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Friday, March 26, 1920.

Holy Week

Once more the ecclesiastical pendulum has swung round the circle and again we approach that most solemn season of the Catholic year—Holy Week.

The penitential forty days fast is nearing an end and now we shall walk beside the Savior, in spirit, as he groans in Gethsemane, as He is betrayed by Judas, as He is denied by Peter, as He is judged by Pilate, as He is scourged at the pillar, as He is crowned with thorns, as He is delivered over to the Roman soldiers, as He carries His Cross to Calvary's height, as He is Crucified, as He is laid in the tomb.

It is a sad and a solemn journey and yet it was made necessary by us sinful mortals. Had He not suffered on Calvary we would never have enjoyed the possibility of eternity in Heaven. And so it is fitting that each year we make the sad pilgrimage in spirit that we may understand imperfectly the awful sacrifice made for our ultimate salvation by the Son of Man and prepare our souls for the glorious feast of Easter when He broke asunder the bonds of Death, came forth from the tomb and returned to His home in Heaven.

On Guard!

There is an assemblyman up in Erie County who will bear watching. His name is John Slaccer. He has introduced a bill under the specious and misleading plea of "promoting Americanism" which would amend the state education law by changing the phraseology of the section creating the state system of common schools "in which all children shall be educated."

By this change of one word the great Catholic parochial school system of New York state would be wiped out and thousands of children deprived of the moral and religious atmosphere their parents desire so much that they are willing to be taxed double first to pay their proportionate share to maintain the state schools in which only the children of non-Catholic parents are educated, and again to maintain a separate school system in which a religious atmosphere is had and in which their Catholic children receive secular education equal to and some think superior to that imparted to non-Catholic children in the state schools!

Who is back of this bigoted attack upon our schools? Who handed Mr. Slaccer this bill? Is part of its backing found in Rochester?

In the opinion of the Albany "Journal", "when a wrong conclusion is reached through correct reasoning, there is something radically wrong with the mind or the motives of the one who does the reasoning."

League Is Rejected.

Rightly or wrongly, the United States Senate acting within its constitutional prerogative, has voted not to ratify the treaty of peace with Germany, with which the League of Nations is interwoven, negotiated by President Wilson in the peace conference at Versailles.

There will be those who will feel disappointed at the outcome. There will be others who feel that the Senate has acted, if not wisely, at least has acted in the manner best calculated to preserve American traditions of avoiding entanglement with European political snarls.

It is inevitable, therefore, that the treaty, at least the League of Nations end of it, will be a vital, if not the dominant issue of the forthcoming presidential campaign of 1920. Indeed, it is not at all impossible that President Woodrow Wilson will insist upon being the Democratic nominee for a third term as the one and only logical upholder of the League standard.

This being so let us put aside hysteria, hero-worship, abuse and billingsgate. Let us discuss the issue calmly and without bitterness and with an eye to the best interests of the United States and the American people. Above all, let us concede honest difference of opinion between the President and the majority of the United States Senate.

Future of K. of C.

"When will the war activities of the Knights of Columbus be over?" is a question frequently asked. It is answered by the "Columbiad" for March as follows:—

Frequently the question arises, "How long will the Knights of Columbus War Activities continue?" If by this is meant our work in the recent World War, the answer might be given that this particular phase of our activities will be substantially concluded with the return of the forces still overseas, and the final mustering out of the men enlisted for the war, which undoubtedly will be a matter of only a few months. If, however, we take into view the opportunities for rendering service in the post-war period, the possibilities of continuing our service for the men remaining with the colors, the educational, reconstruction and other problems to be met, then obviously it is not so easy to set the limit for our future work in any direction.

The thought has been expressed by members of the Hierarchy and others that this field of Apostolic work should not be abandoned; that after the record that has been made we should not say to our men in the service, "We leave you now to the care of the Y. M. C. A., the Jewish Welfare Board and the Salvation Army," which organizations undoubtedly propose to keep up the work begun during the war.

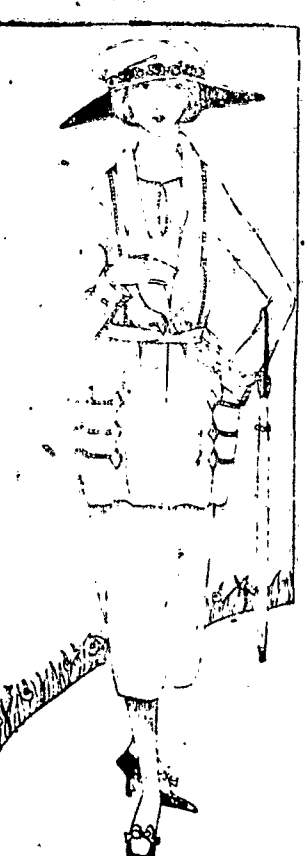
Unquestionably, an important and extensive patriotic work lies before us, and we ought to do our share. It is reasonable to say that the Order will be expected to continue the work undertaken for the temporal and spiritual welfare and comfort of our soldiers, without charge, and without distinction as to race or religion, as there will be certainly opportunity to do for some time to come. It is the Order's privilege, and it should be its duty to see that all its intelligence and force are devoted to the advancement of those ideals which have inspired it to build and strive during all the years of its existence.

'Good news' from Washington! Because of the need of rigid retrenchment the proposed bill to subsidize all state schools out of Federal funds and to discriminate heavily against Catholic schools will not be passed this year or even reported from committee.

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