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Friday, July 16, 1920.

**Our Object Lesson**

There is a great lesson in the quadrennial campaign of 1920 for the presidency of the United States—for the world at large. It is proof positive of the equality of opportunity that is the heritage of every American citizen. No hereditary prince or potentate can hand on the sceptre of succession to an imbecile son or crazy lunatic of a relative.

In war times the American people passed to their President greater powers than were possessed by King or Kaiser or Emperor knowing full well that when the emergency passed these powers could be recalled, yes even the President himself could be displaced.

And that was what happened. The quadrennial conventions to nominate two men, one of whom would be President of the United States for four years from March 4, 1921, were held. His own party did not even renominate the War President. They set aside his son-in-law, although a man of high ability and proven experience in public affairs. Instead they named as standard bearer an American citizen who had risen from the status of a poor boy, largely by his own efforts, to a commanding position in business and newspaper circles and then was chosen governor of his state.

The other great political party chose as its standard bearer another self-made citizen, another rural newspaper publisher, who had come from the ranks to be a United States Senator for his State. And the great War President, who had for three years wielded more power than any King, or Kaiser or Emperor of the generation, in a few months will retire to the status of a private citizen of the Republic and one of these self-made men will be installed as his successor.

**In Justice**

Says the Union and Times: "Franklin Roosevelt, the Democratic candidate for the Vice-Presidency, was one of those who kept Billy Sheehan from the United States Senate. Billy's friends have not forgotten it."

If our contemporary wishes to rally Billy Sheehan's friends, well and good. But if it is recalling the United States senatorial fight of 1911 with a view to intimating that Franklin Roosevelt, then a New York State senator is a big-ot it should finish its story. Mr. Roosevelt voted in the final and deciding ballot for James A. O'Gorman who was elected United States senator and served his term. And we never have heard Senator O'Gorman's Catholicism questioned.

We hold no brief for Franklin D. Roosevelt and we were as sore as any of "Blue-eyed Billy's" friends when he went down in defeat but we never have laid any more blame for that defeat at Franklin Roosevelt's door any more than we did to the then Governor of the State, the then state superintendent of public works or to half a dozen supposedly close Irish friends of Sheehan himself—whose own personal ambitions prevented complete devotion to the democratic caucus choice. And it may be recalled that the men who elected James A. O'Gorman United States Senator in 1911 in Albany were largely responsible for the nomination of Roosevelt for vice-president in 1920 at San Francisco.

**Went To Mass**

Those of us who have enjoyed intimate relations with Tammany men like Governor Al. Smith, Surrogate James Foley, Justice Victor J. Dowling, chairman Edward F. Boyle, to say nothing of Mr. Murphy himself will not be surprised at the following story in the Milwaukee "Catholic Citizen", but we are glad to have these traits pressed to home to the people of South and West:—

"There was a pleasant and unscheduled break a week ago last Sunday, in the western journey of the Tammany Special enroute to the Democratic national convention. By wire arrangements were made for early mass at St. Joseph's Church in the little typically southwestern town of Springer, N. M. The train stopped from 7.00 a. m. until 9.00 a. m.; and more than a hundred men, women and children from the train attended the services. Father Devoie, who is a veteran of the French army in the world war, and whose parish extends for three hundred miles, embracing fifteen missions, celebrated mass. He said he was a Democrat and liked Tammany. He had come to America to aid in furthering Democratic principles as well as to preach the Gospel. The collection was by far the largest ever taken up at the little church in the cowboy country."

**Reminder**

It is well right here and now to repeat and keep before us the following reminder as expressed in a despatch from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to the Catholic News Service:—Bishop E. D. Kelly of Grand Rapids, in his latest public reply to the bigots who are attempting to proscribe the Catholic schools of Michigan reminds the people of the commonwealth that their state university had its beginning as a private school, one of whose founders was a Catholic priest.

This priest was Father Richard, who brought the first printing press to Michigan and established the first newspaper in the territory. "Together with Rev. Mr. Monteith, a Presbyterian minister, he founded a school in Detroit, and was professor in the same," says Bishop Kelly. "This school formed the foundation of Michigan University, which is its legal successor."

Bishop Kelly appeals to the sense of fairness and justice of the people of Michigan to defeat the schemes of the bigots who are seeking to amend the state constitution so as to require all children between the ages of six and 16 to attend public schools.

"Only at the expense of your own liberties can you barter those of your brother," Bishop Kelly wrote. The letter was read in all the Catholic churches of the Grand Rapids diocese and has been widely circulated.

Fourth of July is over. Next celebration in Rochester is the Horse Show in conjunction with the Industrial Exposition.

**Nominations Made**

After all the fuss and furor, all the crimination and recrimination, all the fulminations of Bryan and Johnson, of Reed and Carter Glass, both the great political parties nominated compromise presidential candidates, men of average ability and attainments, two newspaper publishers, the supermen being relegated to the rear temporarily at least.

Both parties accepted platforms that are distinctly "compromise" in their nature. In fact some radical talkers are unkind enough to charge that both parties "straddled" the wet and dry issue. Senator Johnson, the bitter ender, avers that he is perfectly satisfied with the Republican League of Nations plank and so is ex-President Taft, who is supposed to be a mild reservationist. President Wilson is reported as delighted with the nomination of Governor Cox and so is Senator Reed, the administration's most cherished rival.

While the rival politicians may fume and sputter and make faces at each other, the people may possess their souls in patience. Unless there are unforeseen developments, it makes no great difference who is elected President in November. There will be an honest, average American inaugurated on March 4, 1921.

There are many persons in private, public and industrial life who could well practice the advice of the Toronto "Catholic Register":—"Don't just put in the day, but see how much you can put into the day."

Johnson, Borah, Hoover, Wood, none of them would even hint he could support or work for anybody for President except himself. But that was before the convention. Every mother's son of them have assured Harding they are for him and that if he does not win the country will go to the dogs immediately if not sooner. And yet the New York "World" was sure Hoover was an ideal Democrat and Arthur Brisbane and William R. Hearst were sure Johnson would at once bolt and lead a third party to victory if the Chicago convention did not recognize him as the only savior of the Nation!

As we expected Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty promptly punctured the newspaper rumor set afloat at the San Francisco convention that because Colonel P. H. Callahan, of Louisville, who had headed several of the orders important committees was present at a conference called the aid one of his personal and political friends, the Knights of Columbus, as an organization were backing that particular candidate. Said Mr. Flaherty "I am the head of the Knights of Columbus and I am in duty bound to state that no man, whether a member of the Knights of Columbus or not, has a right to bring the name of the K. of C. into any political situation. As an organization we have no part in politics, never have had and never will have. We are not in the campaign in any way, shape or form. We have members of the organization active in both parties, in their capacity as private citizens—that is all."

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