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Friday, March 3, 1916.

Troublous Times.

While we will all pray earnestly that the skies will clear, there is no gainsaying the fact that there is an extremely delicate condition confronting the United States as far as the European war crisis is concerned.

Leat.

Before another issue of the Catholic Journal reaches its readers, the Lenten season will be upon us. The Ash Wednesday services will be held as usual and we will be sternly reminded that dust we are and to dust we shall return.

Then, how much more important it is that we should know just where we stand spiritually because the salvation of our immortal souls is of far more importance than earthly success or profit of business ventures.

Taxes.

It has been said that the New Yorker is one of the most provincial persons in the world, that he sees no good outside New York, that the sun rises and sets in the Harlem River.

Worthy Bill.

Representative John J. Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn, is championing the following Bill in Congress, being H. R. No. 6468:—

in the country that wants "liberty" to circulate obscenity? What others would object? Publishers of decent publications do not oppose the Fitzgerald bill.

The Usual Thing.

Recently a bigot was rash enough to say that over 80 per cent of the prisoners at Sing Sing were "graduates of the parochial schools."

Well, February did produce some winter weather, to be sure.

Father Etienne (Stephen) Theodore Badin was the very first priest to be ordained in the United States, the second being Prince Demetrius Gallizi.

And now begin to get ready to observe fittingly the Lenten season.

Owing to the last few years' persecutions, two hundred thousand Catholics in Yucatan are without priests and the Sacraments.

It is estimated that some thirty-five thousand adult converts are received into the Catholic Church in the United States every year.

Despite the frequent press reports every few weeks of the fatal illness of Emperor William of Germany or Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, both monarchs are still in the land of the living.

It seems to be the fashion in certain quarters to speak ill of the State Industrial Commission. Well, there are those who would find fault with the Archangel Gabriel.

We do not believe the Shuberts realize what ultimate damage they have done themselves by excluding from their theaters the dramatic critic of the New York Times even if the court of Appeals has upheld their action as legally justifiable.

Let George do it is a common byword. But would George Washington not do as President Wilson is doing were he President-to-day?

Honestly, what real reason is there why Americans should love England and hate Germany? As a matter of fact, why should we love one European country and hate another? After the war is over, every European country will hustle its head off to grab our foreign trade and commerce.

By raising the price of henequen, the plant from which binder twine is made and ninety per cent of it grows in Mexico, Carranza plans to make the American farmers pay tribute sufficient to finance his army. Great head-work that!

"Extension" is authority for a letter said to have been written by Carranza refusing to permit Catholic priests to return to Mexico and reassume their parishes. Let's see. Did not Private Secretary Tumulty say Carranza promised that in future Catholic priests would not be molested in any way?

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