

# The Catholic Journal

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## Organization

In the "Catholic Record" of Toledo, was published recently a summary of the plan of organization adopted by the Catholic Volkverein or People's League, of Germany. It was drafted by Ludwig von Windhorst that giant of Catholic manhood who led his co-religionists to so many victories.

It was to combat Socialism that the Volkverein was organized. Windhorst was sagacious enough to see what Socialism rampant and in control meant to Germany. He also foresaw that the only barrier to the onward march of Socialism among the working people would be the Catholic faith and the Catholic church. Thinking men of today know that the same is true of the situation in this country. The men of wealth do not seem to realize that if they do not mend their ways the Socialists will be making still greater gains.

In combatting Socialism the Catholic Federation in the United States will find its hardest and greatest work. The leaders of that cult are alive to the situation and their heaviest batteries of denunciation, ridicule and false witness are leveled against the Catholic Church. These leaders are smooth, clever chaps. Catholic men must be supplied with material to confute their specious arguments.

The Volkverein has solved the problem in Germany. Magazines, pamphlets, leaflets all are prepared and sent abroad to each parish branch of the League. They are placed in the hands of the workingmen. Other publications there are for those who may be styled "the higher educated." The latter contain articles refuting the pleas put forth by Socialists to reach the educated persons.

Need more be said to convey the idea that the German Catholics have learned better than their American colleagues that the Catholic publication houses are the inseparable handmaid of the Catholic pulpit and the Catholic priest? The priest speaks to, say, two thousand persons on a Sunday. The press and the Catholic paper convey the sermon to from ten to twenty thousand persons.

Error stalks abroad in the land. Bigotry, as such, may not be so much in evidence. But let the Socialists obtain the upper hand and the confiscation and persecution now seen in France, will be witnessed in the United States.

We must be up and doing.

## Different

One of the stock arguments of the non-Catholic is that the Catholics want too much, that they have no idea of a give-and-take policy, that they are too exclusive—and so on.

Some of the non-Catholic papers are berating the Irish Catholics because they have refused a settlement of the university question. The English Government has proposed to establish a national university and would like to confer the dignity on Trinity College. Catholics constitute three-fourths of the population of Ireland and Trinity is an Episcopal institution. Very properly, the Catholics were accorded a fair representation on the governing board of the college.

The non-Catholic idea of fairness is that the Catholics should be tickled to death if they be conceded a fourth of the trustees! If Vice-Provost Barlow had his way the Catholics would receive no concessions whatever!

And yet the Irish Catholics are branded as pig-headed and what not because they insist upon a share of their conceded rights!

The Bishop of Louisville is criticised because he refused permission for a church funeral over a Catholic man who had given directions that he be buried in the non-Catholic cemetery.

The family of the dead man knew that the bishop was bound to act as he did by the laws of the Church. If he had acted differently, then he would have been criticised for permitting church service over one who had planned before death to break one of the rules of the Church in planning for burial in unconsecrated ground.

It does seem that we are to be criticised if we do and also if we do not.

And the great pity of it all is that too much of the criticism comes from Catholics who should know better. Because Mrs. Blank, at her pink tea finds fault with Father Blank's way of doing or saying things it does not necessarily follow that Father Blank is wrong. It is more than probable he is right because he makes a study of the very things he is criticised for.

And because some callow professor in the University of Chicago, finds fault with the way the Pope has handled the French situation does not demonstrate that the professor knows what he is talking about.

As a general proposition, stand by your own guns. Have a little Irish vim and do not let the other side walk over you.

## Non-Catholic Tribute

From non-Catholic sources come two strong tributes to the Catholic position in regard to education.

The "Churchman" an Episcopalian organ, in a recent issue had this to say:—

"Our Roman Catholic friends are entirely right when they insist on the paramount importance of what they call "atmosphere" in a school. The spiritual nature of children, chameleonlike, changes its color with its food, its environment."

Writing in the "Sacred Heart Review", Professor Starbuck, a Protestant, puts it thus plainly:—

"Lansing says that the Roman Church hates and storms at our public schools. She does no such thing.

"She says that education ought to be religious, and, for Christian children, Christian. Does Lansing deny it?"

"His great grievance plainly is, that Rome insists that education, for Catholic children, ought to be Catholic. Ought it not? Ought not education, for Protestant children, to be Protestant?"

Let us add this from Bishop Spalding: "The greatest religious fact in the United States to-day, is the Catholic school system, maintained without any aid, except from the people who love it."

## A Contrast

A few days ago, John D. Rockefeller, speaking before a Baptist Sunday School in Cleveland congratulated his hearers upon living in this country and not in Europe. "We are free here," he said, "and may study the Bible. Over in Europe they do not have this and other advantages."

Pray tell, in what country of Europe may the people not study the Bible?

After digesting the foregoing, read what Mr. Bryan says of Rockefeller in his paper, the "Commoner": "Here is a man who has organized a great and cruel conspiracy in restraint of trade. Through all manner of crimes he has come to be the richest private individual in all the world. Only a few months ago he was skulking into the dark corners of the earth, hiding—successfully—from an officer of the law charged with serving upon him a simple writ

commanding him to appear before a magistrate and tell the truth. Only a few weeks ago a warrant for his arrest was sworn out before an Ohio State court. Only a few days ago his corporation was indicted by a Federal grand jury at Chicago. Yet here we find him preaching to a Sunday school on the subject, "Love Thy Country!"

Upon this the "Freeman's Journal" comments:

"Is there in history, sacred or profane, or in fiction a prototype for this character? We hardly think so. The Pharisee does not fill the bill, neither does Mr. Pecksniff. Rockefeller is a unique and original type."

## Another Lie Nailed

Last week a Congress of Slovak Catholics was held in Wilkesbarre to protest against certain alleged injustices which are being perpetrated against Slovak Catholics in Hungary.

This led to a report that the attendants upon the Congress proposed to establish an independent Catholic Church in the United States.

The fact that Bishop Hoban and other recognized Catholic clergymen addressed the Congress have disposed of this report. If this did not, the following ringing words by Rev. Stephen Furdek, which were applauded by the delegates, did:—

"A few days ago circular letters signed by Rev. Joseph Kossalko, a priest of Bridgeport, Conn., were sent to the Archbishops, Bishops and also the public press in America charging that there is among the Slovak R. C. Pan Slavist priests a movement on foot to establish an independent National Slovak Church and they resolved unanimously to hold on Labor Day, September 3, in Wilkes-Barre, a Slovak Catholic Congress.

"Now this is a diabolical calumny.

"Among the Slovak R. C. priests in America there never was, and there is at present, no movement, on foot to establish an independent National Slovak Church, and Rev. J. Kossalko knows that.

There is no power in this world that could separate us from the Catholic church, with the grace of God.

This congress was called in imitation of the "Katholikentag" of the Germans for the good, and not for the detriment of our religion.

Verily, these are days when paternalism runs mad. Here is President Roosevelt attempting to compel everybody to spell as he thinks proper. Next comes Secretary Shaw telling the banks where and how they must loan their money. Ere long, the Federal and State government will be telling us how to dress and how to eat.

The "Evening Times" sneers at a Massachusetts clergyman who announces that women without heads covered will not be permitted to enter his church and says that the press of the country long ago settled the question, whether women should go to church and theater without hats, in the affirmative. Has the "Times" man ever visited the Catholic churches in Rochester on a Sunday morning? If so, did he ever see one of the thousands of women present at these services without headcovering? And, what is more, he never will. In the Catholic churches the Blessed Sacrament is always exposed and women keep their heads covered out of respect for that presence.

Andrew Carnegie has robbed President Roosevelt's friends of their most potent argument in favor of his ill-advised spurge in favor of the Brander Mathews' spelling reform movement by saying that the British Philological Society twenty-five years ago advocated all the Mathews' propositions. If this weighty society has not been able to swing public sentiment in its favor is it to be wondered at that the American public takes the proposition not much more kindly to-day?

What a fine mess New York politics is in, to be sure.

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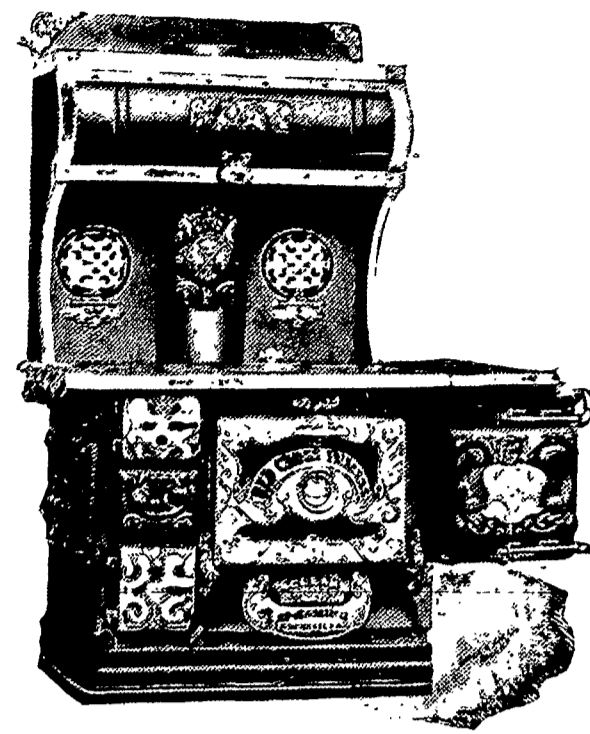
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