

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, Dec. 23, 1921.

Christmas

Once more the joyous-feast of Christmas is upon us. It is true the specter of war has been replaced, in spots, by the specter of want and privation put how much better off are the worst of us than the suffering people of the devastated countries of Europe?

We in the United States can rejoice at the Christmas season of 1921. And those of us who are a comparative comfort should take heed of those who are not and give of our substance to provide the less fortunate with good cheer. For that was what the Savior brought into the world on that Christmas day centuries ago—Love and good will which impels us to love our neighbor as ourself and to minister to the unfortunate of our brethren.

With a heart full of gratitude to Almighty God for all His blessings—the greatest of all the gifts of His Divine Son—let us approach the Christmas altar with joy and gladness and reverence.

The Catholic Journal wishes to all its readers the fullest measure of happiness in this holiday season.

Not One Man Alone

Eamonn De Valera is imbued with the true Irish spirit that loves freedom and hates even the suspicion of serfdom. He has dared much and suffered much for the cause of Irish freedom.

The same is true of Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and the living and dead who have struggled in defence of the cause.

Dail Eireann is in charge of the situation from the standpoint of those on the ground. Its decision should count for much.

Nevertheless, the immediate future of Ireland is at stake. The personal fortunes, political or otherwise, of any one or any dozen of the Irish leaders should not, must not be permitted to overshadow the negotiations with Lloyd George and the British leaders. And this applies equally to Sein Fein and to Ulster irconcilables.

Prudence, Patience and Patriotism should govern now—both in Ireland and outside, whether in the United States, Australia or elsewhere.

Who will say now that the voters of New York State do not at least take the trouble to vote on constitutional amendments? On November 7th they defeated the soldier's bonus amendment; defeated another that would have increased the annual salaries of senators and members of assembly and adopted another that will permit election officers to impose a literary test on those who wish to vote.

Our Rt. Rev. Bishop is a keen observer of modern tendencies as evidenced by his powerful sermon at the dedication of St. Ambrose Church and his address to the new American citizens at the Chamber of Commerce reception.

Father Faustin, O. F. M., whose articles are well known to Catholic readers, has been appointed editor of the Franciscan Herald

Bounds O'er Stepped

One phase of the modern middle in everybody's business is well illustrated by the following stinging editorial in the conservative Post Express:—

"Opponents of the despicable doctrine of birth control, which would elevate the animal in the race above the spiritual, should move before it is too late in this matter. The surprising action of a Denver judge in threatening the mother of five children that they would be taken from her unless she submitted to an operation that would prevent her from having any more children should warn us that if these theorists have their way, the country faces the fate of France, with its declining population. The right of the judge to deliver this unholy ultimatum is, of course, in question. He denies the report that his ultimatum was delivered from the bench, but admits telling a reporter that such an order might be entered under certain circumstances. If there is such law in the land, it should be repealed."

"The trouble seems to be that the children of this mother and her home are not as clean as they might be. The mother blames people that have nothing else to do than to meddle with other people's business. This may, as is often the case, be the cause. The woman refused to consider the judge's degrading proposition. In this she is right and should have support. The unwarranted interference with nature advocated by birth controllers should no longer be allowed to go unchallenged. They pretend to work upon the theories of Malthus, which are not, of course, accepted as gospel by the scientific world. They go farther than Malthus did. They pretend that the people will become so numerous, unless birth control is practiced, that the earth will not be able to support them. That is bosh, for statisticians have estimated that the United States alone, even if properly, not necessarily intensively, cultivated, could support the whole population of the world. They have not the support of the medical profession, the majority of which recognizes the danger of interference with nature. The position of the majority is given in the comment of a Denver physician on this matter: "I think a judge that makes a decision like that should be recalled. I think the suggestion wrong from both a professional and a moral standpoint."

"Unhindered teaching of birth control means an increase in childless marriages and therefore an increase in cheerless marriages. But this is the least of its evils. It means an increase in prostitution and in irregular relations between the sexes. It should be combated by decent people everywhere."

First it was Japan, now it is France that is throwing monkey wrenches into the Harding-Hughes-Lloyd George Disarmament Conference.

Congratulations to Mayor-elect Van Zandt on his perspicacity in selecting such a shrewd diplomat as "Al" Flannery to be his secretary.

Bernard J. Haggarty has served Mayor Edgerton as Secretary for 12 years—some record!

So the state budget is to be pruned still more? If efficiency does not suffer by this economy, then Governor Miller is a wizard.

Edgar F. Edwards, Bernard J. Haggarty, Charles E. Ogden, Willard A. Marakle, Lewis Decker, who will say the newspaper fraternity of Rochester is not well represented in public life?

Father Faustin, O. F. M., whose articles are well known to Catholic readers, has been appointed editor of the Franciscan Herald

Not Needed Yet

The Democrat & Chronicle is enamored of the Canadian plan of changing governments—the national side and thinks a similar plan would work well here if it could be arranged under our constitution and limitations of statutes. Here is its argument:—

"The official-elect in Canada is short-lived. The span between excited candidacy and complacent occupancy of public offices is short indeed. The general elections were held in the Dominion December 6th. Premier Arthur Meighen was defeated, and Mackenzie King is now the premier-elect. The premier-elect is busy forming his Cabinet, having received word from Premier Meighen that the present government is ready to resign at any time to make way for the newly elected officials. It is probable that within a very short time the new premier will be duly installed in office."

"There is much to be praised in this system of electing and installing a new administration. Here in the United States we elect our new president in November and then he remains president-elect until next March 4th, or nearly half a year. By this time, the outgoing administration has more than had time to wind up its affairs and make ready for the new incumbent. In fact, this takes only a few weeks. Then, with time daggling on its hands, the old administration is very likely to lapse into a sort of content-to-do-nothing stupor while it awaits March 4th."

"There is no good argument in favor of such a long interval between our elections and the installation of our officials in office. When a new President is elected, the probability is that the public is tired of the old executive. The sooner he gets out and the new administration begins to set its house in order, the better will the public be served. Canada is giving us an example of snappy election proceedings. We might try putting a little snap into our own method of installing a new administration."

In Canada, as in England, the head of the Government can terminate the life of a national or provincial parliament by calling a new election, and as soon as the election returns are in the old leaders retire and new ones take over the reins of government.

In the United States the President cannot exert such control over the legislative branch. Moreover Representatives in Congress and United States Senators are elected for specified terms and not at the pleasure of the government as is the practical effect of the Canadian and English plan. And, indeed, there is no evidence that the American people desire a change to the Canadian plan.

As for the lapse of time between Presidential election and Presidential inauguration that may or may not be a bad thing. Election returns are not in and canvassed much before December 10th and inauguration comes on March 4. It was the intention of the Fathers of 1776 that a short time should intervene to permit political tempers to cool and to enable the administration in power to close its affairs.

Sober second thought supplies as many arguments for the present plan as for the change proposed by our contemporary.

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