

CATHOLIC JOURNAL

Published Every Friday at 118 North Water Street
The Catholic Journal Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y.

Not received Saturday

without any delay change of address

accompanied by every instance of the name of the author

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Friday, April 13, 1923

TELEPHONE MAIN 1547

Entered as second class mail matter

Five Place!

Belleville, New Jersey, must be a nice place for a permanent home, judging from the following dispatch:

Belleville, N. J., March 26.—Following protests by several organizations, including the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Royal Riders of the Red Robe, the Ladies of the Invisible Empire and the Sons of America, members of the board of directors of the Belleville High School, after a stormy session, decided that a gift of the Catholic Encyclopedia, given by Santa Maria Chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America, should be turned over to the public library and not placed in the school library.

David Clearman, president of the board, said that he had received two letters from the Ku Klux Klan, mailed in Belleville, but bearing a return address of post office box 118, Portland, Ore.

A similar protest was made by members of societies in Dover, N. J., but the encyclopedia is still in the Dover school.

Possibly, there are no Catholic pupils in the Belleville high school who would wish to consult the Catholic Encyclopedia. Or are the bigots afraid that non-Catholic pupils might read it and learn the exact truth about a lot of untruths that the bigots spread broadcast?

Evidently, the public sentiment in Heroin, Illinois, was and is with the striking miners. Perhaps, there was another side to the affair, different from what we were led to believe by the news despatcher.

Oscar!

With the sudden and somewhat peculiar death of Lord Carnarvon, the English explorer of Egypt and the prompt rush to the center of the stage by that very clever self-advertiser, Sir Conan Doyle, to explain the "spirit interference," the world at large may become bewildered and think new and unseen forces at work and that God has been overridden in the conduct of the universe.

There is no reason to become alarmed or more than mildly interested. Lord Carnarvon's death had been bad for several years. The bite of any insect, the infection into his "system" of any germ, produced an infection that would not have happened in a normally healthy man.

Nevertheless, there is much to be said against wanton meddling with graves, whether of the city paragon or the humblest. The average man has repugnance against disturbing a grave, and it is absolutely necessary and not inspired by curiosity.

Carnarvon had no such fear. He will open no more graves in Egypt.

Governor Alfred E. Smith in Rochester is expected to receive a hearty reception.

Give Them A Chance!

One of the most experienced men in the Federal and State Employment Service said a few days ago:—One of our hardest tasks is to place men 60 years old or over. It is difficult to find firms willing to give such men a chance, although there are many positions they can fill. Experience shows that they give entirely satisfactory service in many jobs where it is hard to keep a younger man of the right sort.

Commenting upon this a contemporary says:—This is a matter worth thinking about. Has not this insistence upon age limits been carried to a ridiculous extent? In view of the average "turnover" or length of time of employment in many factories and other enterprises it might be worth while to give the older men who will stick a chance, instead of worrying too much about what is to be done with them 10 years later.

Speed is not everything. Carefulness and reliability are valuable qualities often displayed by these older men.

Refusing the conscientious, careful man of 60 or more employment is a policy that is both cruel and largely unnecessary. If this attitude becomes the rule it will inevitably bring some compulsory pension plan in its train.

And let us remark that the war-time salaries still prevail in the minds of the young chaps. If employers wish to stabilize their pay roll they will have to take on the older men where excessive speed is not absolutely necessary because the youngsters will not consent to any reduction. In fact they want to start at today's peak and advance the maximum every six months.

Courts in Illinois will be called upon to decide whether anti-nuptial promises made by mixed marriage parents are obligatory and binding. That's one ever-present possibility of mixed marriages.

The Test.

Unless the trade unions are able to prove that they are furnishing competent skilled workmen and that those craftsmen outside the union ranks are not, the following predictions made by the Post Express in discussing present high wages of the employees in the building trades will come true:—

Most of the wages which seem extortionate and shockingly out of proportion to the services performed are in the building trades; and this is due to a combination of conditions which cannot long endure. In the first place there is no lack of capital ready to build. There is plenty of money in the cities eager to rush into new construction attracted by the prospect of exacting enormous rentals. There is also a demand for roofs in cities growing steadily and rapidly by influx from rural districts and by natural increase of population. Finally to be considered is the policy of organized labor to refuse to take apprentices, to keep itself a close corporation and to limit the employment of nonunion workers equally skilled as themselves.

But these conditions are by no means permanent, and ought not to be. They are an imposition on all the people which will not be tolerated long. Buildings bought or put up at any cost with a view to outrageous rentals will not long yield the expected returns; and when that happens banks will refuse to finance the erection of more. Neither will free born Americans remain indefinitely fenced out by greedy insiders from labor preserves in which the wages of two days equal a month's wage on a farm.

The first annual meeting of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems is to be held on June 27 and 28 in Milwaukee.

We Are There!

According to analysis of a recent survey of the Brooklyn "Eagle" made by the "Catholic News" one out of every four persons in New York city is a Catholic. The population of Greater New York for 1922 was 5,839,738, and of that number 1,452,136, or nearly 25 per cent, are Catholics. In the five boroughs of Greater New York, there are 338 Catholic churches, or one church for every 4,296 of the Catholic population.

In Brooklyn and Queens there are 167 Catholic churches as against 151 in Manhattan and the Bronx. In Richmond borough, which is part of the New York Archdiocese, there are 20 Catholic churches. The total number of Catholic churches under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of New York, is 171, or four more than the number under that of the Brooklyn diocese.

While there are more Catholic churches in the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens than there are in Manhattan and the Bronx, the Catholic population is greater in the latter than in the former boroughs. In Manhattan and the Bronx there are 261,876 Catholics, while in Brooklyn and Queens the Catholic population is 562,931. In Manhattan and the Bronx there is a church for every 5,708 Catholics, while in Brooklyn and Queens there is a church for every 3,311 Catholics.

The Church property valuation of the 166 parishes in Brooklyn and Queens is \$29,694,500, while the property value of the 151 parishes in Manhattan and the Bronx is \$18,739,750. The total value of Church property in the city totals \$48,434,250.

Bishop Brossart has resigned the bishopric of Covington, Kentucky, because of ill health. He is 75 years old and has been Bishop for six years.

He-Man Mayor.

Rabbi Louis Wolsey, of Cleveland, recently quoted to Mayor Fred Kohler, of that city, part of a recent address of a klan organizer that Cleveland has a he-man for mayor "who would neither bow down to a Catholic priest nor submit to a Jewish rabbi." Rabbi Wolsey asked the mayor if he or any of his people ever sought the mayor for favors or attempted to tell him how to administer the affairs of the city.

The mayor replied to Rabbi Wolsey: "I think I can best answer the several questions in your letter by saying that my rule of conduct in office is that I will grant no favor or any demand to any group of citizens of whatever race or faith, that I could not properly grant to each and every citizen or group of citizens. I have been and am endeavoring to be the mayor of all the people, recognizing, as have the founders of our country, the right of each man to choose his religious faith, and the corresponding right of free speech. As far as you personally are concerned, the answer to all of your questions is in the negative."

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