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Friday, February 23, 1923

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Read And Ponder!

Catholics all over the country should read and ponder the letter addressed by Archbishop Christie, of Oregon, to Archbishop of Edward J. Hanna, of San Francisco, as chairman of the administrative committee of the National Catholic Welfare Council and then resolve to contribute liberally when the formal appeal comes. Let no one be mistaken. If the Oregon sentiment is permitted to prevail the religious liberty in the United States is a thing of the past.

Archbishop Christie's letter follows:

"My dear Archbishop: At a meeting of the Bishops of the Province of Oregon City held in Seattle, Nov. 22, 1922, it was unanimously agreed.

"First, that the school law recently passed in Oregon be legally disputed and its constitutionality tested as soon as possible in the supreme court of the United States.

"Second, that since this matter concerns the entire body of Catholics, the bishops of the country, through the administrative committee of the N. C. W. C., be asked to assume the responsibility of bringing the Oregon case to the highest court.

"Third, that they be asked, through the same agency, to raise the necessary funds for these expensive undertakings.

"The conduct of the campaign has exhausted our resources. Without assistance we would not be able to take the steps necessary to protect the rights of our sorely aggrieved people.

"Surely the bishops of this country will not stand by inactive while the faith is being strangled in our innocent children. Our case today will be theirs tomorrow.

"I put the case of Oregon in the hands of the bishops through your administrative committee.

"Asking your prayers for our afflicted Church, I am,

"Very sincerely yours, A. Christie, 'Abp. of Oregon City.'"

The legal profession of New York State has lost a shining light in the death of former Justice Peter A. Hendrick.

Reason Why.

In the last three weeks no less than three instances of young girl suicides were reported in the days news dispatches.

While charity impels the hope that self-destruction was due to temporary insanity, nevertheless the context points clearly to lack of parental supervision and lack of religious sense or training.

One girl's self-murder was clearly the indirect result of reading neutronic literature. What is to be thought of parents who permit or encourage perusal of such literature by a seventeen year old girl. And the fact that such books were tolerated in a home proves conclusively the parents had little interest in what their children read or do.

And if these children had received religious training they would have known the mortal sin of self-murder.

It is indeed pitiful to contemplate the sad heritage of many of our boys and girls handed down by careless, godless, indifferent fathers and mothers!

Rochester does not yet appear to be a fertile field for the Kluxers.

Convicted!

It is good news that comes from the Pacific Coast. David Gordon, editor of a publication called "The Crusader", devoted to propagation of bigotry and prejudice, has been convicted of publishing and circulating the bogus K. of C. fourth degree oath and has been sent to jail for six months, according to the San Francisco "Monitor".

The editor of the National Catholic Welfare News Service adds this pertinent comment:—

There have been various ways for the mailing of lies followed in various places in the past, but never quite as effective a method emphasized by the Chicago Tribune that which has come out of this trial for criminal libel. A term in jail for malicious libel is far more convincing than columns of argument in refutation. There will be few to sympathize with bet. The visible supply of prospectus of the Pacific Coast's miniature copy of the late Tom Watson. Dealing with a spurious document that he slips is nearing an end. The em must have known to be devoid of truth, he deliberately abetted and helped along the circulation of a lie that is acknowledged by claims of thrift. There are many all intelligent people, irrespective of creed, to be villainous and infamous and unjust. The decision of a Superior Judge Woolley in religion? What is the constitution denying probation is but an added evidence of the seriousness of Gordon's act. Rarely is a jail sentence imposed for libel and rare also are the convictions for this crime. Gordon's incarceration should be the end of the trail for at least one of the many calumnies that are current about Catholic offices and their plans. It should be a salutary reminder for all propagators of prejudice everywhere, that a man was sent to jail in California for publishing stuff defamatory to his Catholic neighbors.

That annual dinner of the Society of the Genesee secures a lot of publicity these days. Louis Wiley always was a top notch publicity artist.

Poor Pedestrian.

While a clever bit of satire, the march of progress and the constant increase in the number of automobiles may make true the following skit from the Baltimore "American":

Major Chandler, commander of the New York State Police, has made a remarkable report of that organization's work to the Governor. During the year these police numbering 348 officers and men made 43,129 arrests, with 90 per cent. convictions, practically cleared the state of tramps, reduced the number of fires and petty thefts, aided the protection of wild life and—most important of all—decreased the number of highway accidents.

Major Chandler says the control of motor cars is the biggest of his problems and then he boldly declares that its ultimate solution will be in regulations that will keep the pedestrians off the roadway except at designated and guarded points.

The fate of the pedestrian has been rapidly coming to this point. In other days he roamed where he listed. The stroll in the country zig-zagged along pleasant paths and inviting roadways. The occasional interruptions on wheels did not disturb his dreams or his feeling of safety. The world was his, and the comfort thereof. He was as free as the cotton-tail that darted athwart his path.

But his orbit has been narrowed. He looks up and down and would have known the mortal sin of self-murder. He keeps far to the side and wades in the weeds. Inevitably he is coming to think that he is a lost soul in a hostile world. His last hold is the calm procession of the highway police, who will allow him to go over at designated points. His largest hope is to be escorted over in haughty condescension.

Automobilists who know their business predict a machine for every American inhabitant. They will be welcome. But what shall man do with his legs?

Have you followed the special news service of the Catholic Journal supplied by the National Catholic Welfare Council? You will not find such accurate well written informative articles in the secular press. You cannot be fully informed on Catholic matters unless you subscribe for and read a Catholic paper.

Money Is Good.

The mercenary, commercial side of the Ku Klux Klan is thus emphasized by the Chicago "New World":—

The Imperial Something or Other of the Ku Klux may have his own brain storm, but they usually do not overlook a good thing. The visible supply of prospectus with \$10 for initiation, and \$6.50 for the nighties and pillow with a spurious document that he slips is nearing an end. The em must have known to be devoid of truth, he deliberately abetted and helped along the circulation of a lie that is acknowledged by claims of thrift. There are many all intelligent people, irrespective of creed, to be villainous and infamous and unjust. The decision of a Superior Judge Woolley in religion? What is the constitution denying probation is but an added evidence of the seriousness of Gordon's act. Rarely is a jail sentence imposed for libel and rare also are the convictions for this crime. Gordon's incarceration should be the end of the trail for at least one of the many calumnies that are current about Catholic offices and their plans. It should be a salutary reminder for all propagators of prejudice everywhere, that a man was sent to jail in California for publishing stuff defamatory to his Catholic neighbors.

Barriers might even be thrown down about the Jew. He is more likely to have the ten spot than a Catholic. And then again why be narrow Nationalists? Europe, too, may reap the unalloyed blessings of the Empire. Why not 100 per cent. European? There are white men there, and, though money may not be so plentiful and men not so gullible, there may be a little spare coin lying about. Surely this is liberality broad enough for any man! And then the very amplitude with which the Imperial Doodads embrace the world may not stop short of Africa and Asia. If religion is a small matter, when a ten spot is involved, color is even less. And here we have been foolishly lambasting a man who literally is bursting with philanthropy, and we knew it not. It will be the aim of the great worthy to take in all men. What this may mean in dollars to the imperial coffers may be only a mere circumstance to the immeasurable good it will do for humanity. Well, perhaps. But, it must be admitted that it is a happy thought.

District Attorney William F. Love is a busy man these days.

Wonder if Harry Goodwin has not picked up a right smart lot of free advertising that he could not have purchased for much coin of the realm?

P. H. Galvin would make as efficient a state fair commissioner as many other men who aspire to state office.

They appear to have William H. Anderson on the run.

Assemblyman Russell B. Griffith and Senator James L. Whitney appear to have the courage of their convictions.

Governor Al. Smith is too clever a politician to be caught overmuch with White House possibilities.

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