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Friday, August 8, 1919.

An Outrage

District Attorney Joseph C. Pelletier, of Boston, is one of the Supreme officers of the Knights of Columbus, and also connected with the National Catholic War Council, hence when he writes a letter of protest to the Secretary of War it is worthy of credence and entitled to support by the Catholic laity of the country. Mr. Pelletier's letter to Secretary Baker is in reference to a pamphlet, "Some Facts about the British", sent out, as Dr. Mott of the Y. M. C. A. says, "at the suggestion of the United States War Department, Moral Branch, General Staff."

Just what this pamphlet seeks to convey is set forth by Mr. Pelletier as follows:

"Why, should money contributed by our people to help win the war be expended for a publication in more than half of which there is nothing said of the war, but much to eulogize and credit Great Britain and prove hers a better government than ours, while the remaining pages describe only what England did, without ever a mention of our aid or that of the other powers which were associated with us?

"What if she lost more men and ships and spent more money than we did? History will say that she could not have won with treble the loss and sacrifice unless we had gone to the rescue.

The American people want facts! No statement regarding the war should proceed, at least officially, from any American source which does not pay tribute to our flag, and what love of it inspired our men of brains and brawn to do.

No pamphlet should issue under your approval, sir, which emphasizes that we deserve less credit than England, that England stands for democracy; that our government is modeled after England; that she stands for fair play in trade; that she has outstripped us in social justice—with never a word of pride, affection or devotion to our flag, our laws, our institutions and our superb manhood."

If those who revere English systems more than America's; who reverence English aristocracy more than American Democracy wish to conduct a propaganda to merge the United States with Great Britain, let them do as at their own expense not do it through the United States War Department at the expense of the tax payers of the United States.

In short: Why should even the League of Nations be boosted through "official publications" sent out by Federal Departments?

All of New York state, as well as Buffalo, extended a hearty welcome to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Buffalo this week.

A Square Deal.

Under ordinary circumstances the speakiug campaign of DeValera for the Irish Republic would be passed over by us in silence as undue propaganda while the League of Nations and Peace Treaty were under consideration but when the Lithuanians, the Armenians, the Poles, the Slavs, the Russian Bolsheviki and all the other down-trodden nations of Europe are pursuing similar propaganda unchecked and unrebuked in this country, we see no reason why Ireland should not have her innings. There are as ardent American citizens of Irish extraction in this country as of the other nations mentioned. The Republic owes as much, and more, to the Irish race as it does to any of the nationals mentioned. And the Irish people are far better equipped for self-determination than most of the other people's mentioned.

For these reasons we republish the question and answer of Mr. DeValera printed in the St. Louis Post Despatch:—

"'Do they want the verdict to take the form of an effort to free Ireland regardless of the will of Great Britain? Do they want us to go to war with Great Britain or take such offensive action that we risk a quarrel with Great Britain?'

"To this," Mr. De Valera replied, "we do not ask of America to take any active step of hostility to England. We ask of America to do that which she has a right to do, irrespective of whether it pleases England or not—to recognize in our case the principle for which America entered the war—the principle of the right of self-determination of nations. England accepted that principle, and peace was made on the basis of that principle. England has no right to object. America, in recognizing the Irish republic—and the recognition of the Irish republic is all we ask of America—is simply carrying out in practice the principles for which her sons fought in the war and neither England nor any other nation has a right to be offended because America refuses to be false to what they died for. It is a piece of impertinence on the part of England to threaten to be offended when America does that which she has a right to do—act justly toward another nation.

"The victory in this war was said to be a triumph of justice—justice that plays no favorites. England must pay the price for a lasting peace as well as other nations. America is strong enough to do that which she considers right fearlessly."

Best Wishes.

While regretting his departure from Rochester, his many friends extend hearty congratulations to Rev. William Frank upon his selection by Rt. Rev. Bishop Hickey as first resident pastor at Naples.

During his upwards of thirteen years chaplaincy at Monroe county's institutions on South avenue, Father Frank has endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, non-Catholic as well as Catholic, and also to the parishioners of St. Boniface, at whose parish house he resided and in whose activities he took part.

To his new field of labors Father Frank takes with him the best wishes of a host of friends for a pleasant and successful pastorate.

Aside from the sectarian possibilities in a centralized or nationalized scheme of education it should be opposed on the ground that the further any governmental activity is removed from control of the people the greater opportunity is afforded for profligate expenditure, autocratic control and bureaucratic domination.

The theaters cannot see why their tax should not be lifted as well as that on soft drinks.

Sensible

The Rochester "Times Union" takes a sane and sensible view of the agitation to bar all immigrants in the following editorial:—

If a million or so of our foreign born population return to Europe, and at the same time Congress enacts laws barring immigration, what will be the result for the American working man?

A very general view is that it will hold up wages and make it easier for men to secure employment. To a certain extent this may be true, but we should not lose sight of the place which the immigrant fills in our industrial scheme.

The hard, disagreeable tasks are placed upon his shoulders. If he is not here who is going to do them?

Before a building can go up the cellar has to be dug. If there are no immigrants to dig cellars the native born workingman is going to find it harder to buy a home.

Railroads cannot operate without section hands. If immigrants are not ready to take the section jobs someone else must take them and any added cost must go into freight charges.

These immigrants, taking them as a whole, are at the base of our industrial pyramid. If they are gone the work must still be done.

Has their competition shoved the capable American down or has it forced him upward?

There appears to be a well-developed propaganda in favor of barring European immigrants and permitting the entrance of Chinese coolies to do the unskilled labor of the United States. The question, and it is an important one and possibly far-reaching in its effects, is this policy a wise one for the United States to adopt.

Nonsense

A great deal of nonsense has been written because Henry Ford was unable to answer on the witness stand certain catch questions, of the ultra-civil-service type, when many a professional man, supposed to be well informed, would have had difficulty in answering the same.

Many men and women, successful in business and professional life, are not as proficient in certain book knowledge as a school boy or girl, fresh from college or high school. Yet they manage to conduct their business, while the college lad, albeit his book knowledge, is unproficient in business lore.

From Mr. Ford's lack of knowledge of historical data, it is argued he is or was unfitted to represent the State of Michigan in the United States Senate, yet today when economic topics are as uppermost in public mind and are as essential to the common good, very likely Mr. Ford's advice and experience would be as valuable, if not more so, as that gleaned from half a dozen Southern senators who lay claim to erudition and much learning.

There is a deal of nonsense written and spoken these days. A great deal depends upon your viewpoint.

They do say that as the price of berries and other small fruits advance the price of hops is going down.

The action of the great chain of cigar stores in closing all its places on Sundays may be taken as the day when it will be impossible to purchase any article of food or commerce on Sundays. It may even betoken the passing of the Sunday newspaper.

Two-cent postage came in again with scarcely a ripple. Nevertheless, it saved many a person and corporation a lot of money. Now if two-cent railroad fares could come back in New York State!

City workers who really favor daylight saving should make their opposition known else the rural congressmen will bring about its repeal.

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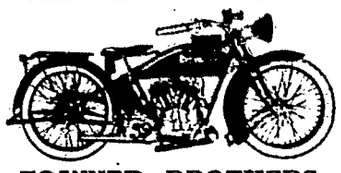

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