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Friday, August 25, 1922.

Let There Be An End

We have thought that the Ku Klux Klan with its tomfoolery about masks and robes, flaming swords and what not; its veiled hints of tremendous membership made up of men and women who knew not each other yet were bound by awful oaths not to divulge any secrets and obey implicitly every and all kinds of orders from the high up dupes of the dupes, was only a publicity proposition to put across the hugest fraternity membership selling proposition the world has ever seen and that the bombastic declarations of eternal hostility to the Catholic Church and Catholic individuals was but a side issue of the selling campaign.

But we think differently in view of the fact that 25,000 of the fraud cat buzzards gathered at dark of midnight in an outlying park of Chicago and initiated into the bigoted mysteries of this mysterious bigoted Klan 4650 dupes leads us to believe there is serious menace in this serpent like organization.

We as Catholics must recognize that we are faced with another cycle of persecution and ostracism and extinction if we do not bestir ourselves and show our strength.

And thousands of non-Catholics are with us.

Politics

With the advent of women voters, it was predicted that our political system would be changed, that political parties would be realized; that political machines would disappear entirely and that the women would turn things upside down generally.

What has actually happened? We find the old political parties intact, we are divided into Democratic, Republican, Prohibition, Socialist and the other political groups that were in existence before woman suffrage. The only difference is that there are now woman groups or auxiliaries of these parties and women are represented on the managing committees of these parties.

As a matter of fact, the women are more intense political partisans than the men. They are swayed, often, by different arguments but they appear as intense partisans in the final analysis.

We wonder if the ultimate result will change this estimate. Personally we think not.

The newspapers report 25,000 Chicagoans witnessed a Ku Klux initiation in one of the city parks. We thought Mayor Thompson did not tolerate that sort of thing.

Well, Vardaman is as good as the Southern Ku Klux Klanners who are so much in evidence.

Mr. James M. Cox is not afraid to ask questions.

Well, Congressman Ned T. Pierson is no political tyrant. He dynamiting of cars no matter by whom practised or the reason alleged therefor.

Foolish

Even if it were a fight for an essential principle, the recent coal strikes and railroad strikes were ill advised and a serious indictment of our economic policy. Undoubtedly, many thousands of people will suffer this winter and many persons will die, indirectly, because of the lack of fuel and food brought on by these strikes.

And this is not all. Thousands of persons have been out of work because of the strikes and many more will be on account of lack of coal to furnish the motive power to operate the plants in which they are employed.

This condition will enable the profiteers to extort higher and higher prices for the necessities of life as the necessity increases and the supply diminishes. This will bring back the awful economic conditions of war times and who will suffer the most?

The poor people, of course, because they will have to reduce their living expenses. In other words, those who can afford it the least will be hurt the hardest. Is there no way to prevent a recurrence of these terrible conditions.

Is It Wise?

Out in a Western city they are making a great hullabaloo about the possible evil effects of the bad women upon the men and crying aloud for protection against such influence.

Why not raise a cry against the bad men? There could be no bad women without bad men. But the man, nine times out of ten, goes scot free while the woman is pilloried, more by her own sex than by the men. They are half inclined to charitable but the women cry out "Nay!"

If only the uplifters would turn their attention to the real crux of the problem. If men and women followed in the steps of the Master; if they thought less of the fleeting pleasures of the world and more of preparing for the world to come we would not have need of preventive treatments and our bodies would not be defiled and polluted by material effects of indulgence and lack of self control.

The world suffers from lack of faith in God and a belief in a world after this.

Reading And Plays

It is gratifying to read and observe the growing disposition on the part of producers of plays and films and publishers of books to recognize the fact that the great public is becoming thoroughly disgusted with the loose plays, to say the least, and the unwholesome books and magazines with which the country has been flooded for the last few years.

It is a healthier and more commendable condition than has prevailed for some time much of the rampant vice and loose morals can be traced to the bad books and bad plays and bad moving pictures.

Cut out, eliminate the jazz music and the nauseating dance postures from the film and the vaudeville and opera stage and the every-day folk will soon forget and cease to practise these things because we are a race of imitators.

We hope the attitude of the producers and publishers reflects the real public sentiment. If it does we are entering upon an era of better days, better plays, better books and will be more devoted to spiritual things.

Theodore Roosevelt used to say that the best way to get rid of an unpopular law was to enforce it to the letter.

The American people will not tolerate wrecking of trains and dynamiting of cars no matter by whom practised or the reason alleged therefor.

Good Advice

Writing on the scandalous conditions of things brought about by or chargeable to the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Law, the Chicago "Tribune" very sensibly remarks:—

From points beyond the three-mile limit to the national center of anything or of everything, from the other side of any international boundary line to the remotest fastness whither moonshiners most resort, from the openest of open spaces to the most populous of inhabited spots, booze scandals squeak and gibber. Federal prohibition agents, the nervous citizen sometimes is inclined to think, are trailing nearly everybody, including one another. It is not a pleasant situation.

Then there are the scandals about suppressed booze scandals. And there are the scandals about suppressed prohibition agents and the scandals about prohibition agents who need suppressing. And the United States shipping board openly sells booze on the high seas in the ships controlled by it because the constitution follows the flag only on land and within the three-mile limit. This worries a great many congressmen so badly that they can hardly think or talk of anything else. And there are many really important things to think and talk about.

Meanwhile the rum runner, the moonshiner and the bootlegger are laying the foundations of substantial fortunes, as did in the old days various industrious Americans who frugally saved the money they made in the African slave trade.

The situation is distressing to any citizen who believes in obedience to law. There is no room for argument on the score of duty, so far as law is concerned. But the growing agitation in favor of such changes in the federal prohibition act and in the supplementary acts of the various states as would make legal the manufacture and sale of light wine and beer very properly may be judged in the light of the multitudinous booze scandals that flood the American republic from center to circumference.

The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors is forbidden by the federal constitution. Therefore those major prohibitions are likely to stand for all time. But there is nothing copper riveted about the laws establishing an alcoholic content of one-half of 1 per cent as the limit for all legal beverages. To change that limit to a scientifically accurate one would be likely to do more to put the rum runner, the moonshiner and the bootlegger out of business than all the battalions of embattled sleuths now apparently trailing nearly everybody, including one another.

Meanwhile, everybody ought to obey the antiboose law to the letter. The amount of lawlessness in this country is appalling anyway.

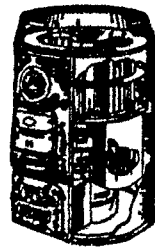
Why is it that the average politician is afraid of his shadow?

Let us hope the coal miners and railroads will be permitted to work overtime so that we may not freeze this winter.

Vacation is about over and it is time to think about where the boys and girls are to go to school. There is no reason why our Catholic boys and girls should not go to Catholic high schools and colleges.

Hats off to Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus if they succeed in their dream to erect a real Catholic center for Rochester.

Why do the newspapers persist in giving so much space to the antics and disgraceful doings of this or that movie clan and so little to a public benefactor or other really meritorious act?

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(Continued from August 18)

ADVENTURES OF THE THRIFT FAMILY

—7—
They soon paid their bills, and things weren't so bad. They put away something from each check they had. On the day the last bill was paid and receipted, "Ta" put on his hat—grinned a bit—and then "beat" it. Straight down to the bank he went as he smiled, and opened a little account for the child.

—8—
If it wasn't so much, just a dollar to start, but it gave him a feeling of joy and light heart. When Bobby grew bigger, and went off to school, he found that school savings' money was the rule. So just like his father, saved pennies and dimes, to put in the bank at school savings time.

—9—
One day Mrs. Thrift came home from a meeting. She said she had heard a lecture on eating. "Families are using a budget," she said. "To try to cut wastage and big overhead. Some overeat, and some spend all on pleasure. Hereafter WE work on a 'financial measure.'"

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