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Friday, February 20, 1920.

No Pulpit Topic.

It would appear that Cardinal Gibbons is not alone in his indignation at the appeal of Mr. Anderson and his Anti-Saloon Leaguers and of Prohibition Enforcement Director Kramer to the clergymen of all denominations making them to become volunteer agents in the enforcement of the prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution. Scores of clergymen, most of them of the Protestant persuasion, have protested indignantly against the appeal from the internal revenue department. A typical one is from Dr. Henry Davies, pastor of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church at Easton, Md., who says:

"When, however, you ask me as a clergyman to sacrifice my private convictions and join with those who have made prohibition a political issue for many years in an effort to enforce their creed on others by political means, I think you are exceeding your sphere and trenching on the moral aspect of the question. Prohibition used to be a moral question; it is no more; it is one of politics, one hence clergymen must refrain from active participation if they would fulfill their true vocation and ministry.

"You say that the period of debate is past and that the law will be mercilessly enforced by every means in the power of the government. I think that is the only course that could be pursued. But I protest against the attempt to mix the church in politics in this endeavor."

The Cause.

A press despatch from San Francisco says that a man in that city was fined \$100 for having a small flask of liquor in his possession.

That is the proceeding that makes anarchists and "Reds." If this man had had the contents of the flask inside him no penalty would have attached to the act unless he was intoxicated when the very heaviest penalty any Police justice would have inflicted would have been \$10 fine.

While there may or may not be difference of opinion as to whether the manufacture, sale or possession of liquor should be absolutely prohibited, there is absolutely no difference of opinion outside the limited circle of those who had the price to stock upon the proposition that it is indefensible to permit the wealthy man who has the means and the place to store it, to accumulate huge stores of liquors of all sorts while the poor man or the man without a permanent home may not even carry in his grip or in his pocket a phial of what he has been accustomed to take as medicine. It will not do to argue that because there are doctors who say whiskey has no medicinal value that it is a fact because there are some doctors who make some community gatherings.

tain the contrary just the same as the allopathic physician argues that the homeopathic materia medica is anathema and vice versa.

There should be reasonableness even in the enforcement of the eighteenth amendment to the United States Constitution.

Which Is Right?

Attorney-General Charles D. Newton may be said to represent the element in the community which would sternly and rigorously stamp out by force of arms if necessary any radical opposition to or criticism of existing forms of government. He would go so far as to deprive American citizens who preach radical doctrines of their citizenship. But who is to distinguish and decide whether an honest criticism of methods employed by those who administer the government—who may criticize and protest against who appears to be protection by government officials of profiteers and extortionate monopolists—is not as well a criticism of the Government itself and that the advocate thereof is a Red and should be first deprived of citizenship and then deported.

However we will let Attorney-General Newton speak for himself and the reader may decide:

In the course of his testimony, Attorney General Newton said that the two most potent influences in checking the spread of radicalism in his state were the American Federation of Labor and the Catholic Church. The opinion that the "red" problem is one that cannot be solved by statutory laws alone is growing in Washington the more it is debated, and the religious or ethical phases of it are becoming more apparent.

"The growth of the radical organizations has been very rapid in the last year," Mr. Newton said. "There is no doubt that there are in this country thousands of radicals who are advocating the overthrow of the government by force and the establishment of a dictatorship such as exists in Russia today. The efforts of these radicals are encouraged and the aims they are pledged to accomplish boldly set forth and glorified by a press equally as radical and violent as the revolutionists themselves.

"Most of the members of these organizations are ignorant aliens, many of whom do not know what the organizations preach and who have become members because the fight is aimed to obtain for them luxuries which they do not enjoy.

"The most dangerous radical is the American citizen who cannot easily be reached by present laws and who is busily engaged in misleading the alien. From him we ought to take away all the privileges of citizenship. We ought to teach the foreigners the benefits of our system of government and our school systems. In other words, we should teach the benefits of the American form of government just as strongly as the radicals strive to spread their propaganda advocating its overthrow."

Do the firms that advertise for "Protestant help" wish it to be understood that Catholic purchasers of their goods are not wanted?

When flour drops in price the conscience-stricken and patriotic bakers promptly advanced the price of bread a penny a loaf, which is equivalent to an advance of 100 per cent on the price of flour!

The Catholic hierarchy requests all Catholics to receive Holy Communion on Sunday, February 22, for the intention of the Holy Father, the Bishops and for the welfare of Church and country.

What will become of the corner cafes now? Not all can be some community gatherings.

The Lesson.

There is one great lesson for every citizen, every organization in the perseverance and enthusiasm displayed for their cause by the radicals, call them Socialists, Reds or what not.

The real enthusiastic Socialist talks his cult in season and out of season. Rebuffs or temporary setbacks do not discourage him. He is up again and at it again. He is not abashed at talking from a soap box at the street corner to a handful of persons, often a majority of them hostile to his cause. He is writing pieces for the paper. If his own home paper will not print the effusions, the Socialist press will put them out as leaflets. All these facts and more may be gleaned by a perusal of the testimony taken at the trial of the Socialist assemblymen in Albany. And there is one other fact: the real enthusiastic Socialist is not looking for pay for his soap box oratory. He not only contributes his talk but he subscribes so much a week to the cause in proportion to his means—and he pays his subscription too. And these soap box orators are put through a severe course of training by the Socialist leaders before they are permitted to go out on the soap box circuit.

As the "Columbiad" well says, "Were the same earnest spirit to be followed by men who hold fast to the ideals of America, to the ideals exemplified in Washington and Lincoln, the need of deportation, great as it has been, would pass away. What a small body of men are these radicals in comparison with the entire nation! And yet, imbued with the passion to break down our institutions and united in purpose and in the means of accomplishing that purpose, they have disturbed the thought of the nation until many men, who fear, indeed their revolution, foolishly think that "may be there is something to what they say. There is little of value in what they say, but a wealth of meaning in how they say it—with a fanatical, forceful fervor that well nigh burns. And the meaning lies in personal service and individual sacrifice."

Quite a number of Rochester boys won Knights of Columbus University scholarships.

Just as a matter of information:—The Sir-Edward Carsonites were not able at the recent elections to carry a majority of the seats in the County Council of Ulster. Kerry elected an O'Dougherty, the first in its history, a Nationalist as Mayor. So did Sligo. So if begins to look as if an honestly taken popular vote in Ulster would yield a nationalist at least an anti-Carson majority.

Norman Mack, the Buffalo editor-politician is boomed for the democratic United States senatorial candidate. So is Governor Alfred E. Smith, assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt and William Church Osborn. And then there is on the republican side James W. Wadsworth, jr., the especial bugaboo of the woman suffragists and the anti-saloon-leaguers.

One thing all agreed upon at the hearing before Public Service Commissioner John A. Barhite: that Rochester's street car service is not perfect, unless we agree that it is perfectly bad.

Who appointed this "Citizens' Committee" to investigate and report on the street car situation?

During the Lenten season of rest and research a Catholic paper is a splendid part of your reading equipment.

The high prices have boosted the cost of burials. The National Casket Company not only declared its regular quarterly dividend of 11-2 per cent but also an extra dividend of 1 per cent in cash and 5 per cent dividend in March.


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