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Just Suppose?

Attention of the states officers, municipal officers and taxpayers generally is focused on the very rapid increase in the cost of education. Already not one but many municipalities in New York State are confronted with the necessity of not only cutting down on other municipal needs to give schools more money but also of curtailing some of the activities of the educational department.

Here in Rochester the situation is acute. The city cannot give the Department of Education the money it asks this year because of the Constitutional debt limitation. As may be expected these days when advocates of each governmental activity contend vigorously that their particular activity is absolutely essential and that any curtailment would result in untold damage to the body politic, the officials of the Department of Education from Commissioner to kindergarten are up in arms with a mighty protest that even to curtail in the minutes degree the educational programme both of building erection and instruction would be municipal suicide. Objection is made to temporary abolition of the municipal school employment bureau which are a duplication of the municipal school employment, the juvenile placement service provided by the State Department of Labor through its Division of Employment.

Just what would happen were the Catholic schools all closed unexpectedly on a given day and the public authorities were confronted with the task of providing school buildings and instructors for upward of 15,000 boys and girls? Just think this over Mr. Taxpayer when the big bills beseech your support for a programme of abolition of the Catholic schools which we support in toto out of our own pockets in order that our children may be educated in religion. Besides saying our proportionate share of the cost of operation of your public schools.

Apathy and Inertia

Probably the condition complained of will continue. Perhaps the people are neither so inert or apathetic as the editor seems to imagine they are. But the following editorial from the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" touches upon and appertains to a large portion of the people when it says:

About the hardest thing to overcome is the sluggish inertia and mass indifference of the people even in matters that vitally concern them. They know that taxes outrageously heavy make life harder for them. They know their money is wasted, and who wastes it and why. They have been told repeatedly that one man out of twelve is working or to be more exact—is drawing pay from the government and living at public expense. They know, it has not gone in one ear and out the other, that the total Federal appropriations in 1923 were 380 millions but that in 1922 it cost far more than that to run the Veterans Bureau, mismanaged as it was, and that the latest appropriations for the year were close to four billion dollars. One would naturally assume that the American people, alert and intelligent as they are, would make their first concern to put an end to conditions that are keeping their money to the grindstone. They have

power to do it. They have only to vote a change. They could have done that last year, and can do it this year.

Philadelphia boasts of its intelligent, homeowning population; yet only about half its citizens register. Less than half of them voted at the last election and less than one-fourth of the women who might vote go to the polls. What can be done for people so indifferent that they will not even protect their pocketbooks by casting a vote which does not cost them a cent; or what can they do for themselves?

English Opera

Of course there is valid argument against use of the "vernacular" in singing the Mass because the music is part of the service but, really, is not the following editorial from a secular contemporary a good argument in favor of English opera rather than opera sung in English? Take note of the enthusiasm to which advocates of opera in English are moved. Out in Chicago this enthusiasm has been organized; that city has an Opera in Our Language Foundation and it is producing operas. It is also issuing considerable propaganda for its enterprises and in the most recent of its documents this statement is given prominently by black type: "No opera can be stronger than its text."

What do these good people mean by "stronger"? We have had—or have been deluded into believing that we had—opera for some time and by the traditions and experience of our operative ancestors, if that opera had not made stronger appeal than it could possibly have made by its texts, we never should have had it.

Take for instance "Il Trovatore." Does any of the multitude of lovers of this most tuneful work know really know what the singers are actually saying? Take also experiences with "Otello," from a performance of which the late James Gibson Hunsaker retired to write, "I for one will not undergo the experience of hearing any tenor vociferously declaiming to Verdi's beautiful music that hankerchief—that hankerchief—give me, give—ah, give me that hankerchief." Take again our own recent experience, right here in our own beautiful home of opera, when in "The Secret of Suzanne" a baritone warbled diligently for a considerable time. The odor is here and reached a climax on a cadenza using the same text as this opera no stronger than its text! How then does it come that we have been deluded so long by textual weakness?

Common Sense

There is much of practical common sense in the following editorial from the Rochester "Journal and Post Express" on a subject of vital importance to a large percentage of the people that we reproduce it as follows:

Nursing for pay is now done by two classes of workers in the home, the "trained nurse" and the "practical nurse."

The former has a prolonged and difficult training, professional in character. Her pay varies in different communities but is seldom less than \$5 a day.

The "practical nurse" is usually trained mainly by experience. She does not profess to have the scientific knowledge of the "trained nurse" but is useful in many ways, and her pay, averaging about \$3 a day, places her services within the reach of homes that cannot afford the cost of professional nursing.

Senator Whitley's bill authorizing hospitals to establish training schools from which pupils could graduate after two years of study plus a regular examination apparently contemplates a grade of nursing somewhere between that of the "practical" and the present "trained" nurse.

If it should insure a price scale more nearly within reach of average households than the scale for the present type of "trained" nurse, it would undoubtedly meet a common need.

By this we do not mean to infer that a competent nurse is not easily worth \$5 a day or more. She is, in fact, invaluable.

But sickness in many homes simply cannot pay \$5 a day for nursing service. And it needs skilled service quite as much as the sickness of the wealthy.

Perhaps if we graded nursing as we grade milk, with the letters "A," "B" and "C," basing the grades on distinctly defined differences in the character and extent of the training, there would be an abundant demand to absorb the supply in each grade.

Increased assessed valuation of Rochester real property. A lower tax rate. Increased total tax bill for 1924. That's the story in a nutshell. Where's relief for the taxpayers?

One Argument About the only valid argument in favor of the repeal of the movie censorship law in New York State is contained in the following editorial expression by the Rochester "Herald":

Motion pictures, like radio messages, are addressed to a vast audience. Unhampered by personal scenery and baggage, the motion picture drama tours the world in regiments and battalions, the released films being sent out in multiple copies in order that they may be shown in many cities at the same time. For this reason, it is desirable that films be made uniform as possible, in order that the cost of production may be lowered sufficiently to bring shows within the reach of the humblest devotee of the silent drama. But right there appears the censor. There are forty-eight states in the Union, besides the various territories, dependencies and possessions of America. Many of the states have set up censorships of their own, and it is significant that few of these agree with others as to what ought or ought not to be shown. Some are bitterly opposed to gun play, others abhor kissing; still others resent anything that hints of religious propaganda. The list of taboos is almost as long as the moral law, and the styles in censorship are as varied as the colors of Joseph's coat.

In an endeavor to satisfy the requirements of many censorships, the motion picture producers face a problem of the first magnitude, for a film which is perfectly satisfactory in New York State may be forbidden in Pennsylvania or Ohio. Hence the outcry against censorship, unless it be made uniform and reasonable. The present system is not only a great economic waste, but is an unlauding example of the foolishness of censorship itself, for judged by a comparison of standards set up by the censors, official preferences in films, like morals, are a matter of geography.

Patrick H. Galvin calls attention to a peculiar phase of politics. If anyone of opposite political party dallies to your standard the other side accuse you of flirting with the enemy. There was once a prominent political leader who was prone to be the trusts who supported him. As good trusts, those opposed to him were lawbreaking enemies of the public.

The Holy Father makes plain that the United States is out of the "civilization territory" so far as the Catholic Church is concerned.

A writer giving thumb nail sketches of possible democratic presidential possibilities dismisses Dr. Royal Copeland as "a physician and public health officer. Conductor of health columns in the Hearst newspapers. Not a word to show that he is New York State's junior senator in the Senate of the United States."

Attorney General Daugherty is out at last. Time will show whether President Coolidge should have acted earlier or not at all. Score another victory for Henry Cabot Lodge the human refugee of Massachusetts.

The ruling powers of Mr. Hearst's Chicago "American" are Meliga, Black and Curley in respective charge of editorial, publishing and advertising departments. Mr. Hearst says one is a Jew, one a Protestant, the third a Catholic and all three together make up a fine fighting working harmonious combination.

Banking institutions of Rochester reflect the condition of the city. Every bank in Rochester is expanding its housing facilities and extending business.

Let us hope that the widespread interest displayed by the secular press all over the world in the elevation to the purple of Cardinal Mundelein and Hayes betokens a better understanding of the Catholic Church and a corresponding diminution of bigotry in this country.

Aquinas Institute gave a first rate account of itself in competition with the crack Catholic high school teams even if its members were not equal in weight to the huskies of the Center West. Quality vs quantity is not always as easy to determine until in active competition.

Jesuit Deplores "Realistic" Fiction

Cincinnati, March 28.—So-called "realism" in modern literature was deplored by the Rev. James J. Daly, S. J., Associate Editor of "Queen's Work" of St. Louis, in an address before the students of Sociology at St. Xavier's College here. Father Daly declared that much of the "realism" made so much of by modern authors, is merely an elevation of the sordid and mean in human nature in preference to what is virtuous, noble, and beautiful.

Massachusetts Bill Barring Religious Pictures Attacked

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Boston, March 28.—The preamble of which is known as the "Synagogue Repeal Bill" recently passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives has caused considerable discussion in leading newspapers, several of which are urging the Senate to reject the measure. "The Springfield Republican" having attacked the working of the preamble as "an astonishing document," the "Boston Transcript" continues the discussion in an editorial entitled "Religion's Name Taken in Vain." "It is impossible not to agree with the Springfield Republican that the preamble to the 'Synagogue repeal bill,' passed by the House of Representatives of this State and now pending before Senate, is an astonishing document. This preamble declares that 'it is the sense of the General Court that in the future no pictures involving possible religious discussions or controversies be removed to or otherwise placed in public buildings.' It is as the Republican says:

"No painting of the Virgin Mary by Raphael or Michael Angelo or any other old master could be received as an art treasure by a public institution in this Commonwealth, even in the form of a gift, under a religious prohibition. A 'religious discussion' could easily be started over the Sistine Madonna in these days of revived controversy over the virgin birth. The Legislature should get away from the feeling that art must be purged entirely of all possible elements that might arouse differences of opinion or conflicting emotions among different people.

"The Legislature, or at least the House, is in need of a fund of common sense and of homely American courage in dealing with this matter. It is nonsense to suppose that, in affairs of art, nothing that touches religion must ever be dealt with by artists whose work may be needed to distinguish or embellish public buildings. Of course, if nothing more that does touch upon religion in any way is to be admitted to any public building, in consistency every thing that is now in them that does touch upon religion should be at once removed. This would reduce the Public Library very nearly to bare walls, and would play awful havoc with the Museum of Fine Arts, which is surely a public building. Our Pilgrim Fathers, who came here in order to be able to worship God according to their own consciences, could never in any public decoration be shown kneeling in the wilderness, nor could Christopher Columbus be shown making his landing under the shadow of the upstart cross.

"It is inconceivable that the State Senate should put the seal of its approval on any such childish proposition as that contained in this preamble."

Ireland Has Problem In Calling Women For Jury Service

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Dublin, March 22.—In connection with the service of women on juries a peculiar position has arisen. In respect of the franchise, women had for years claimed the same rights as men. They were placed on an equality with men. Their names were then put on the jury lists. When summoned in due course as jurors they either did not attend or showed a disinclination to serve. The most general excuse given was that they could not afford to absent themselves from their domestic duties. Women jurors are, moreover, objected to by litigants and prisoners.

Service on juries involves attendance in Court several days in succession, and in some murder cases jurors are locked in for the night. It is now proposed that women who do not wish to serve on juries can have their names omitted from the lists.

Many Catholics hold that Catholic women should not relinquish the duty if women of other denominations are willing to meet their obligations. There are now women advocates in the Irish courts, and this is put forward as an additional reason why there should be women in the jury box.

Pope's Birthplace Now a City

(N. C. W. C. News Service.)

Rome, March 20.—Desso, the town in which Pope Pius XI was born, has received the title of a city. The news has been received with enthusiasm by the townspeople who are planning special festivities to celebrate the event.

THE young fellows who are making good usually keep a tight hold on the pocketbook, until they are several blocks up easy street. Rochester Savings Bank Established 1831

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