

Empire has no diplomatist at Rome; but Austria, Prussia, and Bavaria have sent resourceful Ministers who rank very high in the diplomatic world. There is a pointed lesson in all this for the Powers concerned. They should show a little more respect for the Papacy in times of peace, if they expect their position to be properly understood and recognised in times of emergency and stress.

The London *Spectator*, in its desire to secure from the Pope a pronouncement on a particular side in the present issue, has endeavoured to call to its aid the doctrine of Papal Infallibility; but the attempt was so clearly shown to be untenable that it has been practically abandoned by the *Spectator* itself. The *Spectator's* contention was that as the Pope is held to be infallible when speaking *ex cathedra* on questions of faith and morals, he might at least be called upon to pronounce judgment on the moral issues involved in certain specific acts committed by Germany. The contention was admirably met by the Rev. Stephen Eyre Jarvis, rector of St. Marie's, Rugby, who in a letter to the London weekly gave the following concise and lucid explanation of the Catholic doctrine on the subject: 'It simply means that when the Bishop of Rome, who is the Visible Head on earth of the Church of Christ, teaches *ex cathedra*—that is, in his official capacity as supreme pastor and doctor of the Church he teaches the whole Church that certain doctrines concerning faith or morals are contained in the deposit of faith received from Christ by the Church—he is infallibly guided by the Holy Ghost, and therefore his teaching must be accepted by the whole Church as infallible. Now from this it will appear that the function of infallibility limits itself to teaching what are the doctrines concerning faith and morals contained in revelation. It has nothing to do with the question *de facto* whether anyone in his conduct has violated the moral law of Christianity. In order that the Holy Father may pass even a fallible judgment on the morality of the conduct of those responsible for the war he must be in possession of a full knowledge of the facts. And he must acquire this knowledge in the usual way, for it has nothing to do with his infallibility. And therefore, as he may not be in possession of all the facts, the Holy Father wisely contents himself with a general denunciation of all acts of injustice on the part of the belligerents on whichever side committed, but taking no sides in the war.' That, as it happens, is precisely what the Holy Father has done, and in perfectly unequivocal terms. In an Allocution delivered on January 22 of the present year, his Holiness said: 'If we have not been able to hasten the end of this dreadful scourge, we have at least been able to alleviate its deplorable consequences. We have done all in our power up till now, and we shall not fail to use our efforts in the future as long as it may be necessary. To do more to-day is not within the compass of our Apostolic charge. To proclaim that *for no reason is it allowed to violate justice* is assuredly a duty which belongs to the Sovereign Pontiff . . . and that we proclaim without waste of words, denouncing all injustice on whatever side it has been committed. But it would be neither proper nor useful to entangle the Pontifical authority in the disputes between the belligerents. It is abundantly clear to every thinking man that, in this frightful conflict, the Holy See, whilst unceasingly watching it with the closest attention, must preserve the most absolute neutrality.' It only remains to add that the *Spectator* recognised Father Jarvis's statement as an able and telling presentment of the Catholic position; and the attempt to drag the doctrine of Infallibility into the question has now been frankly and sensibly abandoned.

On Saturday afternoon in the presence of a considerable number of people, the statue of the late Right Hon. R. J. Seddon was unveiled in the Parliamentary Grounds by his Excellency the Governor (Lord Liverpool). The National Anthem and 'The garland of flowers' were played by the band, and speeches eulogistic of the late Prime Minister were delivered by the Mayor (Mr. J. P. Luke), his Excellency, the Prime Minister, and Sir Joseph Ward.

Notes

Lusitania Sailors: A Priest's Tribute

Speaking at a mission in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, Conn., just after the news of the sinking of the *Lusitania* reached America, the Rev. Patrick J. Casey, S.J., made the following interesting statement regarding the stokers of that ill-fated vessel: 'I heard confessions from those poor stokers on the *Lusitania* whenever the boat arrived from one of its voyages to New York and a better class of Catholic men I have never met. Those poor fellows working down at the bottom of the liner, and it's mighty hard work, too, told me they never have the time to displease God nor do they fall off the water waggon, because there is no liquor in their quarters even if they were tempted. They came to confession to me every time before sailing and often declared that inwardly they were happy because they were working towards a great end, preparing to meet their God.'

The German Way

A striking illustration of the thoroughness of German organisation and of the care with which the authorities watch over the smallest details in which a saving can be effected in the resources of the nation is furnished in a series of orders which has just been issued by the Berlin municipality to its employees regarding the necessity of economy in writing materials. Beginning with writing paper, the order says: 'The instruction already given that in petty cash notes and suchlike communications which can be put on a single page only half-sheets of paper are to be used is still often disregarded. The cases, however, in which a half, or even a quarter sheet of paper will suffice can be considerably increased, for example, notices of meetings. Of course, for taking notes, making calculations, and so on, only scraps of paper are to be used.'

Next come pencils, regarding which the order reads: 'In future, however, pencil holders are to be given out for holding short stumps, in which way the life of pencils can be considerably prolonged.' Regarding envelopes, the order says: 'Envelopes, if carefully opened, can be used again and again. In suitable cases also they can be turned inside out and the paper used again. Sealing wax is only to be used on communications for outside addresses.' Care is also enjoined with respect to ink, which is to be properly protected against dust and evaporation. Inkpots are always to be covered over after use, even if only with a sheet of thick paper. Special attention is given to steel pens, which the municipality declares should be made to last at least a week. This is one direction, at least, in which German methods are worthy of admiration—and imitation.

For the Belgian Home-Going

A particularly happy and charming suggestion, with an essentially feminine touch, has found expression in the London *Spectator* from the pen of a lady contributor, Mrs. Wedgwood. This lady suggests, in brief, that as far as possible Belgian refugees should be set to making things of use when their home-going comes along! 'If we are not merely to rebuild houses, but also to rebuild a nation, I would urge that, in addition to any communal scheme, we should supply each refugee family of the industrial and laboring classes with material to make for themselves—in accordance with their own ideas, not ours—a little store of household properties, against the day of return; with such things, for instance, as linen for sheets, tablecloths, towels, etc., and tick for the flock-stuffed mattress covers. Let even the children dress their dolls for the home-coming. In working for the future, belief in it will revive. Further, each family should be provided with a private box and key for storing what they make. These should be kept in a convenient place in each locality, and their