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Friday, November 14, 1919.

Thanksgiving

Whether or not the Peace Conference at Versailles recognized the omnipotence and omnipresence of Almighty God, President Wilson does as witness these extracts from his Thanksgiving proclamation:—

"The season of the year has again arrived when the people of the United States are accustomed to unite in giving thanks to Almighty God for the blessings which He has conferred upon our country during the twelve months that have passed. A year ago our people poured out their hearts in praise and thanksgiving that through divine aid the right was victorious and peace had come to the nations which had so courageously struggled in defence of human liberty and justice. Now that the stern task is ended and the fruits of achievement are ours we look forward with confidence to the dawn of an era where the sacrifices of the nations will find recompense in a world at peace.

"But to attain the consummation of the great work to which the American people devoted their manhood and the vast resources of their country they should, as they give thanks to God, reconsecrate themselves to those principles of right which triumphed through His merciful goodness. Our gratitude can find no more perfect expression than to bulwark with loyalty and patriotism those principles for which the free peoples of the earth fought and died.

"During the past year we have had much to make us grateful. In spite of the confusion in our economic life resulting from the war we have prospered. Our harvests have been plentiful and of our abundance we have been able to render succor to less favored nations. Our democracy remains unshaken in a world torn with political and social unrest. Our traditional ideals are still our guides in the path of progress and civilization.

"These great blessings, vouchsafed to us, for which we devoutly give thanks, should arouse us to a fuller sense of our duty to ourselves and to mankind, to see to it that nothing we may do shall mar the completeness of the victory we helped to win."

Congratulations to Supreme Court Justice-elect "Ben" Cunningham and District Attorney-elect William F. Love! They have won deserved promotions.

It is still the month of November—the month of the Poor Souls.

While the shortage of newspaper is to be deplored for legitimate publications, nevertheless there are a number of sheets that could be well dispensed with.

The Sunday papers may have to cut down the size of their editions if paper shortage continues.

Justice.

Lovers of fair play and decency whether they be Catholic or non-Catholic, will read with pleasure the following editorial from the Albany "Times-Union" yet will blush in shame that it was necessary to resort to such drastic measures in this supposedly enlightened and progressive age:—

A scurrilous article was received by several people in this city, during the past month, concerning the Knights of Columbus. It was anonymously distributed by mail and contained a bogus oath which it alleged was used in the ritual ceremonies of the order. These are the same slanderous charges which have appeared at certain intervals during the past several years and which have been circulated by those who have desired to injure this order. The article in question is one of the most outrageous pieces of misrepresentation that has ever been directed against a fraternal organization.

When this article began to make its appearance several weeks ago an investigation was instituted by the Knights of Columbus and evidence was secured that an Albany lady was sending it to people in this city. She was confronted and subsequently made an open admission that she had done so. She gave the committee, which investigated the matter, a statement under oath in which she admits that she mailed the article and desires to retract the same, being convinced that she had committed a wrong in distributing the circular and further stating that she is now convinced that there is no truth in the statement set forth in the article which she circulated. She also gave to the committee the names of persons to whom she had mailed the article and to whom a copy of her affidavit of retraction has now been mailed.

The allegations contained in the article mailed by this woman are so outrageous that they are ridiculous, but they have been spread broadcast with persistence and the Knights of Columbus is putting the situation up to the sender wherever found. Efforts have been made to injure this order, which has done such a noble work for the American soldiers, sailors and marines in the great world war and which has won from them the highest of commendation. It is shameful that efforts should be made to traduce it in the mind of anyone. These efforts to injure the Knights of Columbus are futile because the American people know that the allegations made are false and calumnious. But the Knights of Columbus intend to nail these base falsehoods wherever found and to compel those who make them or circulate them to retract them. The Albany lady who sent them through the mails during the past month has made full retraction of what she has done.

The Knights of Columbus is one of the greatest and most patriotic fraternal orders in America. It is indeed deplorable that it should be made the subject of such scurrilous attacks.

Will He Come

According to "Church Progress" of St. Louis the Free Press Defense League, "which is organized to preserve Protestant democracy and which owns the Menace," has invited Sir Edward Carson to come to this country as its honored guest. In a letter to Sir Edward, Billy Parker, major-domo of the great unwashed, says: "You, more than any other living person, can crystallize the thought of 85,000,000 Americans into such action as will gladden the heart of all loyal Britons and defeat Sinn Fein intrigue in America." And then the festive and more or less belligerent Billy utters the cry of old, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." With bated breath the world at large will await the decision of Sir Edward.

The Elections.

Now that sufficient time has elapsed for a dispassionate survey of the recent elections it is interesting to attempt an analysis of these events.

First and foremost, this is still a country of law and order as witness the smashing testimonial in Massachusetts and the country-wide approval of it including the unusual spectacle of the President of the United States congratulating the victor, even if he belonged to a political party opposed to that of the chief executive.

Secondly, the people of the United States have not yet acquiesced in restriction of their purely personal liberties by the indirect method of Federal constitutional amendment. They also resent bitterly any narrow sectarian movement whose success depends upon sub cellular methods. "Pitiless publicity" will be demanded in the future of all national-wide movements seeking to curtail or restrict the reasonable privileges or rights of the individual.

Third—Political bosses and personally owned and conducted political machines are not to be in favor for years to come. Whether it be in New York, or Rochester, or Albany the people will assert their independence and refuse to accept blindly the dictates and decrees of a political boss or Kaiser.

Fourth—One hundred per cent Americanism is the order of the day and hyphenated individuals or organizations will be frowned upon and ultimately extirpated. They who do not care to accept American principles and obey American laws will be put where they cannot harm American institutions or deported whence they came.

To conclude—There is cause for gratification at the indirect evidence afforded by the elections that the slimy serpent of bigotry has been thoroughly scorched in Rochester and our citizens will send to the rear anybody foolish enough to raise such an issue in the future.

If General Ansell is to be believed, the military code of the United States Army should be revised and pruned of its archaic features. It will not do to contend that because there are to be no more wars, there will be no need of a military code and hence there is no necessity of revision. We never expected the recent world war would take place but it did. England, France and the United States are not reducing their armies, on the contrary they are increasing them. Does this look like abolition of war?

Cardinal Mercier was warmly greeted by the convention of Episcopal bishops. He was given honorary degrees by non-Catholic universities. Is not this an earnest of the lessening of bigotry in these United States?

In the course of an article on the Irish situation, the London "Times" says:—"If the Prime Minister and the Government had planned to conjure up some influence in Ireland to abet their determination not to put forward any Irish policy, they could have devised nothing malignantly efficacious than the recent course of Irish affairs."

Is Ohio really in the wet or the dry column? Wherein does it affect the result in any appreciable degree, any way?

Friends Of Irish Freedom

The Padraic H. Pearse branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom are now meeting the first and third Thursday evenings of each month in Columbia Hall, Cox building. The new president, Mr. Patrick J. Fogarty, invites all citizens, both men and women, to join the local branch.

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