

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, January 14, 1916.

Why Criticize?

We have noticed that some hypercritical papers poked fun at the farmer and his wife out in Oregon who became dissatisfied with each other after many years of married life. It was a far distance to the county court; besides they wished to save expense. So they just wrote to the judge and requested a divorce decree by return mail. The papers had a deal to say about "correspondence school and divorce made easy."

But, to get down to cases, were the Oregon couple so far behind the times? In many states, almost in any sort of flimsy excuse suffices for the civil courts to untie the marriage knot. They are not at all concerned about the sacramental side of matrimony. Catholics, to be sure, keep out of the divorce courts but the non-Catholic party to a mixed marriage is not so restrained. This phrase of the situation should be carefully weighed by the Catholic who contemplates becoming a party to a mixed marriage.

The Boston Pilot well says: "Now what was the poor Oregon farmer to think after these Mexican and the lady he lived in this divorce-by-mail, he asks? It is only just hurrying up things a bit. Once you admit the principle that a man may put away his lawless wife whom he has taken until death, it does not seem to make a great difference whether you allow him to do it after a few months residence in Reno, or after a great legal battle or simply by the judge's letter."

But we are such a law-abiding people. Even if we break the law among Indians and Spaniards of God we must do it according to good form. Hence we throw up our hands in horror at the preached of free love who tell us that when love is dead, marriage is thereby annulled, and that the only thing to do is for the parties themselves to declare their divorce.

Free love, we cry; we will have the law upon you for preaching such a libertine union. What law, is the retort? Why, the very same law that says it is an honorable thing for a man and woman to divorce each other and take up with some other affinity. There is only this difference in the cases: in one it is free love, in the other it is free love.

Unfortunate.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that even the semblance of politics or lack of fair play should have been permitted to creep into the Sing Sing prison controversy. But it is impossible to disassociate from recent developments the fact that Judge Riley was appointed state prison superintendent by former Governor Martin H. Glynn or that he was prominent under the Grover Cleveland days and, later on, as one of the persistent promoters

of the Catholic Summer School at Plattsburg.

Without expressing any opinions as to the truth or falsity of the charges: former Warden Thomas M. Osborne is under indictment for serious offenses. He had been relieved by Superintendent Riley. Much of the evidence for or against, lies in Sing Sing prison. Removal of Superintendent Riley cannot but convey to these witnesses an implied belief in the innocence of Mr. Osborne and disbelief that the offenses charged in the indictment found by the Westchester county grand jury.

We should say that the removal of Superintendent Riley spells the downfall of the indictments against Thomas M. Osborne perhaps. Governor Whitman intended all along that Riley and Osborne should kill each other off. If, that result has been accomplished because Mr. Osborne never can be entirely rehabilitated in public esteem unless the charges are tried out in open court and disproven.

But we repeat: Prison reform—real reform—suffers when made a political football.

Peculiar?

We fancy that the Californians naturally will first laugh at, then bitterly resent the following conclusions, as well as statement of facts, brought forth by an associate editor of "Zion's Herald": "We are accustomed to dwell upon historical matters in New England, and well we may. But there is history out here also. It was in San Diego that California began, back in 1542, three quarters of a century before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock. In 1769 the mission of San Diego de Alcalá was founded by Serra, the missionary enterprise was launched as it had been earlier in New Mexico—that lends such romance to the story of making in their behalf.

Well, the Guardians of Liberty will not cut much of a figure in Rochester now, we fancy. As practical politicians they are a lot of dubs. George W. Aldridge, for Public Service Commissioner! Well, he is better equipped than some men who have drawn \$15,000 a year from the State treasury. And far less of a self-advertiser to boot.

Preparedness is a fine asset, in any line of endeavor, public or private. Williard A. Marakle, of Rochester, is the first editor in New York State to pass a civil service examination. Bishop Scannell, of Omaha, is dead. May his soul rest in peace. Will Senator O'Gorman try for re-election in a direct primary and popular vote?

Former Governor Martin H. Glynn's vigorous editorials in the Albany Times-Union are proof positive that he did not lose his journalistic cunning by a transient sojourn in public life.

Receipt of certain literature recalls the fact that "Eddie" Riggs is still director of publicity for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Now that the Panama-Pacific expositions are over, the railroads turn to the national political conventions as tourist attractions. "This way for the Roosevelt special" and "the Wilson Limited" will soon be popular appeals.

Mexico.

It is evident that one great obstacle President Wilson will encounter both in Congress and in his campaign for re-election is the Mexican policy of the Administration. To the uninitiated observer, unacquainted with possible inside facts, it appears that while the United States has tried to be neutral in the European war, President Wilson has acted in entirely opposite manner in dealing with the Mexican situation. While anti-Carranza supporters have been jailed, ammunition denied one of the persistent promoters

and receive all the supplies he wants and his faction has been accorded recognition in Washington.

Technically speaking, perhaps we as Catholics have no legal right to demand protection for our co-religionists in Mexico, morally we have as much right to demand protection as the Protestant sects demand and receive for their missionaries. And we have the same moral right to withhold our political support from those who flout us by insulting our colleagues and refusing to intervene in our behalf. Catholics in the United States have as much right to demand protection for their co-religionists in Mexico as the Jews in the United States have to demand protection for their co-religionists in Russia. If we stand squarely on our rights, there is sure to be a day that result has been accomplished.

"They haven't applied the Sullivan law to steamers" remarks the New York World. Evidently, there'll be but one name presented seriously in the Democratic presidential canvass. Anyway, Colonel Roosevelt is back on the first page. He positively hates that. No matter what anybody says, Judge Riley's friends will never doubt his personal probity. Amateur penologists, like all other amateurs, quite often make a mess of things.

Public sympathy goes out to the Sisters of Mercy in the loss sustained by them in the fire in their South street convent a few days since. Much cannot be repaired by money like paintings, statuary and so on. But money will help some, hence it is to be hoped there will be generous response to the appeal which a committee of Catholic ladies' is making in their behalf.

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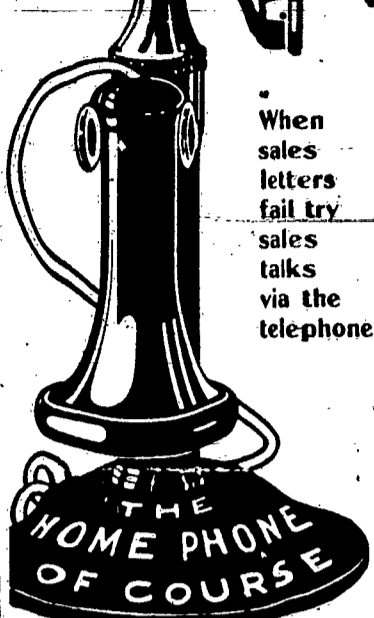
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And still the European war goes on! Henry Ford is home, a wiser not a sadder man.

WHEN YOU SEE A PHONE - THINK OF THE HOME.

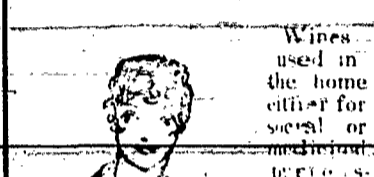


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Report of the Condition of the NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE At Rochester, in the State of New York, at the Close of Business, December 31, 1915. RESOURCES: Loans and Discounts \$8,931,382.20; U.S. Bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value) 789.17; U.S. Bonds pledged to secure U.S. deposits (par value) 600,000.00; U.S. Bonds pledged to secure Postal Savings deposits (par value) 1,000.00; Bonds other than U.S. Bonds pledged to secure Postal Savings deposits 10,000.00; Bonds and Securities pledged as collateral for state or other deposits or bills payable (U.S. Postal Savings excluded) 64,519.31; Securities other than U.S. Bonds (not including stocks) owned and pledged 53,000.00; Stock in Federal Reserve Bank 37,652.16; All other Stocks, including premium on same 41,210.00; Banking Houses 18,425.00; Other Real Estate owned 42,000.00; Net amount due from Federal Reserve Bank 7,421.47; Net amount due from approved reserve agents in New York, Chicago and St. Louis 272,231.16; Net amount due from approved reserve agents in other reserve cities 324,999.07; Net amount due from Banks and Bankers other than above 319,215.97; Exchanges for Clearing House 141,944.27; Outside checks and other cash items 1,947,373.23; Fractional currency, nickels and cents 6,403.70; Notes of other National Banks 1,739.07; Federal Reserve Notes 9,230.00; Lawful Money Reserve in Bank: Total Coin and Certificates 445,796.00; Legal Tender Notes 20,620.00; Redemption fund with U.S. Treasurer (not more than 5 per cent on circulation) 468,416.00; Total \$11,407,802.76. LIABILITIES: Capital-Stock paid in \$750,000.00; Surplus Fund 625,000.00; Undivided Profits, less current expenses, interest and taxes paid 122,776.59; Circulating Notes 600,000.00; Due to banks and bankers \$ 876,027.01; Dividends unpaid 18,925.00; Individual Deposits, subject to check 7,443,916.48; Certificates of Deposit, "demand" 453,395.43; Certificates of Deposit, "time" 283,160.56; Certified Checks 58,598.47; Cashier's Checks outstanding 14,615.34; United States Deposits 1,000.00; Postal Savings Deposits 65,387.83; State, County or other Municipal Deposits, secured 50,000.00; Total Deposits \$9,260,026.17; Liabilities other than those above stated 150,000.00; Total \$11,407,802.76. STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF MONROE, ss.: I, Bertram L. Search, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. BERTRAM L. SEARCH, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of January, 1916. GEORGE C. LENNOX, Notary Public. Correct-Attest: WILLIAM H. DUNN, JAMES G. COMERFORD, THOMAS J. SWANTON, Directors.

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