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The Danger To Freedom Of Education.

Methods Employed by Advocates of Smith-Towner Bill.

VIGILANCE AND UNITED ACTION NEEDED.

Some months ago it was widely rumored, especially in Catholic circles, that the Smith and Towner bills for the creation of a Federal Department of Education, which aroused so much opposition during the recent Congress, had been withdrawn, and that a harmless Bankhead bill would take their place. In the face of these assertions the question arises: Are not these sooth-sayers too optimistic? and the more important question: Is the Smith-Towner Bill really dead? The answer must, we regret to say, be negative. The National Education Association, the prime mover in the entire agitation in favor of these bills, an organization which has been working hand in hand with the U. S. Bureau of Education announces through its Bulletin (January issue): "The Smith-Towner Bill is still in committee in both the Senate and House. Of course, it will not need to be introduced, but will hold its present number and designation throughout the Sixty-sixth Congress, which will expire March 4, 1921. We shall do all in our power to secure the passage of this bill by the Sixty-sixth Congress."

N. E. A. "Means Business".

The N. E. A. means what it says, when it announces that it will "do all in its power to secure the passage" of its measure, the adoption of its plan of creating a Department of Education under an appointed Secretary of Education, who is to be a member of the presidential Cabinet. The propaganda conducted by it is quite active. Mr. Hugh S. Magill, Field Secretary of the N. E. A., delivered addresses during the month of December in the states of Ohio, Missouri, Texas, California, and Colorado. During the month of January he is making other trips across the continent, his expenses being paid by local associations and clubs. The N. E. A. Bulletin and some of the publications of the Bureau of Education are continually endeavoring to create sentiment favorable to the plan, while at the same time the leaders of the N. E. A. persistently ignore the expressions of numerous American citizens directed against centralization of education. The protests raised against the Smith-Towner bills during the last twelve months in all sections of the United States remain unanswered, as far as the N. E. A. and the Bureau of Education are concerned, no attempt being made to answer the arguments advanced against the proposed scheme; thus the entire fight is taken out of the realm of intellectual argumentation and simmers down to an attempt to gain influence and votes. The many protests sent to Congress and Senate by Catholics were forceful indeed, and reflected the views and wishes of innumerable voters. Yet theirs were not the only objections raised against the bills and the endeavors of the N. E. A., at the Milwaukee meeting of the N. E. A., held last summer, was severely criticized by the School Review (Chicago) and the American School Master (Lansing, Mich.) The critics speak of the N. E. A. as a "moribund association". Yet that association announces in its Bulletin that it not only plans the nationalization of education in our country, but is eager to create an International Education Association, having urged that an international bureau of education be provided for in the charter of the League of Nations. The N. E. A. has also taken the initiative in calling an international conference, such as had been suggested by the Teachers' Federation of France, and it is anticipated that such a conference will be held at Cleveland, O., in the latter part of February, in connection with the Superintendents' meeting of the N. E. A. This meeting will bear close watching, since it is not only possible but also probable that it will observe a "conspiracy of silence" regarding any opposition to an international scheme for educational control similar to that which obtains regarding the many objections to nationalization or federalization of education in our own country. This "conspiracy" is not confined to the N. E. A., but is participated in by the Bureau of Education also, as Father Paul L. Blakely, S. J., has shown in his article on: "How an 'Official Press' Works", printed in "America", issue of Nov. 29, 1919.

International Aspirations.

One would naturally assume that, once the N. E. A., undertook to sponsor an international movement in education, it would define specifically its own national program first, and then state just how much thereof it desires to inject into the program of the international body. In its announcement, however, of the idea underlying its plan for an international organization it chooses to be just as vague as it has often been heretofore in its announcements regarding national matters. In a statement of policies by the Commission on the Emergency in Education of the Nat. Educ. Assoc., adopted September 18, in lieu of a real program, for the new international body (see Catholic Ed. Review, Dec. issue), we find only the following rhetorical announcement: "We believe that the public schools of all the great democracies of the world can, through co-operative effort, do much to conserve and promote the great ideals for which the war was fought and won. We hold, indeed, that a distinct responsibility rests upon the teachers of the allied and associated nations to fulfill on a broader plane than ever before their great function as trustees of the human heritage—to see to it that what has been gained at so great and so terrible a cost is sedulously safeguarded and transmitted without loss and without taint to each generation. . . ." Only an international organization, only the internationalization of education, says the Committee, can accomplish this. But the Committee fails to advise us just how the European nations which remained neutral during the war and the hitherto hostile and defeated nations will accept such

an idea. Besides, how will the nations of South America, to whom our interest as Americans naturally turns, look upon the strange plan emanating from the N. E. A.? Is it necessary to add that this scheme, to say the least, has its weak spots? Yet it is proposed with the same cocksureness with which the N. E. A. has conducted its entire campaign for the centralization of education in our country.

The Private Schools In Our Own Country.

While these efforts are in progress to centralize education in our country and to give international scope to the plans of the N. E. A., the situation of the private, including the parochial, schools is still critical. Optimists may announce that the private schools are not in danger. Still the presence of the Smith bill in Congress, and other efforts directed against the private schools, argue to the contrary. The School Review (Chicago), in its December 1919 issue, launches an unfair, bigoted attack against the parochial schools and lavishes fulsome praise on legislation adopted in the Territory of Hawaii, which deals with the supervision of private schools. And in Nebraska, where, during the last session of the Legislature, freedom of education received many a hard blow, a certain Wilbur F. Bryant has endeavored to alter the State Constitution to the extent of inserting a clause compelling all children to attend the public schools, asserting that "the right of the State to control and direct the purely secular education of children within its jurisdiction is hereby declared to be absolute, indivisible and inviolate."

Organized Vigilance Needed.

The cause of freedom of education, as anyone may see from the facts adduced, stands in need of vigilant friends. And even more than mere vigilance is needed.—organized, general preparedness for defense is necessary. In the

States and in Congress the agitation to curtail this freedom is going on, and nothing but a determined stand and active counter-agitation will save the schools from the enemy. Catholics, and in fact all citizens opposed to state absolutism owe freedom the duty to do all in their power to combat this danger and to preserve intact for future generations the rights of parents to determine the policy of education in their several communities.

C. B. of the C. V.

De Valera Given State's Welcome By Act of Assembly

Albany.—Eamon De Valera, "president of the Irish republic," was welcomed in this city on Wednesday by Governor Smith, Mayor Watt, the State Legislature and the people at large.

At the mass meeting, at which Mr. De Valera was the principal speaker, resolutions were adopted urging the Government of the United States "to recognize the republic and to withhold all loans to nations holding peoples in bondage."

The State Assembly adopted a resolution by Assemblyman Martin McCue, of New York, extending to Mr. De Valera the state's welcome to the city and wishing him Godspeed in his mission in behalf of the Irish people.

Prince Lubomirski Visits Rochester

Several thousand Polish citizens of Rochester gave an enthusiastic welcome to the Prince and Princess Lubomirski at the mass meeting held at Convention Hall, Wednesday. The Rev. I. J. Klejna, rector of St. Stanislaus Church, opened the meeting, presenting Adam Felarski as chairman.

The speakers of the evening were Prince Lubomirski and Major Thaddeus Scarynski of Pittsburgh who has just returned from Poland. Both speakers urged Rochester Poles to be loyal to their adopted country.

Map of the Irish Republic showing result of General Election, Dec., 1918

(Reproduced from "Congress" London)

CONSTITUENCIES WON For Irish Republic and Self-Determination, 79 For Irish Republic and Self-Determination, 1,207,131 For State One (Unionist Party) 26 For State One (Unionist Party) 282,713 Total 105 Total 1,489,844

Every 2 votes 2 voted for Irish Republic Every 4 votes 4 voted for Self-Determination Only 3 votes in 5 voted for English Rule

Can any other country show more unanimity on any important question than the Irish Republic has shown in the election of the people of Ireland and Ulster?

RESULT OF ENGLISH RULE

Population (1911) Ireland 4,500,000 Ulster 1,242,000

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LOSS in 76 years 3,000,000 804,000

ULSTER NOT "RICHEST PROVINCE"

Ratable value per head (1911)

Ulster 20 Shillings

Ulster is the portion above the heavy line. Note the large Republican territory.

GOD Irrevocably Fixed the Boundaries of IRELAND

Those of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Serbia, Rumania, etc. have seen their boundaries by politicians!



THE IRISH REPUBLIC CAN PAY ITS DEBTS

Ireland has a population of 4,390,219 and is the second largest island in the world. Other small nations have an area of 32,531 square miles to end of fiscal year, 1919. England spent £100,000,000 in Ireland but collected from land the sum of \$170,000,000.

Liberty has cost only \$100 per capita, per annum, in Greece, Serbia, \$7.50 in Bulgaria, in Switzerland, \$13 in Sweden, in Portugal, \$15 in Norway, while in Ireland British capitalism costs about \$40 per capita per annum.

Ireland is large enough, populous enough and rich enough to run her own national business a business way. The money Ireland paid England last year could have run the governmental business of Bulgaria, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, Scotland—paying for all their administration charges, their police, their army and guns. Ireland means to run her own money, for her own people, in her own land, develop her anthracite and bituminous coal, her enormous peat deposits, her marvelous possibilities in linen and leather and many other industries, as well as in developing her great waterpower, using her unrivalled harbors.

Imports and Exports of Ireland amounted to \$230,000,000 more than \$5 per cent of the done with England. They will prove the natural wealth of the land.

Irish Independence

Irish independence means increased trade with America, the advantage of both countries. A free Ireland with a population of 4,390,219, twenty millions of people, trading with all the world as a matter of right, instead of with England as a matter of compulsion, would mean another great market in which America could to advantage many hundreds of millions of dollars worth of American products annually, and from which we could directly produce now, and indirectly produce later, Ireland, but which reach us alone.

Irish freedom means peace and prosperity to the world. A failure to give Ireland means that there will be no just or permanent peace.

Bond-Certificates will be issued only from National Headquarters of the American Committee for Irish Independence to independent subscribers, and will be countersigned by one of the members of Dail Eireann.

Any who may not have the opportunity to co-operate through local bond-certificates organization may send checks direct to Eamon de Valera, 411 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Rev. J. E. Bayer Gives Lecture

The Rev. J. E. Bayer, of St. Mary's Church, gave a lecture before the Catholic Social Lecture Circle in St. John's Hall, on Friday evening, January 22, on the subject "The History of Christian Democracy."

This was a second of a series of lectures given by the Social Lecture Circle. The subject of these lectures is the principles of social justice, viewed from the Catholic point as the basis of the radical doctrine.

The lecture was open to the public. In French, it was a masterpiece of Rembrandt.

Ireland.

Where the equinoctial storm, from the far off Caribbean, in deadly combat meets the North King's icy blast, There stands dear old Ireland waiting for her future, eager to forget her past.

Germ of the western ocean, with spirit still unbroken, you are smiling through the tears.

She sees the dawn of freedom, as her chains they grow weaker, from the rust of a thousand years.

The Arctic current with a polar bear on a treacherous iceberg, from wild and stormy Labrador.

The Gulf Stream languidly moving, their water intermingling on the grand banks, opposite the Irish shore.

The climatic change is wonderful, Zero is unknown, the sunshine and the flowers, the rainbow and the showers, altogether can be seen.

Which gives to thee the undigested name of Emerald Isle, and keeps the Shamrock ever green.

God's bulwark in the ocean, silent monument to His power, stands each and every cragged reef.

The sea birds flying inland, calling loudly, while the great Atlantic tidal wave, swelling proudly comes to grief.

Ireland you have earned a glorious future, ever in the path of danger, striving for the right.

Surmounting every obstacle, that jealousy and greed, could conjure in their might.

MICHAEL W. SCANLON.

Campbell's Salesmanship Course.

Campbell's second course in salesmanship at the Rochester Business Institute will begin Monday evening, February 2, at eight o'clock. The demand for this course is a direct result of the satisfactory work of the fall term course. More than half the number to which the class will be limited have already enrolled. Call up the R. B. I. at once for the particulars. Stone 326. Main 3869.—Adv.

An army officer in South Africa purchased for \$1.80 in a Pretoria auction room a crucifixion oil painting, which art critics declare to be a priceless missing Rembrandt.