

Shoulder to Shoulder

IN his annual message to the legislature Governor Smith of New York, called attention to a danger that cannot be too carefully avoided. The governor said, in denouncing the anarchists and the violent revolutionaries among our alien population:

"But while we should be relentless toward this type of distorted personalities, we must not confuse them with the hundreds of thousands of our brothers of alien stock who have made America their home and who have helped to build up our great nation by self-respecting labor and their citizenship. Their sons have added luster to our name in the battlefields of the great war. Let us remember them now and let us resent as sinister and as a new expression of the old know-nothing spirit, the attaching to all citizens of foreign birth of the stigma of radicalism."

Commenting on the governor's statement the New York Evening Mail says:

"The future of America as a nation depends in an important degree upon the measure of success we achieve in uniting all the racial strains in our population into a single racial element—the American—with a single American aim and a single American ideal."

"There is a tendency among some of the native-born whose vision is not far-reaching to visit upon the foreign born as a class the resentment that is merited only by a fractional minority of our people of alien origin."

"The vast majority of our foreign-born population is sound to the core, anxious to do its part to upbuild the country, eager to live up to every American ideal, to be absorbed completely into our social and political structure."

"We cannot afford to alienate these people—about 40 per cent of our population—by setting up against them a barrier of prejudice, of misunderstanding and of undeserved suspicion."

"The aim of all patriotic Americans, whether native or foreign born, should be to eliminate barriers, not to erect them."

"During the war we accomplished an incidental purpose that can be made of vast value in building up America."

"The loftiness of our ideal elicited from our foreign born a demonstration of devotion to America and an understanding of the meaning of America that furnished a mighty impetus to the work of wiping out all racial lines in our country."

"In every movement designed to strengthen our arm and steel our soul for effective dealing with the enemy, every class of our foreign-born people took their part—and their full part—proudly and without reservation."

"Now that the enemy who menaced us from without has been conquered, we are confronted with an enemy who is assailing us from within."

"Our moral and governmental machinery has been set in full motion to deal with the monster of subversion at home, just as it was put in motion to deal with the monster of imperialism abroad."

"In our present emergency, as in the one that ended on November 11, 1918, we can rely on the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens of foreign origin to stand unflinchingly by us in our determination to vindicate the faith that is in us

to demonstrate the vigor of our institutions and make America united in purpose, imperious to the criminal assaults of the "borer within."

HUMANIZING HUMANITY

HEN a town begins to straighten out the cow-trail, along which are strung the shacks in which it first began business, the patriots who build apartment houses accumulate an aversion for the young of their kind and families with children are barred as tenants, while people with watery-eyed specimens of some freak breed of cur for pets are extended the high sign of welcome accompanied by expressions of great joy.

During the decades of sweet peace leading up to the recent conflict, the custom of barring children grew until it attained the significance of a general principle with the housebuilders, and the patriot with "kiddies" was shunted into habitations whose owners were not so particular.

But war appears to have brought a new appreciation of common humanity's young and they are no longer to be consigned to the kennel while the canine is cuddled in the parlor. The humanitarian aldermen of New York City have become appreciative of children to the extent that a resolution has been adopted making landlords barring children subject to a fine of \$250.

Now if they will take the bar thus lowered against children and raise it against the dogs, providing a like fine for landlords permitting long-haired and other utterly useless curs on the premises, the New York board of aldermen may be judged by its actions to be related to humanity instead of the scions of somber-shaded canicula.

Landlords cannot be expected to do anything of the kind of their own volition. It takes war and statutory enactments to make some people move and act like human beings.

HONORABLE DEFEAT.

It is better to prefer honorable defeat to a mean victory, to lowering the level of our aim that we may more certainly enjoy the complacency of success.

In the battle of life we cannot hire a substitute.
Harold Bell Wright.

Nothing stales so quickly as a good resolution.
David Graham Phillips.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND.

A. L. Orr.

While serving Toil, a man one day
Was badly wounded. Long he lay
In want and pain upon his bed,
And grievous words, of Toil, he said.
Soon raised him from his bed again.
Sweet Charity came, soothed his pain,
But when she said, "Friend, I must go,"
He could not bear to have it so;
For in the days she served him there,
He learned to love her tender care;
While for friend Toil a deadly hate
Was growing in his stupid pate,
But Charity was wise for once—
Unheeding, left the lazy dunce.
And soon as she was out of sight
He loved friend Toil with all his might;
Upon his fruits learned to depend,
And proved him ever man's best friend.

American in Ascendency

AT A Chautauqua held at Parkland, Washington, in 1910, Rev. M. A. Christensen, now pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, of Portland, read a paper on the subject, "Shall We Organize More English Congregations?" Rev. Christensen presented statistics gathered from seventeen representative parishes of the Pacific district: Of every hundred sermons, thirty-one are delivered in the English language. Of every hundred catechumens, sixty are confirmed in English, and sixty-three per hundred scholars are instructed in English in the Sunday schools. Of ministerial acts—baptism, marriage, burial—thirty-eight per cent are performed in English.

The following statements were read from letters received by Rev. Christensen from the pastors of the seventeen parishes that formed the basis of investigation:

"English appears to be gaining ground. English services are better attended than the Norwegian."

"In Sunday school, ninety-five children are instructed through the medium of the English language, thirty in Norwegian."

"English more and more in demand. At funerals, English sermons are generally requested 'for the sake of the children.'"

"I have not been able to take care of the English work, but perform some ministerial acts, especially funerals, in English. The German Lutherans have now started an English congregation. We might begin with a larger number than they."

"We must do more for our children in this respect than we have done."

And this was a decade ago. The movement has gone forward a long way in the meantime.

At a recent meeting held in Bethlehem Norwegian Lutheran church in Portland, an American clergyman delivered an address, at the conclusion of which Rev. Wilhelm Pettersen, pastor of the church, in his closing remarks, made a statement to the effect that he would welcome the day when he in the church work need speak only the American language and no longer be required to preach or speak in a foreign tongue.

These incidents within the scope of local observation may be taken as fairly representative of the situation and sentiment throughout the country. The movement has steadily grown. Efforts to stay the advance have been utterly futile, from this time forward the progress will be more rapid.

The language of the people is the language of God.

BACKBONE

(Anon)

When you see a fellow mortal
Without fixed or fearless views,
Hanging on the skirts of others—
Walking in their cast-off shoes;
Bowing low to wealth and favor
With abject, uncovered head,
Ready to retract or waver,
Willing to be drove or led—

Walk, yourself, with firmer bearing!
Throw your moral shoulders back!
Show your spine has nerve and marrow,
Just the things which his must lack.

A stronger word
Was never heard
In sense and tone
Than this—Backbone.