

# The Catholic Journal

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### Queer State.

Surely, our state bookkeeping system must be a weird and wonderful piece of work.

Governor Whitman says New York state is so near bankruptcy that \$18,000,000 must be raised this year by direct tax.

Former Governor Glynn, who served two years as state comptroller says "Nonsense" to Governor Whitman and asserts that there is no need for a direct state tax at all.

State Comptroller Travis alleges that it is all a matter of 1915 appropriations. If \$5,000,000 above the appropriations of 1914 are made by the Legislature of 1915 then the direct state tax this year will be \$11,000,000.

Comptroller Pronger says of Greater New York allows that possibly we shall have to have a direct tax of \$5,300,000.

Borough President McAveny thinks that there should be a small surplus in the State treasury instead of a bankrupt condition.

Is it not high time that New York state installed a financial system by which the average layman, at the end of any month, could ascertain absolutely just where the State stands so far as financial standing is concerned?

### The Blockade

Stated in a nutshell, the truth about the so-called "European blockade" is just this:—

Under international law, blockades cannot extend "beyond the ports and coasts belonging to the enemy."

At present Great Britain is blockading the neutral countries of Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Holland against the commerce of the United States while Germany is attempting the very self same thing.

In other words, the belligerent nations of Europe, are united to drive American commerce off the high seas in and about Europe, whether or not that commerce is non-contraband and destined for neutral countries.

This is an intolerable condition and will not be submitted to by the United States very much longer. The United States is maintaining its neutrality. The belligerent nations must be made to maintain their neutrality toward the United States or else we do not read President Wilson's mind aright.

### Peculiar?

Surely, it is peculiar that while workers in a particular line of trade or occupation will agitate and protest and threaten in order to secure shorter hours of labor for themselves but, on the other hand, will shout until they are black in the face if the workers in another trade seek to have their hours shortened!

A case in point:—Workers who themselves work only eight hours a day and have Saturday half-holidays, object strenuously that department and other retail mercantile establishments close at 6 o'clock on Saturday evenings.

In other words, these who have had from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday to do their shopping, but instead went to see a ballgame, want the clerks to stand on their feet four hours longer just to accommodate careless, unthinking men and women.

Peculiar is it not.

### Can This Be True?

We cannot believe that the Albany Argus states the truth in the following editorial but we reprint it so that if the charges made are misleading in any way, the canners and political leaders may reply to them:—

The vote in the Senate on Wednesday advancing to third reading three bills to make radical changes in the law governing the employment of women and children in the canning industry shows that the Republicans in the Legislature are determined to place New York on a par, as far as canneries are concerned with those southern States in which conditions prevail that have aroused the indignation of all who believe that human life should be placed above the dollar. There should be a vigorous protest from every organization that has labored for fair conditions in the employment of women and children. To change the existing laws as proposed would be a deplorable step backward and would be a disgrace to the State.

The argument that individuals should be given the privilege of working as many hours a day as they please will not hold water in this case. It is well known that many parents have so little consideration for their children that, in order to get more money, they would work them until they dropped from exhaustion if they were allowed to do so.

It is fallacious to argue that women should be permitted to work 20 hours a day, even for a limited period. In the interests of the race it is necessary that, as far as possible, the mothers and the future mothers of this country should conserve their strength. Furthermore, the consumers of canned goods are vitally interested in this matter.

There is certain to be unsanitary conditions when employes in the canneries are worked as slaves. They do not have time to attend to personal cleanliness and when tired out are sure to be careless in handling the food products that are put up.

The Thompson bills are legislation of the most vicious sort.

### Stop It!

The editor of the New York "Times" is entitled to great credit for resenting before the Federal senate committee insinuations that the American press is venal or corruptible.

Sad, indeed, will be the day when the press of the United States is on the plane of the European press, whose editors can publish only what the government decides that it may.

A free and untrammelled press, restricted only from degeneration into license, is the bulwark of a democracy. When the press is muzzled, freedom of speech and thought will be no more.

There are limits even to the paternal despotism of the government at Washington!

If our readers have an idea or a suggestion which they think would improve this paper or broaden its influence, we invite them to send them in to the proprietors. Like Horace Greely, we are never too old to learn.

The day is fast approaching when the Catholic laity in the United States will have to take the initiative along certain lines. Perhaps an American Windthorst will arise.

Is there any way the United States can turn to avoid intervention in Mexico?

## Guggenheim's

Your Easter Hairdress should have the added charms produced with our Hair Goods and Ornaments.



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## Adjustable Dress Forms.

With the spring and summer sewing looming larger every day there are busy weeks ahead for dress forms.

Every woman who has dressmaking to do realizes the importance of having one close at hand. They save so much time and trouble—in fact are almost indispensable.

Notion section is headquarters for dress forms. Here are four styles that we have no hesitation in recommending:

Dress forms with four adjustments, sizes 1 and 2, for \$5.

"Peerless" adjustable dress form, a form with fourteen independent adjustments—\$12.

"Empress" adjustable dress form—this form has 24 separate adjustments. As each part is independently adjustable it is possible to obtain almost any shape or size desired—\$15.

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