

## For the Preservation of our Schools.

National Education Association Tireless in Efforts to Abolish Freedom of Education.

SMITH-TOWNER BILL HAS A NEW NUMBER, BUT NATURE IS UNCHANGED.

The extensive, yet tremendous propaganda carried on in favor of the Smith-Towner education Bill not only has for its object the curtailment and even the abolition of freedom of education, but also bears all the earmarks of fanaticism. One cannot fail to note the cocksureness and air of infallibility in the promoters concerning the absolute correctness of their plan, and the consequent utter disregard for objections and criticisms. Says the most recent circular of the National Educational Association (April 1919, p. 121):

"Our N. E. A. Bill received much attention in both the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fifth Congress, but, together with hundreds of other important measures, was buried in the congested legislation of the short session. The bill will be carefully revised and perfected, and reintroduced in both houses at the opening of the next Congress, which will probably convene in special session early in June." Then follows a brief analysis of the bill.

The purpose of the bill is stated in the title: "A Bill to create a Department of Education, to authorize appropriations for the conduct of said Department, to authorize appropriations of money to encourage the States in the promotion and support of education, and for other purposes." Whilst the language admits the fact that the bill has been "revised and perfected," the N. E. A. circular does not take into consideration all the numerous objections directed against its very purpose, viz.: educational control of all schools through a Department of the Federal Government in Washington.

Meanwhile the revised bill has been published and copies spread all over the United States by the N. E. A. Father Blakeley, S. J., a valiant champion of the freedom of education, has analyzed this bill in "America" (April 19). He says: Instead of S 4987 we have now S 5635, differing from the October brew mainly in its number. Four main reasons are given why it should be rejected. First, it costs too much; second, it establishes at Washington a political bureaucracy dominating the free schools of a free people; third, it tends toward the suppression of private initiative in education and consequently is opposed to public policy; and fourth, it is a complete reversal of the relations which have hitherto existed between the Federal Government and the schools of the respective States. "This is the case in spite of the glib assurance that all the educational facilities encouraged by its provisions shall be organized, supervised and administered exclusively by the legally constituted state and local educational authorities within the several States." No one should be deceived by the fact that the bill now has a new number; it is still as dangerous as it was under the former.

High Aims Named to Veil Real Purpose. To this cocksureness and air of infallibility there is added a good deal of hypocrisy, viz. by veiling the real purpose of the bill by the advancement of high and desirable aims, such as removal of illiteracy, promotion of health, Americanization, improvement of teachers' salaries, provision of equal opportunities for education for all. The latter phase is susceptible of many different interpretations, changing its significance, chameleonlike, whenever occasion demands. One need not be a genius to realize the desirability of these things, yet at the same time to perceive that Federal control of the schools and a far-reaching paternalism are not the means by which this end is to be obtained. Intelligent people can not be duped by this evident and dishonest camouflage, practised by the N. E. A., which has been exposed so frequently that that organization should finally speak out frankly and squarely in answer to the objections advanced against the bill. References to the example of France and Italy, such as have been made by the N. E. A., which sets these countries up as examples to be emulated by an American democracy, savor too much of the spirit which inspired the "Masonic Observer" (Minneapolis) when it declared that none but Simon-Pure American Public Schools should be tolerated and that "the time is near when no other kind will be tolerated." Another favorite reference of the N. E. A., namely to the Fisher Bill in England, is wrong, because that bill was materially changed before adoption, owing to the opposition of Catholics.

Under the Guise of Patriotism. Another instance of camouflage and misdirected effort is readily detected in the effort that the N. E. A. to force its ill-advised policy on the public under the guise of Patriotism. Nationalization, Americanization, Unification, Standardization etc. Moreover, Government publications are used persistently to inculcate the erroneous doctrine that "education is not the right of the parents." "School-Life", published twice a month by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education, may properly be considered the official organ of the proposed Department of Education. In the March 1. issue of this organ a discussion is reprinted from the Census Debate of the last session of Congress, in which the chief point is that popular education is the legitimate function of government. To what an extreme point this idea would be stretched becomes evident from a paragraph printed in the Mid-February issue of the same publication (p. 16): "Every child born into this world, in this Nation, is a Nation's child, and as the Nation's child, the Nation has an obligation to it for its proper education." Interpreted in the sense of many other expressions printed in this and other publications advocating the nationalization of education and the abolition of the free-

dom of the schools, such doctrine can not fail of condemnation by clear-thinking, well-meaning persons who still believe in the natural right of parents and their duty in regard to the education of their children. Such a doctrine, first enunciated by the men of terror in the days of the French Revolution, would, in its final result, differ but slightly from the Russian despotism which allegedly recognizes no father of the child, makes women the property of the State, and takes the child, when a month old, from the mother and places it in State Nurseries.

It is evident from the foregoing that the propaganda carried on in favor of the Smith-Towner Bill by the N. E. A. has not advanced arguments that are objectively valid, and that the bill must be carefully watched. This must be done from the very beginning of the coming session of Congress. Catholics will do well to enter on this duty with a spirit of energy and preparedness to prevent the passage of S 5635.

(Note): This is the first of a series of three articles containing new material on the Smith-Towner bill, directed against the freedom of education. The second article will appear next week.

C. B. of the C. V.

## Gaelic Association Welcomes Members From Overseas.

The Gaelic Literary and Musical Association held a reception and dance at the "Fitzhugh" on Friday evening in honor of its returned soldier members which was well attended and a very enjoyable evening passed, in which old acquaintances were renewed and some new ones commenced.

A very interesting exhibition of an Irish Jig was given by Miss Sullivan, who has recently arrived from the "old sod" and conductor Strogon had his orchestra give an exceptionally fine selection of Irish dance music, which made the feet of the guests tingle with the pleasure of anticipation.

Visitors present complimented president D. C. Ryan on the fine organization over which he presides and wished it every success in the future.

Seventeen members of the Gaelic association answered the call to the colors, two of them will not return, their tribute to the cause of humanity is paid in full; four were wounded; one has won an officers shoulder straps and another has been decorated by the French with the Croix de Guerre. The brothers John and James Quigley have returned to the U. S. and Jack McPernan, who was badly wounded in action, is expected home in the near future.

## Geneva Knights Will Entertain State Convention.

Geneva, May 14.—The executive committee of Geneva Council, Knights of Columbus, has received assurances that Lieutenant Governor Walker, Rev. Francis Kelley, chaplain of the old 69th Regiment; Dr. Coyle of New York and M. T. Larkin of Rome will be in Geneva to open the State Convention of the Knights, which is to be held here May 26-28. Governor Smith will also be here, provided his engagements permit.

The social events will consist of a smoker, minstrel show, rides about the city and an elaborate ball at the Armory.

A memorial to the Knights who made the supreme sacrifice and other matters of unusual importance to the members of the order will occupy the attention of the delegates.

## Copy of Irish Declaration Of Independence.

According to an Associated Press dispatch, Supreme Court Justice Cohalan of New York received from Sean T. O'Kelly, the representative of the Irish Republic at Paris, a copy of the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Irish Republic Parliament, publication of which has been suppressed in Ireland.

The text of the declaration reads:

Whereas, the Irish people is by right a free people; and

Whereas, for 700 years the Irish people has never ceased to repudiate and has repeatedly protested in arms against foreign usurpation; and

Whereas, English rule in this country is and always has been based upon force and fraud and maintained by military occupation against the declared will of the people; and

Whereas, the Irish Republic was proclaimed in Dublin, on Easter Monday, 1916, by the Irish Republican Army, acting on behalf of the Irish people; and

Whereas, the Irish people is resolved to secure and maintain its complete independence. In order to promote the common weal, to re-establish justice, to provide for future defense, to insure peace at home and good will with all nations and to constitute a national policy based upon the people's will, with equal right and equal opportunity for every citizen; and

Whereas, at the threshold of a new era in history, the Irish electorate has in the general election of December, 1918, seized the first occasion to declare by an overwhelming majority its firm allegiance to the Irish Republic;

Now, therefore, we, the elected representatives of the ancient Irish people, in national parliament assembled, do in the name of the Irish nation ratify the establishment of the Irish republic and pledge ourselves and our people to make this declaration effective by every means at our command.

We ordain that the elected representatives of the Irish people alone have power to make laws binding on the Irish people and that the Irish Parliament is the only parliament to which that people will give its allegiance.

We solemnly declare foreign government in Ireland to be an invasion of our national right which we will never tolerate, and we demand the evacuation of our country by the English garrisons.

We claim for our national independence the recognition and support of every free nation of the world and we proclaim the independence to be a condition precedent to international peace hereafter.

In the name of the Irish people we humbly commit our destiny to Almighty God, who gave our fathers the courage and determination to persevere through long centuries of ruthless tyranny, and, strong in the justice of the cause which they have handed down to us, we ask divine blessing on this, the last stage of the struggle which we have pledged ourselves to carry through to freedom.

At Suresnes, near Paris, is a newly made American cemetery containing about 800 soldier graves. At the head of each grave is a large white, wooden cross, and the residents near by see that each grave is a veritable flower garden.

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## Late News of Ireland

It was unanimously decided by Lurgan Anti-Conscription Committee, at a meeting held in the Catholic Association Hall, to return the money, less 10 per cent, to the various subscribers.

Carlow U. D. C., the Tuberculosis Committee, the County Insurance Society and the Choral Society passed votes of sympathy with T. H. O'Donnell, National Bank, on the death of his wife.

Millstreet Guardians, by 12 votes to 4 for T. Kelleher, elected Jerome O'Connor work house master.

Mr. Walker, manager N. B., Borrisokane, has died of pneumonia following influenza.

Alex. McEwan has died at his residence, 42 Southern road, Cork, Galway.

Tuam District Council requested the Government to make provision in the L. G. B. Bill, now before Parliament, whereby the owners of the Drainage Boards in Ireland would be transferred to the County Councils.

Anthony Keogh, who has died at Bury, Lanes, in his 80th year, was a familiar figure in the paper making world. He was a native of County Dublin, where he started work in the paper industry and, going to America, remained in the trade there until the Civil War. On returning he became paper mill manager, successively in Lanarkshire, at Larne and in Lancashire, afterwards being associated with mills in New Zealand, and returning again to England, with mills at Haywood and later in Ireland.

A destructive fire completely gutted the dwelling house of Miss Mary Gallagher, Tarbert, only a small portion of the furniture being saved.

Ballymote magistrates passed votes of condolence to P. W. McGreevy, J. P.; W. Henry, J. P., and R. Morrison, J. P., on their family bereavements, and also to the relatives of the late J. D. O'Brien, J. P.

Snow fell heavily in Nenagh and district at the beginning of the month. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the sowing of crops has been greatly retarded.

Married—With nuptial Mass and Papal Benediction at R. C. Church, Eastleigh, by Rev. Father Doran, Arthur Godfrey Sheppard, "Beaconsfield," Fareham, Hampshire, to Kathleen, daughter of William Delahunty, The Mail, Thurles.

T. J. Rafter has been appointed superintendent C. P. O., Waterford.

Rev. I. Lemon, C. C., Dunmore East, has been appointed P. P. of Stradbally, and is succeeded by Rev. Nicholas Burke, who has been one of the chaplains to the forces.

Died—At Kinnegad, Patrick Weymes, wool merchant, Mullingar. Funeral to Corralstown, Wexford.

Wexford Branch, A. S. E., have presented Mr. Freeland, organizer with a gold watch, dressing case and walking stick.

New Ross Urban Council passed a vote of thanks to the Clerk, M. J. Finn, for the excellent manner in which he carried on the work of the Council during the past year.

## Catholic Short Notes

The war has changed and will continue to change many things appertaining to Catholic life.

A Rome correspondent terms Cardinal Gibbons "father of the Bishops of the world."

The diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich. has 145,000 Catholics; the diocese of Buffalo has 250,000 Catholics and 436 priests. The archdiocese of St. Paul numbers 265,000 Catholics with 353 priests.

In war-wrecked cities of France the Knights of Columbus are erecting new buildings for club houses and rest places, and are helping the poor people to rebuild or repair their houses.

The U. S. Census Bureau gives out that, in the United States, there is one priest for every 776 Catholics.

It is said that in Colorado there are 30,000 Mexican Catholics.

Grave dangers menace our parochial schools and these dangers are increasing. It behooves Catholics to be wary.

The new Boston college on University Heights is a handsome Gothic edifice.

The new Quigley Seminary, Chicago, has a registration of nearly 400 seminarians.

Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, has given the church at Charlottesville, Va., \$20,000, conditioned that the parish raise \$3,000.

Cardinal O'Connell is a member of the National Executive Finance Committee of the American Committee for Devastated France. The committee will raise \$2,000,000.

Marseilles is the second largest city in France, with a population of about 1,000,000 souls and is France's chief seaport.

In the Indies, the Church has developed in less than eleven decades from four dioceses and two Vicariates Apostolic to 7 archdioceses, 25 dioceses and 7 vicariates.

A prominent victim of the influenza was the Archbishop of Genoa, a personal friend of Benedict XV. His age was only 55 years. Mgr. Gavotti was his namesake. Genoa is now a city of approximately 300,000 souls.

Holland, in many respects, is a leading country; the growth of the Church there has been remarkable.

Mexico, and especially the Church in Mexico, continues in a deplorable condition. Those well versed in conditions there say that our Government must necessarily interpose to save the Mexican people from their enemies now in control of their government.

Mgr. Errazuriz has been appointed Archbishop of Santiago, Chili.

The "White Book" of the Vatican, now ready for publication is a volume of 325 pages, and is entitled "The Work of the Holy See in the European War." Report says it has been prepared with scrupulous care and that the proof sheets have been revised by the Holy Father himself. It is devoted exclusively to the efforts of the Vatican on behalf of peace and humanity.