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Friday, August 27, 1920.

Rather Foolish

Lloyd George and the other British politicians are making themselves ridiculous by their silly tactics regarding Archbishop Mannix. If they disapproved of his position on the Irish matter why did they not forbid him landing in England altogether? But to send a fleet of destroyers to the steamship to kidnap the Australian prelate only served to emphasize his importance and to serve notice on the world that the British Government, with all its power, had not subdued Ireland and feared the effect of the presence of one Catholic prelate from another part of the Empire.

To make a world-famous martyr out of a citizen is not essentially a wonderful achievement in statesmanship.

Nail On The Head

Half-baked and shilly-shally compromised legislation has become so prevalent that the public accepts it as a matter of course until some one statute proves unworkable or annoying or in some way interferes with what one is pleased to consider his personal rights or liberties.

Those worthy persons who have labored for years to keep boys and girls at school until they have acquired a fair amount of education were forced to accept half a loaf in the shape of a law which compels boys and girls, who go to work before they are eighteen years old to attend either night school or day half time schools which are to be provided by the employers, at least the opportunity to attend must be provided by the employers. According to the Post Express this compromise is working badly because the employers have no adequate idea how to proceed. The Post Express says:—

"The employment of the person under eighteen years will in many cases be attended with risk unless the employer has a large establishment and carries upon his pay roll a sufficient clerical staff to trace out the pedigrees and attainments of all the youth under the factory roof and keep the firm in good standing with the law. It is not necessary to speak of the additional burden upon the educational authorities of the city—although the delay in getting the law into operation proves conclusively that it is a burden; the law as it stands is one of those half-digested ideas which will keep piling up one on another until such day as the taxpayer wakes and asserts that he has some rights in directing the processes of his city and his state, even though the parent may long have become so spineless that he is willing to forego all rights and privileges in bringing up his own children."

The movement for a new Catholic high school for boys in Rochester grows apace.

Pecksniffian

Those who have read Harold Bell Wright's novels and recall the almost sickening correctness of his heroes and heroines, how they folded their hands over their breasts in public advertisement of their priggish goodness and the afflicted horror displayed at the smallest deviation from the pharisaical standard of better-than-thou, the announcement that he has forsaken the wife who toiled at his side in the early and poorly rewarded days when he was a poor clergyman, because "she could not sympathize with or aid me in my literary career" thereby perpetrating "mental cruelty" and has taken up with a divorced widow who, presumably, will furnish the necessary inspiration for another crop of novels of a sprightlier, if not as correct, priggish style.

Mr. Wright seems to be in the same class as Mr. Corey of United States steel fame and "Mabelle" O'Neil the actor never was forgotten.

If the decent people of the United States disapprove such a constant attendant upon Holy cads as Harold Bell Wright his next books will not rank among the "best sellers."

It is high time that the American people made manifest public disapproval of rotten fiction just as positively as they condemn rotten plays.

Labor Day

In about another week the people of the United States will be observing Labor Day. It will be of more than ordinary significance this year because of the fact that Labor has been rewarded for the last four years in a monetary way more than in years before and because it is conceded that Labor is in a position of vantage politically and otherwise if the very position of vantage does not lead to arbitrary demands and bring on a class war between Labor and Capital fraught with disastrous consequences for the participants and the general public as well.

Railroad employees who have been raised in pay for the third time in as many years shrug their shoulders when complaint is made of the 40 per cent advance in freight rates and passenger riding and say: "we should work, we travel on free passes." But the freight advance is added to everything these employees buy and so their own advance in wages is rapidly absorbed. Then they will be after another increase.

These and other incidents and sidelights are inviting the anxious query as to whether Labor and Capital are to reach an amicable understanding or is the present trend of events to continue until a Soviet Government is advocated in the United States.

Bigots will not be welcome guests at the Executive Mansion of New York State no matter who is elected Governor this fall. Everybody knows where "Al" Smith stands and Judge Miller's wife and seven daughters are Catholics.

The many friends of Arthur O'Leary will regret his untimely death. Indications pointed to higher honors in store for him but God took him to Himself. His wife and sorrowing relatives have the sympathy of a host of friends.

Some one rises to remark that if Jimmie Cox is elected President he will not be the first Ohio President but the first Democratic President credited to Ohio—at least since the war. Grover Cleveland was from New York and Woodrow Wilson from New Jersey.

If only there was a great, wealthy Catholic publishing house that could employ the Catholic writers of today who are now forced to market their literary wares with non-Catholic publishers.

James O'Neil

Many of the older theatergoers who had been delighted in the days gone by James O'Neil's presentation of Edmond Dantes as Monte Cristo and in other roles, read with surprise and regret of his death a few days ago in a Connecticut Hospital. He had not appeared on the stage in some time and many of his old admirers had thought him as dead.

While not a great actor such as Booth, Barrett and Irving, possibly because he had the misfortune to please the public in Monte Cristo and so had no opportunity to test the public approval of the heavier and more exacting roles, nevertheless O'Neil's fine presence, his sympathetic treatment of his roles, and his well known clean and wholesome personality won for him an enduring admiration and real affection.

On the part of the ardent devotees of the play. Moreover James States steel fame and "Mabelle" O'Neil the actor never was forgotten.

James O'Neil, Catholic. He was a constant attendant upon Holy Mass and frequented the Sacraments. So many actors and authors, who are willing and anxious to be listed as Catholics in order to attract Catholic dollars, are lukewarm in practice of their faith, that O'Neil's life is a shining contrast. May his soul rest in peace.

Work—Success

An unnamed exchange prints this well-chosen lay sermon on "Work the Recipe of Success:—Too often we hear working spoken of as distasteful and something which takes the joy out of life. Too often we see references before and because it is conceded that Labor is in a position of vantage politically and otherwise if the very position of vantage does not lead to arbitrary demands and bring on a class war between Labor and Capital fraught with disastrous consequences for the participants and the general public as well.

Those who look upon their daily work as a burden need a new conception of the position of toil. Instead of constantly being disgruntled because they must work should come to realize that work is the greatest privilege we have along the pathway of life.

Toil—honest toil of every variety—is responsible for everything of a material nature we enjoy. Is it essential to provide us pleasure as well as to produce the things we eat and wear. Moreover, the world would be a dismal place were it not for the fun most persons got out of work. It would be a barren waste, without food or human life, but for the necessary work which occupies nearly everyone's time.

To select one group of workers and to call them "toilers" is unfair. It's a mistake to make those who toil with their hands believe they are unfortunate. America offers great opportunities to everyone. But we owe America honest work to be worthy of her blessings.

Let us be glad to toil and learn to glorify work.

Poor Ponzi! He should have had his office in Wall street New York instead of Boston. Perhaps, he will be like Charles W. Morse, but probably not as he has no wife with social connections.

Colonel House is qualifying for end man in a minstrel show. He tells European sympathizers that either Cox or Harding will be elected President. He probably added the next President will be from Ohio.

In place of buying all the freak magazines why not have at least one Catholic periodical on the family reading table?

The Syracuse "Sun" is nothing if not plain spoken. It points out that "No one needs to go to Jericho or anywhere else in these days to fall among thieves."

Truth says indignantly:—How much longer are we going to allow ourselves to be branded as inferior clay to our Protestant fellow-citizens? The fault is in our own supineness that we are underlings."

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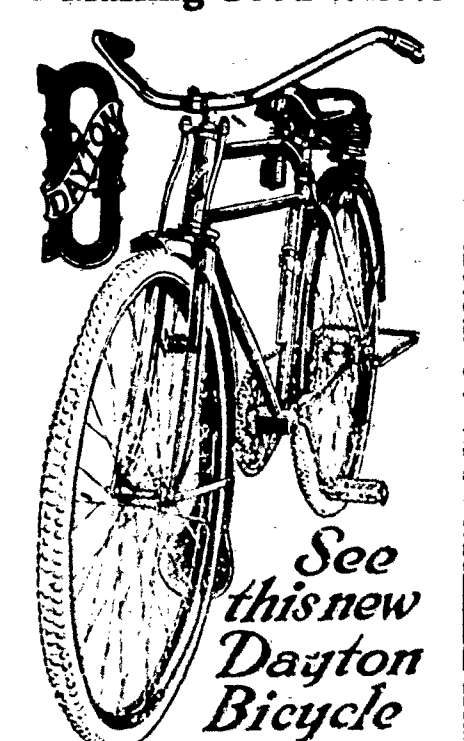
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