

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, June 17, 1921.

Sim's Break

Probably, Admiral William S. Sims is an ardent pro-Britisher. There is no doubt that there are many British subjects and British sympathizers in the United States who are utterly and totally opposed to any measure either of home rule or independence for Ireland. There is also no doubt that Admiral William Sims represents to the limit the views and sentiments of this element.

There are many fair-minded opponents of Great Britain and sympathizers with the cause of Irish freedom who feel that so long as we are still technically at war with Germany and Great Britain still is, technically, our ally, we should refrain from expressing any view at all in the conflict now raging between the Crown party in Great Britain, at least until we have declared the war off.

There are still others and they represent the feelings of a large proportion of the citizenship of the United States who believe that no strong nation should rule a weaker against its will and that all peoples should be left free to determine for themselves under what form of government they shall live. This portion of the community take the position that the treaty of Versailles, if it meant anything at all, meant that if the Irish people, and there is no gaining that they constitute a people, do not want to be under English control, they have a right to freedom of action as much as the Poles, the Slavs or any of the weaker peoples set free from rule of might by the late world war.

These facts set forth, Admiral Sims was not only guilty of a breach of good manners and exceedingly bad judgment, but he actually insulted a great many just as good citizens as he is, by declaring before an Anglo-American Club in London that the Irish sympathizers in the United States are a lot of jackasses. Moreover, he insulted a great many Englishmen, Scotchmen and Canadians, all good subjects of the British Empire who sympathize with the Irish struggle for home rule and self-determination and they resent characterization by a Yankee Admiral as jackasses.

Possibly, Admiral Sims believed that Secretary Denby was in his corner and he could say and act worse than he did when Josephus Daniels was Secretary of the Navy. Just now, Secretary Denby appears unafraid of Sims. Let us hope he is big enough to master and break down the reputed "Navy ring" which would make snobs and cads of our naval officers and bid defiance to any discipline or orders of the Secretary of the Navy.

Tom Watson does not seem to have learned much by his elevation to the United States Senate. He is quoted as saying: "Whenever you make a speech, remember that it is impossible to estimate the stupidity of the public."

One Viewpoint

While the recent race riots in Tulsa were deplorable and those responsible should be punished to the limit, nevertheless it is quite possible that the white people of Oklahoma may not have been all to blame, if, indeed, they may not have been the victims of irresponsible, outside vicious agitators of the worst red type, both whites and blacks. We are impelled to this belief by a thoughtful editorial in the Rochester Herald, part of which is herewith reproduced:—

"Two negroes of prominence in the daily life of Tulsa, one a man of wealth and the other a policeman, have made statements regarding the origin of the recent deplorable riots in that city which leave no doubt in the inquiring mind that the trouble may be laid at the door of a negro newspaper. It has been appealing to race prejudices, and appealing to the passions of the lawless elements of its race.

"Both of these witnesses, who tried to interfere when the trouble was in its incipency, narrowly escaped rough handling. The office of the newspaper was the assembling place of the mob. They report that those who started the trouble were 'dope fiends,' and all men with criminal records. No advice given them was heeded. The action taken by the newspaper leader of the outbreak appears to have been fostered by negro newspapers in different parts of the country due to their loose discussion of the race question and their appeals to racial prejudice. This has been encouraged, in a measure, by a national organization with a rattle-brained white man as its promoter.

"Tulsa is ashamed of the riot, as well it might be. It well says that it cannot be charged to Southern prejudice against the negro, for riots of a similar character have been seen in Chicago, in East St. Louis and in Springfield, in the state which gave Abraham Lincoln to the salvation of the Union, and which is now the home of his mouldering bones. Some of the Republican newspapers in discussing this unfortunate affair attribute it to disreputable politics, and this may well bear its share of the burden. It may, indeed, explain the character of the colored leadership responsible for this recent outbreak."

Keep in Memory!

Writing about the movement to restore Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery to their original conditions as permanent historic monuments, Philip Francis said in part:—In these days when government officials wish and dare to prohibit the publication of the Declaration of Independence because the recital of the crimes of murder, arson and rapine against our forefathers hurts somebody's sensibilities; when government officials are afraid to express abhorrence of the same kind of crimes in Ireland, India and Egypt, it is specially fitting that we should restore the monuments of our revolution, not to embalm revolutionary bitterness against our ancient enemy, for that would be both foolish and wicked, but to protect us against the lickspittle twaddle much in vogue today which would set up a foreign imperialism, a foreign aristocracy, and a foreign system of government as examples for America. Above all, we need monuments of the Revolutionary War to protect us from the propaganda, highly organized and very efficient, in favor of having all our school histories rewritten to convince future generations of school children that all our early wrongs were due solely to a German king on the British throne.

The Catholic Boy Scouts are necessary under present conditions and we should give them our support.

Admiral Benson

As compared to the anglo-maniac admiral over in London misinforming the English people as to American sentiment Admiral William S. Benson shines out like a star of the brightest luster. Just read this press article about Admiral Benson:—

Admiral Wm. S. Benson, chairman of the United States shipping board, who announced that he would either bring all the men of St. Paul's Church, Washington, into the parochial unit of National Council of Catholic Men, or remove from the parish, will not have to change his residence. Under Admiral Benson's leadership, a flying squadron of workers is making the rounds of the parish and is enrolling every young and old man in the congregation.

In the course of his address to the men of St. Paul's, in which he declared his determination to bring all the men into the new organization, he also deprecated the "nominal" Catholic.

"I think every Catholic man in this parish ought to enlist in the National Council of Catholic Men," Admiral Benson said. "I shall accept and retain the chairmanship of this committee of organization only on condition that every man in the parish join. I am a busy man, and just at present have a difficult job on my hands, but I shall be glad to work if others will co-operate. Unless the men of St. Paul's congregation enroll themselves as a body in this unit of the men's council I'll remove from the parish.

"I am a convert; I have not always been a Catholic. Since coming into the Church it has been my belief that one of the greatest handicaps to her work is the 'nominal' Catholic. We must force the 'nominal' Catholic to have something besides inert faith; we must make him zealous and active in behalf of God's Church. The National Council of Catholic Men offers the opportunity and the means of serving God and country. Every Catholic man is under obligation to perform that sort of service. I want to see every man in St. Paul's parish doing his full duty."

The death of Bishop Harkins, of Providence, 75 years old and a Bishop for 34 years, removes a forceful figure from the American Hierarchy. May his soul rest in peace.

Now that the 1921 graduation exercises in the primary and secondary schools are over, the next question is: What college or university? There are so many good Catholic institutions of higher learning that Catholic parents need not send their boys and girls to non-Catholic colleges or universities to obtain a first-class secular education. In addition, their spiritual welfare will be guaranteed in the Catholic institutions.

Did you ever stop to think how funny it is that a chap should offer you a chance to make ten dollars for one. If it is really so good, he and his friends would keep it all.

The Knights of Columbus of Pennsylvania must be well informed as to its own bailiwick. At its recent state council this resolution was adopted:—"There are so many Catholic societies and organizations feeding weak official organs that the regular diocesan papers are deprived of interest and support.

"A Catholic newspaper should have a circulation equal to the number of Catholic families in a diocese. Newspapers cannot expand without support. Not until newspapers secure circulation can they get their share of advertising and until they get the advertising they cannot hire the talent for improvement. Their progress will begin with your patronage."

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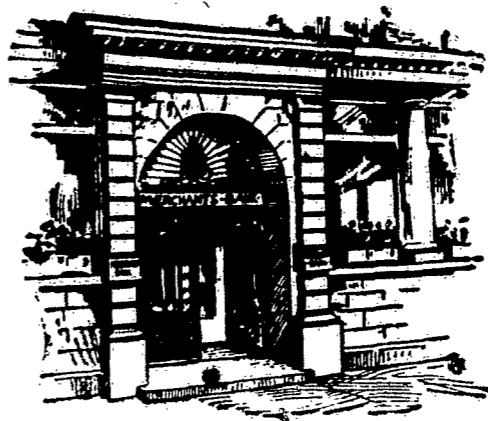
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