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Friday, May 26, 1922.

Not a Ku Klux

President Harding is not a member of the infamous Ku Klux Klan and he is not in sympathy with the organization or its aims, according to a letter he has sent through his secretary, George B. Christian, to Mrs. Frank L. Applegate, 615 South Oakdale avenue, Medford, Ore. Mrs. Applegate had written to President Harding to inquire whether a speaker who appeared in Medford and announced himself as a representative of the Ku Klux Klan had authority for the statement that Mr. Harding "was friendly to the organization."

Replying to Mrs. Applegate's inquiry, Secretary Christian says: "You may be very sure that any statement of the President's interest in or approval of the Ku Klux Klan is a complete and egregious misrepresentation of the President's attitude. In some quarters it has been even represented that the President is a member of this organization. Not only is that untrue, but the fact is that the President heartily disapproves of the organization and has repeatedly expressed himself to this effect."

Yours sincerely, (Signed)
GEORGE B. CHRISTIAN, JR.,
Secretary to the President.

Vacation

Now that the commencement days are with us and vacation season is at hand, we should be taking some vacation precautions.

Because school is closed that does not mean that our children are excused from absence at mass. Because we go away from home on vacation trips, we are not excused from our religious obligations. We are supposed to assist at Mass even if we are on vacation.

But it is put forward: How can one assist at mass if there is no Church or pastor where we are vacationing? How then can we attend service?

There is one decisive answer: Before enjoying vacation quarters, inquire if there is a Catholic Church convenient? If the answer be in the negative, then choose another location where the Church and priest are conveniently near.

If anything happens during vacation season, and you are deprived of spiritual assistance, the fault is all your own.

There is no vacation season for the Mass.

There are men and women who use themselves—as they use their motor cars—burn themselves up in short order. They never think of conserving their energy.

Rochester is a pretty good city to live in. Its civic spirit is an inspiration.

Now let everybody, autoist and pedestrian alike, unite in obedience to the new traffic ordinance and try to make the streets of Rochester safe for all the residents of the city.

Sims' Real Status

Admiral W. S. Benson, who was here as the guest of the Knights of Columbus, was the real head of the American Navy during the war, and not the arch-anglophobic, William Sims, as is proven by the following excerpts from a recent letter written by Admiral Benson to the Lowell Courier Citizen:—
"It is evident from your editorial that you think Admiral Sims was in supreme command of the naval forces during the war, and that he was afloat directing the movement of vessels. This is not true. Admiral Sims lived at a hotel in London, and the United States government gave him an allowance for his living expenses. He was provided with ample office room and accommodations in the immediate vicinity of the chancellery of the United States Embassy in London. At no time was he afloat, except in making trips across the channel or during visits to the grand fleet or visiting some station for inspection purposes.

As a matter of fact, Admiral Sims was a subordinate, acting directly under my orders during the whole time, and was not responsible except in an indirect way, either for the strategy or the operations of any naval forces. The naval forces in Europe were a part of the United States fleet under the direct command of Admiral H. T. Mayo. In other words, Admiral Sims was the naval representative of my office in European waters, and he was not only acting under my orders, but was considered to be a part of our naval forces commanded by Admiral H. T. Mayo. He was given the title of commander of the United States naval forces in European waters in lieu of any better title, but in fact was a magnified naval attache.

There is absolutely no comparison between the position held by General Pershing in the army and that of Admiral Sims in the navy. I do not wish in any way to detract from anything that is due Admiral Sims, but simply to give you the facts. During the war, and for some time before, I was the technical head of the navy, and all during the war I was responsible for all strategy and operations ashore and afloat. Fleets and vessels, including the transports were moved by orders from my office and from me. As I said in the beginning, I do not ask for any recognition of this fact from any one, nor do I care to have this letter printed, as I am only trying to give the correct facts to one who impresses me as being prompted by a desire to be perfectly fair, and to give what is actually a true statement of the case.

One Track Minds

While the man with the "one track mind" who persistently pleads on, if his motive is good and his objective is of great good, may achieve much for humanity and the world at large, the narrow-minded and bigoted "one track minded fanatic" is a menace to the community.

The man who can see nothing in the world but the enforcement of a particular law in which he is personally interested and cares not if all other laws on the statute books are broken with impunity, is no earthly benefit to the community, the country or the world. Instead of being an asset they are really economic liability.

The man who can see no good in any profession of faith except his own; the alleged Christian who would burn the Catholics and the Jews at the stake; who shouts in the public square that Catholics are all idolaters and the Pope is the chief idolater; that all his neighbors who do not think as he does should all be ostracised and exiled.

"One track minds" are responsible for most of the hypocrisy, bigotry and devilry of today.

Common Sense

A short editorial in "Columbia" gives the real situation as to prohibition; it gives the facts, minus the bunk of Anderson, Wheeler, et al:—

It is rather unfortunate for the Salvation Army that its commander should have projected her organization into a rather widespread wrangle regarding the merits or demerits of prohibition and the Volstead Act. Of course Miss Booth is entitled to her opinion and to an expression of that opinion; she is entitled to speak for her denomination—for the Salvation Army is a religious denomination of the Protestant Evangelical class—because, in America, she is the head of that denomination. To say that in her recent dispute with Mr. James Speyer she entered politics is ridiculous, for prohibition is more a sociological than a political question; in fact, it is the political elevation of prohibition that has made the movement suspect and distasteful to vast numbers of Americans. Where Miss Booth appears to have mistaken public opinion is in lining up the Army, sympathetically at least, with such organized bigotry as the Anti-Saloon League, whose mission of attack on the saloon has been successfully concluded, and whose present policy of implicit and explicit attack on the Catholic Church is miserable and degrading and an innocuous waste of time and money. Prohibition may or may not be a boon to future generations of Americans; but we may seriously doubt whether legislation can enforce true temperance.

Let us give credit to the purchasing agents for a new and illuminating expression: "Inform-ashow."

There is another Bishop Hicksey—Rt. Rev. W. D. in Providence, Rhode Island.

Postmaster Mullan appears to be imbued with the idea that the postal service is to give the people their mail promptly.

Perhaps, 1924, will see a repetition of 1912, politically speaking.

It looks as if Governor Nathan L. Miller will be a candidate to succeed himself.

Hearst, Mack, Conners, these newspaper publishers must keep in the limelight. Any way, they can supply advertising space in their own papers at little expense.

Bishop Burt will find Methodist Italy and the Italians a pretty expensive contract.

Let us have a safe and sane Fourth of July!

Bishop Muldoon is the new Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic University of America.

Rochester's Community Chest is full again.

Gifford Pinchot, having walloped the old Penrose machine in Pennsylvania, now proceeds to build one of his own. And, having been a political protege of Theodore Roosevelt, no one need doubt that it will be an efficient exponent of intensive applied practical politics because the Roosevelt school of politics was easily intensely practical of method and prodigal in accomplishment.

Discussion of William J. Bryan as Moderator or presiding officer of the Presbyterians this year recalls that in 1896 all the Methodist "Bishop's" were for McKinley as against Bryan and Bishop Fowler went so far as to say: "Rather than see Bryan elected I would go to sea in a boat of stone, with oars of iron, with sails of lead, with the wrath of God for my gale and hell for my port." The Methodists were all for McKinley and Gold.

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