

CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, November 24th, 1922.

TELEPHONE MAIN 1567

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Wake Up!

As stated, the bigots in Oregon have put over an amendment to the state Constitution forbidding attendance upon other than the public schools of all children of school age. Violation of the law is a criminal offense and entails prison sentence on parents who fail to send their children to public schools. We have not seen the full text of this remarkable document, so we are unable to say whether the poor children not sent to public schools are taken from their parents and committed to a truant school where they will not be allowed to hear Mass or perform their religious duties as prescribed by the Federal Constitution.

Of course this move is intended to abolish the Catholic parochial schools in Oregon and turn their 7,100 pupils into the public schools! Possibly, the Oregon amendment will be declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court but too much confidence should not be reposed in this result. The foes of the prohibition amendment were assured by the foremost legal minds of the country that the United States Supreme Court could not help declaring that document unconstitutional. But its constitutionality was upheld by that high court.

If a score or so States adopt the Oregon amendment the next step will be to ask Congress to submit a similar amendment to the United States Constitution. "But we in New York State will be safe", say the sleepy Catholics here. "New York state never will ratify such a preposterous proposition."

You thought the same about the Prohibition amendment. But New York state ratified just the same. And ever if New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts all held out the pocket borough Western States and the bigoted Southern States, will put over an anti Catholic school amendment easier than the Prohibition amendment went through.

Again: Wake up!

Makes Flexible Laws

One of the sources of irritation and unrest today is the inflexibility of laws. There is an outburst of indignation at some catastrophe—a factory fire in which employees lose lives because of inadequate exits or a building collapses because of faulty construction or rotten scaffolding gives way and workmen are carried to the hospital.

Right away laws are drafted in drastic terms and so inflexible in administration that, unfortunately, the occurrences cited cannot be prevented but, unfortunately, if enforced literally laws would bring about the result by complete stopping of the business affected. It is our duty as a citizen to improve a faulty law by turning it down mayor you can retire him at the end of a two year term.

What happens? The employer takes a chance or he has sufficient pull to have administrative forces overlook his lapse.

Would it not be better to pass a general law and permit modifications to be granted by the official administrators for a limited period? Such permits to be made public daily as real estate transfers and marriage licenses?

This is worthy of serious thought.

Coming True

When Cardinal Gasquet, the famous Benedictine, was in England a year ago he gave offense to the Protestants there by predicting that before many years indifference to revealed religion would result in disintegration of the Protestant sects with Catholicism left as the only form of organized Christianity.

A recent despatch from London to the National Catholic Welfare Council's news service bears out the Cardinal's prediction. We quote:

Now while Protestantism, as Protestantism, has not so far quite reached the breaking-up point, there is no doubt that there is something wrong with religion in England. All religion is suffering as an after effect of the war. It may even be that the Catholic Church in England also is suffering from the war, though in this case it is very difficult, indeed, to discover whether this is so.

If the blame for the prevalent indifference is to be laid on the war and the effects of the war, the Catholic would be affected with the same indifference. But although there are undoubtedly leakages among the Catholics, it would be foolish to deny that it is also true that the Catholic Church in the country is not suffering from the dry rot of indifference. The Catholic Church, alone in all the religious confessions in Great Britain is, not only holding its own, but is making progress. Among the non-Catholics the number of religious marriages has fallen off, so considerably that it has become a matter for comment by the registrar general. On the other hand, the Catholic marriages have not only not declined, but they have increased. In fact, the Catholic Church heads the list with the number of marriages solemnized during the last statistical year.

Cardinal Gasquet's prediction has not yet been fulfilled; but the position is gradually and surely asserting itself. And more and more it is becoming plain that religion in Great Britain is sorting itself out into two sections: that is, the Catholic Church with its unalterable and Divine basis of revelation, and with the Catholic Church those Anglo-Catholics, so-called, who have assimilated much of the doctrine and teaching of the Catholic Church. This is on the positive side. On the other side, there are the conflicting voices of the latitudinarian Anglicans and the non-Episcopalian Protestants who, in their appeal to human reason as the foundation of all things, are wandering more and more into the city of confusion. And the time cannot be far off when all men of good-will, to whom religion is a matter of the soul and not of dialectics, will find themselves forced to make a choice between an unchangeable Divine Revelation and a perfectly human system of reasoning. And when that day comes, the prediction of Cardinal Gasquet will be fulfilled.

Bishop Hickey's appeal for Aquinas' Institute should meet a generous response. The cause is worthy and the institution is needed today more than ever.

Farmers want high prices just as workers want high wages.

If we are to have a city manager in Rochester by all means let us have the recall. Under present political rule if you do not like a mayor you can retire him at the end of a two year term.

Spread The Light!

Archbishop Curley deserves great praise for his stand taken at the recent meeting of the National Council of Catholic Men in Washington that the Catholic laymen must be the great vehicle through which the outstanding prejudice against the Church which prevails in many quarters must be dissipated. His opening remarks are worthy of reproduction and careful study by Catholic men. He first paid his respects to Admiral Benson, national chairman of the Council and then went on:

"As you know, the Admiral was not born of the faith. He came up to us from the far away state of Georgia. That is his native state.

"I have lived near Georgia for 17 years, and the laymen of Georgia with a diocese of 20,000 people or so, the laymen and women of Georgia have done more for their laymen's organization than the laity of New York, Baltimore and Boston combined. I am talking, as you understand, from the standpoint of proportion in numbers. I came up from the state of Georgia last week, and I know what they have done in eradicating prejudice. They have set an example for every other diocese in the country. Georgians are honest. The American public, my friends, the great mass of our population of our 100,000,000 people, is honest. They may be opposed to us, they may be prejudiced, but as Americans I like to believe, and I think I am right, that their opposition is not a vicious opposition. It is an opposition that has grown out of ignorance regarding the matters of faith. Their opposition is to a Church that never existed and never could exist under the name Catholic; and if you and I were raised in the surroundings in which many of our enemies of the faith have been raised, we might be worse enemies of the Catholic Church. There is great work, therefore, to be done by the priests and people in America who have received the gift of faith. That is to place it before the public, to place it before Americans who are anxious to know. There is a groping after the supernatural. There is no man who does not realize that his heart's desires can never be filled by the things of earth."

Bishop Nilan has assigned Rev. T. Lawrasa Riggs, a graduate of Yale, who recently completed his theological courses at Dunwoody in a post-graduate course in philosophy in the Catholic University in Washington, to organize a Newman Club among the 300 Catholic students at Yale.

"Al" will be the familiar greeting of the Governor of New York state after January 1st, 1923. Governor Miller is a good sport and he will be heard from again. Joseph Reitz, banker and philanthropist, is to give a \$250,000 Catholic high school to Evansville, Indiana. Four or five such could give Rochester an up-to-date Catholic boys' high school.

The Knights of Malta oppose Columbus day because it honors a foreigner? But if it were set for that foreigner Lincoln and Washington would never be known to fame.

District Attorney Love would have been re-elected in any event. But the bitter attacks on him only swelled his vote.

Recent events have emphasized the necessity for a strong virile Catholic press in the United States.

President's job is not the most enviable. The Catholic Church has always stood for justice and fair dealing between employer and employee.

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