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Friday, May 6, 1920.

**Vigilance Needed**

While the Slacker amendment to the New York State Constitution making compulsory the attendance of all children in New York State upon "State Schools"—thus indirectly forbidding our Catholic children to attend our Catholic or parochial schools—was not permitted to pass by the New York State Legislature of 1920, we must not relax our vigilance. Out in Michigan the voters are to pass upon just such a proposition for that state. Bishop Kelly, of Grand Rapids and Gallagher of Detroit are waging a vigorous campaign against it. Bishop Kelly in a recent pastoral challenges the proposition as anti-American because the Catholic schools measure up to the state schools in every particular. Bishop Kelly concludes his letter as follows:

"With all solemnity we warn, not only our people, but the electorate at large, that the element behind this amendment is playing with fire when it seeks to destroy our Catholic school system. No specious appeal of theirs to the will of the majority can make right that which is inherently wrong. . . . No majority is empowered to abrogate a divine law or destroy a natural right. . . . We make no threat. We make no declaration at the present time other than that to affirm, with all the emphasis possible, that we Catholics as an integral factor in the commonwealth of Michigan, protest against this unreasoning invasion of our rights, and appeal to our fellow-citizens as they value their own liberties to be tolerant of the liberties of their neighbors."

**Different**

It will cost the taxpayers of New York State \$20,000,000 more this year in taxes to pay the public school teachers from \$400 to \$600 more in salaries. Of this amount the Catholic taxpayers will stand about one-third, although the teachers in the Catholic schools will not receive any of this increase and the Catholic schools do not cost the non-Catholic taxpayers one cent.

It is claimed that 18,000 public schools in the United States are closed for lack of teachers. We have not heard of a single Catholic school being closed for lack of teachers or lack of funds. Perhaps the fact that we do not have a tremendous overhead expense in the way of educational departments with their large office staffs and the added fact that our teachers are, in the main, religious who have consecrated their lives to God and who are not affected so directly by the high cost of clothing and finery as are the public school teachers.

We are not finding fault that the teachers are to get more money. They are entitled to fair remuneration for their services.

But we do want to emphasize to the foolish bigots who are clamoring for the closing of Catholic schools and the consequent necessity of building more schools to take care of the thousands of Catholic pupils to be added to the public school population and the many more teachers who would be needed, just what would happen if the bigots' programme were to prevail.

Just think what would happen if the Catholic schools were closed in Rochester and the 14,000 Catholic pupils had to be provided with school buildings and teachers! Just think what the added expense to the taxpayers would be!

It is estimated that there are 1,701,213 Catholic children in attendance upon our Catholic schools. Figuring on the average cost per pupil at present in the public schools, the Catholic parochial schools save the taxpayers of the United States \$62,293,420 per year or \$527,000 a day!

These are figures to ponder well by non-Catholics who are possessed of fair minds and average common sense.

**Protestant Friends**

The following appeal to Protestant ministers in the United States where Eamon de Valera is to visit is illuminative and a crushing rebuke to the Carsonite Orangemen:—

We are not asking you to change your opinions, but we feel we have the right to ask that before you give utterance to them, you assure yourself for the sake of moral probity as well as intellectual honesty, that your opinions are based upon a fair study of the case from both sides. Thus only can an honest conviction be arrived at.

We invite you to hear President De Valera—to accord him the same courtesy that the Irish people accorded to Benjamin Franklin when he advocated the cause of the American colonies in Ireland.

Accompanying President de Valera is the Rev. J. A. M. Irwin, M. A., minister of the Presbyterian congregation at Killead, County Antrim in Ulster. Dr. Irwin is chairman of the sustentation fund of the Presbyterian General Assembly, manager of four national schools. He is, therefore, competent to speak on the so-called religious issue in Ireland.

The committee on arrangements in your city will be glad to see that you have a private interview with Mr. De Valera if you so desire. We ask that you avail yourself of this opportunity for the sake of justice and fair play.

We are fraternally yours,  
Norman Thomas, 118 East 23rd Street, New York, Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Owen R. Lovejoy, Charities Building, New York, Minister of the Congregational Church.

William Benjamin Spofford, St. George's Church, Chicago, Minister of the Episcopal Church.

G. S. Lackland, Grace M. E. Church, Denver, Col., Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Maurice Francis Murphy, Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Jonathan C. Day, Minister of the Presbyterian Church, New York City.

Rt. Rev. Frederic E. J. Lloyd, Bishop of the Orthodox Church, Chicago, Ill.

Roger Sullivan, the democratic leader of Illinois, who died recently, aged 60 years, leaving an estate of about \$1,500,000, forty years ago was receiving \$1.25 a day as a machinist's helper.

Question of import: Will Woodrow Wilson be a candidate for a third term?

Query: Will Colonel Theodore Roosevelt ever succeed to the place held in public esteem by his lamented father?

**Keeping Step**

It is plain that the new English ambassador to the United States, Sir Auckland Geddes, is an apt scholar in the accepted art of European diplomacy. He begins his mission with seolding all Americans who dare to take any interest in the Irish question. That is purely a domestic affair of the British Empire and outsiders must not "butt in". Possibly that is the accepted British view and the Britons have a perfect right to their opinion. But Mr. Lloyd George and the other advocates of the League of Nations have made us believe that the World War was fought that small nations should have the right of self-determination as to how they should be governed and also as to whether they would be governed by a super lord or whether they should be independent. We in the United States have accepted this view and have manifested sympathy with the Armenians, Jugo-Slavs, Greeks, Poles and so on and it is not a matter of surprise that we of Irish ancestry should take a friendly interest in "Erin's Isle".

Of course, Mr. Balfour, Viscount Grey and many other English statesmen are mightily interested in cementing an alliance between England and this country with the hope that in the near future a great English speaking alliance shall be formed to which Italians, Poles, French, Swedes, Danes, Norwegians and the rest may contribute here in the United States but they must be re-born as Anglo-Saxons and accept the dictum that only the English people ever contributed to the advance of art, civilization and letters.

Possibly, the majority of Americans may like to subscribe to this programme but we doubt it. Meanwhile Sir Geddes may keep on in his course. It amuses him and we can stand it even if we do not agree with him and do not subscribe to his programme.

Quite aptly says the Schenectady "Union"—Old clothes are like old friends. They fit the mood. You do not have to be particular about ruffling their feelings. If they are subjected to misuse, the quality which is in them brings them back into shape. With no immaculately pristine glory to preserve, an old coat, like an old friend, may be subjected to the weather. Should it stand rain and sunshine without fading, should it endure misuse and neglect without sagging, it shows its thoroughbred nature, which is quality that folk these days do not pay enough attention to, either in their clothes or their friendships.

If the 2.75 bill makes no provision for manufacture, of what good is it?

Assemblyman Harry B. Crowley has demonstrated that he has the courage of his convictions.

The baseball season is on the way.

The bigots who seem to believe there is a constitutional provision against election of a Catholic to the Presidency of the United States, are not disposed to Governor Smith as New York State's "favorite son" at San Francisco.

The Albany Argus, whose president was one of the leaders in the move to expel the Socialist assemblymen, every day publishes half a dozen or so extracts from newspaper editorials condemning the expulsion.

William C. Page may now change his unofficial title of "Duke of Wheatland" to "Prince of Monroe."

Reports say that in little Holland today there are over one thousand young men preparing for the priesthood.

In all New England, 100 years ago, there were only six Catholic churches.

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