

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, February 11, 1921.

Lent

Again Time's pendulum has swung around the circle and again we are called upon to observe the holy season of Lent.

Never was there greater need for prayer and penitential works than at present. The spirit of unrest is abroad. The forces of unbelief seem stronger, more vigorous, more arrogant.

The Catholic Church and her followers constitute the bulwark of American civilization and we must stand strong for our ideals. In no better way can we demonstrate our patriotism than in being practical, every day Catholics.

Forty days abstinence and prayer, moreover, will do us good in a physical way. We shall feel better, think clearer, work harder as a result of a modified diet, regular hours and abstinence from feverish amusements and late hours.

Spiritually, there is no argument at all. Lent well observed will yield a rich spiritual dividend.

Inspiring Sight

Commenting on the sight one sees any Saturday or Thursday before first Fridays or before any holyday in and around the confessionals in a big city cathedral or parish, the Baltimore "Review" says:

To the Catholic who looks about him on such occasions and thinks of what the sight means there must come inspiration to lead a clean life and a noble life. He must learn to esteem his fellow-men all the more when he sees them, those of high rank and those of poor station—financier and humbler laborer, the well clothed and the needy—all on the same plane, all supplicants and all begging the peace which the world cannot give.

What a revelation such a sight would be to our non-Catholic friends who have been led to believe that confession is a doctrine repulsive and humiliating? They would find in such a scene the best refutation of their fears.

It makes a man feel proud that he is a Catholic when he takes part in such a ceremony—when he sees men to whom every minute counts in the business world, standing humbly and devoutly in line, sometimes for an hour or more, that he might confess and seek pardon. Oh, how many wandering souls would be brought in to the Church could they but

know the joys that come to those who esteem the confessional as one of the greatest boons in this world of sorrow, and who go to the communion table as a font of strength, from which to gain renewed courage to face all trials, both spiritual and temporal.

Cause and Effect

This illuminating bit of news is found in a local secular contemporary:

News that employees of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey have voluntarily accepted a 10 per cent. reduction in wages is not without interest. They may have considered that they were fortunate in not being asked to accept a 22-1-2 per cent. reduction, as was the case with the textile workers of New England.

Coincident with the reduction in wages, the price of gasoline went down but not 10 per cent. And did the reduction in gasoline affect many of the Standard's employees?

And it has not yet been remarked that the dividend rate of any of the Standard companies has been reduced or passed!

"A Good Thing"

Our old friend, Jay Forrest evidently has a "good thing" in his latest "anti-Popery" drive as witness what the Brooklyn Tablet says as follows:

Mr. Forrest has one of the best money-making schemes that was ever produced outside of Coney Island. His income must be at least \$50,000 a year. The opposition of the society amply protects him, but it is surprising that he can fool so many so long. With several hundred persons handing in \$2 for membership every Sunday, with a collection of a couple of hundred dollars each Sunday, with per capita assessments, and with the supreme grand master living in style and making no accounting to any one, one wonders how his band of followers can be so ignorant. But then people who are so narrow, and so dense as to swallow his warmed-over calumnies against the Catholic Church, are apt to swallow anything. It's rather surprising that even one of the so-called 40,000 got wise.

How delightful and cleverly the supreme grand master works the game may be seen from a few quotations from the constitution and general laws:

ARTICLE VII.

Sec. 3. Under general organization work the initiation fee shall be two (\$2) dollars, and all members taken in under the organization department shall be used in the formation of new lodges; and the initiation fee shall go direct to the organization department.

Sec. 4. The Supreme Grand Master (Forrest), as director of the organization department, shall expend all moneys taken in under the organization department for salaries or expenses as his discretion may dictate.

ARTICLE X.

Sec. 1. The Supreme Grand Register and Supreme Grand Treasurer shall be bonded in such sums and manner as may be determined by the Supreme Grand Lodge, which bonds shall be placed in the hands of the Supreme Grand Master.

Archbishop Hanna is the head of the permanent board to arbitrate any industrial disputes that may arise between the San Francisco Builders' Exchange and their employees.

The automobile dealers and real estate men show good business acumen in spending much money in printers' ink.

His many friends rejoice at Cardinal Gibbons' convalescence from his recent illness.

Let good reading, during Lent, take the place of the cabaret, the movie, the jazz dance.

Not Yet Clear

It is possible that the way the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" looks at Governor Miller's proposed special traction solution for New York City and later for the entire state, in the following editorial paragraphs may not be clear to all the citizens of the State:

It cannot be reiterated too often, apparently, to prevent any misunderstanding arising from the mischievous propaganda that is being sent out from Albany by the Governor's opponents, that the Governor's plan does not contemplate fastening an 8-cent fare, or a 7-cent fare, or a 6-cent fare, on New York or any other city in the state.

What he asks for is the appointment of a competent body, entirely outside the realm of politics, to investigate the transit situation and report a plan for putting the system on its feet. The question of fares will not enter into the matter at all until that has been done.

Those who are governed purely by partisan motives realize that this is the first constructive move that has been made towards meeting the transportation crisis in New York city. The municipal administration there, instead of taking any intelligent interest in the situation, has calmly watched the different transportation lines slip into bankruptcy, no matter what the cost to street-car patrons in the way of inconvenience and loss of transfer privileges.

Governor Miller, if he had been led by motives of political expediency, would have held aloof from the situation, and when the complete breakdown in transportation had come would have left Mayor Hyland to struggle out of the difficulty as best he could. Instead, he has taken the position that the interests of the metropolis, rather than those of politics, are entitled to the first consideration.

If somebody could give New Yorkers assurance that with Governor Miller's unified system would give better service for six, seven or eight cents, than the subway has and still gives at five cents we believe they would be for it. But many of them appear to feel that the service will not be improved hence they feel not the least bit inclined to pay fifty per cent increase in fares and then receive the present quality of service.

It may be remarked that under Rochester's "service at cost plan" the street car service at least is no worse at seven cent fare than it was under the old five cent rate.

While the authorities at Washington are splitting hairs whether the Lord Mayor of Cork is a British seaman or an Irish revolutionist such "reds" as Foster, the steel worker are permitted to roam the country at will and belch out the foulest attacks on the heads of our Government! Queer, is it not!

Queer sight: To see men who never risked anything, not even a nickel in money, to keep liberty intact in this country, lecturing and advising the boys who did risk their very all, life and property, that the Stars and Stripes ever would float 'o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

WHEN MILLIONAIRES KILL THEMSELVES BY STINGING OTHERS

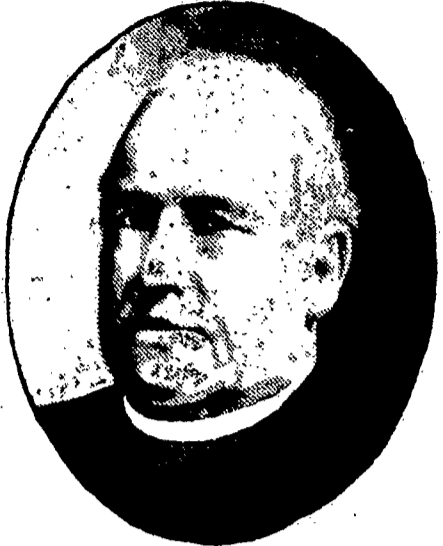
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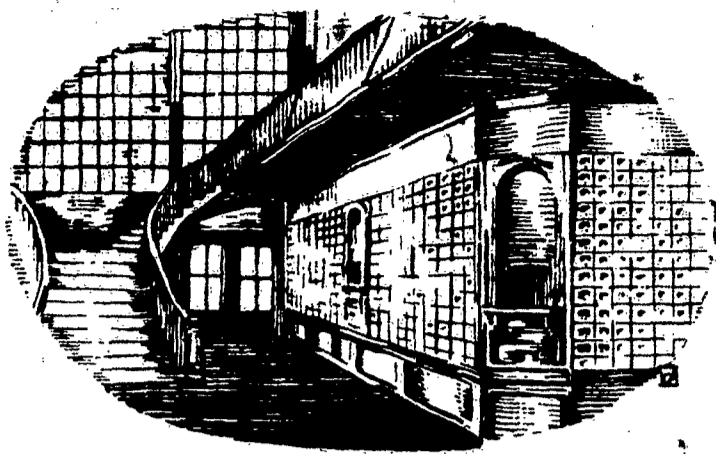
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