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Friday May 7, 1915.

Tit for Tat.

One of the official publications of the Presbyterian Church informs us with a natural exhibition of gratification from the writer—that the president of the United States is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton, N. J.; the vice-president of the United States is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Ind., and the secretary of state is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Omaha, Neb. Now these honorable gentlemen were elected by a large Catholic vote, which goes to show, according to the Knights of Luther, the Guardians of Bigotry, etc., that the Church of Rome is gradually undermining our free institutions and getting such a grasp on the public offices that it must be a menace to this country.

The paper above mentioned says further: "It would require many pages to narrate the names of men in high public office who are Presbyterians. You are in good company when you join the Presbyterians."

The governor of New York is a deacon of the University Place Presbyterian Church of New York City.

This exultation is pardonable if not exactly in the best taste. But when it is chronicled that Governor Blank or Senator So-and-So is a Catholic then it is the bragging of a Jesuit and substantial evidence that the Catholics are plotting to seize the reins of government.

The Catholic part is to pay the taxes and stand in the background, evidently.

Peculiar View.

The Evening Times has peculiar views at times. The latest instance of this is its idea that the public service commissions were great and efficient bodies under Governor Hughes but had deteriorated under Governors Dix, Glynn and Sulzer. According to the Times, Governor Whitman has raised the standard again to that of the Hughes days.

Well, Governor Whitman refused to reappoint Commissioner Milo Maltbre in the New York city commission, one of the most widely advertised of the Hughes appointees and installed his own personal counsel "Colonel Bill" Hayward of New York city and Nebraska. That is the only change. All other Dix-Sulzer-Glynn appointees are retained by Whitman.

In the up-state commission, Governor Whitman has replaced Martin Decker, the last of the Hughes appointees by J. O. Carr. The other Dix, Sulzer, Glynn appointees all remain.

Have both commissions been "reformed" by the appointment of one new member in five? If they were had at five, how are they reformed now that they stand four old, one new?

As yet, no Apapist proposal has been submitted to the Constitutional convention.

Our Parks.

While there may be larger parks in the United States, none possess the comprehensiveness, variety or individuality of Rochester's parks. In the larger parks there is a wide range from the "made park variety" to "nature untrammelled". Genesee Valley compares favorably with Central Park in New York city but what what city in the country has a natural park to compare with our own Seneca Park? Where is there a park of its size that can present such a range of flowers, shrubs and plants as can be seen in Highland park?

Even in the small city parks there are few to excel our own Jones Square, Washington park and others.

Rochesterians have good reason to be proud of their parks and should not begrudge liberal appropriations to keep them up to their present high standard.

Not Quite Fair.

The esteemed Democrat & Chronicle is not quite fair when it chides New York city in this wise for objecting strenuously to the proposed \$19,000,000 direct state tax:—

The voters of New York city, it is charitable to assume, possess certain reasoning powers. If this is true, then they understand that their present plight is due to the fact that they have permitted themselves in the past to be fooled into accepting Tammany domination. New York city voters should keep Tammany out of power in state and nation.

It is asserted on all sides that the present city administration of New York is the most extravagant in its history, yet there is not a Tammany man in the administration and neither Dix, nor Sulzer nor Glynn was a member of Tammany Hall!

Half a Century

Two Rochester citizens, during the past week, completed fifty years of service in somewhat different lines.

Frank B. Allen has served half a century in the service of the city in the Police department. He has been patrolman, acting detective and now is sergeant in charge of the police patrol. He has been a faithful public servant and still prefers active service instead of retirement on a pension.

David J. Hoyt has been connected with the Monroe County Savings Bank for fifty years. Beginning as bookkeeper he has been advanced on merit to be secretary and treasurer of the institution. No Rochesterian is more familiar with the financial and banking development of Rochester than Mr. Hoyt.

The Catholic Journal extends sincere felicitations to both gentlemen.

Why should we not resent slurs and insults to our faith, slander of our priests and nuns, and vilification of our wives, mothers and daughters? Would we be red-blooded if we did otherwise?

Some men bewail the day when a dollar purchased more than it does today? But were the dollars as plentiful then.

Why cannot the water power of the state be developed? Why cannot state roads be built in the State Forest Preserve? Why may not all the people enjoy the beauties and life-giving qualities imparted by God Almighty to the Adirondacks?

Evidently, Colonel Roosevelt intends to destroy Governor Whitman, politically.

A great opportunity is presented to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1915.

The Knights of Columbus will hold their 1915 supreme convention in August at Seattle, Washington.

City of Homes.

If any evidence outside what we know from everyday observation were needed to prove that Rochester is a "city of homes" it is proven by the 1915 assessment rolls. Of the \$202,765,620 of assessed valuation of real estate in Rochester, \$106,250,540 is made up of assessments on properties valued at less than \$5,000.

Very few properties assessed at less than \$5,000 are used for business purposes. Thus it is evident that more than one half of the real value of Rochester is made up of dwellings. It follows, therefore, that half the taxes of Rochester come from the owners of dwellings.

This is a rare testimony to the stability of a city's citizenship. He who owns his home and pays the taxes thereon is a permanent fixture in the community and mightily interested therein. As a matter of fact, Rochester is a city of homes, of solid and substantial citizenship and a community of which we all are proud. Long may she so continue and may the quality of her citizenship continue at its present standard.

Is This Needed?

While the legislators practically killed the Reiner-Tallett compulsory Bible reading bill, the advocates of that measure could not rest easy. So they put forward a makeshift subterfuge which provided that the state commissioner of education should appoint a special committee of seven representing all religious beliefs to endeavor to agree upon a uniform set of "scriptural selections." When this has been unanimously approved by the State Board of Regents, these may be printed in leaflet form and used by the teachers in opening each school session of the local board of education approves of such scriptural opening of schools.

While there is no crying need of even this latest proposition it is better than the original proposition.

There will be relief that the Legislature has adjourned.

Theodore broke several precedents but Woodrow has torn up the whole volume.

Bishop Hickey always has been a leader in Rochester's civic life. His latest activity is to become an active member of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

It is to be the "Port of Rochester" after January 1, 1916.

Possibly, it may only be a peculiar coincidence but it does seem queer that the compensation commission should dismiss on the same day Thomas D. Fitzgerald and Dr. John Brown, of the Albany office and no one else. Of course, no significance attaches to the fact that both were prominent Knights of Columbus.

Why should municipal regulations be sufficient control over jitneys? Will a Public Service Commission certificate of public necessity avail to prevent overcrowded jitneys. Such does not appear to have been the result in the case of street car companies.

Now as the day when the amateur baseball nine flourishes. Soon will come the tennis days and ere long the swimming season. Thus do we know the summer is near at hand.

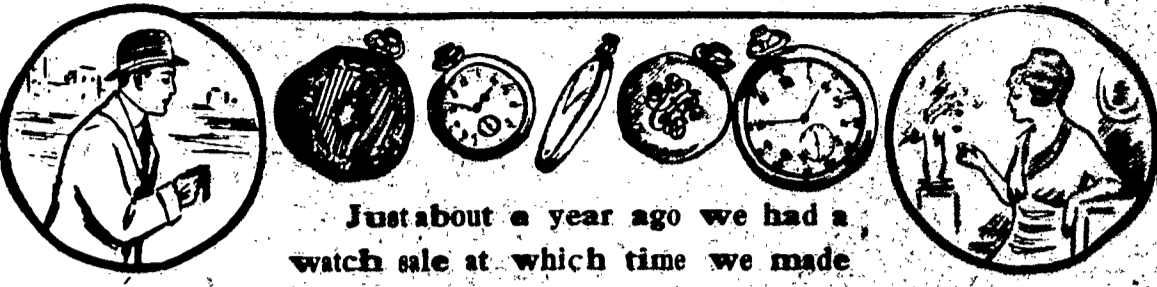
Why should not the street car company, at least, operate clean cars? What is our local health department doing these days?

It looks very much as if William Barnes, jr., had aided Theodore Roosevelt very materially in his campaign to recapture the headlines on the first page.

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