

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Speculation

To their credit the newspaper writers with a few exceptions have not tried to make the election of a successor to Pope Benedict XV a lurid sensation.

In the peculiar condition the world is in, the election of a spiritual head of 500,000,000 human beings is of great importance. It is not to be wondered at that non-Catholic writers should treat the election of a Pope as a news item of more than passing importance.

But we as Catholics know and feel that Divine guidance is shaping the decision of the Cardinals assembled and we know that the ultimate choice will be the one best fitted to guide the Church and to best conserve our Holy Faith.

Should Wake Up

The writers who "cover" the National Capital should take an occasional trip to South and East and West and North to inform themselves as to the changed and changing conditions in the United States.

They wrote columns about the "Farmer Bloc" that is coming to the front in influence at Washington and how the "dirt farmers" were to mass in Conference at the National Capital and voice their demands upon the National Administration. Lo and behold, when the conference was held most of the "farmers" were in frock coats and talked agriculture and to stop "the riot of extravagance from the gentleman farmer" standpoint.

Truth is a lot of Northerners have gone South; many Easterners have gone West and they are applying their knowledge of politics acquired back home to gain control of things in their new domicile and every indication is that in many a state an entirely new deal in politics is to be expected.

The national capital scribes had better wake up else they will find themselves in the same position their predecessors were in at the famous national democratic convention of 1896 when the shrewd Washington correspondents, entirely mistaking the popular trend, kept blithely predicting that the "old Guard" was in the saddle and would nominate Richard P. Bland while the new ideas men had seized the reins and nominated William Jennings Bryan.

Possibly the American politicians prediction of "a president in May, also ran when the convention adjourns" is a paraphrase of the old saying: "Into the conclave a Pope, out of it still a Cardinal".

Works Both Ways

When it is considered that its sympathies are not always on the less truly says "the Post Express" under the caption "The Road to Learning, There is no royal road to learning, there is no royal road to financial rehabilitation."

In New York city the clothing manufacturers' association has been compelled by an injunction to open its shops to its employees that have been on strike. The injunction was granted because the association tried to break its contract for a forty-four-hour week and weekly wages with the employees and to substitute therefor a longer working week and the piece system. The court stands, as the courts must, if we are to have stability in industry in this country, to the inviolability of contract. The courts and the injunction are not unfair to the labor unions. This case proves the demand for the abolition of the injunction against strikers is a demand that our courts be unfair.

The Right Way

Governmental spending must be reduced or state bankruptcy is the inevitable result is the conclusion reached by the special taxation committee of the New York State Legislature of which Assemblyman Franklin W. Judson, of Monroe County is vice-chairman.

The "Democrat & Chronicle" discovered that each citizen of New York State is called upon now to pay \$106.97 annually in Federal, State, County and local taxes—an increase of 170 per cent between 1910 and 1920—and calls upon our legislators to stop devising new means of taxation and to stop "the riot of extravagance in expenditure" is checked, it will not be so necessary to devise new means of taxation. But if expenditures are not checked, the legislators must discover new sources of revenue—that is new things to tax.

How to reduce taxation? Reduce or stop altogether every unnecessary Federal, State or municipal function and begin no new State function until revenues from ordinary sources of taxation.

But will not the very persons who criticize extravagance now let loose a flood of protest if State and Federal and local activities are curtailed? Very likely. Then we will continue to pile up taxes.

Rev. Dr. Stires of St. Thomas Church in New York City has paraphrased and interpreted the Apostles Creed so that almost anybody may subscribe to it. Troubles there is not much left for which one has to say "I believe."

Self-Help

Rather harshly but nevertheless truly says "the Post Express":—Just as there is no royal road to learning, there is no royal road to financial rehabilitation. The men and nations facing bankruptcy must retrench and, so far as it is physically possible, earn more than they spend.

For some of the nations of Europe, financial salvation is impossible in the present calamitous state of the world. As the Scotch say of the doomed, Russia must "dree her weird." In that vast unhappy land millions must die of hunger, even if the United States leaves nothing undone to save a starving population.

The inflation of the currency in Russia, Germany and Austria will not stop until expenditure is very much reduced in these nations. We cannot be expected to spoon-feed Europe financially. The lesson is a hard one, but it has to be learned. That great practical thinker, Benjamin Franklin, taught it to the individuals. Nations must learn it now. Only by self-help can the nations of Europe be saved.

One may not always admire or agree with Nicholas Murray Butler, but he must concede the President of Columbia is not so far astray when he asserts the modern universities and colleges are turning out boobs instead of scholars.

Frank M. Lowden is a splendid type of the "dirt farmer." Mayor VanZandt will not incur popular displeasure if he compels City Hall attaches to give the municipality a full day's work for a day's pay.

The Post Express is right when it says pity should not be extended to those who lose money in bucket shops but human nature will continue to be human nature.

There is exquisite irony in the case of the son of a millionaire who refused at first to accept his legacy of one million dollars because the money should be used to help suffering humanity but now accepts and proposes to use the money to promote the cause of free love!

Says a secular contemporary, discussing the prophecies of St. Malachi:—"Those wishing well for mankind will pray that the prophecy concerning the next pope, (Fides intrepida,) faith without fear, will be fulfilled, for there has never been a time in the world when faith without fear was more needed to bring man back to a proper sense of his dependence upon his Creator and of his duty of service to Him."

Just how and why was the telephone committee organized?

Mr. James L. Brewer possesses a facile pen.

Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, certainly broke more than one record.

If there is peace in the building trades, unemployment in Rochester should lessen or about April 1st if weather conditions are not untoward.

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Solve Commuting Problem. Residents of Kalabagh, of the Indus river in India, have solved the problem of commuting between their homes and the valley, three miles up stream, where they till a very fertile soil. The village is in a desert, except for this small valley. In the morning the villagers walk to the valley, but in the evening they inflate goatskin bags which each man carries, and wade out into the swift stream of the river. This carries them rapidly down stream, and steering with their hands they can reach the bank just outside the small, walled houses in which they live.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Sunday, Feb. 5.—St. Agatha, virgin and martyr, was born in Sicily of noble parents and consecrated from infancy to God. Quintannus who governed Sicily under the Emperor Decius, summoned her to Catania that she might pervert and corrupt her. When she remained firm she was subjected to terrible tortures until released by death by God.

Monday, Feb. 6.—St. Dorothy, a young virgin of Caesarea, who converted two women who were attempting to pervert her and who answered the request of Theophilus that she send him apples or roses from the garden of her Spouse by sending an angel to him after her death. He was converted and like Dorothy, died for the faith.

Tuesday, Feb. 7.—St. Romuald, who entered a monastery to do penance for a murder committed by his father, a Ravenna nobleman. He founded many monasteries, including the one at Camaldoli, whence his followers are called Camaldolese. He died in 1027.

Wednesday, Feb. 8.—St. John of Matha, who founded the Order of the Holy Trinity for the redemption of Christian slaves. He died in 1213.

Thursday, Feb. 9.—St. Apollonia and the martyrs of Alexandria, who suffered in Alexandria in 249 and a year later braved the persecution of Decius. Apollonia, an aged virgin, was burned alive.

Friday, Feb. 10.—St. Scholastica, sister of the great St. Benedict, under whose direction she founded and governed a numerous community near Monte Cassino. She died about 543.

Saturday, Feb. 11.—St. Severinus, of a noble Durgundian family, who forsook the world and became head of the great Abbey of St. Maurice. He performed many miracles, among them the cure of Clovis, the first Christian King of France. He died in 507.

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COULD NOT ACCEPT REWARD WELSH TUNES HAVE SURVIVED Traditional Melodies Still in Use, Though They Have Not Been Committed to Paper.

The druggist had stopped in the middle of putting up a difficult prescription and deftly removed from the woman's eye the cinder that had been causing her great pain. "Ah, thank you so much," she gasped. "How much is it?" "Nothing at all," he replied courteously. "O, but you should let me pay you something—you really should? I'm sure it would be only right to pay you for your time. It took all of five minutes—or at least we will call it five minutes, though of course it wasn't really so long—and if your time is worth \$8 a day—and really I think druggists should make that much, though of course they do not work so hard as carpenters or painters—why that would come to—let me see, why nearly 10 cents—or at least we will call it 10 cents, though it would really be only about 8 cents, wouldn't it?" "No, madam," the druggist replied firmly. "We are glad to do these little services for our customers, and I recall distinctly that you have bought most of your postage stamps here for a long while."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Graves unexplored for hundreds of thousands of years, according to students, were jarred to daylight at Torrance, near Los Angeles, when a blast of 100 pounds of dynamite pushed into the air fossils of antediluvian beasts. It was a sure blast, especially set for a group of California scientists who visited the lime pits which have given forth rollers of the two-toed horse, the same toothed tiger, the giant sloth and other peculiar inhabitants of the jungles which existed hereabouts a half a million years or more before Los Angeles was thought of. A whole mass of interesting discoveries, was made in the debris of the explosion. Something of the size of these prehistoric monsters may be gleaned from the fact that one tooth measures about 15 inches across the top and is from 18 to 24 inches long.

Boston Pipe Arch Bridge Unique. An engineering curiosity, said to be unique in this country and to have only one parallel in Europe, is the pipe-arch bridge over the Sudbury river, which carries Boston's water supply. The span is 80 feet, and the steel pipe, 7 1/2 feet in diameter, rises 5 1/2 feet above the horizontal at the center. The pressure on the abutments when the pipe is filled with water is very great and is resisted by a mass of concrete 40 feet thick behind each abutment. Across the curved top runs a hand-railed foot bridge. The steel of the pipe in the arched portion is 3/4 of an inch in thickness.