

## For the Preservation of Our Schools.

### Defeat of the Smith-Towner Bill Necessary.

CARDINAL MERCIER ON RIGHTS OF PARENTS IN EDUCATION.

#### III.

In the foregoing articles we have shown the character of the Smith-Towner bill (S 5635) and its purpose—the centralization of control of education in the hands of the Federal government. We have also described the character and scope of the propaganda conducted by the National Educational Association in favor of the project. The contention that the propaganda is being carried on incessantly is borne out by the appearance in the Detroit Free Press on May 18, and in other papers of an article by Towner himself. In confirmation of the view held by us that private schools should not be unduly interfered with, we quote in part an editorial from the Detroit Free Press (of April 27). In this editorial the claim is advanced that there should be no undue meddling with these schools, because in the private schools alone religious principles, the real foundation of real patriotism, are taught and put into practice. The article also shows that the American mind and public opinion is not inclined to overlook this valuable asset of the private schools. We read further:

#### Trend of Education.

"To a great extent the present Educational system, with its minimum of required studies and its maximum of electives, tends toward what might be called political agnosticism. The children of the day may even be said to be growing up to be cosmopolitan atheists, insofar as at least as any national and patriotic ideals are concerned. Just as the catechism and the Ten Commandments are much less of a feature today than formerly in the average child's life, so are such Americanizing creeds as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Ordinance of 1787, and other great American documents growing less and less a factor in everyday education. In these days of so much scatter-brained thinking and living, when even the children are allowed to elect their studies it is well to recall and vitalize once more those great fundamentals embodied in the Ordinance of 1787 in the words:

"Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

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#### Text of Ordinance Mutilated.

But, to encourage does not mean to monopolize,—the very thing the Smith-Towner bill would ultimately bring about. Why, we may rightly ask, does the N. E. A. seek to veil the final effect of its propaganda,—this very monopolization? And why does the copy of the Educational Bill, sent out by the N. E. A., give the words of the famous Ordinance of 1787 in mutilated form, omitting the first part of the sentence: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind...."?

On the whole, one of the most serious objections to the whole scheme proposed by the Smith-Towner bill and fostered by the N. E. A. is, that it exalts the mission of the State far beyond its proper limitations and that it grossly ignores the God-given natural rights of parents in the education of their children. It is in times like the present, where a recognized tendency to abuse State powers and violate paternal rights prevails, that the accepted Christian view must be emphasized again and again.

#### Cardinal Mercier on State Limitations in Education.

Therefore, against the continued tooting of the megaphone by the N. E. A. there should arise from the numerous united, strong, loudly reverberating claim and clamor for educational freedom and the parent's rights in education. Let all liberty-loving Americans adopt the words of the Cardinal of Belgium, Cardinal Mercier, referring to the limitations of the rights of the State:

"The right to teach is only another form of the right to express one's ideas. The State cannot claim a monopoly of teaching. Private enterprise is a great factor in progress, alike in the intellectual as in the economic sphere. The action of the State must be limited to protecting, encouraging and, where necessary, seconding the initiative of others, never must it supplant it. The State has no right to mould all its citizens in one type, or to oblige them all to think alike, on the pretext of bringing about a perfect unity in the body politic. It was this idea which led Plato, with all his genius, into the worst absurdities. The right of teaching, like that of thinking, is derived from human personality and has no direct connection with the mission of the State." Ethics, page 278.

#### Rights and Duties of Parents.

Thus the Cardinal condemns the dangerous tendency to permit the State to monopolize the educational system. No less interesting and important is the declaration of the Cardinal on that basic consideration: the rights and duties of parents in education and instruction. His Eminence writes:

"All must possess certain rudiments which form the basis of all intellectual culture and are one of the conditions for sharing the life of a civilized society. This constitutes the minimum which parents are in duty bound to procure for their children. And it would seem that public authority has here the right to interfere in the last resort in order to safeguard the right of the child against any remissness or selfishness on the part of the parent. In theory scarcely anyone would be found to deny this. But it remains to inquire whether as a matter of fact, the spirit and the tendencies of the modern state being such as they are, the principle of compulsory education, as it is imposed by law, does not

imperil certain higher rights and interests.

Whatever answer may be given, the education enforced by the State can only deal with that minimum of knowledge that is strictly indispensable. Beyond this the intellectual education of each one must be suited to the avocation he is likely to follow. The right which each person has of choosing a career suited to his tastes and abilities stands opposed to any legal compulsion in this delicate matter.

As morality is meaningless if divorced from the idea of the Absolute—the proper object of religion—the moral upbringing of anyone must have religious education as its foundation. Parents owe to their children this moral and religious education, and this... because... society at large has an interest in the preservation of beliefs, which, to use the words of Taine, lend the strongest support to the social instinct." Ethics, p. 319.

#### Protests Against Passing of Bill

In view of the facts advanced and the evident, dangerous tendencies of the bill, there can be but one conclusion: S 5635 must be defeated. Congress being now in session, special watchfulness is necessary. Besides, the N. E. A. plans to meet in Milwaukee early in July, where the propaganda for the bill will, if necessary, find a new impetus. All friends of the freedom of education should prepare at once to register their opposition to the bill by telegram or letter addressed to their Senators.

#### C. B. of the C. V.

(Note:—This is the third and final article of the series on the Smith-Towner bill.)

## Pershing Thanks K. of C.

A letter from General Pershing, received by William J. Mulligan, Chairman of Knights of Columbus War Activities, expressed in warm terms appreciation for what the Knights of Columbus have done for the American Army abroad, before and since the armistice was signed. General Pershing, in his letter said:

"I wish to express through you to the Knights of Columbus my appreciation and that of the officers and men under my command for the valuable services rendered by your organization to the American Expeditionary Forces," wrote General Pershing.

"The active work of your organization in France began early in 1918, was well under way by the Spring of that year, and has been increasing in scope ever since. Before the cessation of hostilities its workers were attached to many of the combat divisions, and recreation huts had been opened in the principal American concentration centers. Numerous commanding officers have commended the devotion to duty of your personnel, and have testified to their popularity and helpfulness among the troops whom they served.

"During the armistice, it has been particularly active in the promotion of athletics, a most valuable factor for health and contentment. It has also contributed to the success of the Army entertainment program by numerous appropriations for musical instruments and equipment of soldier shows, has increased its general recreational activities, helping materially to maintain the morale of the Army during the inevitable period of waiting to go home.

"I thank you, and each individual worker in your organization, for your valuable assistance."

## Notre Dame University School of Journalism

Following Timely Appeal Has Been Addressed to the Bishops of the Country by Dr. Cooney the Director of the Department of Journalism at Notre Dame.

"May I invite your attention to a plan for securing for things Catholic a fairer presentation in the daily press? It is this: To increase as greatly as possible the number of Catholics engaged in newspaper work and to have these workers well fitted for their positions.

"We have two Catholic schools of journalism to train these newspaper men and to start them in their professions. One of these is at Marquette University (Milwaukee) and the other is at Notre Dame. Both schools send trained Catholic men into the newspaper profession every year, and the influence of these men is good; but there are not enough of them.

"If a judicious word could be spoken to the boys in our Catholic high schools (and smaller colleges, particularly to those boys about to finish, quite a number would take gladly to the idea of a career in journalism. Experience has shown that boys from Catholic high schools are quite well prepared to take up the four years college course in this subject. Principals of Catholic high schools and smaller colleges would speak this word if requested to do so by their diocesan authorities, and I venture to ask you to make this request of the high schools in your diocese.

"Other plans have been discussed for securing a greater degree of fair play in the secular press, particularly in the daily press. The plan now respectfully proposed would interfere with none of these others, and would assist some of them. Obviously our schools of journalism would be benefited by the action now earnestly asked of you, but I rest confident that you would be rather pleased to see these schools function more fully and more powerfully.

"If you can assist in the way suggested, or in any other way, we shall be delighted and grateful for your powerful co-operation; and, if you see no merit in the plan, or disapprove of it, any expression you might send would be received with esteem and appreciation, since your opinion could not fail to give enlightenment which, now or later, must prove helpful.

"P. S. With the growing importance of women in journalism, it may be worth while to mention the facts, that women students are accepted at Notre Dame in Summer Session courses, and that there is a school of journalism at St. Mary's College and Academy at Notre Dame, Ind."

This letter asking nothing more than interest in the welfare of the Church as affected thru the printed word in popular literature has met with ready response. We hope Catholic youths will make a study of journalism in large number.

The Government of Italy warns prospective tourists that railroad facilities in Italy will not be normal until most probably the end of next year, 1920.

Ladies' Silk Hosiery—Camisoles. Silk chemises, silk petticoats, silk waists, all suitable for graduation gifts at big saving to-day. Nussbaum, 29 North Clinton. —Adv.

## Late News of Ireland

### Carlow

Died—At Grange House, Tullow, Charles Francis McNally, At Rathedon, Mrs. Johanna Mahony, At Presentation Convent, Carlow, Mother M. Teresa (O'Neill). At Carlow, Ballon, Patrick Murphy. At Carlow, Elizabeth Mary, wife of T. H. O'Donnell, manager National Bank.

### Cork

Richard Townsend Siak has died at his father's residence, 2 Evergreen Villas, Cork. Deceased who was only 24, was well-known in athletic and aquatic circles. He was a son of Richard Siak, for many years a member of the corporation.

The Local Government Board forwarded Bandon Guardians a Sealed Order appointing Very Rev. Jeremiah Canon Cohalan, P. P., V. F., Chaplain in the workhouse in room of Very Rev. Canon Shinkwin, P. P., V. F., deceased.

At the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Reehampton, London, the profession took place of Miss Isabel Campbell, daughter of James H. Campbell, J. P., Town Clerk, Queenstown. The ceremony was performed by her brother.

Died—At Donnybrook, Thomas William, son of the late Captain William Stokes, and grandson of the late C. F. O'Sullivan, Bandon. Dublin.

The Lord Chancellor, presiding at the annual meeting of the Stewart Institute, said it spoke well for the charity of the Irish people that such an institution should be flourishing after 50 years. Nobody could ever say of the Irish that they left unheeded a call to relieve suffering.

Died—At 9 Usher's Island, Dublin, Kathleen, daughter of the late Edward Martin. At a nursing home, Dublin, William H. Morrison, late of Granville Hotel, aged 68.

### Mayo

At the last examination in Instrumental music held by the I. S. M., in St. Louis' Convent, Kiltimagh, County Mayo, Miss Kathleen McEvoy secured a scholarship for 'cello and piano, this being the only one given in the British Isles.

### Tipperary

Nenagh Guardians elected Dr. Courtney medical officer to the Union at £140.

Rev. M. Hourigan, P. P., chairman, has resigned membership of the South Tipperary Technical Instruction Committee.

E. Ryan, National Bank, Clonmel, has been transferred to Belfast in room of Joseph McCann (brother of Pierce McCann, M. P.), who is taking up the management of the family estate at Ballyowen, Cashel.

The death has occurred at West Gate, Thurles, of Hugh Ryan, who was an enthusiastic supporter and prominent member of the G. A. A. Mr. Ryan was the virtual founder of the association in Thurles, and was for years chairman of the Tipperary County Board.

Haywood House, the residence of the late Colonel Riall, D. L., and 165 acres of ground were sold by public auction to David Nugent, merchant, Clonmel, for £9,110.

At Golden Petty Sessions, Mr. Russell, D. C., was fined £4 or in default two months' imprisonment and bound to the peace, for assaulting Rev. Father O'Kane, P. P., Golden. The latter had declined to prosecute and the case was brought by the police.

Died At Cashel, Margaret, daughter of John and A. Miaoque.

## Catholic Short Notes

Archbishop Dowling of St. Paul is in his 45th year.

The Catholic Woman's League of Columbus, Ohio, has inaugurated a campaign for \$50,000 with which to build an administration building for girls.

The Knights of Columbus at Hays, Kans., subscribed \$17,000 in a few minutes for a \$40,000 club house at that place.

The Paulist Fathers of New York recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their founding.

Rev. C. Carroll Smyth, of Baltimore, who recently was accidentally asphyxiated while asleep was a liturgical contributor to the Catholic press and has three brothers in the Paulist Order who are also priests.

The Bishops of Albany, N. Y., and of Buffalo, N. Y., Mgrs. Gibbons and Turner, were classmates in the American College, Rome.

The Xavier Braille Publication Society for the Blind has issued quite a number of books.

In New York there was lately sold at auction the "Hours of the Virgin Mary" manuscript on vellum, with fourteen large miniatures executed in the North of France in the fifteenth century, for \$1,500.

The diocese of Superior, in Wisconsin, will build a large cathedral.

It is reported that the recent Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, who resigned her Grand Duchy, will become a religious.

Correspondents writing from England are of the opinion that the Established Church there is disintegrating.

It is estimated that about 1,200 churches and 1,500 schools were greatly damaged or destroyed in Belgium and France during the war.

The Bishop of Verdun has suggested as a solution of the Roman Question that at the Peace Conference the Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica and Square, together with a strip of land from them to the city of Ostia, which with its port be apportioned the Pope as an absolute principality.

The most venerable church in North America now is the Cathedral of Quebec. Mass was first celebrated in it on Christmas 268 years ago.

The Dominican Order has reopened the Biblical School of St. Stephen, in Jerusalem.

A striking article appears in the English "Cowley Evangelist," depicting the helplessness of the Church of England in the face of death.

The Dominican Bishop of Caracas will establish a hospital at Aruba, in the Caribbean Sea. Three Dominican Sisters from Holland will arrive there to take charge of it.

The Church in England faces a famine of priests. Because of the war theological students are few, and but few priests are now ordained.

Beautiful Silk Waists \$4.98. Smart styles, perfect fitting, fine quality georgette, a better one for \$7.98. Nussbaum, 29 North Clinton. —Adv.