

**THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL**

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**More Of It.**

Our readers will recall that when the Oregon constitutional amendment was proposed, we prophesied that this piece of bigoted legislation would be copied all over the country in States where the Catholic voting strength was decidedly in the minority and that, sooner or later, like the prohibition amendment, a Federal Amendment, putting Catholic parochial schools out of business, would be slipped over by the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States and despite the futile opposition of the big Catholic constituencies in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and others.

We warned our lethargic Catholics that it was time to be up and doing.

Our predictions are coming true. There has been introduced in the Texas Legislature a bill more cleverly drawn than the Oregon act but just as sinister in its effect. The Texas proposition permits private or parochial schools but gives the local school superintendent power to go into any private or parochial school and if he decides that the instruction given in the private school or by a tutor or governess in a private family is not what quite him he can peremptorily order the children affected into the public school under penalty of fine and imprisonment of the parent who refuses to obey!

We repeat: It is high time Catholic laymen, especially, were up and doing. Forewarned should be forearmed, before it is too late.

Possibly, William Randolph Hearst and Thomas W. Finucane intend to take a hand in the Rochester municipal campaign of 1923.

**New Commissioner.**

Governor Smith has appointed Bernard L. Shrentag as state industrial commissioner to succeed Henry D. Sayer, resigned and Frances Perkins, as a member of the State Industrial Board to succeed Rosalie Loew Whitney, whose term of office has expired.

Neither Mr. Shrentag nor Miss Perkins are unfamiliar with the duties and responsibilities comprised in the administration of the State Department of Labor—the state department that comes closer to each and every man, woman and child in New York State than any other Department of Government. Mr. Shrentag was associate counsel with Abram L. Sikin in the famous Factory Investigating Commission of 1913 that drafted many of the far-reaching provisions of the present factory inspection law, and later on was Counsel for two years to the old State Industrial Commission when Governor Perkins was Chief executive before she was also associated with the Factory Commission and for two years to the old Industrial Commission.

On February 1st, under the re-organization plan of Governor Smith, Mr. Shrentag becomes the sole commissioner of labor in administrative charge of the entire Department. He appoints transfers and removes all employees and has charge of all purchases. The Industrial Board, of which Miss Perkins becomes a member, is the judicial and legislative branch of the State Department of Labor. It reviews compensation cases on appeal from decisions of the local Referees and passes on all applications for variation or modification of the labor laws.

With new appointees familiar with the traditions of the Department and alert to the responsibilities imposed under the statutes, the business of the Department should move forward smoothly with an absence of the friction and chaos that sometimes attends the change of personnel in great state Departments.

It is evident auto legislation is to be a lively part of the legislative programme at Albany this winter.

**Unmasked.**

Revelations unearthed by Governor Parker's firm stand in Louisiana bid fair to dim if not entirely extinguish the "Bright Lights" of that nefarious organization that has boasted it would oust the Catholics from the United States and browbeat the Jews and Negroes to a state of slavish submission to the illiterate and narrow-minded whites of the country and the Ku Klux Klan.

No matter how much they may sympathize with the aims and objects of the Klan, the business and professional men of the country, if only inspired by motives of self-preservation, will not openly ally themselves with an organization under the ban of state and National Governments and ostracized at the bar of public sentiment.

It is of small moment how this Klan, typifying barbaric mob rule, is suppressed. Such an institution tolerated and encouraged, would spell the end of free American institutions.

"George W. Aldridge, jr. staff correspondent at Albany" is a peculiar title to read in the Hearst local publication.

**Oregon Loses.**

Even in a financial way, the state of Oregon, is finding the widespread advertising of the bigotry of its people a detriment as witness this recent editorial from the La Grane "Observer":

"Picking flaws with the majority is never very pleasant, but try as best one can it is hard to agree with the majority who voted in Oregon for the compulsory school bill at the late election.

"The first direct business result we have heard of comes from the Ochoco irrigation project in Crook county. Every one knows there is a fine project, irrigation ditches in, bonds issued and interest piling up and the thing that is lacking to make it a success is people.

"Driven almost to exasperation on account of lack of settlers leading men in the Ochoco project, Prineville business men and railroad officials of the O. W., jointly formed a plan to send a colonizer into Wisconsin and secure settlers for this fertile area. This was progressing well and a number of Lutheran families had formulated a colony to come to Oregon when the news of the late election reached Wisconsin.

"Bing! It was all off! No Lutheran families would think of entering a state to make their homes where the compulsory school bill prevailed.

"As a result Prineville has lost a lot of prospective citizens, the Ochoco project will have to look elsewhere for people and Oregon as a state suffers a setback in business and population which cannot be denied."

**Refutation.**

United States Senator Joseph E. Ransdell, of Louisiana, refuted several slanders against the church in a recent address before the Cardinal Gibbons Institute in Washington. He said in part:—

"You have all read of the 'Know-Nothing' movement of the early forties, when convents were burned and Catholics were put to death by very bitter bigots. At that time Abraham Lincoln was a young man and in 1844, in the city of Springfield, Ill., he introduced a resolution in the state legislature, and spoke in favor of it, declaring that the Catholics of America were entitled to the same protection of the constitution and laws of America as the Protestant citizens. Wasn't that an honorable sentiment? Catholics are entitled to the same protection of the law and the constitution as the Protestants. Why not? Did not a Catholic discover this country? Did not Catholic help develop this wonderful country of ours and are there more loyal and devoted citizens in America today than the Catholics?"

Adverting to the oft-repeated calumny that Catholics owe an allegiance to the Pope that supercedes their loyalty to the civil government the senator declared: "Some people say that we owe our first allegiance to the Pope rather than to President Harding and the governors of our respective states. My friends, you know that the Father of Iniquity himself never uttered a greater slander than that. You know that no man can be a good Catholic without being first a good citizen of the land in which he lives, whether he be a citizen of autocratic Japan or cruel Turkey, or of our own free United States. He owes allegiance to his own land—to his own country—he must obey the laws and constitution of his own country. Our Blessed Lord said: Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's and unto God the things that are God's, and the Catholic Church teaches us to obey and honor and respect the laws of the land and the flag of our country, and to obey the Church in spiritual things. Speaking about obeying the Pope in temporal things, let me remind you of the recent world war when millions of Catholics in Austria and Germany fought as valiantly against the Catholics of Italy and France and Belgium and Great Britain and the United States, killed one another by the thousands. Were they yielding allegiance at that time to the Pope, who was a citizen of Italy?"

Mayor Hylan is raising ruction with the "masked Klanners" in New York City.

It is probable the Ku Kluxers will claim credit for having forced Mayor William Hale Thompson out of the Chicago mayoralty race. Mayor Thompson dismissed a Ku Kluxer from the Chicago fire department.

And now the Oregon bigots want to abolish Columbus Day as a legal holiday. Do they want all Catholics to move out and keep out of the State? What particular evil is fostered in Oregon that its proponents are so afraid the Church will attack?

If the Catholics are to be driven out of Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other States along the Canadian border why not send back the Canadian Orangemen who never have and never will take up allegiance to the Stars and Stripes, although they like the United States so well for their bread and butter.

Without waiting until 1926, the date the constitutional amendment prohibiting the Catholic parochial schools goes into effect, the Oregon assembly has passed a bill prohibiting all teachers from wearing a distinctive garb. It now goes to the Senate.

There are many merits in the proposed bill of Senator Hastings requiring all fraternal and secret societies, so-called, to file annual names and addresses of all their members. We would then know all the Klu Kluxers.

Mayor Van Zandt's municipal programme is an ambitious one burned and Catholics were put to say the least.

It is to be hoped that James G. Cutler is not to retire from all civic activity because he is disposing of his realty interests.

Still we submit this is considerable of an old fashioned winter.

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