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Friday, April 7, 1916

Foreign Affairs

It is plainly evident that two of the burning issues in the national campaign of 1916 will be foreign relations and preparedness.

What are to be the foreign relations of the United States regarding, say, the warring nations of Europe? Our population has been drawn largely from the peoples now arrayed against each other.

To any sane and reasonable person it is perfectly clear that there is no earthly reason why our sympathies should be with one of the warring European nations than another.

What It Means

In the course of a well-developed article on "Reasons" for the wave of rationalism and materialism that is apparently sweeping over the land, the Los Angeles Tidings says:

What is the meaning of rationalized ethical principals? Just this, that every supernatural motive be removed from them. In other words, that they be regarded at best as a system, noble in itself, but man-made, by which men have performed to live.

Nor it is not at all surprising that men (the way having been carefully prepared) are taking up positions utterly at variance with the time-honored precepts of Christianity.

ion to shake off the restraint imposed by moral principles which for the world seem to have lost much of their meaning.

Censorship

It is plain that the moving picture operators bitterly resent any censorship or supervision over their films.

Why is this? They say that moving pictures should no more be supervised or regulated than the press. But the press is regulated and both civil and criminal actions may be brought against an offending paper.

We fail to see why the moving picture men resent a certificate by a board of censors that their films are not sacrilegious, immoral or indecent.

Some Truth In This

There are times when we do not agree with the Rochester Herald but we are heartily in accord with its position that hysterical advocacy of a desirable reform may often defeat its object and work unreasonable harm upon those who in the reform is desired and designed to serve.

The Herald cites the hysterical warnings against tuberculosis resulting in the ostracism and virtual banishment of any person suspected of tubercular tendencies. Whether the tendency is proven or not, says the Herald very truly:

Americans have been aroused to indignation by the apparent cruelties inflicted upon the unfortunate civilian population of France, Belgium and Poland, without thinking of the cruelties which this propaganda at home inflicts upon the unfortunate at their own doors.

Happy Medium

Whimsical as it may seem, there's a deal of common sense in this advice from "Life":

A little learning is a dangerous thing, but a little too much learning is still more dangerous. To have too much learning sets you so far above your fellow mortals and fills you with such contempt for them that you can not be comfortable in their presence.

Why should not all Catholic societies receive Holy Communion in a body at least once a year? Public expression of fealty to Holy Mother Church sets a splendid example to the world at large.

Well, we are having real experience of the love of the Mexicans for the world seem to have lost much of their meaning.

If we would have our non-Catholic friends really believe in us, we must surpass them in our daily lives and conduct.

The very best service the Legislature of 1916 could do is to pass the appropriation bills and go home. The people do not need more but less laws.

Very neat, indeed, the reply of Secretary of State Lansing when asked by the reporters if he cared to reply to T. R.'s latest pronouncement: "Thanks, but I never answer advertisements." Almost clever enough for an Englishman, don't you know?

This is just as true today as when it was penned by Pope Pius X. of blessed memory:

"In vain you will build churches, give missions, found schools—all your works, all your efforts, will be destroyed—if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive—weapons of a loyal and sincere Catholic Press."

Let us be thankful that Rochester has been spared, in great measure, perils by flood.

Evidently, that Bible reading bill for 1916, at least, is dead.

Evidently, one Charles H. Strong is finding out that Catholic institutions when attacked. We regret to say, however, that there appear to be a few weak kneed Catholics in high official places in and about New York city.

The work done by the Men's Charity League, the Charity Guild and other Catholic charitable societies during the last year has been most gratifying. And so, we may add, has been the general publicity displayed by the Catholic laity of Rochester.

When will we read of an "opening week" of the Catholic Y. M. C. A.?

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley does not so vividly portrayed by the propagandists that they will begin to appear before a legislative committee and when it was their own protection as an excuse, refused, according to statements made at Albany last week, to appear to favor the "other side" of the Chatauque circuit.

Let us support our Catholic press as we do our business investments.

That break-in-East-Main-street bridge is an earnest of what may happen some day. It is well to hurry that river channel as fast as possible.

Good reading matter is an essential in every well regulated family. And a Catholic paper constitutes the very best class of reading matter.

The Size of It

The futility of argument over which is right in the European war is well illustrated by this story:

"Gentlemen of the jury, are you agreed upon your verdict?" asked the judge presiding over a Texas court. "We are," responded the foreman. "Do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?" "We do." "You do? Do what?" exclaimed the startled judge. "We find the prisoner guilty or not guilty," answered the foreman. "But, gentlemen, you cannot return a verdict like that."

"Wal, I don't know," the foreman responded. "You see, six of us find him guilty and six of us find him not guilty, and we've agreed to let it go at that."

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