkins (The Pilgrim Press). Fourteen sermons voicing the religious needs of the day.

"The Seven Laws of Teaching," by John M. Gregory (Pilgrim Press), a treatise of value on the factors in the art of teaching.

"Community Civics," by R. O. Hughes (Allyn & Bacon). A textbook of value not only to those in school but also those in the outside world who wish an insight into the many problems presented by modern community life.

"The Attack in Trench Warfare," by Captain Andre Laffrgue (D. Van Nostrand Company), a manual of the new method of warfare produced by the extensive use of the trench system by all armies.

"The Bombardment of Rheims," by Barr Ferree (Leonard Scott Publication Company). A diary of the three-year long rain of shells that has fallen on the French city.

ADVICE FOR JUDGE HYLAN

Well-Wisher Warns Him Against Caput Tumulus.

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

Mayor-elect Hylan is talking too much. I say this in no unfriendly spirit, because I sincerely wish him to succeed in his administration as Mayor. During the campaign and immediately after the election he promised the people that he would, to the best of his ability, perform his duties with an eye to the conservation of their interests. Since then he has almost daily amplified these announcements by vigorous expressions of a determination to do many things, some of which are obviously impossible of accomplishment. It seems to me it were better that he wait until after he shall have become Mayor, and then show how far his deeds measure up to his earlier promises. Meanwhile, let him control his temper, whatever may be the aggravations or the temptations to verbal explosions.

His recent outbursts against members of the press were so tactlessly offensive as to suggest the necessity of immediate reform. Reporters can help, but not hurt, intelligent, upright officials who are trying to do their duty. Judge Hylan is naturally much elated over his election to the Chief Magistracy of this great city; but we all know that the election was not so much a personal triumph for John F. Hylan as it was a protest against the Mitchel Administration and the men on the outside who stood sponsor for, and used their money and their influence to have it continued. Any other good Democrat would have been elected against Mr. Mitchel by as large a plurality as that given to Judge Hylan. So, without desiring to be in any sense offensive, let me suggest the advisability of employing a prophylactic against that not uncommon but very insidious disease known and aptly described as caput tumulus, by which many excellent men suddenly elevated to official honors and conspicuity have been wrecked in the midst of their days.

A WELL-WISHER.
Brooklyn, December 7, 1917.

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.

Double Bill Given, with Florence Easton as Santuzza.

The ever-popular double bill, "Cavalleria" and "Pagliacci," was given at the Metropolitan last evening. The potent charm of these hot-blooded efforts of Italian veritists and the presence of Caruso as Canio in the Leoncavallo opera combined to draw one of the biggest houses of the year. The "Cavalleria" was notable in that it introduced Florence Easton, another American newcomer, to Metropolitan audiences as Santuzza. She has been heard here in concert, and although new in the Metropolitan, has had considerable operatic experience in Germany and England, and last year, in this country, as a member of the Chicago Opera Company. She sang also with the Society of American Singers in its little season of opera in English.

Her Santuzza is the most vital the local stage has seen in many a year; indeed, it is doubtful if her like has appeared here since Calve's time. Her voice, of beautiful quality and capable of a wide range of color and dynamics, she handled with consummate skill and strict regard for the dramatic exigencies of text and music, while her acting is that of the thoughtful, intelligent, thoroughly schooled actress, Miss Easton's debut was the most promising of the year, and there is no doubt that in her the company has secured an artist of the first rank.

Paul Althouse sang the Turiddu for the first time, and he did well in Mascagni's melodious role. Particularly effective was his singing of the serenade before the rise of the initial curtain. His acting was an improvement upon his other roles, but is still far from the ideal. De Luca as Alfio, Perini as Lola and Mattfeld as Lucia repeated old and familiar performances.

The "Pagliacci" cast, with Muzio, Caruso and Amato, is an old story. As ever, the combination won tremendous applause. Moranzoni conducted, and although at times inconsiderate to the singers, he gave satisfactory readings.

RECITAL BY RUSSIAN CHOIR.

Singers From St. Nicholas Cathedral in Acolian Hall.

The Russian Choir of St. Nicholas Cathedral gave its annual recital in Acolian Hall last evening, devoting its entire program to the Divine Liturgy of Alexander Gretchaninoff. This is the old Slavonic liturgy which forms that part of the Russian church service which is sung and includes among other resemblances to the Roman and English services the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Gretchaninoff's setting abounds in music rich in expression of religious emotion, music which gains mightily in effect by using a male choir, ranging from boy sopranos to the curious contra-basses peculiar to Russia.

The choir sang last evening more effectively than with such balance and delicacy of nuance as we demand in our choral work; but the intensity of the music's mood and the evident sincerity of the choir's work resulted in such religious expression as we rarely hear in these days of the decadence of our own church's music.

Let Nature Save.

This view must full acceptance win
From fellows of sense and penetration,
That patriots very warm are in
The Natural Ice Association.

Ammonia is needed, sore;
Explosives the Government is craving;
The ice-house owners promise more:
They mean to let Nature do the saving.

Unto their rivals goes a pledge:
"Here's ice and a-plenty, come and take it;
War dulls our competition's edge:
We'll sell you at what you pay to make it."

Dame Nature smiles to hear the plea!
Encouraging calls for coal unceasing;
To Garfield she unkind will be;
But ice is her fad, when days are freezing!

J. A.