

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
470 Main St. East Cor. Windsor
4th Floor. Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
COMPANY

When paper is not received Saturday notify the
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Report without any delay change of address
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year, In Advance, \$1.00
Entered at second class mail matter.

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Friday, February 4, 1921.

Church's Position

The City Club of this city is to be commended for placing upon its speakers list such a man as Rev. R. A. McGowan and Father McGowan gave to the public this exposition of the Catholic Church's attitude on industrial relations, as laid down by the Bishops of the United States in their recent joint pastoral letter:

"Even though the employers of labor are the stronger elements in industry they must not use their power so as to keep the wage and salary workers from obtaining a decent living. In case of men, wages and salaries ought by right to be enough to support them in decent comfort. This means that all the ordinary eventualities of life must be safeguarded and cared for by wages and salaries. The workers give their efforts and their time, the industry should support them decently and, in the case of men, their families, also.

"Nor is this a matter of slight importance as a principle to be injected into American life," continued Dr. McGowan. "The best estimates still show even after the war that about half of the men working for wages in the United States do not get enough to support a family of five decently.

"The Catholic Church goes on and says that while wages ought to be living wages, the amount of the wages should normally be decided by free consent through associations of the employees and employers. The Catholic church says to laborers that they have the right to organize the kind of unions that will prove most effective. It tells them that they need to organize.

"Employees in industry must be organized. They have the right and they need to exercise it because it is normally the only way they have to protect themselves. The bishops' programme of social reconstruction says: 'It is to be hoped that the right of labor to organize and deal with employers through chosen representatives will never again be called into question.' And the pastoral letter of all the bishops in the United States declares again 'the right of the workers to form the kind of organization that is necessary and that will be most effectual in securing their welfare.'

"Labor in turn has the duty of giving a full day's work for a full day's pay and of living up to the contract of employment. It has the duty of avoiding strikes and of using all means to settle a controversy before a strike is called. 'Neither the employers nor the employees regard enough the rights of the public in industrial disputes. And because of that, tribunals of conciliation similar in principles to the defunct national war labor board should be

established, not for the purpose of outlawing strikes, but to conciliate the employers and employees and bring the force of public opinion to the right side.

Economy At Home

Everybody is with Governor Miller in his economy and retrenchment programme. It is a pity that a Rochester Miller is not in sight.

While the Governor is pruning the salary budget at the State Capitol the aldermen and supervisors hereabouts are boosting the employees' salaries and ordering more expensive and high powered automobiles for overworked (?) city and county officials to burn up gasoline and oil and wear out tires.

While the Governor is cutting out useless jobs, the School Board adds playground supervisors, high-salaried special supervisors to the already long list of super-school-officials.

Meanwhile the assessed valuation is mounting and the tax bills grow larger every year.

Even the price of the city owned water is to be advanced!

Misunderstood?

It must be that the press despises misquote Governor Miller when they represent him as telling the League of Women Voters that their organization has no reason to exist and that the only organizations that should take part or interfere in public affairs are the two great political parties.

Such a sentiment is clearly that of a reactionary of pronounced type and we refuse to class Nathan L. Miller as of a reactionary type. Conservative he may be; he may be closely wedded to the plan of hewing close to the lines of the constitution and he may be guided more by his head than his heart but to put forth such a sentiment as that the Grand Army of the Republic or the American Legion, is as much out of bounds when it conducts a non-partisan campaign for soldier legislation as the communist council or a Russian soviet would stamp one as a Hamiltonian aristocrat of the highest degree and this we refuse to believe Nathan L. Miller is.

Of course we may all concede that these non-partisan organizations are more or less of a nuisance to the politicians. We may all concede that many of these organizations are superfluous and that their methods bore or annoy us but it is un-American to argue that because we ourselves are not in sympathy with them or decline to accept membership therein, hence they should be abolished and their members forbidden to express opinions on public questions which do not coincide with the dogmas of one or other of the great political parties.

It is the great mass of independent voters in the United States that has held in check the capacity of the Big Bosses.

An Example

We are glad that the new service of the National Catholic Welfare Council is recognized as witness the following communication which appeared in the "Letters to Editor" of an esteemed local contemporary the other day:—

Would not enclosed clipping be a good one to publish in your columns? I think it would increase the giving.

Former Subscriber.
The clipping reads as follows: Baltimore, Md., Jan. 1.—The Rev. Charles B. Schrantz, president-emeritus of St. Charles College, a Catholic institution near Troy, has refused to join in a celebration and banquet in honor, prepared by the Sulpician priests on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination, because he said "I will not join in any celebration as long as there are starving people in Europe."

Because of his attitude the celebration was abandoned although priests and bishops were expected from all over the country and 1,000 priests who had been under his instruction wished to make a formal avowal of their gratitude.

Father Schrantz said the times were "too bad and too sad" for the celebration of even a golden jubilee. The money which would be required, he said, "could be so much better employed for the relief of the heart-rending distress of thousands of our fellow men who are literally dying from cold, hunger and despair."

Clamor For Laws

A severe lecture is read by the Post Express to those who would cure all moral and economic ills by the enactment of a regulatory or preventive law in the following editorial:—

Petitions from "wives and mothers of industrial workers," of Brooklyn call on Congress for legislation to improve the condition of "the overworked, underpaid, dish-washing housewife," and suggest a law requiring childless married women under 60 years of age to do housework three days a week for mothers with children. The single gleam of sense the petitions show is the statement incidentally made that 60 per cent. of the members of Congress are paid more than they are worth.

The fact is that we have been so lawed and ruled and regulated during the war that a belief has gained ground in unreflecting minds that acts of Congress can properly and successfully undertake to improve or remedy any economic condition that exists. If prices go up or go down; if there is a surplus of commodities or labor, or a scarcity of houses or goods, the first thought of some group or other is a law to cure it; and of late constitutional amendments to order things as they ought to be have come to be preferred. If laws could do all that ignorance expects of them we might enact ourselves wealthy and thus be saved a lot of wearying work. But the trouble is that such laws make the last state of the people worse than the first. There is no economic ill that can be cured by legislation, and no more can sinners be lawed into saints. But this is a truth which only the wise can see and the otherwise are slow to learn.

The Times-Union would have the list of elective officers decreased because Comptroller Travis was indicted. Not so, brother. Increase the list of elective officers! The people can be trusted to make the right decision. Remember how they elected Jerome district attorney in New York running all alone?

The sympathy of hundreds of admiring friends went out to Father Dougherty in his gallant fight for life and renewed health in far away Arizona.

In the death of John Stokes Rochester loses a sterling citizen.

Supreme Knight Flaherty was interesting at the Fourth Degree banquet but it was of great interest to hear Professor Thompson denounce the Smith-Towner bill.

To Graduates Of High School.

Having graduated from high school would it not be wise to take a course involving intensive and concentrated work that will fit you for a responsible position in business? There are thousands of employees throughout the city who have taken these courses and are now occupying responsible positions, in many cases of the very highest possible character. If you enter now you can finish one of these courses before you enter college in the fall. Rochester Business Institute, 172 Clinton avenue south.—Adv.

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Keeping Windows Clean

is one of the duties to which most housewives give careful attention. When window rubbers and brushes, sponges or chamois are wanted, telephone us. We also suggest the use of a little "Abolition" Cleaner in water, or a few drops of alcohol on a very cold day.

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