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Friday, March 3, 1922.

Higher Education

Introduction in the Legislature last week of a bill granting a special charter to the Aquinas Institute, a corporation headed by our Right Reverend Bishop and including in its Trustees representative Catholic laymen, of Rochester to take charge of high school Catholic educational institutions in Rochester lays the foundation for a Catholic High School, citywide in scope and application, and, later on, of a Catholic College in this city.

This should be and is gratifying to every Catholic interested in the education of Catholic youth—and who of us is not?—in that it will insure in the near future a college education for our boys and girls in a Catholic institution, surrounded by Catholic influences and teaching only truth unmingled with hazy notions on unproven theories.

This is one of the most gratifying pieces of news appearing in many a day.

Lent

Once more the cycle has passed round and the Holy Season of Lent is upon us. In its wisdom, Holy Mother Church has set aside this period of forty days in which we are to take spiritual inventory, as it were; to indulge in self-examination; to put aside worldly pleasures and devote the time thus gained in education and development of the soul and in doing penance in reparation for our sins of omission and commission.

There is a physical and a material side to this Lenten period of fasting and penance. While it benefits or should benefit our souls, it is of as much benefit to our bodies. It is well that we should slow up in our physical activity and curtail our eating and feasting and mortify our physical selves. It will do us good, physically.

Let us, therefore, prepare to observe this Lenten season in the manner prescribed by the Church.

Recruiting in the Marines is restricted by the announcement that no married men will be enlisted and married marines will not be re-enlisted. Perhaps, perjury and illegitimacy will increase.

Be prepared to be generous toward St. Mary's Hospital.

The baseball season—training—is already on its way.

A local paper excuses the Roma catastrophe by the plea that all new lines of progress have and must entail enormous toll in human lives! Is that literally correct? Or is this loss of life due to carelessness and utter defiance of the law of God?

Sellers of the latter day "booth" should be given prison sentence for first offense.

President Harding has been interviewed.

Whose The Greater?

The New York "World" administers a needed rebuke to those misguided Americans who would sever relations with France, the nation that came to our aid in the War of the Revolution, in the following editorial:—
 Louis Loucheur's statement that France can never pay her \$3,000,000,000 war debt to the United States has aroused Senator McCormick of Illinois, whose specialty of late is to lecture that nation on its fiscal ordering. Let France, he says, reduce her armies as well as her hates—let her, "in short, balance her current budgets" if the American people, "patient but suffering" because of transatlantic conditions are "to co-operate in her economic reconstruction."

So easy for France! So hard for our own "suffering" people, whose Government is not able even to balance its own budget! Why France should be singled out from the Allied debtors for attack is not obvious, but let that pass. Prof. H. G. Moulton of Chicago University, writing in the New Republic, calls attention to the fact that while the national income of the French people in 1920 averaged about \$265 per capita and that of the United States about \$620, French Government taxes now amount to 18 per cent of the national income, while those of the United States Government are 8 per cent. Nevertheless, the French 18 per cent of taxation equals only about half of the expenditure side of the budget and if it were to be balanced taxation would have to be boosted to 36 per cent.

The American people are complaining of Federal taxes of 8 per cent of income, and what they would do if that were doubled who will venture to say? But what the French people would do if their Government undertook to double their present 18-per-cent tax burden we might find out through another Russian cat-clysm closer to us.

The French Government simply cannot balance its budget as things are. If it were to disband its armies to the last man it could not reach a balance, for more taxation would still be necessary and the French people cannot stand more taxation. But France in this respect is tied up with the whole European situation and cannot be untied without concert of action in which the United States must participate if it is to be enduring.

Net Too Old

Tom Freier, writing in "Forbes Magazine" opines that the man who quits at fifty because he thinks he is getting old is merely choosing a pleasant way of committing suicide." He cites in particular the case of Judge Gary, active head of the United States Steel corporation. Judge Gary was past fifty years when that corporation came into being and is still active, although he is over seventy. Another case is called to mind in the person of a well-known structural engineer who is well over the seventy mark. This man planned and executed one of the largest transmission lines that has ever been constructed. For years he dreamed of harnessing the headwaters of a mammoth Sierra Nevada lake and transmitting electrical power to Los Angeles and other California cities. He was past fifty years of age when the feat was undertaken and it stands as a monument to his ingenuity and pluck.

Mr. Hearst and Mr. Brisbane do not like Japan and the Japanese. Neither does Lord Northcliffe, the English Hearst. Wonder why?

Unreliable

Rev. Walter Laidlaw, for the Federation of Protestant churches, in order to impress Congress with the necessity of naming more Protestant chaplains in the Army and Navy than Catholics, in proportion to the commonly accepted census of church members, than had been allotted, submitted what purported to be a correct census of membership of the Churches in the United States made by himself, rather compiled and analyzed by him.

This Laidlaw census has been disputed as to accuracy, so far as the Catholic population of the United States is concerned. The National Catholic Welfare Council engaged Lewis Meriam, a non-Catholic expert statistician for a score of years in the employ of the United States census bureau, to analyze the Laidlaw figures. Mr. Meriam has just reported to Rev. Father Burke, Secretary of the Council:

"I have never encountered a statistical report that leaves so unpleasant a taste in the mouth as does this one. I find it difficult to believe that purely accidental blunders in statistical reasoning and analysis could so uniformly operate against the Roman Catholic Church, and I am forced to entertain a suspicion that the computation is, in fact, a piece of statistical camouflage, under cover of which an attempt may be made "to put something over?" "When statisticians fall out, then the outside is pardoned for refusing to accept as accurate and literally true, the charge of Dr. Laidlaw that "from 1906 to 1916 the gains of the various (evangelical Protestant bodies) in the United States were more than double those of the Catholic Churches."

Why encourage useless loss of life and waste of money by further manufacture of dirgibles?

The Post Express is a great liker of Kipling, Balfour and Haig.

Was it good or bad to restrict immigration on the percentage basis?

There is one profiteering parasite who is not worried about his income tax. He does not schedule his illegal receipts from an illegal traffic.

Why would it not be wiser to enact a statewide electrical code before framing one for Rochester alone? Sooner or later there will be a state law and it will supercede the Rochester ordinance. Then there will be confusion and chaos.

Bishop Hickey Guest Of Fourth Degree

Bishop Thomas F. Hickey told the Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, at a dinner in Powers Hotel Tuesday night that the World War has left society in a condition that calls for serious consideration.

"Business conditions are not what they should be, even in a moral sense, and the home is not what it was. Each of you has a patriotic work to perform in life, not for yourselves, but for others."

The dinner was attended by about 400 men and women. Faithful Navigator William M. Smith introduced the toastmaster, James M. E. O'Grady. At the speakers' table, besides Bishop Hickey, Mr. Smith and Mr. O'Grady, were Charles R. Barnes, William Rosenbach, George W. Henner, Wm. T. Conner, Frank Hanna, John J. McInerney, the Rev. John Sellinger, secretary to the bishop, and Thomas Sharkey, Leo McCarthy and Charles Hawken led the chorus singing, and there were solos by Mrs. Maurice Sammons, wife of Grand Knight Sammons of Utica Council; Edward Lisen and William Predmore.

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