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Friday, Sept. 24, 1936.

They Are Needed

"Why do we build parish schools?" is a question often asked. And, we regret to say, not always by non-Catholics.

Rev. Joseph S. Hogan, the well-known Jesuit Father, writing in "America" gives this answer:

In a story written some years ago there is a scene where a little child meets a young man, and placing her hand in his, she says simply, "Please, sir, take me home." These little children in baptism have the longing for their eternal home implanted in their hearts, and out of the depths of those same young hearts they cry: "Take me home. Lead my steps aright to the great home, where many mansions are. Take my thoughts to their rightful home; lift them up, guide them, feed them on all that is pure and beautiful and true. Take my imagination home, take it to the realms where nothing may stain its purity, mar its beauty or sully its innocence. Take my heart home, that its every beat may throb in unison with the great Heart of Him who loves the hearts of children. That is the heart-cry of the Catholic child. Will any Catholic father or mother say that cry is answered in the public schools?"

Can We Take a Chance

We are not tampering with the child's life. We are not making an experiment. We have a definite plan, built on a rock-bottom foundation: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven." You may take a chance on the child's faith; you may put the things of this world first, and let the child grow up on a weak foundation. But Catholic fathers and mothers should think long and hard before they do this. Let them remember that the child is flesh of their flesh and bone of their bone; that they have held that child over the baptismal font. God's seal is on him, he is marked for the Kingdom of Heaven. For the poor passing things of this life, will they risk his losing sight of that kingdom? Remember who it was that said, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?"

Whether we like it or not, National Prohibition is an accomplished fact and cannot be repealed except by concurrent action of thirty-six State Legislatures. But the provisions of the Volstead Act as to what constitutes intoxicating beverages may be modified or added to by Congress when it convenes.

Sir Auckland Geddes might better go slow in his obvious effort to make the American people an annex to the British Empire. The Americans will not be fooled all the time. Beside, the war is over.

Primaries

While it was to be expected that there would be differences of opinion in the primary contests all over the country and also that in New York state the candidates indorsed, designated or suggested by the party organizations were several unexpected and, in one instance at least, unfortunate results.

In Georgia, the democratic primary made the notorious arch-bigot, Tom Watson, its candidate for United States Senator. Ordinarily, in Georgia a democratic nomination is equivalent to an election. If that precedent prevails this year, then the Georgia representative in the United States Senate will be a bitter hater of the Catholic Church and may be depended upon to attack in season and out of season. Perhaps, there may be enough independent, fair-minded men and women in Georgia to elect the Watson's opponent. We sincerely hope so. It would be a national disgrace to have Tom Watson in the United States senate; aside from his bigoted tendencies.

Here in New York State F. Thompson, of Niagara, backed by the Anti-Saloon League rolled up nearly 150,000 votes in the republican primary against Judge Miller the designated gubernatorial candidate. Mrs. Ella Boole and George Henry Payne made little headway for United States Senator against Senator James W. Wadsworth. Evidently the phesied avalance of suffragist women against Mr. Wadsworth did not materialize. The same would be true in the democratic contest made by Mayor Lunn of Schenectady against Lieutenant-Governor Harry Walker for United States Senator.

Nominations now being made, the political eye is turned toward election day in November. Let the best men win!

Not Constructive

Professor Draper, was it not, who said that private interpretation and lack of authority made Protestantism unconstructive and ultimately lead to its disintegration while the authority and power to enforce it in the Catholic Church made for perpetuity. If we quote correctly, Professor Draper said:—

"It was in the nature of Protestantism from its outset that it was not constructive. Unlike its great antagonist it contained no fundamental principle that could combine distant communities and foreign countries together.

"It originated in dissent, and was embodied by separation. It could not possess a concentrated power, nor recognize one Apostolic man who might compress its disputes, harmonize its powers, wield it as a mass.

"For the attainment of his aims, the Protestant had only wishes, the Catholic had a will.

"The Church of England, of Scotland, or of any other Protestant nation, undoubtedly discharged its duty excellently well for the community in which it was placed, but, at the most, it was only a purely local institution, altogether insignificant in comparison with the great old Church, hoary and venerable with age, which had seen every government and every institution in Europe come into existence, many of them at its bidding, which had extirpated paganism from the Roman Empire, compelled the Caesars to obey its mandates, precipitated the whole white race upon the Holy Land—that great old Church, once more than imperial sovereign of Christendom, and at which the most respectable national church was only a fragment of a fragment."

Now that suffrage is assured fact Cardinal Gibbons advises that Catholic women should avail themselves of the privilege to vote.

Interference

Aside from the bigoted tinge of a number of the supporters of the Smith-Towner bill now pending in Congress under which all schools and educational institutions that failed to meet the approval of the Federal Commissioner of Education in all particulars could be closed, William D. Guthrie, the eminent authority on constitutional law, finds that the Smith-Towner bill is an invasion of state's rights. Mr. Guthrie writes as follows to Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes:—

"Under the constitution of the United States no power has been delegated to congress to regulate or control education in the several States." That subject was left within the exclusive domain and governmental duty and responsibility of the several states, and congress cannot constitutionally regulate or control education in the states without violating the reserved rights of the states and the fundamental principle of local self-government.

"The provisions of the Smith-Towner bill would, in my judgment, inevitably involve an attempt at interference in the local affairs of the states, and the policy of so-called federalization of education, once established, would lead to an agitation and demand for a constitutional amendment in order to vest adequate and effective power of centralized supervision and control in congress. Any such increase of federal power and diminution of state authority, responsibility and duty would be prejudicial to the best interests of the nation and of the states. The creation of a new executive department to be known as the department of education with a secretary of education at the head thereof and as such a member of the President's cabinet, would bring the subject of education into politics and constantly pursued efforts to control the patronage of the department in the interest of the political party then in power.

The Other Side

There has been much discussion, much of it by non-Catholic editors who show by their disquisitions that they know little or nothing of Catholic theology—perhaps they could not be taught and again, perhaps they would not care to be informed correctly—as to whether Mayor McSwiney's "hunger strike", as the vernacular has it, may be classed as the heroic act of a martyr or as attempted suicide. Father Vaughan, the English priest, takes the suicide view. Bishop Turner, of Buffalo, not so long ago a professor in the Catholic University of Washington, takes opposite view to the non-Catholic secular editors and Father Vaughan. Bishop Turner says:—"Father Vaughan finds himself on one side of the question. Others of us are on the other side. Catholic theology teaches that a man may deliberately expose his life when a great good is to be expected for the cause which he represents. A soldier may deliberately set fire to a store of munitions lest they fall into the hands of the enemy when he knows that he himself will be surely killed in the explosion. This is the case of the mayor of Cork. He thinks his country's cause would be benefited although he knows it means his certain death.

"An interesting phase of Father Vaughan's statement is that it bears out the assertion made publicly here in Buffalo last December that the worst enemies of Irish Independence are the English Catholics. It should be clear from this that the Irish question is not one of religion, but of humanity and justice, and surely every lover of these is in sympathy with the heroic man whose daily struggle with unconsciousness and final collapse is a matter of interest to every American.

"England has never so injured her cause as when she allowed this poignant appeal to come home to us who are always ready to lay aside established standards when humanity and elementary justice are concerned. MacSwiney has done more for Ireland than all the orators. By his suffering, he has touched the heart of America."

If anarchists or persons who sympathize with anarchistic violence perpetrated the awful horror in New York last week, they should be speedily put where they cannot repeat their dastardly act.

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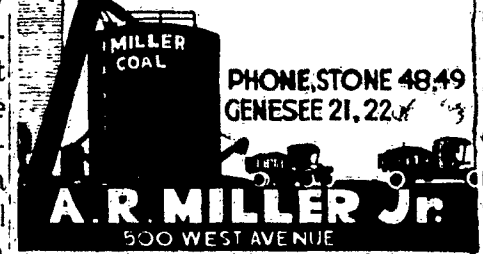
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