

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Unmasked

Not only the Catholics but fair minded men of all creeds are opposed to the Towner-Sterling bill to Prussianize the public school system of the United States and eliminate in many states parochial or Catholic schools:—

The Boston "Transcript" which cannot be classed as a Catholic publication has this to say of the Towner-Sterling bill:—

"It is a bill to Europeanize the educational system of the United States, to scrap the free school system of the several states and substitute in its place a federal system of education, subsidized from Washington, regulated from Washington, and all in imitation of the imperialistic methods of the Old World. The main provisions of the bill are two: The first provides for the creation by congress of a federal department of education to be headed by a secretary who shall be a member of the President's cabinet. The second provides federal aid in education in the form of a federal subsidy to be taken out of the federal treasury and doled out among the states to be used in education as congress may from time to time decree.

"These two main provisions are enough to condemn the measure in the eyes of true Americans who take the trouble to think the thing through and in their hearts cherish the hope of making a contribution in their day and generation toward the conservation and enhancement of that 'American character' at home and abroad which it was the dream of Washington to develop and the destiny of Lincoln to save and the glory of Roosevelt to incarnate in his life and work. . . .

"Any bill that provides for further trespassing by the federal government upon the premises placed by the constitution in the control of the several states is also bad and ought to be opposed by every taxpayer in the land. It is true that federal control will hasten standardization of education, but what true American, believing in educational and religious freedom wishes to see a system of standardized education or standardized religion established in this country and controlled in Washington? . . .

"Our electorate in this commonwealth is sprung from many races, but the belief in our public school system is as strong as the belief in freedom of religion. Freedom in education and freedom in religion are twin liberties that are dear to the heart of every loyal citizen of the commonwealth. Any attempt in any quarter to Europeanize our public schools and yoke them under a federated bureaucracy at Washington or an international bureaucracy in some European capital will be regarded, and rightly, by the people of Massachusetts as a challenge to our dual form of government, an assault upon American independence and a direct attack not only upon the constitution of the United States,

which is the cornerstone of our national life, but also upon that 'American character' which is the spiritual cornerstone of our national life."

Be Warned

Not alone in Oregon, Washington and Georgia are the anti-Catholics active in their warfare on the Catholic schools—because the latter are fast coming to be the real bulwarks of American civilization, and the real barrier to national atheism—but in Oklahoma the bigots are bending every energy to abolish the parochial schools.

In their anxiety to cloak their real purpose the Oklahoma bigots are trying a new tack. Those who send their children to other than the public schools are branded as snobs, aristocrats and foreign toadies.

"They are obsessed with the desire to have their children different," says their letter, referring to parents who educate their offspring in private schools. "They have a feeling that it is 'common' to educate their children in a public school; that a distinction is conferred on them by being able to say that their boy or girl is attending a private school where they will not have to associate with 'common' children.

"And attendance at such schools does confer a distinction," continues the letter on this theme. "It makes snobs and royalty worshippers of the youth so educated; and there is no place in America for the snob and the toady."

There are more than 40 parochial schools, with an attendance of about 8,000 pupils, including 700 Indians. The Catholic population of Oklahoma is but 57,000 in a total of more than 2,000,000.

Is It Here?

We ask indulgence of our readers for so many references to the Ku Klux Klan—we would faintly ignore this fantastic corps of mummers—but there is danger that unless advance publicity is given, this nefarious organization may obtain a foothold in Rochester surreptitiously.

And the latest slant to the Ku Klux is a women's auxiliary to unite in one body "the Protestant women of the country."

This secular news despatch is self explanatory:—

Salem, Ore., July 17. — Articles of incorporation have been filed here for the Ladies of the Invisible Empire. Among the incorporators are R. H. Sawyer, a minister who is now lecturing for the Ku Klux Klan; Luther I. Powell, organizer of the Klan in Oregon, and Fred G. Gifford, present head of the Klan in this state. All are named as members of the supreme grand council of the new society which is to maintain its headquarters at Portland.

The purpose of the organization, according to the articles of incorporation, is to promote the physical and mental capacity of its members, promote better acquaintance and closer association, preserve the American free public school, preserve the purity and supremacy of the white race and unite in one great body the Protestant women of the world.

In our judgment, it will be easier to organize a woman's society of bigots than of men and also it will be harder to combat. Let us keep our eyes and ears open.

Pope Defended

In a recent issue the "Methodist Recorder", chief organ of Methodism in Great Britain, printed a letter on the election of Pope Pius XI in which highly critical allusions were made about the new Pope and the Church in general.

Much to the surprise of Methodists themselves, a stern critic from among their own ranks, sent in a scathing reply to the aforesaid article.

"We have no just reason," says this Methodist champion of the Pope, "for doubting the honesty, sincerity, and personal integrity of character of the new Pope, who apparently is a high-minded Christian man of the best type, his letter on the Genoa conference undoubtedly revealing him as such."

This broad-minded Methodist then proceeds to pluck the beam out of the eyes of his fellow believers. "Is it not high time," he says, "that we cleared our decks of prejudice regarding Roman Catholic institutions and the Roman Catholic faith? Ought we not in fairness to judge that Church in the light of what we find and see in our midst, where we know she is playing her part in the uplift of humanity and the extension of the kingdom of God?"

Should Be Ousted

There is much of common sense in the following editorial pronouncement of the "Post Express" regarding the proposal of "freak laws" in state and national legislative bodies:—There may be some reason for laws forbidding extremes in dress or bathing suits, for these may easily become indecent. But even in these things, it is generally safer to leave the regulation to public taste. The people will not stand indecency, and those who would become indecent in dress would soon find themselves condemned in the court of public opinion.

To say, however, that such legislators are merely funny is to treat them too lightly. They may go from one of these absurdities to something serious, and may manage to slip over legislation seriously interfering with the personal liberty of a majority of the people. Therefore they should be ousted from lawmaking bodies as soon as they are found to be the asses they are.

Perhaps it will not do any great harm to stir these city officials up a bit.

Recent events have furnished some pulpit orators a text. The Catholic priest takes his text from the Gospels and the Scriptures 52 Sundays in the year.

In these days when the Church is assailed on every hand, you should have a Catholic paper in your homes—to know the truth.

Pope Pius XI seems to be winning the respect of even those opposed to him from churchly and political viewpoint.

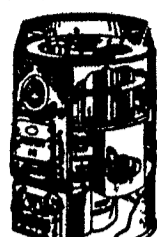
These industrial difficulties will not be settled or even compromised for any appreciable period unless the makers believe in God and His teachings.

Mr. Hearst and Mr. Smith will soon be able to produce a revised version of Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Sheehan.

Will the revived state conventions produce a higher-class crop of statesmen than the direct primaries? We shall see in a few weeks.

In political party councils, already the shrewd advice of George W. Aldridge is missed.

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