

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, Oct. 14, 1921.

Latter Day

Every once in a while an exception is manifestly needed in law enforcement. There should be sufficient elasticity in the law to permit application of this occasional exception.

Whether the projectors of a new law distrust the enforcers and hence do not intend to permit any leeway at all or they really believe there should be no discretion anywhere but that the laws effect must fall equally upon every man, woman and child. In other words, the Pullman berth, the hotel bed and the hotel sheet must not be more than a certain length and if a grant appears he must submit to amputation of limbs as to bring him inside the fixed standard of height.

Absurd! you say? Possibly, but not more so than some of the incidents happening every day.

In Police Court this week a widow, mother of four children, youngest three months old, was "convicted"—branded as a criminal—because the oldest boy, 14 years old, was not in school days. Of course he should have been but the family owns a little market and the boy has been taking care of the store when his mother was not there. The boy was perfectly content if he could be permitted to go to night school. This the law, will not permit, however, and Judge Kohlmetz had no alternative but to enforce the law rigidly.

Of course the logical outcome of this would be to break up the family, send the children to an asylum and put the mother in an institution. But is that American? Is it decent? Is it fair? Is it humane?

If ever exception should be made here was one.

Courts should have discretionary powers to make exceptions to all laws so far as rigid enforcement is concerned.

Just Suppose

Included in a list of "Supposes", the "Union & Times" prints a few that are pertinent at this time when so many persons are caught by the specious glamor of a beautiful picture of Anglo Saxon world alliance:—

Suppose America spent \$150,000,000 to buy up the British press in order to control British policy, and suppose we sent native Americans to supplement British editors, who became in consequence mere figureheads and decoys, how long would England endure such audacity, such corruption and such deception?

Suppose we sent Yankees to British naval academies in order to learn British naval plans; and furthermore suppose these spies became nominal British subjects without renouncing their allegiance to the United States, and secretly advocated a policy which would eventually place Great Britain at the mercy of America, how long could we dupe British statesmen?

Suppose we undertook to re-write English history so as to favor America to the detriment of England, how long would the English people allow their children to be fed on such lies?

Suppose we controlled the motion pictures of England in order to set up before the nation American ideals and lull her into a slumber with a false sense of security, would she allow her people to attend our theatres?

Suppose a bevy of syndicate lecturers, or journalists who had been knighted for their mendacity, or college professors hired for the purpose, went through England advocating American interests at the expense of Great Britain, would the English people turn out in thousands to be duped?

Suppose our present ambassador were a true American as he is a true flunkey, or suppose he followed the traditional policy of ambassadors and went abroad to lie for the good of his country, would he be dined and wined at the Court of St. James?

Anomalous

A convincing argument is presented by The Post Express for the inclusion of the Stanley amendment to the Volstead law so that Federal officers may not hold up and search automobiles or houses or anything else unless upon a warrant duly and legally issued, in the following editorial:

A surprising and almost unbelievable state of affairs exists in the United States to-day. Briefly, Federal officers can under certain circumstances kill citizens with entire impunity. As Federal officials they are not amenable to state courts, and there is no Federal statute against homicide unless it be committed in the District of Columbia or on a government reservation. The result is that Federal agents who shoot men down cannot be held before any grand jury and cannot be tried anywhere on earth. Hence it has happened recently that in several states, as vouched for by their senators, Federal prohibition agents have had altercations with and killed citizens whom they unjustly suspected, or affected to suspect, of having liquors in their automobiles, their homes or their possession. As related by a New York paper, a farmer and his son returning to their home by automobile by night were held up by Federal agents who thrust revolvers into their faces. The victims being law-abiding citizens guiltless of all offending naturally assumed that their assailants were highwaymen and ran at the first opportunity, but were shot and killed. But no court had jurisdiction of the crime, this having been decided years ago in the famous California case where Nagel, a Federal marshal, shot a man named Terry who was credited with meditating an assault on Judge Field, Chief Justice Fuller stated that the situation was anomalous and regrettable, but that no court in the country could consider the case.

Let us hope that the day of the indecent drama is passing not to return. President Harding has not his Congressional adjunct as well in hand as had Woodrow Wilson. Former Vice President Thomas R. Marshall struck the nail on the head when he said:—"One trouble in America at the present time is that too many persons have \$3,000 automobiles and \$300 homes". He might have added that quite often the \$300 home is mortgaged to help pay for the automobile.

According to our friends of the Farmer Labor party the great majority of the unemployed are would eventually place Great Britain at the mercy of America, do no work. And "our friends" are perfectly willing to join the unemployed.

"For All Time Americans"

Admiral William S. Benson, newly elected President of the National Council of Catholic Laymen, tells the public that the new organization intends that its service shall be national and intended for "all of our countrymen, regardless of faith, conditions or race".

The Admiral's statement is as follows:—"I am deeply sensible of the great honor the National Council of Catholic Men have done me in electing me as the first president of this inspired movement, and I use this term inspired advisedly and in its broadest application.

"As my rule of life for more than 50 years has been that of service to country and God with whatever fervor I have been able to muster, and as the requirements of the present situation seem to demand service, I was left no choice but to accept, and in doing so I feel that I can with propriety call upon my fellow Catholic men and women of the whole country to rally to the colors that have been placed in our keeping by the Hierarchy of Holy Church and go forth to service.

"While this is a Catholic movement, the good to be accomplished is intended for all of our countrymen, regardless of faith, condition or race, for all true Americans. We Catholics feel, however, that professing the faith, claiming for it what we do, it is our bounden duty to show by acts and example that we mean what we say. We must be better Christians, better neighbors, better citizens generally, and we realize we can help each other more by united effort rather than in small communities.

"During the great war, and in time of peace, the Catholic manhood and womanhood have emblazoned the pages of history with their deeds of valor and of sacrifice for mankind, and the best ideals of our beloved country, and as every thoughtful man looks with concern on the immediate future of affairs throughout the country, it seems peculiarly opportune that this is the time to sincerely commune with one's own conscience, and determine if he is doing a man's part, a citizen's part, in solving the difficulties which confront us. For myself I have no doubt but we in America will solve our every difficulty—present or future.

More Than Half Right

Probably the "Rev." Billy Sunday, the anti-Catholic Kennedy's and Slatterys and the rest of the sensationalists will not relish the following by Bishop Thomas Nicholson of the Methodist Episcopal Church but Mr. Nicholson is more than half right in his contentions:—

In an address before a meeting of preachers of that denomination in Chicago, the other day, he pointed to the danger in working with an organization which has grown up without instruction in religion in its educational system.

"I have no time to waste on a revival or any evangelistic movement which simply aims to increase church membership," he said. "I have no disposition to try to get mere baptized pagans into the Christian church. Only the revival which produces genuine reformation of life and spirit is worthy."

William J. Bryan still sees through saffron spectacles. He says no reform ever started in New York. How about Theodore Roosevelt.

The Post Express evidently thinks that the British aristocracy is a Divine product.

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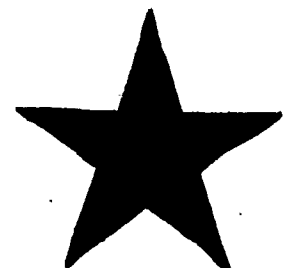
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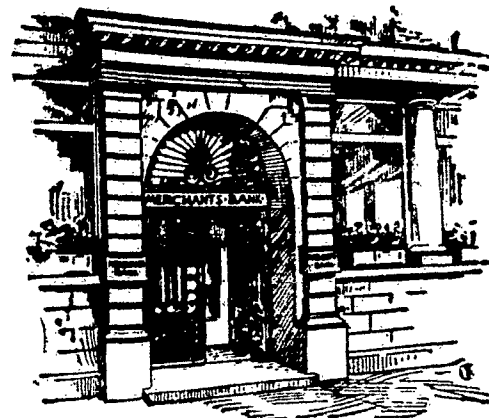
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