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Friday, March 30, 1917.

Incredible

One almost stands aghast at the extent to which the Carranza government in Mexico proposes to go in despoiling and crushing the Catholic Church, in theory all Religion, in practice the Catholic faith because Mexicans are either Catholic or atheists.
 Under the new Mexican Constitution, promulgated by the Carranza government, it is proposed to install what is said to be "the most drastic restriction of the participation of the Church in political affairs that has ever been undertaken by a modern nation." What this really means is told by a writer in the Des Moines Register who has been studying this remarkable document. Monasteries, convents and religious orders are absolutely forbidden. All schools must be public and wholly non-sectarian and no religious instruction will be permitted. Even private schools must be non-sectarian. Religious worship can only be carried on in public places owned and controlled by the public and the church authorities are not permitted to hold any real estate. This includes all church institutions such as asylums, hospitals, etc.
 The state proposes to limit not only the action of the ministers of religion but also their number. The Legislatures of the several provinces will regulate the number of ministers in that province and no change of location will be permitted until after the authorities have been notified. Ministers may not inherit property from anybody not a blood relative neither may they so will away property. Clergymen may not even dispose of their personal property except to the State.
 If any person violates these provisions they will not be given a jury trial but the Federal government will dispose of their cases.
 And Mexico is supposed to be a republic and a free country! No wonder that the Kaiser expects Mexico to assist him in making war upon the United States!

Indulgences

One of the most misrepresented and most misunderstood of the Catholic practices is that relating to indulgences.
 Rt. Rev. P. F. O'Hare, LL.D., has written a book, "The Facts About Luther" in the course of which he discusses this practice so clearly that we have made these excerpts:
 The word indulgence in the mind of the Church signifies favor, remission or commutation. This meaning has been gradually changed by non-Catholics to convey the sense of unlawful gratification and free scope to the passions.
 On this account it happens that when some ignorant or prejudiced persons hear of the Church

of license to commit sin is at once presented to their minds. This is far from the truth, for an indulgence, as may be seen by a glance at any Catholic handbook of theology, is a total or partial remission of the temporal punishment which remain due to sin, after the guilt and eternal punishment have been forgiven.
 There are three things to be considered in every deadly sin: First, its guilt; second, its eternal, and third, its temporal punishment. The first and second are forgiven by the sacraments of baptism and penance as the ordinary channels of pardon; the third is expiated by our sufferings and our penances, or by remission or commutation through an indulgence.
 An indulgence, therefore, properly speaking, has nothing to do with the guilt of and the eternal punishment due to mortal sin, nor does an indulgence forgive venial sin. Much less is it a permission for the commission of future sins, as the adversaries of the Church have calumniously asserted. An indulgence regards temporal punishment only.
 It is important to keep in mind this explanation of an indulgence as given by the Church in order to be guarded against those who maliciously construe her teaching to convey the sense of unlawful gratification and of free scope of the passions.
 To say that an indulgence gives license to commit sin for money is a falsehood cut out of whole cloth. Non-Catholics who offer objections to the Church's idea of indulgences should be careful as to how they express themselves on the question, for they profess to believe that all that the greatest sinners have to do to receive full pardon and plenary indulgence for all their sins, past, present and future, is to have faith. Such is the omnipotence attributed to an act by those who believe in "justification by faith alone." What hypocrisy to roll up the whites of one's eyes in a pretense of holy horror at the Catholic doctrine of indulgences, which is severity itself compared with their sweeping act of faith which alone suffices to wash all man's sins away, and put him at once, without penance or purgatory, into the company of the angels in heaven!

Both Desirable

There is a deal of solid truth in the following somewhat facetious editorial found in an exchange:
 We have the A. O. H. and the K. of C. and the C. M. B. A. and all the rest. We need only one more society, and then our young men will be perfect. That is the O. M. W. T. M. D. T. L. O. S. C. M. R. A. P. G. "Order of Men With Too Much Decency to Loiter on Street Corners, Making Remarks About Passing Girls," writes the editor of the Liguorian. Perhaps we shall have that society as soon as the young women join the S. M. M. W. D. C. N. G. O. S. R. — "Society of Modest Maidens Whose Dress and Conduct Never Give Occasion to Such Remarks."

Social Centers.

One of the latest fads is that the public schools should be thrown open as public forums, as "community centers" and so on, with the idea that the community will be enlightened and a better civic feeling thereby result.
 Undoubtedly, if such social centers were properly conducted, no great harm would result even if not much good were done.
 Unfortunately, the average social center turns out to be a trouble center. Anarchists, bigots, socialist propagandists and the like are on hand. Class hatred is stirred up. Not infrequently, the Stars and Stripes are insulted and the rulers of the country condemned. And for this trouble center, all the taxpayers are mulcted, Catholics as well as non-

Catholics.
 Is it for this reason that Catholics are vitally interested in these social centers and should not hesitate to protest when they are in contemplation unless the rights of all taxpayers are considered and that to the last notch.

The Catholic Journal extends hearty congratulations to Hon. Daniel Sheehan, upon his appointment as postmaster of Elmira. He is a capable business man, a shrewd politician and a practical Catholic as is evidenced by his recent election to the Supreme Trusteeship of the C. M. B. A.

Postmaster William A. Buckley's resignation was a distinct surprise. It is known that he has had a rough and rocky road to travel but it was supposed he had weathered the storm. His successor, George A. Staud, is a well-known business man who has the best wishes of a host of friends.

In the death of Hon. William F. Sheehan, New York State loses an able citizen who was in the prime of life and whose opportunities for public service looked bright. He was a man of stern, uncompromising character, an educated gentleman and a devout practical Catholic. May his soul rest in peace!

Notre Dame University has chosen as the Laetare Medalist for 1917 Admiral William Shepherd Benson. He is one of the distinguished officers of the United States Navy and will be a splendid addition to the list of medalists already graced by Maurice Francis Egan, Katherine Conway, Charles J. Bonaparte, Chief Justice White, Dr. John B. Murphy and Anna T. Sadlier.

In field of 486 competitors, Joseph M. Rault, a Catholic graduate of the parochial schools of New Orleans and of Georgetown University, won the post of assistant attorney to the Federal Interstate Commerce Commission, with average marks of 95 per cent!

Bernard Holland, one of the most brilliant English writers has become a Catholic. His father was chaplain to Queen Victoria and King Edward VII.

According to the Scottish Catholic Directory, just issued, there are 547,969 Catholics in Scotland.

General Manager Hamilton's revised street car schedules do not seem to meet the approval of the Rochester Herald or the First Ward Improvement Association.

If local option could only be voted upon once in five years and then only at a special election much confusion and ill-feeling could be avoided.

The Catholic press is always on the alert. It takes no vacation. It is issued quarterly, monthly or weekly. It deserves the loyal support of every Catholic in the United States.

Rochester is standing loyally by President Wilson. There are no "slackers" in evidence here.

Charles F. Rattigan is a lucky chap. He just gets through as warden of Auburn prison when President Wilson appoints him to the lucrative post of collector of the Port of Rochester.

While the Rochester Herald evidently approves of the selection of Charles F. Rattigan as collector of the Port of Rochester, it does not appear so cheerful over the substitution of George C. Staud as Postmaster of Rochester in place of William A. Buckley.

This is a time for boosting, not knocking.



DRESS UP FOR EASTER

But remember that your hat is the most noticed part of your attire—so select one that will look smart and brisk without being conspicuous.

At the "Meng & Shafer" Stores you will find just such hats in all the latest shapes and shades.

And no matter how particular your idea of the "right" hat may be—you will find it in short order among the many different styles in our "all in sight"—"quick service" glass wall cases.

- M. & S. "Glovefitting" \$2
- M. & S. "De Luxe" \$2.50
- M. & S. "Special" \$3
- M. & S. "Stratford" \$3.50
- "Stetson" Soft and Stiff \$4-\$5
- "Borsalino" Soft Hats \$5
Sole Agents
- "Celebrated Dunlap" Soft and Stiff \$5
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RESOURCES \$28,000,000
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 Dividend declared December 1st, 1916, for six months at the rate of 4 per cent per annum
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 W. B. McCullum, Mgr.

Week of April 2
 First 3 Days
Walker's Society Divers
 Special Contests
 6 Pretty Diving Girls

Labelle & Williams—Ed G. Ray
 Claude & Marion, Cleveland
 Laypo & Benjamin—Song Revue
 Moore & Jenkins

Photoplay—Paramount
"ANTON, THE TERRIBLE"

Last 3 Days
Eilers Animals
 Dogs, Monkeys, etc., in a little Canine Play

Rush Ling Toy & Co.
 Chinese Magician and Illusionist

Serial Paramount Photoplay
MATINEE Every Day 10 & 15c

Avon Theater

Starting on Monday, April 2nd, and continuing for three days the bill at the Avon Theater will be as follows: Walker's Society Divers, Special Contests, 6 Pretty Diving Girls; Labelle & Williams; Ed G. Ray; Claude & Marion Cleveland; Laypo & Benjamin Song Revue; Moore & Jenkins and a Paramount photoplay, "Anton, The Terrible".

For the last three days of the week the bill will be as follows: Eilers Animals, Dogs, Monkeys, etc., in a little Canine Play; Rush Ling Toy & Co., Chinese Magician and Illusionist and other acts; Serial Paramount Photoplay.

Rome advices say that only two students from the United States have entered the American College this term.

Lillies for Easter.
 We grow them in large quantities, also Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Hyacinths, etc., in all sizes. We have everything in Flowers and Plants. Get our prices. Rochester Floral Co.; 255 Main Street East.—Adv.