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Friday, April 2, 1924.

Easter

Once more the Church approaches the joyous feast of Easter, commemorative of the Savior's absolute dominion over Death. The Roman soldiers had crucified Him on the Cross at Calvary; the Pharisees and high priests had reviled Him and the populace had preferred a robber to Him. Both Romans and Jews had seen His body laid in the tomb and a cordon of Roman soldiers had stood as guard to ward off any attempt to steal His body, they recalling the prophecy that the Son of God would rise again on the third day.

In spite of all the bonds and fetters, the Savior left the tomb and so shall we, if we accept His sacrifice, triumph over Death and burst aside the shackles of sin and be taken up to Heaven there to pass an eternity with God the Father.

We as Catholics are able to appreciate the joyous feast of Easter. If we have prepared ourselves by the Lenten penitential fasts and penance our hearts are in position to receive the joyous benefits of a glorious Easter. Let us be thankful we live in the year we do and that the blessings of our Faith have been vouchsafed to us.

Quite So!

Commenting on the wail of the United States Commissioner of Education that 15,000,000 of our people can neither read nor write, John B. Stoll, veteran Indiana editor observes:—

"Illiteracy in itself is by no means the greatest evil that confronts us.... It by no means implies viciousness in a majority of cases. A good many illiterates are gentle, well-behaved, honest and industrious. Between that sort of illiterate and a bumptious, arrogant and vicious 'smart Aleck,' the former is vastly to be preferred to the latter. The illiteracy in this country is not a menace to our institutions."

Mr. Stoll is right. There are "educated fools" by the score in this country. And not all those who wear the croix de guerre or the distinguished service medals can boast a college diploma. And our prisons and penitentiaries house scores of educated and vicious criminals.

"New-time, old-time," will be the puzzle confronting the weary traveler upon reaching a new city or village.

Farmers who refuse to follow the state daylight saving law were not denounced as lawbreakers by William H. Anderson. Why not? Surely the farmers are included in the Protestant churches as William H. so loudly proclaims he represents.

Real profiteering is just as much a form of extortion as any other that can be dreamed of.

Profiteering

We hear and read a great deal about "profiteering" and "unpatriotic." There is a connection between the two terms, strange as it may seem to the unthinking man. The real profiteer is never a patriot. He is never patriotic because the man who deliberately sets out to wrong his fellows and extort from him when he is in no position to fight back or to decline to be bullied is not a friend to his community, to his fellows or to his country.

The man who would cheat his Government in time of stress like war, is certainly not a patriot. And he who would undermine the confidence of his fellows in the honesty of the Government is equally not a patriot. The man who creates fictitious shortages in food and necessary commodities in order to extort inordinate profits creates unrest among his fellows and he who helps to promote unrest is just as unpatriotic as the loudest-mouthed soap box demagogue who eulogizes the red flag of anarchy and would exalt it over the Stars and Strips. The man who wants 200 per cent more rent on the building he has owned for years over and above any expenditure he has made for repairs and taxes and interest just because his tenant either has to pay or be put on the street is as unpatriotic as the I. W. W. who would destroy the works he cannot control absolutely.

To be a patriot implies more than mere lip praise of the Stars and Stripes and on-the-corner protestation of love for one's country. The true patriot is a friend to his fellow-men, he wants to have them get a square deal as he wants to be given a square deal. The true patriot is a Christian gentleman who so lives and acts that he can face his Maker with the inward consciousness of having loved his neighbor as he would himself.

In which class are you listed—patriot or profiteer?

On Guard!

Probably, Assemblyman Slaccer's bill that all children shall attend public or state schools will receive scant attention at this session of the Legislature but it is an indication of a feeling that is growing. It is the same as the brag of William H. Anderson that he speaks for "the Protestant churches." "If these Protestant churches do not repudiate Anderson then the Legislature, and the public as well will be justified in assuming that Anderson does represent the non-Catholic churchmen. Just so, unless repudiation is had from the thinking men and women, Mr. Slaccer's fellow-legislators may be pardoned for assuming that the non-Catholics in New York state favor the abolition of the Catholic schools.

That it would entail an enormous expense to the state and the several communities in the State to supply public school facilities to the thousands of Catholic pupils in New York state will not stay the hands of the bigots any more than did the argument that national and state prohibition would deprive the state of millions of dollars in excise revenue. "We don't pay it, so why should we care?" is their flippant response to the arguments of added expense and diminished revenue. In the case of the Slaccer bill, doubtless, it would be urged that the average Catholic is a heavier taxpayer than his non-Catholic neighbor and hence the tax burden will fall more heavily on the Catholics.

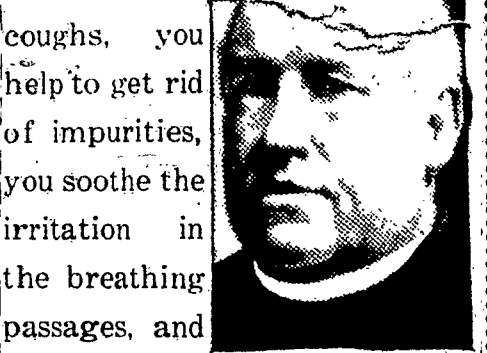
Thank God, however, the bigots and fanatics do not make up the majority in most New York State communities any more than Mr. Anderson represents the majority of the Protestant churches or individual Protestants in his blatant and scurrilous attacks on Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Hayes and the Catholic Church. Nevertheless, we

should be constantly on guard lest the bigots of the Anderson and Slaccer type do not "slip something across" when we are not looking. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

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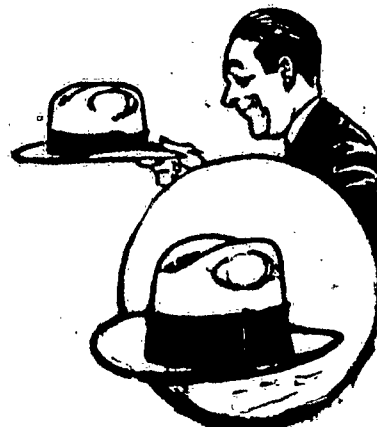
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