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Friday, August 1, 1924

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Intolerant

More and more is the positive feeling that the much vaunted Southern chivalry and aristocracy of the Southern States, in most states, spells intolerance and narrow religious bigotry.

This was evidenced when Southern aristocracy would not tolerate the Illinois trail-splitter for President and tried in every way to secede from the Union.

In the recent Madison Square Democratic convention the delegates from the Southern States stood solidly against Alfred E. Smith because he is a Catholic. Privately, they threatened to bolt the Democratic party if Smith were nominated.

They went further. They told the leaders that even if Smith were elected he never would preside over an entire country—that the Southern States would again rebel and would again attempt to secede before they ever would be ruled by a Catholic President!

And the South boasts loudly of its 100 per cent Americanism and chivalry and inborn aristocracy!

Greatest Danger

Right thinking men realize now that there is ever greater danger to the Republic in the narrowness and bigotry of alleged "100 per cent Americans" than from the alleged illiteracy and alien feeling of the foreign-born immigrants.

Judge Frank Johnson, Jr., of the Illinois Appellate Court recognizes this fact in a masterly article in "Current History" entitled "Religious and Racial Prejudices in the United States" in which he says:

"The greatest danger to the fundamental structure of our government, in my opinion, arises not from our alien population, but from groups of 'old stock' Americans who are continually trying to impose by law undue restrictions on individual freedom. Conspicuous representatives of such groups are the congressional lobbyists who specialize on censorship laws, and who work for the enactment of Sunday blue laws. These lobbyists represent the blue laws group. Closely allied is another group, equally objectionable and dangerous, which is now trying to prohibit the teaching of evolution.

There is another group of citizens that is trying to destroy the fundamental structure of our government by invading state rights with congressional legislation. All these groups are of the 'old stock' Americans, not aliens. Every American who really wishes to work for the welfare and preservation of the government of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln will combat the pernicious efforts of these various groups.

There should be a vigorous, persistent, concerted effort on the part of Americans to fight against every government interference which encroaches upon the domain of private life, to maintain individualism and personal freedom; to rescue our government from the control of organized energetic minorities, work for legislation for special interests and classes; to oppose intolerance; to develop a strong, independent, self-reliant people. Individualism is what made our country great, and individualism will preserve our democratic form of government. National homogeneity, which some writers insist upon, is not to be desired at the sacrifice of individual initiative.

The Kind of Town

Writing in Rochester "Commerce" John Hilder, manager civic development department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, tells of "the kind of town we would like to live in". After enumerating various lines on which the model town must excel he closes:

City Government We won't try to set up a score for the government but will assume that under our democratic system, if the community stands well on the other items listed then it must have a fairly good government because it has a good citizenship.

Citizenship—Of course we have all begun to realize by this time that there is no way of getting a good government without having a good, active citizenship. Perpetual motion is as much a dream in civic affairs as it is in mechanics. But an active, effective citizenship means effort, constructive effort. So our town has its quota of civic and social agencies which afford opportunity for citizens to choose the subjects in which they are most interested, study them, experiment with them, and then, on the basis of knowledge, put them over. So we have a live Chamber of Commerce to present the business man's point of view on community problems and we have philanthropic agencies to deal with our social problems.

The Spirit of the People—If there is any one thing that makes us want to live in a town it is the spirit of the people. I put this last because it is an intangible and we Americans want something we can get a grip on. But this intangible is so important that it can't be left out. Any one of you who has lived among strangers for awhile knows the joy of again being among his own people. And our own people are those who are friendly, helpful, willing to get in and push. That spirit is not natural always, but it can be cultivated. And where that spirit is there is also a good town, the kind of town we would like to live in.

Oil It would appear that oil is one of the most important factors in world development, in world politics. It may happen that with Senator Wheeler, of Montana, one of the off-scandal investigators running for second place on the LaFollette ticket may figure largely in election of a President of the United States.

And now oil is said to figure in the negotiations for recognition of Soviet Russia by the world powers. The Democrat and Chronicle says: Press writers who adopt diplomatic forecast as a business are querying what is delaying the recognition of Soviet Russia by Japan, they agree that this recognition is practically certain to be given, and there is reason to believe that Japan under Kato will come to agreement with the Soviets. And if there is delay, it is quite probably due to some points to be settled to Kato's satisfaction.

Japan needs oil, she is in such need of it that she will go to considerable lengths in concession to get it. There is some oil in Sakhalin, there may be a great deal of it there; and Japan wants Sakhalin—all of it, not a little part. Russia wants the wheels of progress; to respectability among the nations oiled for her, in plain words, she wants recognition by the United States, by Great Britain and by France, she thinks of Japan as belonging to the great powers far more securely than does China. Moreover a little oiling of the diplomatic wheels by Japanese recognition and co-operation will aid the Soviets in plans for a working alliance with Germany.

It seems reasonable to believe that what Japan is waiting for is sufficient concession in the way of right to control natural resources and territory to satisfy Premier Kato; and that Russia, having plenty of material oil, will give what she must to get the lubrication of her diplomatic machinery, that she so much desires.

Queer, how the nomination of Brother Charles for Vice-President changed the viewpoint of Brother William Jennings Bryan as to the character and availability of Presidential nominee John W. Davis.

If this political seesawing continues, Andy Gump has a chance to land in the White House.

Of course Senator Wheeler never thought of the possibility that running with LaFollette might land him in the White House.

William E. Borah is not a political guerrilla but he likes senatorial life and he must trim his political sails with an eye to effect upon his own re-election as Senator.

His Own Fault

Governor Alfred E. Smith never won a finer tribute than contained in the following editorial from the New York Times, owned by Adolph Ochs and managed by our old friend, Louis Wiley:

Albany gave a non-partisan rousing welcome to Governor Smith. It couldn't have been heartier if he had been nominated for President. The people up there, like the people here and everywhere else in the state, have an immense respect and liking for him. Now he wants to be allowed to be "a private in the ranks, to settle down to the serious business of laying something aside for a rainy day." It is a strong plea. He has long and notoriously neglected his private interests to serve the state. Permitted to "settle down" for a little while, in 1922 he was again called from his tardy pro- vision for the "rainy day," and put at work by the people. He doesn't want to be called again. He feels that he has given enough to the public. He has drugged and fought long and well. He is entitled to a furlough.

Suppose, however, that the people of New York won't give it to him. Whose fault will it be? If by his industry, his honesty, his unequalled vision of the state's business, his responsible effective government, his zeal for social improvement, his fidelity for administration, his independence and scorn of consequence, he has made the people of New York want to keep him Governor, isn't that his fault? If his gayety, his humor, his naturalness and absence of pretense, his incommunicable charms exerted upon all sorts of people have made him multitudes of friends, whose fault is it? We are sorry for the Governor, but what can he do? How he must envy a man like Senator Lodge, for instance, and regret that it isn't in his power to be disagreeable!

The Irish World having printed an advertisement of a firm of importers of Irish bacon and hams, someone has asked whether the product is "Republican or Free State." Here is the answer sent to the anxious inquirer: "Regarding the inquiry as to whether the bacon and hams are Republican or Free State, we are unable to state with certainty the politics of the pigs from which these products are made, as they were sold by Irish farmers at the different fairs throughout Ireland."

If an artist could paint a composite of the expressions on the faces of our Catholic hierarchy, as they kneel at the communion rail and receive their Lord under the species of bread and wine, his picture would be entitled a glimpse of heaven. Look of earth. Or if he could paint the faces of children, as they are being confirmed, he would gain undying fame. The faith of the Catholic people is marvelous—Catholic Register, Denver.

The presidential campaign of 1924 will be managed, ostensibly, by new and almost unknown political machinists—Clem Shaver, of West Virginia for Mr. Davis and William Butler, of Massachusetts, for Mr. Coolidge. But we imagine Mr. Davis and Mr. Coolidge will be their own real campaign managers. And each is an exceedingly adroit and clever politician.

It is not too late to remind you to be careful about your camp fires at night. It is impossible to make the short man tall by cutting off the legs of the tall man.

Pertinently says the "Union and Times": "At the grade crossing after the brakes and avoid saying it with flowers."

Says the "Times-Union": "Let us keep our two great parties. Each needs the other for an alibi."

If Eddie Edwards succeeds in landing the Prince of Wales for the Rochester Exposition he will have evened up many an old score.

Reunions of the Jones and Smith families would need to be held in the Adirondack or Catskill park to accommodate all the eligibles.

Stop Sunday Newspaper Work

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Friday, July 26.—One step more has been taken toward the establishment of the Sunday day of rest for the newspaper world. The Government has decided that the Journal for the Office will cease to appear on Monday from now on. The paper will not be made up on Sunday, and the information formerly carried Monday on the Monday issue will appear hereafter on Tuesday.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF FEAST DAYS

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Sunday, August 3.—The finding of St. Stephen's Relics. This feast commemorates the finding of the body of the first Christian martyr concealed under the ruin of an old tomb twenty miles from Jerusalem.

Monday, August 4.—St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order. At the age of twenty-five he was superior of the Canons Regular of Osma. He went to France with his Bishop and there was much distressed by the Albigensian heresy. To defend the Faith he founded his three-fold order. He died in 1221.

Tuesday, August 5.—The Dedication of St. Mary ad Nives. This is one of the three patriarchal churches in Rome. It received its name from the popular tradition that the site was selected by the Blessed Virgin who manifested her selection through a snowfall which descended upon the spot in the middle of summer.

Wednesday, August 6.—The Transfiguration of Our Lord. This feast commemorates the occasion when Our Lord took St. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, Sts. James and John and led them to Mount Tabor where he appeared to them in all His glory.

Thursday, August 7.—St. Cajetan, was born in Vicenza in 1480 of pious and noble parents who dedicated him to Our Blessed Lady. He founded the first community of Regular Clerks known as the Theatines and was the first to introduce the Forty Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as an antidote to the heresy of Calvin.

Friday, August 8.—St. Syriacus and his companions, Martyrs. St. Cyriacus was a holy deacon at Rome under Pope Marcellinus and Marcellus. In the persecution under Diocletian, together with Largus and Smagdus and twenty others, he received the crown of martyrdom.

Saturday, August 9.—St. Romanus, Martyr. He was a soldier in Rome at the time of the martyrdom of St. Lawrence inspired by the latter's example he was converted and baptized by St. Lawrence in prison. When he publicly admitted what he had done he was beheaded the day before the date set for the execution of St. Lawrence.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) St. Louis, Mo., July 18.—A business meeting was held at Hotel Statler on Friday afternoon, by the officers of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, at which Mrs. W. T. Donovan, the President, opened the chair business transacted, was chiefly that of hearing reports of the progress of plans and preparing for the annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, which will be held at St. Louis, November 9, 10, 11 and 12.

The reports made showed that the necessary funds have been provided very satisfactory, one plan for this and being the arrangements for Butler, of Massachusetts, for Mr. Coolidge. But we imagine Mr. Davis and Mr. Coolidge will be their own real campaign managers. And each is an exceedingly adroit and clever politician.

There were no set speeches at Friday's meeting. At the previous weekly meeting the Rev. P. P. Crane, the spiritual director, spoke of the advantages of conventions in general and in particular of such as that of the N. C. W., which will bring together Catholic women from all sections of the country.

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