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TELEPHONE MAIN 1547

Friday, Jan. 13, 1922.

Treaty Wins

One may sympathize with the men and women, like Eamonn de Valera and Mary McSwiney, who have spent their lives, money and energy in the struggle to achieve freedom for Ireland in their feeling that the treaty just ratified by the Dail Eireann by which Ireland becomes "the Irish Free State" under similar rule and conditions as the Dominion of Canada is joined to the British Empire in their contention that Ireland is not free because it is not absolutely freed from English sovereignty and that the Irish Republic is not set up.

But would it be possible to obtain more without awful suffering, much bloodshed, almost annihilation of the present generation of Irishmen. The Post Express of this city, assuredly not an ironclad supporter of Lloyd George and likewise no violent denouncer of Sinn Fein, puts the case sharply and clearly as follows:—Sometimes critics of De Valera have appeared too censorious of him and his motives. To the practical American, he seems visionary, and they have not as much patience with him as perhaps they should have with a man in his situation. A theorist, he has fought for a principle. Whether that principle be right or wrong is just now beside the question. Devotion to principle is an admirable thing. But when it involves the sacrifice of a multitude of lives, it should be reconciled with common sense.

A completely free and independent Ireland is the ideal of De Valera and those with him. It can not be achieved. The council's resolution asserted that rejection of the treaty would be certain to involve Ireland in a war of annihilation. This is near the truth, for though Great Britain might not enter upon a war to subdue the Sinn Fein with the intention of exterminating the Irish, that result would be the almost certain outcome of such a war. It can be put down as certain that Great Britain will never consent to let Ireland be entirely free and independent. Whether this is right or just on her part need not be argued here. It is a fact, and is to be faced as a fact. She has the power to keep Ireland in subjection. There is no disputing that from a practical stand point, Americans, therefore, with their extremely practical bent in business, finance and politics, will turn away from sympathy with the Irish if the latter cast aside this opportunity to obtain virtual freedom and independence to plunge themselves again into a war that will mean death, distress and loss to them, and that will leave them in a position worse than any in which they have ever been.

Nobody who knew Ralph Day ever would even suspect him of the lack of common sense and political sagacity involved in an attempt to deprive Catholics of their rights of mass wine.

Phone History

As the days go on it is apparent there are two sides to the phone war. There are potent arguments both for and against the state-wide valuation of all telephone property upon which to base annual returns upon capital invested as against local segregated units—where population is dense, business heavy and returns ample to declare dividends. Whereas the opposite is true in smaller units but phone service must be provided. There are two sides also to the Rochester controversy over whether metered phone service weighs heavily upon the large phone user, increases his phone bills and restricts the use of the phones.

If it be true that the larger, business houses and phone users have been paying less than fair phone rate then they should not object to a fair advance. Very likely it is, true, as alleged, that users of the old Home did not pay an adequate rate and it is possibly true that the former Bell rates were somewhat higher than need be.

If it be a fact that the present rates exacted by the new Rochester Telephone Corporation are nearer to an equalized fair phone charge, it should not be difficult, if this be established, to arrive at a fair rate to all concerned.

What is wanted is sufficient telephone service at a fair rate, adequate to return fair profit on actual investment—not on swollen valuations, padded to permit dividends to stock speculators and promoters.

It should not be difficult for the committee suggested by Mr. Eastman to arrive at such a conclusion—if outside influence does not intervene.

May His Soul Rest in Peace

Many a Catholic traveler, stopping over trains on Sunday or other days, made a visit to St. Agnes Church on Third avenue near Lexington avenue, New York, City, and not a few will recall the venerable and saintly rector, Monsignor Henry A. Brann. He was one of the noted figures in the American Catholic Church, albeit one of the most modest of men. Although born in Ireland, his parents came here when he was 12 years old. He was the first alumnus of the American College in Rome and was once vice-president of Seton Hall College and later director of the seminary at Wheeling, W. Va. He found time to write many books and magazine articles. He died on December 31, 1921, aged 83 years and enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest pastor in New York City.

Slightly Mixed

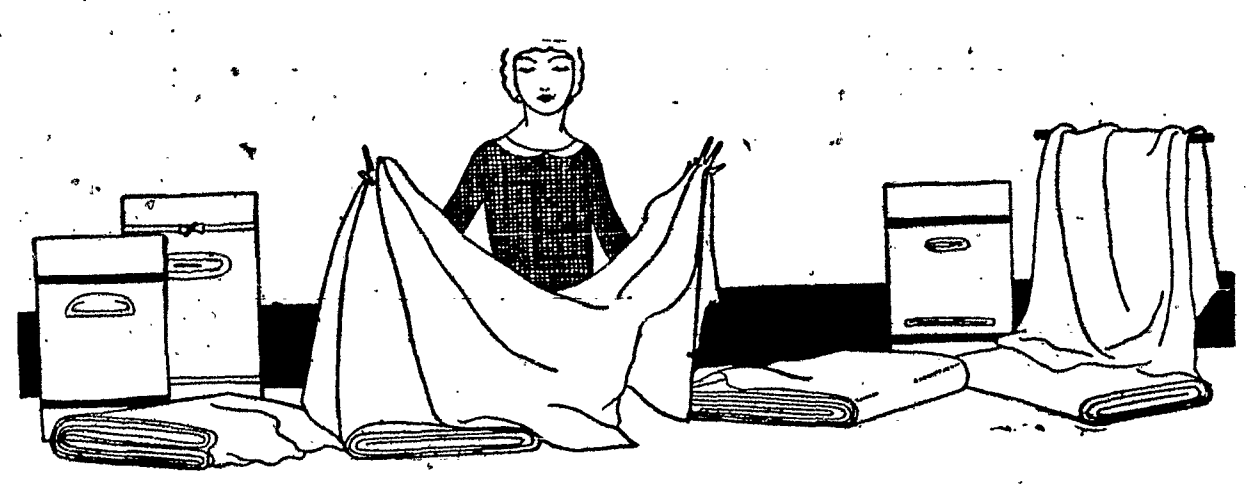
The Rochester Herald has a very clever correspondent at Albany who writes very entertaining political stories. But he was slightly confused in a paragraph in last Sunday's story and proved that he is more familiar with New York city than up-state. The Herald correspondent quoted a nameless political leader as saying that Governor Miller's recommendation that voting machines should be used all over New York State would not do because it is impossible to vote for presidential electors on the machines.

As a matter of fact, outside Greater New York for the last 20 years, 80 per cent of the electors have been casting their ballots, in presidential as well as local and state elections, on voting machines.

It is also a fact that, excluding Greater New York and Albany, every city in New York State, first, second and third class, now votes on machines.

Being a Public Service Commissioner is no fun these days. They don't like you if you do and they don't like you if you don't.

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In anticipation of an unusually big response to our annual January Sale of White, our stocks are literally bursting with their burden. The January prices are the lowest in many years. Included are:

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Why?
 In a recent article, Joseph Scott raises a pertinent question. He says:—A distinguished president of one of our large Catholic universities entertained as his guest, a world-renowned diplomat of South America, who is ambassador to Washington. He had not met any Catholics in the social, diplomatic or official life of Washington, and his daughters continuously inquired of their father how this happened to be. The father passed the inquiry from his daughters to this distinguished president, and the right reverend gentleman admitted frankly that he was at a loss to explain. The diplomat expressed his admiration at the wonderful opportunities for education that this particular university afforded to the Catholic young men, and of the splendid equipment they must have to achieve success after leaving the university; but he still came back to the query: how was it that there was no evidence of this element visible in the public life of the nation?

Read and Ponder.
 It would be well if every Catholic were to read and follow these passages, just made public, of the spiritual testament of Cardinal Dubourg, Archbishop of Rennes, who died two months ago:—"The devotion to the Sacred Heart," he says, "has been, with the devotion of the Holy Rosary, the double great devotion of my life, in conformity with my episcopal motto, to which I believe I have always been faithful. Per matrem ad cor Filii; and one of the graces which most excite my gratitude to God is that since my entrance into the big seminary up to the present day, that I have never sent me a sickness or extreme fatigue which has prevented me for one day—one single day—from saying my rosary, which I have always considered an obligation. All that I have been, all that I have done in the course of my life, all that I have received from God for my body, my soul, for my priestly and episcopal ministry, I attribute solely to this daily and faithful recitation of my rosary."

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William H. Anderson is very gracious and very generous in his unsolicited assistance in revision and reconstruction of the ceremonies and practices of the Catholic Church. In our opinion, his arduous duties as head of the Anti-Saloon League do not or should not afford much time to meddle in Church matters of which he has scant knowledge and no conception.

How can the counties and cities keep down their taxes when the State keeps piling on obligations to be met like roads, schools, and taking over to the State treasury old-time taxable revenues?

While delighted at his promotion to be Bishop of LaCrosse, the Holy Name and Big Brothers Societies of Chicago regret the loss to them of Rt. Rev. Alexander J. McGavick as he was responsible for the great growth of these organizations in the metropolis of the West.

Governor Miller is evidently a man of conviction and courage no matter how one thinks of his political sagacity.

Said the great philosopher:—"The place showeth the man and it showeth some to the better and some to the worse."

Both idealists and practical men are needed to make up a well balanced community.

President Harding, like Woodrow Wilson, is finding the Presidency no bed of roses.

The vote between DeValera and Collins in the Dail was very close. Let us hope that does not indicate perpetual division inside the Irish rank in Ireland.

Should employment bureaus be a purely national, state or municipal function or a combination of both?