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Will It Be Always So?

Even if the speech were made in the heart of a political campaign in the hope of influencing votes away from both the leading candidates for the presidency and to a third party candidate, it is refreshing to find such sentences as these in a speech delivered to a prohibition gathering in Rochester by Clinton N. Howard:—
"The grand old church that for ages has stood like the rock of Gibraltar in defense of the martial tie and the inviolability of the marriage contract should resent this attempt to put a man with two living wives according to the standard of Catholic theology and the teachings of Christ into the White House as the first citizen of the nation. It is a challenge to every wife and mother in America.

"We are told that the private life of the candidate has no place in the campaign and it is not the business of the American people. My friends, the private life of a public man is the business of every moral citizen of the nation. The question of private morality may not have been a proper question for scrutiny or discussion by the people, when only the men were people; but it does have a place when the mothers and wives and virtuous daughters of the republic have become people within the meaning of citizenship and are responsible for the moral standards of American life which prevail in the White House at Washington.

"Now that the womanhood of the nation have been recognized as citizens and share equal responsibility for the moral standards that are to prevail in the life of the nation, they have the right to inquire in the event of his election, which one of the two living wives of candidate Cox shall be recognized as the first lady of the land. It is pertinent to raise the question whether a member of the divorce colony shall be elevated to the presidency. We cannot afford to have another social scandal in the White House at Washington.

"But it would not be fair to Mr. Cox to go into the matters that relate to his private life without also asking whether the time has come when the divorced wife of the other candidate, (Senator Harding) shall be elevated to be the first lady of the land."

William P. Larkin who was in charge of the K. of C. overseas work has been appointed by Mayor Hylan as a trustee for four years of the College of the City of New York.

David Goldstein is a tireless worker in the cause of Truth and Justice.

The "Columbian" thinks that what the world needs is an adequate supply of common sense.

Not in New York

While the following editorial from a secular contemporary presents appalling figures it is pleasant to be able to state that in New York state the persistent campaigns for "Safety First" by the State Industrial Commission, Chambers of Commerce, Safety Councils and other organizations of public spirited citizens, are day by day reducing the number of accidents in industrial plants:—
There are many fields in which the United States leads the world. In most of them Americans can find pride. But there is one in which the leadership brings shame instead of enthusiasm.

The United States leads all other countries equally advanced industrially and socially in the percentage of industrial deaths. So reports one of the largest life insurance companies.
"There are," states its report, compiled after careful investigation, "not less than 85,000 deaths from accidental causes each year in this country, or at the rate of 81 per 100,000 of population. If we could reduce our accident death rate to that of England and Wales, we could have only 44,000 deaths from accident. We have, therefore, an excess of 41,000 deaths each year because conditions of life and work in this country are more hazardous than they are in England."
This is a kind of "leadership" of which America should do her best to get rid.

Housing Laws

While the press reports are rather meager and it will be necessary to study the text of the laws, it is apparent that the special session of the New York State Legislature, summoned by Governor Smith, has attempted to deal with the serious housing situation in the State in two particulars; first to prevent profiteering landlords from summarily dispossessing tenants who have nowhere else to go; second to stimulate new building especially in New York City. The Post Express prints this summary and criticism of the new legislation enacted:—
"It would appear, that the machinery for the summary dispossession of tenants has been changed or practically set aside in all the cities of the state except Rochester and Buffalo. It seems also that while taxes have been remitted for ten years on new constructions for residential purposes begun before April, 1922, and completed within two years, the law applies only to tenement houses at least 4 stories high and not to dwellings for the occupancy of a simple family. The law is therefore disappointing, and is not of equal application to all sections of the state inasmuch as small communities have no need for four-story tenements. What influences were operative to emasculate the law in this respect and to except certain cities from certain provisions will doubtless appear in time. Congress and the Federal Trade commission are asked by resolution to put an embargo on the exportation of building materials and to give them priority in transportation over all other freight but coal. Congress is unlikely to do either of these things or to do anything in time enough to help the existing situation. The joint committee on housing will now proceed to investigate the charges that a conspiracy of dealers in building materials is keeping high prices up. The special session appears to have cost the state about \$325,000.

The Times-Union lists Thomas F. Fennell as a member of the up-state Public Service Commission. Governor Smith did not re-appoint Judge Fennell but named his then secretary, George Van Namee, to the place. He then appointed Jeremiah F. Connor, Oneida, as his secretary.

Which?

A local contemporary the day after the special session of the Legislature expelled the Socialists said:—The legislature of the Empire state is no place for men who can reasonably be accused of a Bolshevik taint. Constituencies dishonor themselves which do not choose for such positions able and upright citizens, patriotic and clean in public and private life.

Two days later after Charles E. Hughes issued his statement that the ouster of the Socialist assemblymen was an outrage, the same paper went on to say:—
Judge Hughes takes the position that our Constitution and our laws do not justify their exclusion. Districts have a right to be represented by the men of their choice, even by ignorant men who hold untenable ideas, so long as their personal unfitness is not alleged and proved. And Mr. Hughes is wise enough to know that errors which could be distorted, armed by reason thrive on persecution, and that the fair and tolerant discussion of mistaken views corrects them where coercion would fail.

Oh! the nation needs wise men who take broad views of things to manage its public affairs. Narrow-minded men, bigots who would force conformity on the rest of us always get states into trouble. An evil remedy for an evil is worse than no remedy at all. Anything that is gained at the loss of liberty is a loss. All the material prosperity earth can offer is a poor exchange for restrictions on free moral agency. Not even moral regularity of life imposed by force is of the slightest value. State prisons compel it, but what is it worth? The nation needs men able to lead it on practical paths to desirable ends; men big enough to realize how things that should be done can be done.
Just which position does our contemporary wish to be judged upon!

Bigots Lose!

According to the press despatches, the voters of Michigan rose in their might and defeated for nomination as Governor the man who proposed the constitutional amendment to abolish parochial schools in that State and nominated the attorney-general who pronounced the proposed amendment as repugnant to the Constitution of Michigan.
This is splendid news and we hope it presages the defeat of the Amendment if the Courts decide it must be submitted to the voters of Michigan. Fair-minded Protestants have joined hands with the Catholics to defeat the amendment which reads as follows:—"All residents of Michigan between the ages of five and sixteen years shall attend the public school, in respective districts, until they have graduated from the eighth grade; provided that in districts where grades do not reach the eighth, then all persons herein described in such district shall complete the course taught therein."

This is a plain, intelligible issue. It is an issue that cannot be twisted to mean anything other than the closing of private and parochial schools. It is an issue, moreover, of such simplicity that the people cannot be fooled by it.

Why is it that Lloyd George must give in to Carson in all Irish matters?

What a wonderful tribute to the memory of their departed dead was paid by the Catholics of Rochester at the blessing of the graves in Holy Sepulcher cemetery last Sunday.

Rochester Knights of Columbus will regret the untimely death of Supreme Director George F. Monaghan, of Detroit, who spoke several times in this city.

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