

**THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL**

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Friday, Nov. 11, 1921

**"The Open Season"**

Isn't it a pity that recent events justified such a sweeping assertion as that made by former Governor Emmet O'Neal, speaking before the students and alumni of the University of Alabama. Governor O'Neal scored the lack of enforcement of criminal laws in Alabama, and denounced the findings of the jury in the Stephenson case. Scores of alumni applauded former Governor O'Neal's sentiments.

"It would seem, after reading the verdict in the Stephenson case that a Jefferson county jury has made an open season for the killing of Catholics," declared the former Governor O'Neal, in the course of his remarks at the luncheon in the Tutwiler Hotel, where he urged the maintenance of the principle of religious liberty against bigotry. He continued: "After reading the verdict rendered in the Stephenson case, no thoughtful citizen could but feel that human life had become cheaper and less secure in Alabama. We have not advanced far from savagery or barbarism if murder is to be justified on account of the religious creed of the victim."

"It may be claimed that our administration of the criminal law has broken down. I do not agree to that conclusion. The breakdown has not been in the law, but in the efficiency of its enforcement."

"The time has come in Alabama when we should select as judges of our criminal courts men whose able, courageous and learned lawyers, and not merely self-seeking politicians. The chief cause of the conditions that now confront us is a spirit of religious intolerance and bigotry which seems so widespread in this country."

"Let us all unite in maintaining inviolate those eternal principles of civil and religious liberty upon which our free institutions were founded. Let the University of Alabama take the leadership in answering the challenge now enforced upon our attention—a leadership for the supremacy of the law and its equal protection to all of our people, regardless of race or creed."

It would seem that Rochester doctors are not interested over much in industrial surgery.

Let us hope that the promise of philanthropists to bring medical service within the reach of every citizen of the community will be carried out with no loss of self-respect or cheapening the individual. A man may be poor nevertheless he shrinks from being the chief source of interest at a "free clinic."

So the doctors say the nurses are really practicing medicine and should be checked. The Legislature should have provided that nurses should only act upon the appointment of and under the supervision of the physician in charge of the case.

**Honesty**

It is a refreshing sign to find clubs and organizations and Chambers of Commerce standing up for honesty in business, in every day life and, especially, honesty in advertising.

There has been and still is a deal of dishonesty in advertising. In this statement we refer not particularly to the dishonesty of advertising, mines that do not exist, splendid real estate covered by water at high tide, and other things and schemes that are fraudulent under the penal law. Such offenders can be punished under Federal or state laws. But there is the implied dishonesty—goods boosted to the limit which fall below the expectation suggested by the advertisement; the fake prize game to boost newspaper or magazine circulation and a score more really just as dishonest as the gold brick game of ancient memory.

Let us hope the day is not distant when in business, social and every day life the principle that as well as promise, is the policy that should prevail.

**Election**

At last, one of the most peculiar municipal campaigns in Rochester has passed into history.

In its opening stages, the local election of 1921 was marked by singular apathy on the part of the voters. It was a hard task to induce them to register.

The reason? Partly; an innate feeling that the powerful political organization that had controlled the City for the last quarter of a century was entrenched so strongly that it was next to impossible to dislodge it, hence of no practical use to register or vote. Partly, because the local political opposing organization had been so loosely managed that a great many of the voters had no confidence it could win and less confidence that it could achieve any real reform if it were successful.

As the campaign progressed more enthusiasm developed on both sides and the net result was a Garrison finish. Now that it is over let us have municipal peace and let there be an end to mudslinging for another year at least.

**Miscarriage of Justice**

There are those who, in the excess of their emotion over the acquittal by the Alabama jury of the Methodist minister who murdered Rev. Father James E. Coyle, are saying that the administration of criminal law has broken down. That is not a correct statement of fact even in Alabama. The fault is inefficient administrators, if not culpably and willfully incompetent men in the district attorney's office.

It was quite apparent in the North that the prosecuting attorney's office in Alabama was not at all eager to convict or imprison the priest-murderer. This is circumstantially proven when the prosecuting attorney subpoenaed the minister's daughter, whose marriage to a Catholic young man by Father Coyle, provoked the murder of Father Coyle, and then refused to let her take the stand to prove the steps leading up to the shooting. If the state attorney did not present to the jury all the salient testimony, and the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty who is the culpable party?

"Alabama, the state where they murder Catholic priests and women", makes a fine reputation for a state. If every Catholic would refuse to purchase anything made in Alabama—Birmingham is in Alabama—that would help for justice.

We venture the opinion that the Andrew Mellon, Secretary of the United States Treasury is not the most popular man in America.

**Latest News**

The Rochester "Herald's" most interesting announcement about the disarmament conference is that foreign diplomats at the nation's capital have been allowed to import liquor for their own use and make free use of the grant. They do not have to buy from Washington bootleggers at prices running from \$25 to \$50 a gallon for vile and uncertain stuff. They can get the real article from home and use it as they see fit. No wonder their Embassy houses have become very popular resorts and that cards for their reception are counted rich prizes.

The French delegation will be here well equipped with all the old time brands which France seems best able to make in the right way. Champagne and Borepape and Cognac and Chartreuse, red wine and white will all be on the list. The French Embassy at Washington, a few weeks ago, gave notice that its liquor supplies were running short and that it did not have enough on hand to meet the expected demand. All danger of a shortage will now be removed and Ambassador Jusserand's wine cellar will be stocked as never before.

Lloyd-George prefers gin and Scotch. He will have them. Other delegations will bring their favorite drinks and all will be happy. There will be no ice water coasts for them. They will use but not abuse the privilege. They can vote to reduce world armament but they cannot and will not vote for prohibition for themselves or others.

**Let In Light!**

The preposterous and impudent claims made in behalf of the so-called "Maternity bill" now before Congress are punctured somewhat by the Rochester Post-Express in the following editorial paragraphs:—

"To the chief of the Children's bureau who has long been and was a month or two ago, if she is not now, Miss Julia C. Lathrop, more enthusiasm developed on both sides and the net result was a Garrison finish. Now that it is over let us have municipal peace and let there be an end to mudslinging for another year at least."

"The Children's bureau is composed of about forty maiden ladies. What they wish to do and propose to do under this bill, if it becomes a law, is conclusively shown by what they have already done, taught and urged in numerous documents, pamphlets, booklets published and circulated at public expense. Some of them have proclaimed views upon matters like birth control which a vast element of the American people, old foggyish perhaps, consider dangerously radical and subversive of morality. All this does not appear in the bill, but it was all brought out in Senate debates thereon; and some of the most puerile documents ever printed were cited and quoted from to show what this body of doctrinaire spinsters is planning to do for the mothers and wives of the United States."

"The way the matter is shaping what may be called without disparagement the making, spectacular contingent of what used to be suffragism are rallying their forces in favor of this measure, while the wiser, more conservative element in American womanhood, as fast as they become informed about the astounding plan of putting marital matters under the supervision of a body of unmarried women, are taking an angry or a decided stand against it. We thank our correspondent for the courtesy of her communication to which we have gladly given space."

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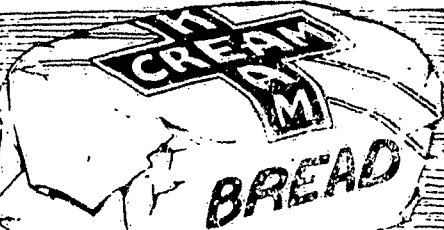
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