

The Catholic Journal

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Answered.

Those of our readers who may have become imbued with the idea that the increase in the Irish population in Boston has some how or other lowered the character of "The Hub" would do well to clip out and preserve the following from the Boston "Republic".

The members of the defunct Finance Commission of Boston can hardly feel proud of the friends they have made. Here, for example, is Senator Gary of South Carolina, hailing the Finance Commission in the United States Senate as an instrument for the putting down of "foreigners" in Boston this fashion:

"A little over a year ago there was created in Boston a Finance Commission composed of the very best citizens, for the purpose of investigating and reporting the existing intolerable municipal conditions.

The once refined and cultured Boston, the Arcady of America has now become so infested with aliens, thought to be incapable of self-government, that it has asked that the municipal government be divided between the people of Boston and the Legislature. He further refers to Boston as "one of the largest Slav-iberic cities."

He is also much opposed to Charles P. Neill, assistant commissioner of immigration, though the name was hardly "Slav-iberic."

If Boston is so infested with aliens supposed to be incapable of self-government, who are "the people of Boston" who may be permitted to assist the Massachusetts Legislature in rescuing their city from its "terrible plight?" The great majority of the population of Boston are Americans of Irish extraction; though they are a large and steadily increasing element composed of Jews, Italians, Portuguese and French. These last named are probably what Mr. Gary would set apart as "Slav-iberic." The descendants of the original Puritan immigrants are a small minority, though they still control the larger portion of the city's wealth.

The Finance Commission was established by the Irish-American Mayor, John F. Fitzgerald, for the purpose which its name suggests—an investigation into the financial condition of the city. The Mayor named the bodies from which the Commission's membership should be drawn. He did not name the members.

How then has the Finance Commission acquired the extraordinary character which Senator Gary imputes to it?

It is perfectly clear to all intelligent residents of Boston. Six of the members of the Commission, instead of attending to the duties of their charge, devoted all their energies to the destruction of Mayor Fitzgerald. They liberally "worked overtime" at this business; and a Jewish citizen of the highest character called the present writer's attention to the fact that, while the Commission very properly suspended its work for the week of the

State elections, it redoubled the activity of its personal vindictiveness during the entire fortnight preceding the city elections.

They helped to accomplish Mr. Fitzgerald's defeat by a small majority. But they wrought far worse things—for Mr. Fitzgerald is still a young man and has been thoroughly rehabilitated by the very violence and unreason of the persecution to which he was subjected, and which forced his whole public and private life into the limelight. The Finance Commission had two members of the old-time school of New England anti-Catholics bigots, and the rest, in their short-sighted malice actually played into the hands of these, who now remain the sole exponents and defenders of the defunct organization and what it tried to do.

It is an encouraging sign of growth of true Americanism in Boston to find that its citizens, irrespective of race-lines or political affiliations, are determined in their opposition to being governed like a parcel of Russian serfs by a handful of the privileged and un-American so-called "better classes"; and that the Republican Mayor Hart is brave enough in the face of these would be despots, to vindicate both his mangled predecessor and fair fame of his native city.

Too Bad.

President Eliot, of Harvard, is a queer old chap. He seeks things at night and is especially fearful of the Papal ghost. In a recent speech Dr. Eliot is reported as saying:

In all parts of the country there are problems to be solved that would tend to interfere with our advancement. In the South it is the negro problem. The same or similar problems exist in all parts of the country. In Protestant Massachusetts, the land of the Pilgrims and Puritans, the population to-day is mostly Catholic. There are Irish, Italian and Portuguese that present the same race problem to that part of the country that negroes do to the South.

Do they? Is not the problem of which President Eliot speaks of his own manufacture? The race problem in Massachusetts is settling itself, and it will be settled, despite all attempts to the contrary, in favor of the people who by adherence to the laws of God obey the divine injunction, to increase and multiply and make the most powerful contribution to the brawn and brain of the community. Any man who cannot see this is to be pitied. No other result can be looked for under the democratic institutions which govern us.

"The whole assumption underlying President Eliot's view is that there is among us an elect people which has a perpetual monopoly of intelligence, honesty and zeal for the highest public service, and therefore should be entitled to an endless lease of power.

The Boston Pilot thus comments:

"President Eliot has many times during his career sinned against good taste. Notable among those occasions was the address which he delivered to Prince Henry of Prussia some years ago which must have made this German imperial scion feel that he must apologize to the Catholic one-third of the German Empire. The latest utterance is no surprise to those who have felt for a long time that President Eliot is talking too much on every subject. They have learned from experience to regard him as a man who lacks the caution and reserve which denote the sober and well-balanced mind."

With the approval of Archbishop Bourne, of Westminster, several pastors in and around London began the new year with the introduction of the Paulist system of the question box on Sunday evenings.

Death of Mrs. Englert.

The funeral Mrs. John F. Englert who died Sunday night at St. Mary's Hospital, aged 77 years was held Thursday morning. She leaves her husband, five sons, Rev. J. J. Englert and Rev. George F. Englert of New York City and Frank S., Joseph A., J. Neirocker and the Misses Mary C., Anna W. and Cecelia S. Englert of this city.

Tiny Specks of Evidence.

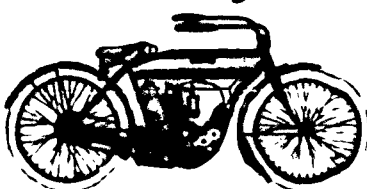
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