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Holy Week

Once more we are on the eve of Holy Week, the most momentous week in the ecclesiastical year.

We have followed the Savior through his earthly career from Christmas until now we journey in spirit with Him to the tragic end on Calvary.

Next week we will weep with him in Gethsemane. We will abuse ourselves with Peter in his denial of our Lord.

And then we will contemplate the greatest of human tragedies the crucifixion of the Savior of mankind on the Cross between two thieves.

We will leave a mighty sign as He gives up the ghost. We will watch beside the Cross and go with Him to the grave where we will leave Him until Easter Sunday when He breaks the shackles of death and comes forth immortal for His brief stay in earth until summoned back to His Eternal home in Heaven.

We Must Not Sleep

Because the Sterling-Reed bill to centralize all control of education in the Federal Secretary of Education at Washington did not pass this Congress is no sign that the bill is dead.

Backed by the Ku Klux Klan, ex-Senator Thomas Sterling, of South Dakota, is to lead the fight now. He is to be associate editor of the "Fellowship Forum of Washington, the organ of the advocates of the Sterling bill, of which he is co-author.

The "Forum" thus boldly issues the challenge in its current issue:

"With the next issue of 'The Fellowship Forum,' the Honorable Thomas Sterling, who has just retired as United States senator from South Dakota, becomes its associate editor.

"Senator Sterling is best known to the readers of 'The Fellowship Forum' as the author of the Sterling-American plan for establishing a United States Department of Education.

"For years past, Senator Sterling has been the leader of the forces in the United States who insist that the Federal Government must recognize education by placing it in an independent department under the supervision of a member of the President's cabinet known as the Secretary of Education.

"He, backed up by American organizations throughout the country, has won the fight. True, it was not possible to pass the Sterling bill at the session of Congress just ended, but the fact is recognized by the friends and the enemies, that the passage of such a law is now certain. It will probably come at the next session of Congress—certainly it will come at the next session if American men and women and American organizations do not sleep on their rights."

The government that makes the natural law of formation a penal law by legislating against it, breaks the Divine Law on the indisposability of marriage by granting divorce. It is plainly evident that law-making bodies have become so corrupt that they know more of the law than they know more of the Divine Law.

Jews With Us

Not only Catholics and fair-minded Protestants but Jews as well are opposed to Oregon's constitutional amendment designed to eliminate private schools and compel parents to send their children to the state schools exclusively.

The eminent Louis Marshall, acting for the American Jewish Committee, filed with the United States Supreme Court a brief in opposition to the Oregon law.

Toussing upon the motive back of the Oregon law, Mr. Marshall said: "This legislation is clearly calculated to confer upon the public schools a monopoly of education. That necessarily would tend to the suppression of all religious instruction, the importance of which cannot be minimized.

Under our system of government the state is powerless, as it should be, to give religious instruction. That is a right and a duty which rests upon parents, upon the churches, and the synagogues. If private, parochial and denominational schools are, however, to be deprived of the right to educate the children, and the parents are forbidden to send their children to such schools, then we shall be in precisely the same situation as that which now exists in Russia. There it is strictly forbidden to give religious instruction of any kind to children until they reach the age of eighteen years."

Discussing the principle involved in the Oregon law, Mr. Marshall declared:

"On the theory which seeks to eliminate private and parochial schools, the legislature might as well compel all of the inhabitants of the land to subscribe to the same newspaper, to attend the same church, to become members of the same political party, to join the same lodge. Indeed, it would be less an invasion of liberty to do any of these things than to say to parents that, regardless of their ambitions and aspirations for their children, regardless of the love and affection which they bear to them, regardless of their conscientious beliefs respecting the duty which they owe for the ethical, moral and religious rearing of their children, the state may come in and take away from them that sacred right and the performance of the duty which they conscientiously believe that they owe to their children and to future generations. Our children do not belong to the state. As a rule the poorest of parents are better qualified to take care of their children than the best political or professional agitator could possibly be."

Mr. Marshall takes up the arguments offered by proponents of the Oregon law and opposes them with arguments along much the same general lines as those advanced in briefs filed by attorneys for the Sisters and the Hill Military Academy.

City Manager

The battle for a city manager in Rochester is on.

Its advocate do not propose to let the citizens of Rochester vote on the proposition whether we want to adopt a new charter, a new form of government, after which a new charter is to be framed and submitted to the people for approval or disapproval.

On the contrary, they are organizing to overawe the aldermen and scare them into accepting and recommending to the citizens a brand new charter, not framed by the aldermen, but hand made by an outside body—really drafted outside Rochester and drawn to permit as a city manager only a man from outside Rochester—upon which 95 per cent of the citizens are not informed.

By rushing through such a charter at this fall's election, the advocates of the new plan, hope to avoid any possibility that Al. Smith might run again for governor the year the charter was to be passed upon and he would be found lined up against it—because Al. generally is on the winning side.

It's a pretty battle just now.

Waking Up

The "Union and Times" sounds a timely warning when it says—

At last the nation is awakening to the fact that a tight rein will have to be drawn upon the loose morals of the present age—or we are headed for inevitable destruction. We need no pessimist or calamity howler to perceive that this generation has kicked over the traces of virtuous living.

Is it any wonder that our morals are sagging and vice in the garment of virtue runs rampant through the land? When a lesser power urges or consents to the violation of the laws of the highest power, may the lesser power expect the allegiance of its subjects?

With Labor

Rev. J. W. R. Maguire, vice-president of St. Viator's College, Kan-kakee, Illinois, appeared before the Judiciary Committee of Congress, along with Illinois labor leaders, to argue in favor of Labor's anti-injunction bill now before Congress.

"The labor injunction," Father Maguire said, "gives the law making power to a judge and deprives men of the right of trial by jury. The anti-injunction bill now before you is an effort to restore natural human rights that have been invaded by the courts."

The bill in question has been framed to forbid injunctions in labor disputes except when necessary to prevent irreparable injury to property. Property is defined to be "land, goods, money and the product of labor or nature", thus excluding both business and labor from the definition of property.

The right to organize into labor unions and associations for mutual aid is declared to be inalienable and no injunction can be issued to abridge it. Neither can free speech, press and assembly be enjoined.

Labor is defined as an "attribute of individual life", and not a commodity or a piece of property. All cases arising from individual or collective labor contracts are definitely taken from the courts of equity whence injunctions are issued and are placed in the courts of law. This provides legal recourse to any employer who believes himself wronged and substitutes the law courts for the injunction courts as the agency to keep the peace.

If there has been discrimination against the Irish at Ellis Island, we have faith that Jim Davis will stop it. Jim's no Ku Kluxer.

Legislators are beginning to think—an operation sadly neglected in the halls where statutes are made and unmade. We have laws aplenty—laws covering every conceivable action of the human race. But laws are worthless unless they are backed by competent authority, unless they reward the good and punish the evil-doer.

The sins of the time are not due to the absence of law, but to the lack of authority. No! That statement is not correct in its entirety. Rather ought we to say that the sins of the time are due partly to the absence of necessary laws as well as the lack of authority.

Our divorce laws are the laughing stock of the world. In the same court where we tie the knot, we break it. The judge pronouncing a couple man and wife in one breath, pronounces another couple free to commit adultery by re-marriage in the next breath. What mockery of the Divine Law!

We have no city manager today. De we want one? Isaac Adler, James P. B. Duffy, LeRoy Snyder, Mrs. Helen Probst Abbott all say we do.

Soon the baseball team will be with us.

"We are satisfied", say Aquinas rooters as our Boys won third place in the recent meet.

President Coolidge and Governor Smith both won out on the economy issue this year. So did Governor Miller a few years ago but the people repudiated him at the polls the next year.

And so the ancients had cross word puzzles! Again it is demonstrated there's nothing new under the sun.

Pretty soon the small boy's thoughts turn to marbles and the larger boy's thoughts to anglerworms and fishing tackle.

The Society of Jesus rejoices this year because Blessed Peter Canisius is to be canonized this year.

Cardinal O'Connell led the first Holy Year Pilgrimage.

Bishop Conroy of Ogdensburg was received by the Holy Father last week. We feel sure the Pope heard of the good work of the American Catholic press.

Chinese Priests And Pilgrimage Leave for Rome

Shanghai, China, March 15.—The first Chinese priests to be appointed Prefects Apostolic—the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Tchong and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Soun—are leaving for Rome where they will be invested with the dignity of Prefects. They will be accompanied by 500 Chinese—men and women—pilgrims to Rome for the Jubilee Year, who will remain for the ceremonies of investiture. This pilgrimage of Chinese will be one of the unusual features of the Holy Year—never before has such a pilgrimage been made.

Herriot School Plan's Atheistic Cunning Exposed

Purpose Is to Bring About Irreligious School Gradually

By M. Massiani (Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, March 23.—As stated in a cable to the N. C. W. C. News Service, M. Herriot has authorized some great concern in Catholic circles, of the municipalities of Alsace to introduce inter-denominational schools. This measure has caused great concern in Catholic circles, and an explanation of what it means to the faithful cannot be amiss.

The public school, in Alsace and Lorraine, was the religious school despite the attempt made by the German government to abolish this statute. This means that in each community there was a special school, supported by the State, for Catholic children, one for Protestant children and, if it were needed, one for the Jews (the population of a great number of cities and villages includes representatives of these three faiths, in Alsace at least, since Lorraine is almost exclusively Catholic). The public school teachers were therefore trained in three distinct schools, according to their religion. Religious instruction was given in the school.

Intervdenominational School Plan Certain municipal councils in which men of advanced opinions were in the majority, mainly in Strasbourg and Colmar, have repeatedly asked the national government to authorize them to open inter-denominational schools. This is the request to which M. Herriot has now given satisfaction for the first time.

What will the change imply? The children of the different religious schools will mingle in the same classes. Religious education will still be given and by the same teachers who gave it in the religious schools. At the hours at which it is to be given, the children will be divided into separate classes according to the religion to which they belong.

The advocates of the reform claim that no rights of any kind will be injured. And one might be deceived by appearances if the question were not thoroughly investigated. But upon close examination it is found that the merging of the three schools will mean the abolition of prayer and religious emblems in the children all attend the same schools, the special normal schools will disappear. There are others who declare that if religious instruction is retained in the schools it is only temporarily. Having become distrustful as a result of the secularizing tendencies of the municipalities in question, the Catholics say: "They are going to lead us by degrees to the school without religion."

To Be Denied First Communion This state of mind explains the very strong protest formulated by the Bishop of Strasbourg, Msgr. Herriot, against the decision of M. Herriot. Msgr. Herriot has advised parents not to send their children to the interdenominational school and has declared that boys and girls whose families do not follow this advice cannot be admitted to the solemn first communion.

Apostleship of Sea Active

London, March 20.—The Apostleship of the Sea, which is established at English and dominion ports to assist Catholic sailors, visited 249 ships in Glasgow alone during three months this winter. Members of the apostleship interviewed 2,138 seamen.

New York, March 24.—Word has just reached the executive office of the Medical Mission Board of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada that the Medical Mission screen is at last standing in its assigned place with the other medical exhibits at the Holy Year Exposition. Although the screen was sent to Rome in due time for the opening of the Exposition, on December 24 it was delayed in transit, and did not reach there until about a month ago.

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