

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Fight It Now!

Nobody expected national prohibition to be an accomplished fact by 1920. Nobody took the trouble, except the liquor men who were in bad odor, to organize the opposition to the political and sectarian propaganda of the Anti-Saloon League and, almost to the surprise of the Leaguers, the nation woke up to the fact that after January 1920 the country was to be "dry".

Probably, not one in ten, even Catholics, has any idea that inside of a decade our Catholic schools may be prohibited, our sisters may be driven out and ostracized and our convents may be closed or made illegal!

Boah! you say. Ah, yes, but how do you know? "Well, they'd never dare do it in New York state any way", you continue. Yes? But you thought the same as to prohibition yet it is here present now.

It is just as easy to have three-fourths of the State legislatures pass a law compelling all children to attend public schools—state schools—than it was to ratify prohibition.

And the same Anti-Saloon Leaguers are preaching all over the country and especially in the narrow and Tomwatsonized South, in favor of the Smith bill now before Congress which proposes to center all educational control in the hands of the United States Commissioner of education who was against the war to the extent that he neutralized all effort to prevent un-American foreign language propaganda.

Federal officers inspect "all Catholic nunneries, inside and out!" If we Catholics do not wake up and begin to organize offensively as well as defensively, the days not far distant when our religious liberties will be in dire peril and we may find it too late to avert the peril!

Late Finishers

Joe Mitchell Chapple, the breezy editor of the American Magazine, is a close student of history, especially the human side. In a recent issue of his magazine he made these pertinent observations: Some men develop into top-notchers early—others late—many never. There is no telling when a man may begin to exercise unexpected powers. Often it is in the thirties, sometimes it is in the forties, and occasionally it is long after. But there is always a chance—providing a man is a worker, and providing he still takes an interest in life. Don't be too hasty consigning men to oblivion. Astonishing things happen in this world—none more astonishing than the sudden display of that human beings make of powers nobody knew they possessed.

The St. Paul Bulletin hits the nail on the head and points the finger at one widespread Catholic failing when it says: Our Catholic people have altogether the wrong point of view: they willingly permit their priests to become beggars, whereas they should be covered with shame to have it known that they themselves are possessed of so little business acumen.

The minister of God should never be obliged to mention money in the church dedicated to the worship of God. And yet, in the ordinary congregation it becomes the disagreeable duty of the priest to be forced to urge his people to pay their just debts. He must plead, scold, wheedle and implore his people to do what their ancestors in the faith readily and spontaneously did without solicitation on the part of their pastors. Then he is forced to supplement the neglect of the congregation by social affairs, and in this way buy their help, whereas it should be offered without coercion.

If each Catholic would take this consideration to heart and act upon its suggestiveness we soon would witness greater prosperity in our parishes. Long-standing mortgages would disappear, new activities would be inaugurated for the betterment of the church, the people would be spared the constant appeal for money, and the priest could raise his head with dignity, feeling that to his other troubles and worries he is not obliged to add the thought that he is a beggar.

In view of the disgusting posters employed to gain sympathy and dollars for certain alleged war charities, one wonders if the promoters are not receiving a commission on their collections.

Time will tell whether the "Community chest" method of pooling charity collections is to be a permanent fixture in Rochester.

It is to be hoped that Cardinal Mercier, will visit America that the people of the United States may have an opportunity to meet this great churchman and patriot.

Were all the suffragists like Susan B. Anthony their cause would have been popular sooner.

Why Not Free Ireland?

Is there any valid argument why we should shout ourselves hoarse for free Ukania, free Serbia, free Poland, free Czechoslovakia, free this nation or free that nation and be repressed from shouting for a free Ireland. What nation of those we have mentioned can be named whose immigrants have done more for the United States than have the sons of Erin?

Why should the friends of Irish freedom be flouted and abused and reviled when Sir Edward Carson who as openly preaches treason—if treason it be—is given a high place in the councils of the British Empire?

Why should the Irish people not be given a plan of self-government like that given the people of Canada? It is said they are not fit to govern themselves. Rubbish! There are as clever men in Ireland—we mean real Irishmen not alien landlords of other nationalities—as there are anywhere if given an opportunity.

Let us not be shamed or scorned into abandonment of our campaign for Irish freedom. If we must abandon our campaign so must the Ukrainians, the Poles, the Slavs, the Lithuanians and all the others who are soliciting American aid and assistance. They have no more right to retain sympathetic memories of their native land than have the Sons of Erin. And most of these have not contributed one tenth part toward the upbuilding of the Republic as have the Irish. The latter have become citizens in fact as well as in name while some of the others have only used the United States as a base of supplies and never have relinquished their citizenship in their native land and do not intend to become full fledged American citizens.

Let's have an end of false pretenses. If American soldiers fought that the world be free and that all peoples should have the boon of self-government, then Ireland is as much entitled to these blessings as any country on the face of the globe!

It is a pleasure to report that Catholic text books for high schools and colleges are winning their way. There is room for congratulation that the type arrangement, style of binding and printing arrangement—generally are improving year by year. Appearance has much to do with popularity of publications of all sorts. There is as much to be taken into account in printing and makeup as there is in text!

If the backers of the proposed Rochester Press Club can evolve an organization with a higher intellectual aspiration, coupled with a tinge of the Bohemianism of the popular clubs now in existence, there is room for it in Rochester and it will fill a needed niche in the social life of the Flower City.

That the summer of 1919 is waning is evidenced by the appearance of the 1919 Exposition posters.

Well, there are thousands of citizens who do not care particularly whether the country is dry or whether the saloon is retained or not.

In fraternal, as well as in other organizations and movements he who is loyal is the most valuable member in the long run.

Manufacturers and workmen should attend the hearings next week of the State Industrial Commission on these new codes.

It is well to study and discuss ways and means whereby the Catholic publicity may be most widely and effectively disseminated.

That pugilistic bout at Toledo was not such a howling success, after all, except, perhaps for Jess Willard in a financial way.

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