THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, September 20, 1918.

Anti-Profanity.

There is one K. of C. camp secretary, Major Joseph R. Allen, stationed at Camp Sevier in Greenville, S.C., who is working earnestly to suppress profanity among the soldiers. He posts white cards on which are printed in large letters, "Christian Soldier, Reverence the Holy Name of Jesus." Then he circulates smaller cards on one side of which the following is printed:

"God gave you your tongue
To praise Him, not to blaspheme.
To bless Him, not to revile Him,
To bless your neighbor, not to curse him,
To speak good of your neighbor, not evil,
To speak the truth, not falsehood,
To speak purely, not impurely.
To speak kindly, not harshly.
So, use the gift of speech as God intended you should, for His honor, your own salvation, and the edification of your neighbor. Keep this card-keep this pledge."
On the other side of the card, the printing is as follows:
" 'In the Name of Jesus, every knee should bend.'
"Because
"Jesus Christ is the Name of the Son of God.
Jesus Christ lived and died for me.
"I am a follower of Christ—a Christian.
"I pledge myself to use His Holy Name with reverence.
"Presented by Secretary K. C. building, Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C."
Major Allen says a great number of these cards have been signed and that the taking of the pledge has had the result of lessening profanity in and about the camp.

Reading.

Possibly, war exigencies may result in a betterment of our reading matter by inverse ratio, at least that we may have a reduction in the trash because of the scarcity of paper, the War Industries Board has decreed that the supply of paper to be allotted all publications must be greatly curtailed. Correspondingly, the reduction is greater to magazines, of which it can be truthfully said there are many whose total elimination would be a source of benefit to the community at large.
Reduction in paper supply, of course, would mean corresponding increase in price and this will increase the net cost of production to a point where some of the trashy, flashy, unliterary periodicals would be forced to go under.
Which would not be a wholly unmixed evil.

If you are over the draft age, you may be eligible as a K. of C. secretary.

Queer Humor.

Is Henry Ford a Catholic? That question has been asked. We are unable to answer it. We have been informed that his father was born in Cork, Ireland, and was a Catholic but we have not verified the information.
However, we never have noted that Henry is a Catholic and if he were we fancy his pacifist crusade and his United States senatorial campaign would have brought it out. If a recent interview with Mr. Ford in a Chicago paper be authentic we should say Henry is not burdened overmuch with religion of any sort. According to this interviewer, Mr. Ford said:—
"The word 'murderer' should be embroidered on the breast of every soldier and every naval soldier." And again: "I used to go to church once a year on Easter Sunday. I don't do that now. The churches probably do good and are all right for those who want them. The best work the churches do is in the country. There they furnish a meeting place for the boys and girls to get together and mate up."

Dobson Won.

Perhaps, the well-meaning but misguided men and women who vainly sought to coerce the Hon. Frank J. Dobson, candidate for Assembly in the Fourth Monroe district and, having failed tried to defeat his renomination are sorry they failed.
Perhaps these men and women might have had better success if they had not injected, in a covert and insinuating manner, a religious issue into the canvass. Possibly, it was unintentional, but the fact remains that the opposition to Mr. Dobson, so far as the public could judge, was made up of one class in the community and in every way, by speech, by writing and by newspaper advertisement, the voting public was informed that Mr. Dobson is a member of the Catholic Church.
Possibly, and probably not all the Catholics in the district voted for Mr. Dobson in the primaries but many must have done so, if the completeness of his victory is any criterion.
Frank Dobson may not be a lily-white politician; he may have made mistakes in his legislative career at Albany but he has shown unmistakably that he has the courage of his convictions and the American public likes a man of courage, even in these days of spineless statesmen and truckling politicians.

Barrier's Down.

As an instance of the breaking down of the sectarian barriers these paragraphs from a recent address to the Massachusetts state council of the Knights of Columbus by Governor Samuel W. McCall are illuminative. He said:—
"I recognize you as the representatives of one of the greatest organizations for good in existence today. In times like these, theological differences disappear. We see men of all creeds fighting side by side on the battlefields of Europe. Men should worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, but the great purpose for which we are all striving is the same.
"I wish particular to commend your organization for the work it is doing for the welfare of the boys who have entered the military and naval service of the Nation. It demands the highest approval of the Commonwealth and all classes of its citizens. It is a work of supreme importance, and as Governor of this State, from the bottom of my heart I wish you Godspeed in it."

Mr. Garfield, the Federal fuel administrator, may have inaugurated the gasolineless Sunday to take the public mind off the possibility of a coalless winter.

Blessing the Graves.

Our Right Reverend Bishop has announced that the Blessing of the Graves at Holy Sepulcher cemetery shall take place this year on Sunday next.
There is no need to urge all Catholics to be present at this beautiful ceremony because each year the throng increases as is to be expected because the number of those whose loved ones or relatives sleep their last sleep in our beautiful "City of the Dead" increases day by day.
But we would impress upon those who are attracted to Holy Sepulcher on Sunday by curiosity that they are witnessing a solemn religious ceremony and not a dramatic performance in a vaudeville theater. Too often these thoughtless persons annoy and distract the worshippers who are on solemn purpose bent.
Let all remember and keep in mind that it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the souls of the departed dead.

Prepare for the fourth Liberty Loan. If Uncle Sam is to win the war we must furnish him the funds to equip the Army and Navy, purchase the ammunition build the ships and feed the soldiers.

Each day's casualty lists reveals the fact that there are parochial-school graduates from Rochester on the firing line in France.

Was it not Edmond Burke who said of the Penal Code devised for Ireland by British rules that "the wit of man never devised a machine to disgrace a realm or destroy a Kingdom so perfect as this"?

It must have been an inspiring sight to see 5,000 Catholic boys in Camp Meade take a vow of clean and reverent speech. They had just received holy communion.

If the new war revenue tax rates will hit the pocket books of the profiteers who are getting richer and richer out of war contracts or who are fattening their bank accounts by taking extortionate advantage of the necessities of their fellows, by all means let the kitchin schedules stand without change.

Practically, two-thirds of all the priests in the Diocese of Rochester are alumni of our own Diocesan Seminary of St. Bernard's.

John Mitchell and James M. Lynch are splendid examples of what good may be accomplished by conscientious leadership in the trades union movement.

Who has heard of Rudyard Kipling since the war began?

The Government's Committee on Public Information has been forced to denounce the bogus Knights of Columbus oath as covert and malicious pro-German propaganda.

Timothy J. Murphy, a freight handler of Chicago, is the father of twenty-one children, eighteen of whom are living. And the eighteen are engaged in war work. Eight sons, all of them six feet or more tall, and the lightest one weighing 203 pounds, are in military service and the ten daughters are engaged in Red Cross and other kinds of war work.

Although 54, Charles S. McNally, Philadelphia, got to France before his three sons and his daughter, all in the service of their country. He went as a field secretary for the Knights of Columbus.

There are today in this country probably about 500 Catholic hospitals caring for more than half a million patients every year.