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Not In Politics

During Theodore Roosevelt's administration as President and both before and after, certain Catholics who might be classed as "professional" have tried to bring about the creation of an American Embassy at the Vatican. Of course one or other of these persons naturally thinks he is or should be the ideal Ambassador to the Holy Father, even if he is not fitted to discuss or handle diplomatic matters or not. Maurice Francis Egan, who is well qualified to discuss literature, diplomacy, the Vatican or any other topic, squelches this proposition neatly in the new K. of C. magazine, "Columbia," when he writes:— "In the case of our country, matters have been so wisely arranged that the Catholic Church cannot be accused, except by the ignorant or malicious, of any interference, as a church, in the politics of the country. Catholics act as American citizens; they have never opened themselves to the application of the term "Clericalism," which has such a bad political odor in European countries, where the Catholic faith and Catholic practices are constantly confused with a large or small group of politicians who call themselves "Clerical" often to hide merely political ambitions. "The See of Rome exercises her spiritual power, which involves certain questions of temporalities, used and owned by the Church, through her bishops and the priests; and the appointment of an Apostolic Delegate, who never appears at the White House in any political capacity, who has no diplomatic rank whatever, whose house has never been under suspicion as the resort of politicians of any kind, fulfills every rational motive for the closer binding of the spiritual and ecclesiastical affairs of the United States with the Head of the Church. "At the beginning of the present Administration the usual attempt to induce the President to reopen diplomatic relations with Rome was considered. It is a curious fact that there is always a small number of political Protestants engaged in supporting a movement of this kind, no doubt with the best intentions. Not very long ago French, English, and Italian papers, and some American journals, mentioned the name of a possible candidate, so sure had certain persons become that diplomatic negotiations were about to be reopened; but influential Catholics in this country saw how useless, and even dangerous, such relations might become. It was quite evident that the State Department that the example of England and France offered no precedent for us, and that the great majority of Catholics in the country were too well satisfied with the representation of the Apostolic Delegate and the members of the Hierarchy to approve the innovation."

Brann Recalled

The Columbian, official organ of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, recalls the famous defense of the Catholic sisterhoods, penned by the noted Brann in his "Iconoclast" in 1895:— "Who is it that visits the slums of our great cities, ministering to the afflicted, comforting the dying, reclaiming the fallen? When pestilence sweeps over the land and mothers desert their babes, husbands their wives, who is it that presses the cup of cold water to the feverish lips, and closes the staring eyes of the deserted dead? Who was it that went upon our Southern battlefields to minister to wounded soldiers, followed them to the hospitals, and tenderly nursed them back to life? The Roman Catholic Sisterhoods, God bless them! "One of these angels of mercy can walk unattended and unharmed through our reservation at midnight. She can visit with impunity the most degraded dive in the Whitechapel district. At her coming the ribald song is stilled and the oath dies on the lips of the loafer. Fallen creatures reverently touch the hem of her garment, and men steeped to the very lips in crime, involuntarily remove their hats as a tribute to noble womanhood. The very atmosphere seems to grow sweet with her coming; and the howl of all hell's demons is silent. None so low in the barrel-house, the gambling-den, or the brothel as to breathe a word against her good name; but when we turn to the Baptist pulpit, there we find an inhuman monster clad in God's livery, crying "Unclean, Unclean!" "God help a religious denomination that will countenance such an infamous cur."

Quite Right

The conservative "Democrat & Chronicle" is not satisfied with the telephone situation in Rochester. In a calm and concise editorial last Friday the D. & C. hints the new telephone corporation and that while it may have might on its side in the powerful assistance of the Public Service Commission in abrogation of what Joseph W. Taylor tells the people are "ancient contracts", nevertheless if it is businesswise it will not try to exact the full legal pound of flesh' from the Rochester public. The D. & C. goes on:— As regards the matter of contracts, even if the Public Service Commission has the power to override the agreements voluntarily entered into by the old telephone companies when they were soliciting the privilege of doing business in Rochester, the exercise of that power is not judicious. What remedy has a community if the terms upon which a public service corporation is permitted to use its streets and other public property may at any time be rendered null and void by an outside governing body? An additional grievance of the citizens of this community is that the temporary rates fixed here, where there are 40,000 telephone users, are higher than they are in Chicago, with 591,000 telephones in use; in Philadelphia, with 175,000 telephones in use, or in Milwaukee, with 84,000 telephones in use. Rochester is not conscious of having committed any crime, as a punishment for which it must pay more for telephone privileges than other cities. On the contrary, Rochester telephone users are convinced that they have not received fair treatment from the State Department that the telephone company, or that measure of protection from the Public Service Commission to which they are entitled. But the mistakes that have been made are not irreparable. They can be rectified, and it is just as much to the interest of the new telephone company as it

is to that of the public that they should be rectified.

Watson Rebuked

Not alone are Catholics repudiating Tom Watson but non-Catholics are hanging their heads in shame at the very thought of representation of their fair State in the United States Senate by such a blatant bigot. Rev. John Durham Wing, pastor of Christ Episcopal Church in Savannah has written an open letter to the Georgia press in repudiation of Watson's recent slanderous attacks on things Catholic:—Summarizing Senator Watson's article, which charged that the sisters in Savannah conducted a "white slave" pen in which girls were held for immoral purposes, and alleged that state and local officials had refused to enforce the inspection laws against Catholic institutions, Dr. Wing went on to say: "It could clearly be inferred from this that there are Roman Catholic institutions in existence in Savannah where girls are held in vilest slavery; that if officers of the law did their sworn duty and inspected these institutions these helpless captives would be discovered and liberated; that the Bishop of Savannah refuses to recognize the authority of American-made laws, and hence does not permit inspection of his Church's institutions; and that our county authorities, evidently cowed by the Bishop, dare not enforce the law requiring such inspection. "This is certainly a grave imputation—for the editor of the Sentinel is far too shrewd to make direct charges and thus become amenable to the libel laws against the citizens of Savannah and the public officials of Chatham county, of permitting the most horrid evils to go in our midst uninvestigated, unchecked, and unpunished. "Dear old Bishop Kelly, revered and beloved by thousands of his fellow citizens who are not members of his Church, needs no defense against such malignant and absurd accusations, and his dignified statement already made is sufficient answer from his standpoint. But what have the people of Savannah and the public officials of Chatham county to say about them? Savannah is a city of liars, and our county authorities can establish the fact that in no county in Georgia has the Veasey act been more rigorously enforced than in Chatham. But the outside world may not be so well informed. "Is it too much to expect that our people will arise to deny these foul imputations and repudiate the slur cast upon our public officials by—God save the mark—the junior senator from the state of Georgia? "I believe not; and, for one, refuse to keep silent." Have you followed the Catholic News Service appearing in the columns of the Catholic Journal? It is equal to the secular service of the Associated Press and the United Press. When Archbishop Curley is installed in the See of Baltimore he will be the ninth archbishop and the first head of the archdiocese since 1876 when James, afterward Cardinal, Gibbons was installed. The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has outlined an ambitious programme but, reassured, it will be put through. Who was it that took seriously the announcement that there was real peace in Europe? Ontario or Canadian courts have put forward the Newcastle ruling that so long as beer, ale and liquor can be manufactured and legally in the Province of Ontario, those products cannot legally be prohibited export privileges.

Archbishop Bonzano manages to take care of all the Vatican's diplomatic matters in the United States, without official ambassadorial station, and no political scandal has ever been laid at the door of the delegate's home in Washington. If the "Boylan" who is here from New York to start off the new Telephone Corporation is any relative to Senator "Boylan" of Tammany Hall he is recalling that Tammany was its biggest victories when every paper in New York was opposed to Tammany.

More power to the Trenton director of public safety who threatens to shoot the Ku-Klux Klan if they invade his city. America needs no masked horsemen to parade her streets. The Lewiston Journal suggests two Presidents of the United States to be elected every four years—one to be official handshaker and orator, the other a business executive.

This year's Rochester Industrial Exposition should be a record breaker, as a compliment to its founder, Honorable Hiram H. Edgerton, who retires as Mayor next January.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Sun. Aug. 28.—St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and one of the great doctors of the church, was born in Tagaste in Africa in 354. His father was a pagan, his mother St. Monica. He was reared a Christian, but not baptized when young. He lost faith and innocence and persisted in an irregular life until thirty-two. When converted he began to make amends for his wastad years and was consecrated Bishop of Hippo in 395. For thirty-five years he was the center of ecclesiastical life in Africa and a mighty champion against heresy. He died in 430. Mon. Aug. 29.—The beheading of St. John Baptist on the order of Herod, who yielded to the request of Salome, daughter of Herodias, whom Herod, in defiance of all laws, had married despite the fact that she was the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. Tues. Aug. 30.—St. Rose of Lima, the first canonized saint of the new world, was born at Lima in 1586, she grew to great beauty, but fearing she might become vain she cut off her hair and blistered her face. She devoted her life to most severe penance and the Blessed Sacrament was her only food for long periods. She died in 1617 at the age of thirty-one. Wed. Aug. 31.—Raymond Nonnatus, a member of the Order of Our Lady of Mercy for the redemption of captives, who being sent into Algiers to purchase slaves expended all his money and then gave himself into captivity as ransom for others. He encouraged the captive Christians and converted some of the Mohammedans. He was treated barbarously by the infidels. Finally he was released and on his return to Spain was nominated a cardinal. He died at Cardona on the way to Rome in 1240 at the age of 37. Thurs. Sept. 1.—St. Giles, a noble Athenian, who could not find the solitude he desired in his own country. He sailed for France and chose a hermitage at the mouth of the Rhone. He was renowned for his sanctity and miracles, and great devotion to him has sprung up in France and England. Fri. Sept. 2.—St. Stephen, King of Hungary. He rooted out idolatry, suppressed pagan rebellions and founded many monasteries and churches. He had particular devotion to Our Lady, and died as he had wished on the Feast of

the Assumption, 1038. Sat. Sept. 3.—St. Seraphia, virgin and martyr, born at Antioch, who disposed of her possessions, distributed her goods to the poor and sold herself into the voluntary service of a Roman matron, Sabina. She converted her mistress. Seraphia was condemned to be burned to death, but flames could not touch her and she was beheaded. Sabina met a martyr's death a year later.

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