

**THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL**

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT  
470 Main St. E. cor. Windsor St.  
4th Floor, Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE  
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING  
COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the  
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Report without any delay change of address  
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Entered at second class mail matter.

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Friday, April 25, 1919.

**Reconstruction.**

Is not the term "reconstruction" becoming overworked. To read some of the newspapers and also speeches made by over-enthusiastic orators one would imagine that this country had been devastated by the world's war whereas we are as we were so far as destruction of property is concerned unless it be that munitions plants, temporarily erected for war work in which work is now ended, may need to be wrecked or made over for other purposes.

The Governor has had a committee called "Reconstruction" going up and down the State looking into all sorts of existing conditions. From what we have observed of this committee's recommendations, we have not noticed anything of a reconstruction nature. We have not noticed anything of a revolutionary nature and no thinking man believes anything revolutionary is needed, what is sought and what is imperative is a cessation of hysteria and a return, as nearly as possible to pre-war conditions in business and society. Prices are inflated and wages are high. While wages are high, prices must remain high. If railroad employees are paid high wages, freight and passenger rates must remain high. If shoemakers' wages go up every few months, then shoes must be high in price. If the cigar maker has to pay more for his shoes, he must demand more for his own labor in order to meet expenses. If bricklayers, masons, plasterers and general labor receive higher wages, then the contractor must charge more for building and the owners must get higher rents in order to make a profit on their investment—and no one is in business at a loss.

There is an agitation for municipally erected and owned houses for the workers. This has an appealing ring and evokes popular approval but this country's experience with government operation of railroads and telephones proves that high wages of employees and increased rates to the public is the ultimate result. Apply this to municipally owned houses and the result would be a deficit which must be met by the taxpayers generally. This means that those who have worked and saved to own their own homes must dip into their pockets to provide cheaper homes for those who have not saved and who have not learned habits of thrift. In other words the workers of today want homes and luxuries provided by the public purse instead of being willing to save a little and pay for these luxuries themselves.

Germany was willing to do all these things for her citizen workers in order that they would not complain while the rich grew richer. We fought a world war to free the world of a paternalistic

autocratic German militaristic oligarchy. Are we building up another such a system in America by our Socialistic advance under which the individual is losing the habits of thrift, of self-denial, of self-reliance and imbibing a spirit of expecting somebody, somehow to provide for his wants, care for his family, house him and a feeling that nobody has any right to have anything he has not, even if his neighbor has worked hard and has self-reliantly worked out his own competency?

**Victory Loan.**

As an investment, the new Victory notes are attractive, both as to rate of interest and also as to length of issue.

While it is true the war is over and there may not be the enthusiasm felt to win the war, nevertheless the Government had to spend much money on war supplies and contracts that were not carried to completion and the bills must be paid else financial disaster might overtake many firms which relied upon the Government promise to pay.

War's expenses must be met one way or other. If our citizens will not loan to the Government the latter has the power to take by taxation and pay no interest at all.

It is self-evident which is the better proposition for the American people.

Therefore, loan the Government all of your money you can possibly spare and receive good return on your loan.

Make the Victory loan go over the top.

**Price of Whistle.**

One fine piece of publicity has been sent out by the War Saving's Stamp Campaign committee. Franklin's picture is on the stamps, and it is as follows:—

Are you paying too much for your whistle?

Ben Franklin did once.

When Franklin was a child of seven he was given a lot of pennies one holiday. Hastening into a near-by toyshop he voluntarily gave all he had for a whistle. A little later he discovered that he had paid four times too much for his toy. Realizing how many other things he might have had in addition he wept in vexation and got no more pleasure from the whistle. He never forgot the incident. Afterwards, whenever he was tempted to make too great an outlay in time, energy, or money he would say to himself, "Don't pay too much for the whistle."

Mark Twain tells a story of a man who plied a tug boat up and down the river. This man was terribly envious of a steamer which commanded much attention every time she blew a blast from her great whistle. Finally the man woke up to the fact that he could purchase just such a whistle and make as much noise with his little tug boat as the steamer. But after he got the big whistle he found his boat stopped every time he blew it. The engine had only enough power for the boat or the whistle.

Lots of folks are using up all their energy on some showy thing that gives them no comfort. Some are lavishing valuable time on a few unimportant tasks. Others willingly "blow in" an entire week's salary on one evening of frivolity, robbing themselves of all manner of pleasure for an indefinite period. Others sacrifice the best of their talents in pursuing some fruitless ambition. Still others forego the simple, natural joys of life in worshipping a snobbish ideal.

They are all paying too much for their whistles.

How is it with you?

Monsignor Baker has been re-appointed as Vicar-general of Buffalo by Bishop Turner. This is a merited compliment to a faithful priest.

**Dangerous**

On general principles, an national movement to control education, especially if Philander Claxton were the sole dominant authority, would arouse careful scrutiny.

The National control of Education movement is non-Catholic, anti-Catholic, under the old worn-out disguise of non-sectarian and non-partisan.

On one point Catholic's should take exception. The proposed education law would permit the Federal Commissioner of Education to withhold money from any state which did not enact laws for compulsory attendance of children of school age upon schools entirely owned and controlled by the State, or county, or district or local authority. That might be construed to abolish Catholic schools, even if they were self-supported. Probably, that is what the bigots are working for.

Taken at its best the national education movement is one-sided. Any college or university except a Catholic institution may have a share of the Federal education fund. We are not seeking any share, we can support our own institutions. But as American citizens we are opposed to discrimination and inconsistency.

According to the "C. M. B. A. Advocate", these Rochesterians who died in the world's war were members of the C. M. B. A.: David J. Dwyer and Walter R. McCarthy, of Branch 93; William E. Dwyer, of Branch 131; and George W. Trott of Branch 87.

Subscribe to the Victory Loan.

Samuel Gompers has coined a new appeal for fraternities. He declares the war has instituted "the fraternity of mankind."

"Lafayette, we are here" said General Pershing, as he laid a wreath on the great Frenchman's tomb. "Let us hope Americans never will forget the debt we owe to Lafayette."

Baseball will be with us again but will it arouse as much enthusiasm as it used to?

The June days with blushing brides and sweet girl graduates will soon be with us again.

Well, we had our March in April this year.

The argument that the only place to learn authentic Catholic news is in a Catholic paper still holds good.

The only thing the Legislature of 1919 left untaxed was the air and church and charitable property.

It looks as if New York was to leave the prohibition law enforcement to the Federal Government.

Maurice Francis Egan has been tendered by President Wilson appointment as United States Ambassador to Italy but has been forced to decline because of ill health.

In a recent issue of the "Lamp" the magazine published by the Fathers of the Atonement—converts of Graymoor—that it was our old friend Bishop Conroy of Ogdensburg, then vicar-general, who in 1900 received this body of Anglican monks into the Catholic Church—acting as the representative of the Archbishop of New York.

Governor Alfred E. Smith appears not to have lost his facility in terse and understandable English—to judge from his characterization of the record of the Legislature of 1919.

Why is it necessary for the English to maintain 40,000 soldiers in Ireland, as Lord Curzon recently stated.

One thing to former Governor Whitman's credit is that he selected such able Industrial Commissioners as John Mitchell and James M. Lynch.

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