

the *Osservatore Romano*, a translation of which is given in the present number of *Rome*.

The Chamber of Deputies of Holland

has voted a sum of money for the institution of a temporary diplomatic mission to the Holy See, and the new Minister has been chosen although his name has not yet been published. In proposing the vote the Foreign Minister of Holland said: 'During the last few months we have frequently received news that the Holy See has manifested good dispositions to exert itself for the restoration of peace should an opportune moment arise and should the belligerents show themselves ready to put an end to the war. In consequence of this we sent a person to Rome to ascertain if the news were true, and to see whether the co-operation of the Holy See with the Government of Holland were possible. Concerning this co-operation the Cardinal Secretary of State has sent me a letter in which he thanks me for the attitude of the Government of Holland, and manifests the desire that a representative of Holland be accredited to the Vatican so that the co-operation may not be retarded when the opportune moment arrives.' So this is

One of the Significant Effects of the War:

While it has destroyed the diplomatic relations of many of the Powers with one another, it has increased the number of accredited representatives to the Holy See. In this tenth month of the war the following nations are thus represented: Argentine, Austria-Hungary, Bavaria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Costa-Rica, San Domingo, Great Britain, Holland, Peru, Prussia, Servia, Spain. The three most conspicuous absentees are the United States, France, and Italy. Of course, formal relations between the Holy See and Italy are under present circumstances quite impossible, but it is a fact worthy of note that the war instead of exasperating has mitigated the difficulties of the situation. And the same is true of France. Only the most sanguine of French Catholics could have expected that a Government headed by M. Viviani would have easily consented to renew the good relations with the Papacy so abruptly broken twelve years ago. But the position of the United States is altogether anomalous and unfortunate.

There need be no question whatever of establishing a permanent American Embassy or Legation to the Holy See. The British Legation is a temporary one, so is that of Holland. Nor can it be argued that the Government of the United States would be creating a precedent by sending a temporary mission to the Holy See. The precedent, a striking and recent one, is there already. No less distinguished a person than ex-President Taft has lived in Rome as an Envoy Extraordinary from the United States to the Holy See. To settle the politico-ecclesiastical difficulties arising from the transfer of the Philippine Islands from Spain to the United States, the American Government took the wise step of treating directly with the Holy See, and the good sense of the American people cordially endorsed the policy. How vastly more important it is now that there should be a temporary representative from America here. If America wishes to co-operate most effectively for the restoration of peace when the propitious moment arrives it surely could not do better than follow the example set this week by Holland—less than half of whose population is Catholic.

We publish this week the important letter addressed by the Holy Father to the Dean of the Sacred College. It was expected (by the newspapers) that his Holiness would have felt bound, after Italy's entrance into the war, to reiterate his neutrality. He has not done so, for the very obvious reason that the one fact which is now universally recognised by belligerents and neutrals, by Governments and peoples and individuals, is the fact that

The Holy See is Absolutely Impartial.

Here in Italy a few radical newspapers like the *Messaggero* of Rome and the *Secolo* of Milan, always noted for their anti-religious tendencies, have endeavored to make a crime out of this neutrality of the

Holy See, but their railings have no echo in the country. The liberal press frankly acknowledges that the Pope must continue to be neutral, and the ardor of patriotism does not prevent the Catholics from realising and admitting the same truth.

This is how the *Corriere d'Italia*, which is read almost exclusively by Catholics, describes the situation, in reply to some recent animadversions: 'It is perfectly true that the action of the Catholics of Italy is something entirely distinct from that of the Holy See.

In estimating the political conditions of our country and in forming a conscience as to what it may require of us in this most grave period of its history, we feel ourselves to be in the full possession of that liberty which is given to every citizen in face of the needs of his Fatherland. But the person who would involve in our responsibility responsibilities that are far higher, and that by their nature and their dignity far transcend the conditions of this or that country, would be committing a very grievous error and would inevitably be contradicted by facts. . . . As for the Church which is taxed by some radical newspapers with absenteeism in these memorable days, the charge is a true one if it means that the Holy See observes as regards the Italian conflict that impartiality and neutrality which it has hitherto observed in the European conflict. The Catholic Church, as represented in its august Head and in the organisms which assist him, is above all the competitions based on the mutable conditions of States and Nations. Its words transcend passing interests and conflicts to rise to the affirmations of justice, truth, and peace which should find an echo in the heart of every man of good will to whatever nation or country he may belong. In this sense it may be said that the Holy See is absent from, and superior to, the vicissitudes of our country at the present hour, although its absence certainly does not imply indifference for it also, while not sharing in the strife of nations, does share in the trials and anxieties of the peoples involved in the wreck of war.'

In normal times the stranger coming to Rome is immediately struck by the great number of priests, clerics, and religious to be seen in the streets—they are the parochial clergy, the prelates and officials of the Roman congregations, the superiors and students of Italian and foreign colleges, the generalist houses of religious Orders and congregations of men and women, bishops and priests from all parts of the world here on business or on pilgrimage. The war has greatly changed all that: there are no ecclesiastical visitors from abroad, there is hardly a cleric or religious here from the Central Empires, half the French students of the secular and regular clergy are at the front, even the clergy of some neutral countries like Holland have left and now Italian mobilisation has called to military service a large portion of the priests and religious in Rome.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 31.

The many friends of Mr. W. F. Healy, of Brooklyn, will regret to hear of the serious illness of Mrs. Healy, who is at present in a private hospital.

Rev. Father Travers, who recently arrived from Tasmania to take up duty in the archdiocese, has been appointed by his Grace Archbishop Redwood as parish priest of Takapau.

Mr. J. J. Sullivan, of Auckland, who contested the Parnell seat at the last general election, is on a short visit to Wellington. During his stay here he addressed the members of St. Bride's Club, and also the members of the literary and debating branch of the Catholic Club.