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Friday, July 2, 1920.

Marriage a Farce

In Dakota they have passed a law which will facilitate free love and illicit doings. This law provides that a natural child have all the inheritance rights after the father's death as the children born in lawful wedlock. Aside from the splendid temptation this law holds out for blackmail, it is unjust to the wife and the legitimate children.

While there is no argument against the proposition that a man should be made to provide for his offspring, nevertheless a law which would divide the property accumulated by help of the wife, perhaps property which she owned when she married her husband, with children begotten by another is unjust in both a moral and legal sense. Such a law would operate as a bar against marriages and would put a premium on free and promiscuous passion. In effect it is not much less objectionable than the community use of women established by the Russian Soviet. In effect it would legitimize Mormon polygamy and would abolish the crime of bigamy. Turning to the religious side, it would obliterate the sacrament of matrimony and make marriage a farce.

The Brooklyn "Eagle" very truly says:—For the first time in all the judicial history of the United States, a court has formally recognized a natural child as having absolutely equal rights with legitimate children to care and support from the father, absolutely equal rights as an heir in case of his death. This ruling, which gives the name of the father to the illegitimate child, was made by a court in Fargo, North Dakota, and it was the only ruling possible under the state law as drawn and enacted by the Townley party in control of North Dakota. This statute provides that the claim must be made before the child is a year old. It must be judicially proven. But having been proven, paternity having been established, equality is granted as a matter of course.

Marriage as a social institution serves effectively to regulate inheritance. Monogamy fixes the passing on of fortunes. The lawful wife is assured that her children will inherit. The Ishmaels must make fame and fortune for themselves if they can. Often they do.

North Dakota wipes out this principle. By direct corollary it goes farther. Without being a bigamist a man may have two families or three families among whom he must divide his earnings or his income. This might not matter so much where only the very rich were concerned, but the very rich are a minority, and the law is no respecter of persons.

We are conscious of no exaggeration in saying that such a law makes marriage a farce in the Commonwealth where it pre-

vails. Why have any ceremony at all, if the ceremony meant nothing? Whether holy matrimony is a sacrament or not, it is sacred in the eyes of Anglo-Saxon civilization, and the North Dakota innovation is a shameful blot on the decency of America.

We are exceedingly sorry to see the Times-Union of this city taking high ground in favor of the Dakota travesty on decency.

Others Praise

Every day our non-Catholic friends are coming to realize what the Catholic church stands for both as in a religious and also on civic topics that engage the attention of the thinking world.

In his annual address to the state council of the Knights of Columbus of 1920, State Deputy Michael J. Larkin of Rome, said:—The teachings of Lenin and Trotzky must not be substituted for the inspirations which have come down to us from Washington and Lincoln. Americanism, not bolshevism must guide us along the pathway of true reconstruction and advancement. The red flag of destructive force must not be substituted for the Star Spangled Banner.

Commenting upon Mr. Larkin's address, his fellow townsman, Harold J. Richardson, senior, state warden of the New York State Free Masons, is quoted as follows:—If that is the spirit of the Knights of Columbus, they are working for the same goal which the masonic fraternity is striving to reach. In the face of those sentiments, certainly we Masons are not so bigoted as to say that no good thing comes out of Rome. To my mind, that platform constitutes a common ground upon which the Knights of Malta may well meet. In such a grand work as that, let neither jealousy nor prejudice keep us apart. There's a place for co-operation and mutual helpfulness. Let's bury the past and go to it with them, so be it the effort result in good to country. This nation was founded in the interest of democracy and religious freedom—not for Masons alone. Regardless of what we believe, we have common interests and a mutual attachment; for we all love the flag.

Can our present day duty be better presented than in the eloquent words and sound thoughts of these men, each the spokesman of a strong fraternal organization? What scion of America is unwilling to drink a draught of nectar of Americanism and fraternity? Let America drink deep of these sentiments and inspirations and profit by them. Creedal or racial animosities and intolerance have no place of abode in the life of any man or woman worthy of the appellation of American citizenship—the most priceless right of today. The bigot is the most despicable enemy of American institutions and American welfare. Why tolerate him?

We do not need such praise. We do our duty. But it is pleasant to have our efforts to advance and upbuild our American citizenship recognized.

Who is John F. Thomas of Rochester? According to press despatches he told the delegates to the American Bar Association in Montreal that the people of the United States are not interested in the Irish question and that the average American citizen regards it as none of his business whether small nations are accorded self-determination as to their form of government.

Claud Harper, specialist at Purdue University claims the high cost of clothing is not the result of the high cost of the raw material. It is not the farmers' share that makes clothing high, he says. The consumer knows that he pays the price and that interests him more than how the risk is distributed.



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JULY 1st, 1920

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Mortgages	\$3,476,825 00	Deposits	\$5,075,600 32
Promissory Notes secured by Liberty Bonds	80,405 00	Dividends Accrued and Other Assets	19,009 20
Liberty Bonds	525,000 00	Surplus, Market Value	318,684 02
Other Bonds, Market Value	981,417 25		
Banking House	75,000 00		
Other Real Estate	6,122 59		
Interest Accrued on Investment and Other Assets	95,595 33		
Cash on Hand and in Banks	172,928 37		
Total	\$5,413,293 54	Total	\$5,413,293 54

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