

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, February 21, 1919.

"Over the Top"

We were not far astray in our prediction that the Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester would go "over the top" in their grand drive to clear the debt off St. Bernard's Seminary.

Every parish, big or little, rich or poor, turned in with a will and not only furnished its quota but oversubscribed it.

The enthusiasm with which the solicitors went about their task and the hearty reception they received from those solicited made the campaign doubly delightful.

In generosity, in proportion to their means, the Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester are rarely equalled and never excelled.

Idealism.

The glib talkers who exalt what they call "idealism" in resonant but hazy periods, should read and ponder well the following brief but pithy essay from the editorial page of the New York "Sun".

Idealism is the finest thing in the world when it is backed by sincerity, by a meritorious and definitely conceived purpose, and by a practical scheme for its application to human events.

Void of those attendant qualities, the so-called idealism preached and proclaimed by any man who (in the famous phrase of Woodrow Wilson) is working in order that he may be distinguished and whose object is himself and not the ideals which he serves, is one of the falsest and most contemptible things in the world.

When, therefore, we hear or read of idealism in connection with this republic's duty to civilization and world democracy and universal humanity, let us make quite sure whether it is the real or the bogus brand of idealism that we are invited to contemplate.

There should be a big Fourth Degree class, of the K. of C. at Sunday's exemplification.

William J. Carey should make a good field Secretary in New York State for the National Catholic War Council.

Washington's birthday and Lincoln's birthday celebrations this year carry a deeper significance than usual.

Perseiflage?

Whether the following from the Lyons Republican be intended seriously or as a specimen of cheap wit, it gives some idea why the people of the United States are beginning to pay scant attention to the editorial opinions of most American newspapers:—

Rev. James Empringham, D.D., Superintendent of the Church Temporal Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and former representative of the Anti-Saloon League at the hearing before the joint committee of the state legislature on the national prohibition amendment said:

"By the law of the Protestant Episcopal Church fermented wine is used in the communion and we would fight this amendment with all our power if it were to interfere with the use of communion wine. But we know that this right will be secured to us under the amendment."

The Superintendent of the Anti-saloon League, the well known moral and religious impostor, William H. Anderson, made a severe attack on Cardinal Gibbons because he opposed prohibition and advocated the right to use wine at communion.

False Economy

Every editor in the country will say amen to the following to-the-point editorial expression of an esteemed secular contemporary:—

The newspaper editors of the country have been devoting much of their time and intelligence to the processes of newspaper economy and many newspapers during the war suspended their Sunday magazine sections and others reduced the number of pages printed in order to comply with the request of the government to conserve the paper supply.

All the time that the newspapers were doing this their offices were flooded and are still being flooded with countless government bulletins, circulars and propaganda documents that have become not only a nuisance but have brought feverishly to the mind of the editors that the government has not been practising what it preaches.

If there were anywhere in the land an institution that wasted paper to the extent that the government is wasting paper it would be severely reprimanded for its extravagance. Every department of the government is issuing bulletins, news letters and political propaganda, and if the newspapers printed one-sixteenth of it they would have no space left for local or general news or editorial comment.

"Over the top" for St. Bernard's solicitors.

All the parishes did well, yes splendidly in St. Bernard's drive.

Governor Smith says he is rather enamored of the gubernatorial job—thank you.

April showers in February, it is hoped, will not spell January snows in May.

The Lenten season of 1919 is fast approaching.

Best wishes to President Wilson's League or Society of Nations. May it prove all that has been predicted for it.

Two Are Named.

Two, at least, of the vacant sees in the Province of New York have been filled by Rome. Buffalo and Albany are to have new Bishops, as announced in the Catholic Journal.

In succession to Archbishop Dougherty now in Philadelphia Rev. Dr. Turner of the faculty of the Catholic University in Washington has been commissioned by the Holy Father. A learned priest, a well equipped administrator, an American Catholic gentleman is Bishop Turner, according to those who know him best.

Succeeding Bishop Cusack in Albany is a former Albanian, now a priest and superintendent of schools in Buffalo Diocese. Rev. Dr. Edmund F. Gibbons, aside from fitness and equipment, Bishop Gibbons appointment seems to be very popular in his old home to judge by the eulogistic tributes of old friends in the Albany papers.

Catholic Press.

There seems to be an impression that for a time at least and as a general rule American Bishops will be chosen from the faculty of Catholic universities and seminaries and that education in Rome will not be a bar to episcopal selection, to state the case mildly.

Why is this not a splendid rule? In the early days, quite often it was as necessary that a Bishop be possessed of keen financial ability as of scholarly attainments; because Dioceses were poor, parishes were small and parishioners not overburdened with wealth and it required financial genius and money-raising ability to meet expenses, let alone broaden or advance the Church's scope.

To-day things are vastly different. In the East and middle West, the Catholic Church has prospered and her children are now leaders in every walk of life. Dollars come easier than pennies did half a century ago, despite the increased demands upon the Church and the Catholic laity are solving the questions of finance for their priests and Bishops.

Hence the latter will have more time for scholarship and administration of the purely spiritual and intellectual side of the Diocese.

Besides, this is to be an age when churchmen and scholars will be needed as leaders against the unmistakable tide of unbelief and anarchy that threatens to engulf Europe and which is rearing its menacing head in this country.

Under the new order of things it is not too much to predict a wider field and an even more cordial and discriminate support of the Catholic press? Men of letters realize as never before the need of a strong yet conservative and soundly guided Catholic press, as a supplement to and complement of the pulpit.

A strong Catholic press is an absolute necessity in this day and age. Patriotism is as much a virtue now as when the war was on but many of our people do not seem to think so, at least their actions do not square with former pretensions.

It will become defeated nations to talk about dictating peace terms, especially when there never would have been any war had these nations not started it.

It's quite a way to Easter but one will need to save up ahead if those new spring styles are to be followed, with war prices for fabrics still maintained.

Mr. William H. Anderson will find that he did not enhance either his influence or reputation when he assailed Cardinal Gibbons.

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