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Friday, May 9, 1919.

**Watch It!**

From Georgia comes Tom Watson with his venomous bigotry and his foul slanders against defenseless nuns and clean-minded religious.

Therefore, it is but providence that we should examine carefully and thoroughly any legislation emanating from Georgia which affects the country at large.

United States Senator Hoke Smith has a bill in Congress which would create a national secretary of education with sweeping powers to override the educational authorities in the several states. As a matter of fact this national official would have power to disburse hundreds of millions of Federal money to the state schools which complied with the requirements laid down by this selfsame national official.

We know the ignoble prostitution of the aims and ideals of many small colleges to meet the whims of a Carnegie and a Rockefeller in order to share in the "foundation funds" chartered by the Federal government. Religious tenets had to be changed in order to entitle institutions to aid and they complied because if they did not they could hope to compete with other institutions in near-by localities.

This national secretary, we are told by competent analysts could decree that children could not receive the diplomas requisite to higher education or employment unless they were educated solely in a state school, supervised and directed by state officials.

It would be well for Catholics, lay and cleric, to look into this Smith proposition and ascertain its source and by who it is backed.

**Not Far Astray**

The Post Express is not so far astray when it says:—

Men who know anything know that attempts to shackle their minds and impose beliefs upon them are utterly unjustifiable. They know that some so-called "blue-laws" like those against decorous recreation or travel on Sunday are indefensible in principle. They know that there is no more sinfulness in the temperate use of wine than in the use of waffles or walnuts, and they resent a statute which calls it a crime as an impudent interference with their natural rights as members of the human race. It is laws of this kind which bring all laws into contempt. Wise men worthy to be lawmakers do not pass them; to call an act a crime which is not a crime and to punish as a sin an act which is not a sin arouses more resentment than anything else a government can do. Senator Dewey is clearly warranted in his apprehension that attempt to make the country absolutely dry would aggravate immensely the existing unrest.

If certain lines of repression are persisted in, it will not be long ere some league will arise demanding that the United States Constitution be amended so as to compel every citizen to attend religious services in a particular church or to forbid us Catholics to maintain our schools even at our own expense.

**Problems.**

Day by day it becomes apparent that while President Wilson has been striving for ideal conditions in the world at large, conditions which would prevent war for all time and inaugurate the era of square dealing by and to all men by all the nations of the world, and also insure equality of opportunity to every man in the world, that the wily diplomats of Europe have been playing practical politics of the mercenary, grab-all sort.

Great Britain has practically taken over the German colonies by becoming the "Mandatory" or administrator thereof. Italy is settling up claims to everything in sight that formerly was dominated by Austria-Hungary and will not be retained in that ancient Kingdom. France insists on practical control of a large slice of Germany. Poor little Belgium, which suffered the most relatively because of her refusal to become a party to German invasion of France and England, seems to have been ignored by the Allied Big Four. Of course, we cannot presume that this happened because Belgium is a truly Catholic country but it seems a trifle inconsistent to laud Cardinal Mercier to the skies as a self-sacrificing patriot while overlooking his country when prizes of war are being passed around freely on all sides.

While it looks as if we had been drawn into world politics so far we cannot extricate ourselves and return to our splendid strategic position of isolation, nevertheless we must pray that this country may be able to elevate the standards of Europe, rather than that we must descend to the level of continental standards which are in many ways, revolting and repugnant to upright men used to open dealing and estimating their fellows as fair-minded men and incapable of duplicity and double dealing.

While clinging to our ideals, nevertheless it begins to look as if we must be a trifle practical ourselves. If Europe insists upon clinging to the old-fashioned ideas, then we must hold tight our purse-strings. If Europe will not assent to our ideals then let her pay the piper. If she insists upon her pound of flesh then let her pay the regular rate of interest on her loans. If they insist that the United States should not impose her ideals upon Europe then we should insist that they pay their share of the cost of the war and we will pay ours—not a cent more.

It is doubtful now whether the League of Nations will ever amount to more than the Hague conference in the way of elevating national standards and ideals in Europe and it is a question whether the European nations have not fooled President Wilson into accepting the League as the shadow while they were making off with the substance. But, if a certainty, the United States having led in the creation of a League of Nations cannot well afford to stay out of it. Moreover, it may result, if not in a more amicable standing between the nations of Europe, in those nations having a better understanding of the purposes and ideals of the American nation, as a whole.

"William Hallelujah Anderson" and "Frederick Misanthrop Davenport" is the cheerful way Republican Editor Charles A. Betts characterizes two of the eminent leaders of his party.

Pretty soon Mr. Chapin will be treating us to real baseball.

**Shocking.**

Rochester is astounded at the murder of another of her gallant officers by a young thug—and the astonishment is the greater that the murderer is one of the American soldiers who has just returned from overseas where he risked his life for his country's honor only to return home and imperil it in unlawful acts. For if he had not been committing burglary, he would not have encountered the police officer, the latter would not be lying dead today and the young murderer would not now be in the shadow of the electric chair.

This incident is not good evidence in support of the contention that some reformers had that when a boy went wrong he would surely reform were he made to enlist in the Army or Navy. This young murderer had not the excuse of many an unfortunate that he had to steal to ward-off starvation. He had a home and a too indulgent mother who was only too glad to welcome her boy home. But the latter did not want to work. Army life appears to have held a liking for idleness, at least a distaste for the routine civil life. So he and a pal deliberately entered upon a career for burglary. His pal has confessed to a score of burglaries and thefts during the few weeks he has been out of the army.

And to think that a returned American soldier should be the one to take the life of one of the city's officers sworn to uphold the law. This incident should shame those who would have us believe that to be a policeman and a fireman is a soft snap and that neither has a right to ask any increase in salary. Here is a young man, with a wife and two young children, shot down when he is trying to protect a citizen's home and life. Not long enough in the police service to be entitled to a pension, it is a sorry outlook for his family unless the public of Rochester is stung into a sense of responsibility and raised a fund to provide for their needs.

We ask our readers to say a prayer for the happy repose of the soul of Patrolman William A. O'Brien, foully murdered while in discharge of duty.

The Times Union says there will now be no danger that Japan will gobble up the Philippine Islands if we give them independence. How comes it then that the Hawaiian Legislature was compelled to back down on its proposition to exclude foreign languages in the Honolulu schools, because the Japanese language schools would have to be closed?

It would be well to take a Catholic paper or magazine with you on the summer vacation trip.

We read every day of those with unmistakably Catholic names being married outside the Church. Perchance, probably, these are the fruits of mixed marriages.

George W. Perkins is the latest person to tell President Wilson and the American Peace Commission where to get off.

Let's see: Isn't it about time Rochester Council, K. of C., started work on its new building?

Just where did this notion of sinking the German navy—not in battle but cold-bloodedly and deliberately as a peace object lesson,—get its inspiration?

Peculiar is it not that after we fought to obliterate militarism and tyranny there are those right here in the United States who are clamoring for a strong man to dominate Germany and Russia and bring order out of chaos.

The doughboys will soon have a chance to give practical demonstration of their liking for the Salvation Army's doughnuts.

That Victory Loan must go over the top.

Cardinal Mercier will receive a warm welcome if he visits the United States.

The Easter season is fast drawing to a close.

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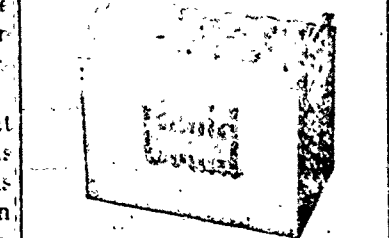
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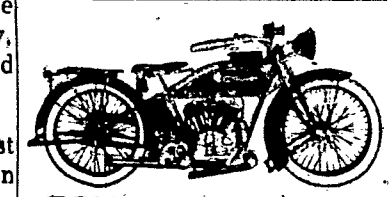
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