

Some Questions Regarding "Federalized" Education.

LACK OF BASIC CLEARNESS IN PROPAGANDA FOR SMITH-TOWNER EDUCATIONAL MEASURE.

The "Nation" Asks for "Clear Answers to Certain Questions".

The nation-wide campaign conducted by the National Education Association in favor of the Smith-Towner Bill for the creation of a federal Department of Education "and for other purposes" has been distinguished by the evasion of pertinent questions and objections regarding the bill, on the part of the N. E. A. In the series of articles on this scheme for the centralization of education in the hands of the federal Government, prepared by the Central Bureau of the Central Society and printed in these columns, special reference was made to the fact that the propaganda presented only one side of the question, without giving the opposition or interrogators a satisfactory reply.

Now comes the "Nation", the well-known liberal weekly of New York, with a series of questions referring to the bill and the propaganda behind it,—not avowedly as an opponent, but as an organ seeking clearness on important issues. In its issue of May 17, the "Nation" writes:

"If the proposed plan is to serve genuine educational ends, therefore, we must have clear answers to certain questions. Is it designed to increase or diminish the power of the 'administrators' who already overload our schools, from kindergarten to university, by comparison with the power of the teachers who teach? Four-fifths of the so-called 'Americanization' work now carried on is an ignorant and narrow attempt to force our immigrants into the straightjacket of the provincial, materialistic, and inurbane 'American' life. Is it for such work that we are to spend seven and a half millions, or is it for the older American ideals that many have been so ready to forget during the war? Is physical education intended to make of the people good working cattle, or is it designed to develop the sound body that shall be the instrument of the sane, keen mind, serving the serene and honest spirit? In 'equalizing opportunities', is it planned simply to have better buildings and to 'raise the standard' of teachers by requiring a longer period of preparation?"

"In a word, is the proposed Department of Education to be machinery, or is it to be embodied spirit? Is it planned to make our children think more or less alike? Is it intended to produce standardized citizens, guaranteed to think right when Washington pushes the button, or is it designed to train thoughtful, independent, kindly men and women, richly endowed in mind and spirit? That is the central question; it cannot be too carefully pondered, and the probable working of the proposed plan cannot be too narrowly examined with reference to its effect in this direction. For man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

No one will doubt the correctness of these questions and the comment attached thereto. It would be very desirable that these and similar queries be properly replied to before the House or the Senate, takes any further action on the bills pertaining to the subject, which are before these bodies for consideration and action. Judging from the tactics pursued in the past, however, we fear that the requested information will not be forthcoming. The entire matter, though, is of such importance that perfect clearness should be established. The refusal of the promoters of the measures to reply satisfactorily may well be taken as another reason why efforts for the centralization of education should be defeated.

C. B. of C. V.

K. of C. Found Jobs; Now Hunt Workers

It is exciting enough when you have to hit the trail after the elusive job for a returned service man. It only becomes more exciting when, having hit the trail and having found jobs far beyond expectation, the task develops itself into one of having to find men to fill the jobs.

So remarkably successful has been the K. of C. hunt for jobs through the efforts of the 100 ex-service men being paid \$4 per day to scour Greater New York for employment for their comrades and themselves, that the Knights have listed hundreds of jobs for which they have found no aspirants.

The Knights have catalogued their work in New York as representative of the work proceeding in all the large cities and in hundreds of the smaller cities, for there are, in all, 1800 K. of C. employment bureaus. In New York the results for the past two weeks are: 8,000 jobs filed with the Knights, 1500 applications from ex-service men, 1000 men placed in employment, 500 not yet placed in positions they can or want to fill, 4276 opportunities are for types of employees of special training, and the others are awaiting ex-service men who need them.

Among the positions open are 1000 for tailors. The Knights have had no applications from soldiers for positions as tailors, most of the men engaged in this occupation being over draft age. Two hundred jobs are open to leather workers, 150 shoemakers, 100 for locksmiths, 75 barbers, 250 printers, 500 carpenters, 125 piano workers, etc.

"No difficulty is experienced, says Peter W. Collins Director of the K. of C. Employment and Reconstruction Department, "in filling positions with men of ordinary experience, whether the work be for unskilled, skilled or sales, so long as the work carries a living wage."

K. of C. Finds Many "Lost" Soldiers.

It's curious how soldiers get "lost" in the army, yet they do and sometimes it requires weeks to locate them, although they may never have left their camp or bunk house. A soldier is counted "lost" by relatives when they do not hear from him for months and when their letters to him are returned marked "cannot be found." He is practically lost to everybody, except the paymaster—if he loses him too, there is immediately sent out a tracer. The tracer is, however, sent by the soldier himself, who objects strenuously to be registered as lost or missing by the payman.

During the past five months the Knights of Columbus have investigated, for relatives, more than 1500 cases of "lost" soldiers. So efficient is the Knights' service that in more than ninety per cent of these cases, authentic information has been obtained regarding the "missing" men and anxious relatives have been told where and how to find them. In a great majority of instances, it is the fault of the soldiers themselves that they have been considered "lost"—they neglect to write home, under the impression that relatives are kept informed of their whereabouts by the public press.

The Knights of Columbus have also handled hundreds of allowance and allotment cases for soldiers and relatives, straightening out many snarls in the maze of official red tape.

The Knights are in direct daily communication with the War Department relative to the movement of troops and transports, enabling them to answer the hundreds of telephone and personal inquiries of soldiers.

The lost soldier and information departments of the Knights are wonderful clearing-houses, where relatives of soldiers or soldiers themselves never apply in vain.

Feast of St. Anthony.

Wednesday evening a triduum of spiritual exercises in honor of the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, which falls each year on June 13th, opened in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral at 7:45, and continued to Friday night, the feast.

St. Anthony of Padua, a member of the Franciscan Fathers, one of the great religious orders of the church, was born at Lisbon in 1195, and died at Vercelli June 13, 1231. At baptism he received the name of Ferdinand, and became one of the most celebrated preachers and workers of miracles in the history of the church. A magnificent shrine has been erected at Padua in the north of Italy by the municipality, where thousands of pilgrims go each year to honor him and pray to him. His relics were solemnly transferred to this shrine in 1263, in the presence of St. Bonaventure, who witnessed the miraculous preservation of his tongue on the opening of the tomb, exclaiming, "O blessed tongue that always praised the Lord, and made others bless Him, now it is evident what great merit thou hast before God." He is especially invoked for things lost.

The estate of the late John D. Crimmins, of New York, was appraised as having a net value of \$4,624,447.

The Boston League of Catholic Women has presented Cardinal O'Connell a marble bust of himself.

Catholic Directory Records Gain of 133,021.

There are 17,579,324 Catholics in the forty-eight States of the Union, according to the 1919 edition of "The Official Catholic Directory" published and copyrighted by P. J. Kennedy & Sons of Barclay street, New York. With fifty-four archdioceses and dioceses making no changes in their population statistics, with nine dioceses showing decreases and with thirty-nine archdioceses and dioceses showing increases, the net increase in the number of Catholics over the preceding year amounts to 133,021.

Although this is the smallest increase shown in many a year, there is no cause for alarm, for, according to the tables of the 1919 issue, fifty-four important archdioceses and dioceses made no changes whatever in their population figures. This does not mean that the archdioceses and dioceses in question have been at a standstill, but simply indicates that no new census was taken during the unsettled conditions brought about by the great world war. In fact it is pointed out that some of the most important archdioceses have not changed their figures in quite a number of years.

The Catholic population figures are not, therefore, as Protestant statisticians sometimes intimate, over-estimated or exaggerated, but on the contrary, according to Joseph H. Meier, who has compiled "The Directory for the past fourteen years, the figure 17,549,324 is very conservative, and if the "floating" Catholic population could be recorded and if it had been possible for every diocese in the country to take a new census, the Catholic population figure would, according to Mr. Meier, be over 19,500,000.

During the last twenty-five years the Church in this country has made giant strides as is evidenced by comparing the figures in former directories. Tracing back the population figure twenty-five years it is shown that the increase in the number of Catholics in the United States during the past quarter of a century has amounted to 8,471,459.

Adding to the figure 17,549,324, which is the Catholic population of the United States proper, the number of Catholics in Alaska, the Canal Zone, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the United States possessions in Samoa, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico and in the Philippines, it develops that there are 26,332,650 Catholics under the protection of the United States flag.

Other figures taken from the copyrighted summary are as follows:

Archbishops, 14; Bishops, 97; churches with resident priests, 10,460; missions with churches, 5,537; seminaries, 110; churches, 7,865; parishes with schools, 5,788; children attending parochial schools, 1,633,599; orphan asylums, 294; orphans, 46,069; homes for aged, 116; colleges for boys, 215; academies for girls, 67.

Another feature of the 1919 edition is the complete list of army and navy chaplains. The 762 secular clergy and the 264 members of religious orders who were serving under the Stars and Stripes are listed.

Twenty-eight States have a Catholic population of 100,000 or over. New York state leading with a population of 3,089,266 Catholics.

Late News of Ireland

Cork
£420 has been subscribed for the relief of the McCarthy family of Ballinacole, Middleton, 7 of whom succumbed recently in Midleton Fever Hospital to influenza and 3 of whom recovered from the illness.

The new play, "The Dawn Mist," by Frank J. Hugh O'Donnell, the production of which was arranged for Easter Sunday and Monday nights in Cork City Hall by the Southern Players, was prohibited by proclamation. It deals with the 1916 Rebellion.

Dublin
Patrick Dalton, harness maker, Upper Abbey street, aged 42, employed in the Ordnance Department, Islandbridge, died suddenly while going to work.

Balrothery Guardians have appointed Dr. C. Grimes, M. O. of Kilsallaghan, and Dr. M. Cooney, M. O. of Lusk.

The obsequies of the late Rev. Bro. Butler took place at Artane Industrial School Church, the remains having been brought from St. Patrick's, Baldoyle.

Tipperary
At Fethard, a dance in the Town Hall in aid of the funds of the local band was prohibited by the military.

The death has taken place of Mrs. McMullen, Cloughjordan, at the advanced age of 89 years.

The death has taken place of John Daly, Cloughjordan, who while cutting timber at Mount-rath contracted influenza.

The secretary of the Self-Determination Fund acknowledged the receipt of £50 received from Roscrea Sinn Fein Club, being the proceeds of the money handed back by subscribers to the Anti-Conscription Fund.

Several improvements, some of which are of a rather extensive nature, are contemplated by the Templemore Urban Council. They include an electric lighting scheme, housing scheme and a sewerage scheme. There is really no sewerage scheme in town, the housing of the working classes is bad and the present arrangements for the lighting of the town are altogether inadequate.

PRESIDENT WILL TAKE UP IRISH QUESTION.

President Wilson told representatives of Irish societies in America that he would do what he could unofficially to bring the Irish question to the attention of the other peace commissioners.

Announcement to this effect was made by Frank P. Walsh and Edward F. Dunne, the representatives of the Irish Americans after they had had a thirty-minute conference with the President. The promise made by the President was in reply to a question from Messrs. Walsh and Dunne as to what the President intended doing in view of the resolution adopted by the Senate urging that the American delegation take steps to have representatives of Ireland heard by the Peace Conference.

Messrs. Walsh and Dunne said that they went over the situation in Ireland generally in their talk with the President.

Cardinal Mercier To Visit U. S.

One of the heroic figures of the war, Cardinal Mercier, archbishop of Malines and primate of Belgium, will visit the United States this fall. He will be the guest of Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore. This churchman's defiance of the Germans and unceasing labor for the welfare of his people has made him a conspicuous figure of the World War.

Catholic Short Notes

The Jesuit Fathers of Seattle have purchased the Adelpia College with its tract of seven acres in Seattle as the new site for their college.

More than nine hundred of the alumni and undergraduates of the Boston College were in the Army and Navy.

In Wichita, Kas., the Cathedral congregation will build a cathedral school costing \$100,000. Of this sum subscriptions aggregating \$78,500 were announced within two hours.

It is stated that the war cost the lives of fourteen Catholic chaplains.

Notre Dame University will open a summer school for teachers, men and women, under the direction of Matthew Schumacher. Already 300 teachers have made application.

At Salt Lake City, the first parochial school will be erected, and at a cost of \$75,000.

Notre Dame University has 500 students constituting a chapter of the "Friends of Irish Freedom."

Captain Crawford, the "post-scout," who is not a Catholic, says of our religious Sisters: "On all of God's green and beautiful earth there are no purer, no nobler, no more kind-hearted and self-sacrificing women than those who wear the somber garb of Catholic Sisters."

I want the workmen of the entire world to know that I am their friend," recently said the Holy Father.

The Republic of Brazil is represented at the Vatican by an embassy.

A learned Hindu missionary is Father Gnanaprakasar, O. M., of Tamil, in Ceylon. He is author of a work, "Philosophical Saivism."

The new Dominican chair of philosophy and theology at the Angelico College, in Rome, will give great impetus to the study of Dante.

Cardinal von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne, said to a Paris correspondent: "Hitherto I have refused to receive any journalists. I am aware of all that has been written and said against me, but I am responsible to God alone for my actions, and to His representative on earth, the Sovereign Pontiff. I should consider it unworthy of me and my office to attempt the least justification of my conduct."

Two English Bishops, Dr. Amigo of Southwark, and the Bishop of Killaloe, are outspoken for the freedom of Ireland.

Gladstone, in his day, said: "Ireland is not an English island, but a European island. The Irish question is not a British question, but a world question."

In England and Wales there died in 1918 eighty-seven priests.

The Holy See, on the 30th of January gave the Catholics of Italy authorization to resume their former political relations to the country—relations broken in consequence of the spoliation of the temporalities of the Church 60 years ago.