

# The Catholic Journal

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## Should Not Be.

Proud as we are of President Roosevelt, we cannot but feel that he has tarnished his record by permitting himself to be exploited at the cornerstone laying of the new House of Representatives building in Washington, as rather more of a Free Mason than as president of the United States. In all the newspapers the fact that the cornerstone was laid under Masonic auspices was made the star feature of the account.

In the first place, there is no excuse for any secret society, to monopolize the laying of the corner-stone of any public building, the cost of which the entire people are called upon to pay. The Congress of the United States is the representative body of the entire people. Its home occupies a similar position in the body politic. Why should not its dedication be a divio, non-sectarian affair? Why should it be given exclusively to the Masons? What magic talisman is there in the Masonic trowel that it must be used in laying the corner-stone of public buildings?

We read in the papers the other day that the President had nothing to do with the arrangements for the corner-stone laying. That is an evasion. Undoubtedly, Speaker Cannon made the plans, but any one who knows anything about the way the Government is run need not be told that if Theodore Roosevelt had objected to any feature it would have been eliminated.

No. The President not only made no objection, but he helped to lay the stone with the Masonic trowel, and ceremonies, and ritual. If it had been a Masonic temple, there would have been no objection. But we cannot concede the right of the Masons to have any monopoly of the public buildings and we hope the Catholics never will cease in their opposition to the practice.

## Reform.

Notwithstanding the abuse which was heaped upon the Legislature of 1906 we are of the opinion that when its history is written in full the public will learn that it has put upon the statute books much legislation of a constructive and beneficial character.

In the first place, the insurance business has been safeguarded to a degree that will prove of great value to the policyholders, the persons who are the ones most vitally interested and for whose benefit the companies should be operated.

In the future, corporations will not be allowed to make contributions to political campaign funds or to political committees. If their officers wish to aid in the election of the candidates of a particular party, they must draw upon their own bank accounts, not dip into the trust funds of the corporation. The corporation's funds must be held intact for their owners, the stockholders. Greater publicity will be compelled as to the amounts and the sources of the funds disbursed by political campaign committees.

The railroad law will be amended so that the shippers will have better treatment, also that where the elimination of grade crossing would benefit the railroad corporations, the latter shall bear all the expense. At present the railroads bear only one-quarter of the cost.

According to the law, payable burdons are levied for the present

annual mortgage tax. The wisdom of this is open to debate, but it proves that the legislators are considering carefully matters of interest to the entire public.

Some sort of a local option law for cities seems to be assured. There appears to be no valid reason why city voters should not have equal rights with those of rural localities to decide whether they wish liquor to be sold in the immediate vicinity of their homes. We have criticized the coterie which has camped at the state capital in the interest of a particular local option bill, but we are not blind to the merit of the proposition in the abstract.

All in all, we shall not be surprised if the legislature of 1906 made a record which will compare favorably with that of former legislatures.

## Should Be Stopped.

Hon. James M. E. O'Grady is entitled to the thanks, not only of Catholics, but of decent minded non-Catholics as well, for his action in bringing Newton Eastman before the bar of law for disseminating vile stuff in the guise of a religious paper defending the practices of the sect he champions.

Eastman's paper was a libel on all that we as Americans hold dear and it should have been put out of business by the authorities long ago. It should not have been necessary for a private citizen to take the initiative to rid the public of a pest, a nuisance, a constant menace to the morals, not only of the adult but the children of the community into whose hands the paper often fell.

Let us hope we have seen and heard the last of Eastman in Rochester.

## Bigotry Rebuked.

It is pleasant to read that the National Council of Women is not inclined to countenance bigotry. A Mrs. Manchester of Providence, was down on the program of the recent council to make a report on some branch of work. We are not informed just what branch she had in charge or what would justify the following sentence:

"And now we are assured that the threatened attack upon France by the German Government is a war of revenge upon the French for their attitude toward the papal Church, the Vatican using Emperor William as a cat's paw. If there is blood shed between these two great nations, it may assuredly be set down as a fact that Rome is back of the trouble. In fact, the denunciation uttered by the Pope and his Cardinals against the French Premier and his followers has been largely what would happen in the judgment of God if 'the Church' were not restored to its former position."

The report stated that the Jesuits were responsible for eight of the wars of recent years.

At all events, the other women in the council got wind of the attack and they put through a motion that no report be read if it contained anything inimical to any creed or political belief. Whereupon, Mrs. Manchester, whose motion that a protest be sent to Congress against any money being paid to Catholic Indian schools had just been defeated burst into tears and left the meeting altogether, pleading that her report must not and would not be expurgated. If the rest of it were not more valuable than the part expunged, the Council did not miss much.

After the vote was taken Mrs. Elizabeth McGowan, supreme president of the L. C. B. A. thanked the convention in behalf of her organization and the other Catholic women of the country.

## President Right.

No matter if one does not agree with the president's active participation in a purely Masonic dedication of a national building, we can and do agree with him when he chides the sensation mongers who, in magazine and on platform are so eager to sell their intellectual wares that they do not wait to verify facts and figures but plunge headlong into a wholesale denunciation of all public men, all corporations, all persons with whom the aforesaid mongers do not happen to agree personally.

These sentences from the President Roosevelt's address last Saturday should be pasted in front of every journalist's desk and in front of many pulpits:

"The men of wealth who to-day are trying to prevent the regulation and control of their business in the interest of the public by the proper government authorities will not succeed, in my judgment, in checking the progress of the movement. But if they did succeed they would find that they had sown the winds and would surely reap the whirlwind, for they would ultimately provoke the violent excesses which accompany a reform coming by convulsion instead of by steady and natural growth."

"On the other hand, the wild preachers of unrest and discontent, the wild agitators against the entire existing order, the men who act crookedly, whether because of sinister design or from mere puzzle-headedness, the men who preach destruction without proposing any substitute for what they intend to destroy or who propose a substitute which would be far worse than the existing evils—all these men are the most dangerous opponents of real reform. If they get their way they will lead the people into deeper pits than any into which they could fall under the present system."

"If they fail to get their way they will still do incalculable harm by provoking the kind of reaction, which in its revolt against the senseless evil of their teaching, would enthrone more securely than ever before the very evils which their misguided followers believe they are attacking."

Maxim Gorky is hailed as a hero and is not forbidden to breathe malefictions on the Russian Government. We wonder if one of the exiled Catholic monks or nuns of France would be granted similar latitude.

"The Catholic Union and Times" administers a deserved rebuke to a new publication in St. Louis which opens its career with a violent denunciation of "off-color" advertisements and then accepts advertisements of peculiarly objectionable type for publication in its own columns.

Of course non-Catholic churches are referred to by Rev. E. A. King of Ohio, when he thus comments on the closed church: "Modern churches as a rule, are the most perfect expressions of architectural beauty in the community. They are erected at great cost and much real sacrifice. They are furnished as well as the average home, and better than many. But unlike most community buildings, they are usually closed and locked. Six days in the week they are shut to the community."

Now it is Archbishop Dunamel of Ottawa, who is made a cardinal by the correspondents of the "Yellows." His Grace could wear the red hat, but he will receive it, if it comes, from the Holy Father and not from the newspapers.

Elijah Dowie is not so much of a miraculous person when confronted with a really critical situation.

Thursday, May 3d, at Notre Dame University will be unveiled a statue of the saintly Father Sorin, founder of the University. We acknowledge an invitation to attend the ceremonies.

A national Catholic Young Men's Association is among the possibilities. It is reported that Archbishops Farley, Ryan and Ireland and such representative Catholic laymen as Bourke Cockran and John D. Crimmins have signified approval of the project and will lead in the movement to launch the organization. There should be no excuse for Catholic young men to join the non-Catholic Y. M. C. A., that organization which will not permit a Catholic to be elected one of its officers and there is none in Rochester.

William Randolph seems to have his own ideas about the political game and how it should be played.

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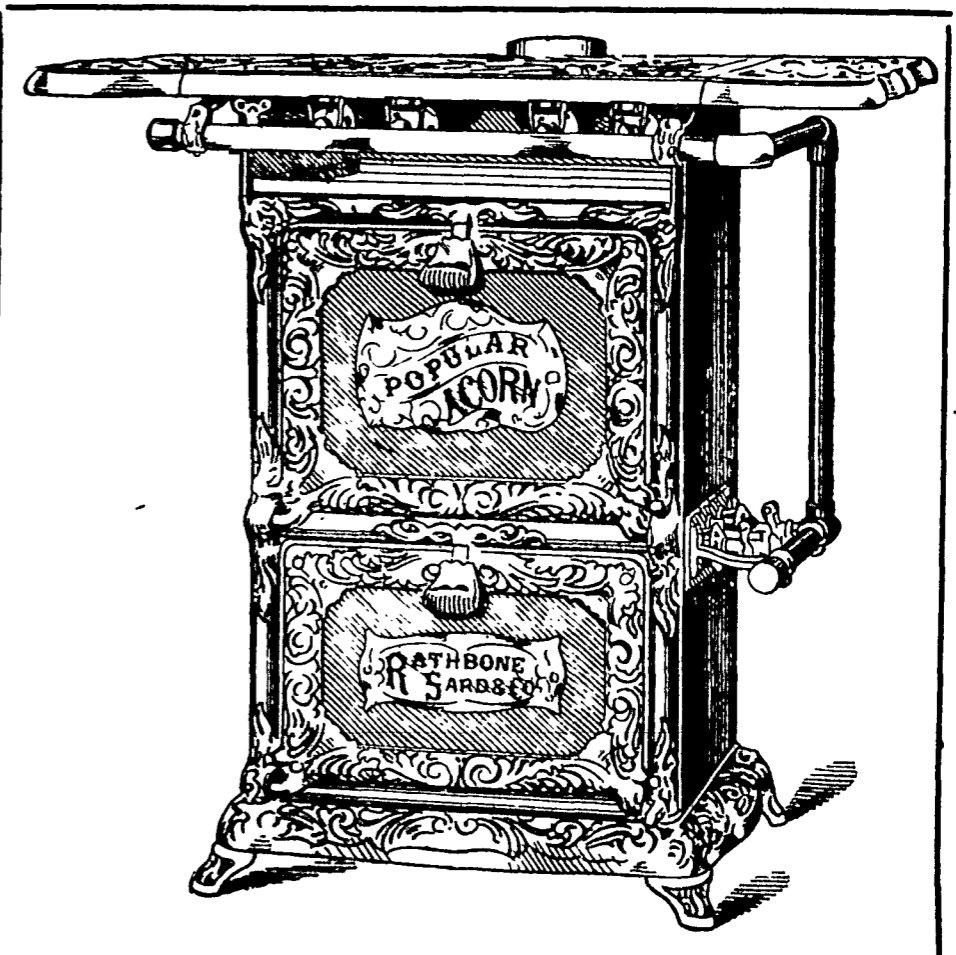
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