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Friday, June 20, 1919.

**Why Not, Pray?**

John Sharp Williams, senator from Mississippi cast the lone vote in the United States Senate against the resolution asking the Peace Conference to recognize Ireland's rights. The Democrat and Chronicle thinks he was more consistent and logical than his other Southern associates because he realized that if the United States and other countries might insist upon interfering in British internal affairs, then Hayti and Liberia after entrance into the League of the Nations could very well call upon England and France to see that the votes of colored men and women were counted in the Southern States even if such action meant colored governors, United States senators, mayors, sheriffs and other local officers.

There is no reason whatever why the United States senate should not "resolve" in favor of Ireland as well as in favor of the Jews in Poland, the Armenians, the Czechoslavs, the Jugoslavs, the Ukrainians, the Lithuanians and all the other downtrodden races of Europe, whenever it happens that sufficient naturalized citizens of such countries are in the constituency of a United States Senator as possibly to have a bearing on a senatorial election. There are fully as many reasons why Ireland should be free as why Poland should be free or that there should be a free Serbia, although there are a few anglophobic Irish-Americans who are ashamed to let anybody know they even know where their forefathers were born or that there's such a spot as Ireland in the world.

Let us hope that the day of hope for Ireland is dawning. If not and the Peace Conference does not see fit to take up the justest of all causes that could come before it, then the friends of Irish freedom are justified in carrying their cause before the forum of the world. Here in America they have a right to oppose their political enemies as do the Anti-Saloon Leaguers try to drive from public life the legislators who vote against their prohibition measures. If the friends of Ireland wield no political power in the United States then President Wilson and all the other politicians and would-be statesmen will pay scant attention to their desires or demands.

These are the days when "blocks of votes" count largely.

In re-electing State Deputy Michael J. Larkin the State Council of the Knights of Columbus displayed excellent judgment. Mr. Larkin is a splendid exemplar of the American Catholic gentleman. Not only is he not ashamed of this distinction, he is proud of it and glories in it.

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**The Real Issue.**

No matter how the pro-Englishmen in this country may assail the United States senators who oppose the League of Nations covenant unless it is amended, nevertheless it cannot be denied that there are many persons who feel just as Senator Hiram W. Johnson, of California when he said a few days ago:—

In a word, Mr. President, this league means that American boys shall police the world; that all the tottering nations of the earth shall be upheld by our blood and our bone; that Europe, Asia and Africa may draw upon us in their every dispute and quarrel; that our Nation will be at the mercy of European and Japanese diplomats who never had and never will have any sympathy with our aspirations or our ideals; that we with our glorious past shall guarantee the territorial integrity of every country on earth and the bondage of every suffering people in anguish begging for freedom; that we destroy our Monroe doctrine and submit controversies on the American hemisphere to determination by foreign powers. It means that I must abandon the lessons of my youth, which, until this moment, have been the creed of my manhood, of American ideals, American principles, and American patriotism; that I must deny the Americanism I taught my children, and that under God's blessing I hope to teach my grandchildren. It means the halting and betrayal of New World liberalism, the triumph of cynical Old World diplomacy, the humiliation and end of American idealism.

Certain partisan gentlemen, Mr. President, have of late been making the issue partisanly. For one, I make the issue with them. It is not one political party or the other. The issue is the Republic, the Republic that Washington gave us, that Lincoln saved for us, whose traditions and ideals have been so gloriously upheld by our valiant sons abroad. The issue is America. And I am an American. (Applause on the floor and in the galleries).

This is the issue the friends of President Wilson and the League of Nations have to meet and face.

**Has Art Abdicated?**

The Rochester "Herald" raises a question that is likely to be more and more in the forefront of the actors, authors and news-writers form the proposed labor union to control prices, output and wages:—

It was noted in a New York paper a few days ago that Amelia Bingham the well-known actress, had resigned from the Actors' Equity Association. The reasons given by Miss Bingham for this action are likely to lead to a good deal of discussion in the profession of which she has long been a member. She protests that the organization "is adopting methods which tend to convert the theater from a recognized art to a purely commercial institution and replace the art of acting with trade unionism."

Miss Bingham is also quoted as saying: "The actor of the present day is receiving a salary which we of the 'old school' never dared to demand or even dream of. At the same time it is generally known that the manager's expenses have been doubled, and even trebled, while the scale of prices has remained the same. Perhaps I side too strongly with the manager, but even if an actor I cannot co-operate with a society which sends me a letter asking when I am to open, what my salary is to be, and dictates that, after a certain number of rehearsals, I must demand half pay."

It is probably too early to make predictions as to the outcome of this new movement among the profession of actors. It may be doubted that the professionals of a recognized type—those who

best represent the stage as an art—are numerous enough in these days to resist the tendency to commercialize it. The tribe which in another generation was known as "hamfatters" has increased to such an extent that the word has fallen into desuetude. The "hamfatter" and his greedy backer may hold the balance of power. But it is difficult to imagine a Sothorn, a Marlowe, a Drew obeying the signals of a walking delegate.

**Caring For Babies.**

It is pleasant to announce the opening for 1919 of the Infants' Summer Hospital at the lakeside and to chronicle that no longer is there a possibility the institution may be crippled for lack of funds.

It will be recalled that for several years after this worthy charity was started it was hampered for lack of funds and consequent lack of equipment, supplies and room to care for sick children.

Thanks to good friends who have stuck by the institution since its start and who have induced wealthy Rochesterians to pledge financial support and a generous allotment from the Community Chest the Infants' Summer Hospital will be able to broaden its special fund this year which is glad news to the mothers in these hot humid days.

If Congress attempts to pass any legislation curtailing or hampering our Catholic schools, it will only be because they have ceased to fear the Catholics politically.

Governor Smith is with the women voters and expects they will be with him. Charles S. Whitman once thought the same way.

Let us discuss the League of Nations without bitterness or prejudice.—if the American people ever can discuss a great question without bitterness.

Rochester's first contribution to the foreign mission work celebrated his first mass in St. Michael's Church last Sunday.

**Catholic Press**

In a tentative program for the discussion of problems by the National Catholic War Council, Cardinal Gibbons made this observation regarding the Catholic press in the United States:—

The Catholic Press. The children of the world are wiser in their day than the children of light. Certainly, there is no comparison between the secular and the religious press, as regards the interest of the reading matter which each provides. The Catholic press has begun to imitate the secular press with its central news associations and bureaus for syndicated articles. Such associations and bureaus could raise the tone and heighten the interest of our weeklies. Up to the present time, the Hierarchy has taken no concerted action on behalf of the Catholic press. In view of the immense influence for good which a popular press could have on our people, it is worthy of inquiry whether we cannot come to its aid.

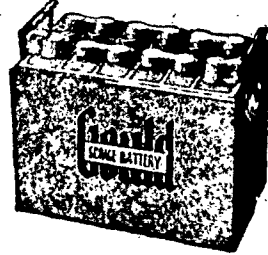
William D. McKinstry, editor of the Watertown "Times", who died a few days ago, was one of the best known and accomplished of journalists. His brother, Louis McKinstry, for years edited the Fredonia Censor. Both brothers were republicans and both were prominent in public life. Louis was the late Speaker Nixon's secretary and William was state civil service commissioner twice, first on ex-Governor Flower's democratic commission as republican representative and as a majority member in Governor Whitman's administration.

The need of a strong, virile Catholic press in the United States was never greater than at the present day.

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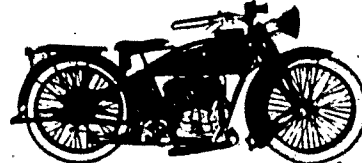
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