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Friday, October 31, 1919.

"Too Much Nonsense"

We do not recall having read a more blunt and pointed rebuke to those who are seeking to centralize control of all schools in the United States in a federal commissioner in Washington than the following brief editorial in the Albany "Knickerbocker-Press":

We note in the columns of our neighbor, the Troy Times, a letter from the Rev. Joseph Dunne, superintendent of the public schools of the Albany Catholic diocese, which seems to us to be worth thinking about.

Father Dunne's letter has to do with an address by Dr. Frank E. Spaulding of Cleveland, read before a meeting in Troy of the school superintendents of New York state, in which Dr. Spaulding had something to say in favor of federal management of local education, and something else to say in disparagement of "private schools," including, of course, parochial schools in that disparagement.

Sofar as the parochial schools of New York state are concerned, we will make a guess this morning, and will not be at all worried over the possibility of its being disproved, that their standard of scholarship is entirely equal to that of the public schools. So far as secondary schools are concerned, we have no hesitation in announcing that the Catholic schools take the lead in the regents' examinations, because that leadership is a matter of official record.

And as to federal interference with local schools of any description, we are irrevocably against it. There is too much federal nonsense in this country today; too much federal policing and too many federal ukases. That may do very well for states which do not know that they are states, but New York state has always been able to manage the affairs which rightfully belong within its jurisdiction, and it will not thank any federal officials to be meddling with its business.

Publicity Awry

This is an age of publicity. It cannot be denied that honest publicity, properly handled and disseminated, but, sometimes publicity matter may fall into the hands of a canny editor who dissects and analyzes it to the disfigurement of the publicity promoter, as witness the following from a wide-awake secular contemporary:

C. A. Spreckels, a sugar refiner, testifying before the senate committee on agriculture, blames "governmental interference" for the sugar shortage. He says that there is really no shortage, but that the supply is "dislocated." He says that "if the matter were left to the law of supply and demand it would soon get down to a proper basis."

What Mr. Spreckels means is and spiritual. My desire that the government, by limiting always was to be helpful to you the price at which sugar should whenever you brought me your be sold, has encouraged its contri- trials, your sorrows your doubts sumption, and that if the sugaryour worries. I have tried to be companies were permitted to accessible, gentle, fair, just and charge outrageous prices for sug- courteous. I gave conscious of ar the consumption would soon fense to no one and therefore I drop to a point where there would enjoy this comfort at this hour."

Uniform Action Needed.

We have never been able to see any justice in the position of a merchant who was doing so much business that he could not hire enough clerks to attend to it; in the position of a street car company which had so many passengers to carry that it could not provide cars for them; or in the position of a sugar company which was selling so much sugar that many of its customers would have to go without. If these folks were losing money, they might deserve sympathy. But they are not losing money. Their "rush hours" are clear velvet. We have never observed that a newspaper, which is engaged in a business, subject to as violent fluctuations as any, was excused for not having met emergencies which were obvious to all. Newspapers have frequently to sell their product below cost, which is something that is not expected of sugar companies, for example.

The present argument of the sugar people is that the United States has had a great deal of sugar—for which it has paid; that it is eating too much sugar—which is none of the sugar companies' business so long as they are reaping their profits; and that the only remedy for the situation is to let them charge so much for sugar that most persons will have to go without, while the rest of the population pays enough for its sugar to keep the sugar companies' profits intact.

If this is an unfair statement, we shall be glad to have the sugar folk point out its inaccuracies. We derive it from publicity matter with which they have provided us.

Modest, Humble

Recently Monsignor John Walsh of Troy celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood. At the conclusion of the celebration of the event by his parishioners, Monsignor Walsh addressed his friends and thus modestly set forth his conception of his life and labors.

"Were it the jubilee of another, my speech would be full, free and unfettered. . . . Because it is my own, my speech is restrained. I am checked by St. Paul's warning 'For not he who commendeth himself is approved, but he whom God commendeth.' Of the personal works I have only a few—of joint works with you I have many wherein you have the lion's share, and of personal qualities I have no reason to boast, as they belong to the average, and as my failings you would not wish me to publish them.

"I hope, however, I have never forgotten I am a priest. Many of you think fifty years ago a priest is a colossal blessing. It is if there be no shortcomings, no lapses in the years and the ministry. But if these appear, as they do to my looking back over the long journey I have made, then, as I reckon it, my fifty years are more for living than does the former colossal responsibility for which I must answer some day and beg forgiveness. No one knows the flaws of a career and a life like the spirit of a man that is within him—his conscience—and mine accuses me whilst perhaps you praise.

"It is true my fifty years have not been empty. I have led a full, diversified and moderately eventful life. I have touched on the borders of many activities and enterprises. Whether it profiteth me for heaven God alone knows and will judge. I am not, I know, saying a false word when I declare I have ever been faithful to you and your welfare, temporal

The strike of the printers craftsmen in New York brought annoyance and discomfort, not only to the publishers of the metropolis and the workers who stopped work—and pay envelope—but to the thousands of readers all over the country who were deprived of their accustomed magazines. To be sure, there are those who think that permanent stoppage of many of these so-called magazines and periodicals would not be an unmixed evil but then there are other reputable publications that either will come out late or skip one or two or more issues. For instance, the Catholic World boasts it has not missed an issue or been late in coming out in 54 years, yet because of the strike it has been forced to notify its subscribers it will be late in reaching them in November!

And the pity of it is that on the surface at least, the striking printers are violating agreements entered into between the publishers and the unions and are defying the expressed wishes to the contrary of the heads of their international organizations. If the employers cannot rely upon their employees to carry out agreements solemnly entered into and supposed to be binding upon both parties, of what use are agreements as to wages, hours etc. If new demands are to be presented every few weeks how can there be any stability in the printing business?

If the agreements between employers and employees bind both to submit future differences and disputes to arbitration before a strike or lockout shall be inaugurated and either or both violate the agreement what must the public think?

After all it is the public that is most interested in these industrial disputes and the day is not distant when the public will cry out "a plague o' both your houses" and proceed to evolve a plan whereby both employer and employee will be controlled and prevented from annoying the public every little while by public disturbances and other annoyances incident to strikes and lockouts.

Inincere.

There is food for reflection in the following editorial in the Lockport Union Sun and Journal: Buffalo manufacturers claim that foreign born workers invariably quit places on the eight-hour basis and go to work at others when the ten hour day obtains because they can make more money. In other words they are ambitious to make all they can and not only offer no objection to the ten hour day but go looking for it.

The standard of living among the foreign element is far below that of the average American. So in the cases of the steel plants the American workman expends as I reckon it, my fifty years are more for living than does the foreigner and yet the Americans in these mills seem to be opposed to the strike and are being cowed by the ugly threats of foreigners under Bolshevik and I. W. W. leadership. The question is fair—if the Americans are satisfied with wages and working conditions while spending more for the decent existence of their families than the foreign element, where do the kicks of the latter merit support?

Both employers and employees must respect their agreements if they expect support of the public and both must have that to achieve lasting success.

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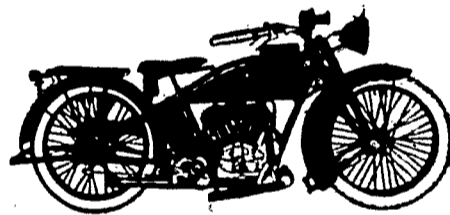
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