

The Catholic Journal

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Christmas

The Catholic Journal wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May the Advent preparation prepare us all to welcome in fitting spirit the Christ Child whose birth we commemorate!

May the Christ Child spirit pervade our hearts and impel us to not only be happy ourselves but also to try to bring into the lives of those less fortunate a trifle of Christmas cheer and comfort.

Let us always remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Makes for Crime

While many of the hazy thinkers would seek to excuse delinquency on the plea that young people must be given more independence and also that "we old-fashioned people do not keep step with the jazz of the age," persons who really think and are giving real serious thought to the lack of reverence, lack of parental control, lack of religious belief of the young of today, are coming to see that lack of moral training at home and godless-education are contributing causes to the conditions of today.

Speaking before the Catholic Charities of Washington at its annual dinner, Chief Magistrate William McAdoo of the New York City Court, took up the question of remedial remedies as follows:—

Judge McAdoo, after discussing the causes of current criminality, the widespread use of the pistol and the youthfulness of present day criminals, took up the question of remedial measures as follows:

"Now, we are confronted with the religious, moral and ethical question—what can we do? Well, in my opinion, we should have gotten hold of this young fellow in childhood, say between the ages of five and twelve, when his mind was receptive and his character was plastic, when impressions were lasting, when his environment could have been bettered, when his outlook on life could have been changed, and to do that we must get to the family and to the church. Above all, his only hope is in the church. I challenge all the agnostics who, feigning to know nothing, assume to know everything, and all the cynical egoists in America to show me any other agency that can reach this child except that of religion.

"If we concentrate the education of the child solely as to the head, leaving out the heart, we cannot hope for any results in making him a good citizen. I have been told by some fathers that they attribute the fact that their children were successful and law-abiding to the extreme rigor with which they were brought up, in fear of their parents, and this is quite possible you can take a child as a young boy, cultivate his head, hold out the reward of economic success in money getting either in business or in a profession, narrow down his vision of life, make him a machine, press out of him his human soul, another the soul, and produce some kind of a successful monetary automation, but not a real human being with a big heart and a clean conscience and a sympathetic outlook on the brotherhood of man."

John Schrambs, of Cleveland, Ohio, who has been in the community chest.

Rev. John F. Turner, of Yonkers, N. Y.; Rev. Denis Turner, of Rome, Italy are brothers and sister, Sister Rosaire, of the Sisters of Charity died last week in New York.

Rev. Mathew Fox, noted Francis can missionary and orator died last week in New York aged 58. He was one of the founders of the "Printer's Union" at St. Francis' Church—for night workers.

Florida is not the best place in the world unless you have a home of your own, a friend who is ready to house you or a hotel reservation upon which a deposit has been paid.

Andrew Mellon, like President Coolidge, does not appear unduly excited over Mr. Howard's denunciation of everybody and everything.

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Price of Books

The following editorial from the "Democrat and Chronicle" furnishes so complete a dissertation and answer to a controversial proposition that has agitated several well-known persons in the last few days:—

Winston Churchill, who holds high rank among the best American novelists, has written nothing for publication in the past ten years, and indicates that he has probably abandoned the field. Those who remember the best of his stories, such as "Richard Carrel," "Coniston," "Mr. Crew's Career," "The Inside of the Cup" and others in the same class, will regret to hear of his decision, for should he hold to it the country will lose an author who handled many political and non-political problems like a master. His pictures of certain phases of life in the United States were drawn with a skill few other writers have ever shown and in the tales that came from his pen were admirable lessons which all Americans need to learn.

Mr. Churchill gives two reasons for leaving the field. In the first place he finds fault with the fiction output of to-day but he lays greater stress upon the price charged for the modern novel. In the days when he was turning out his best work one of his volumes, well bound and clearly printed, sold for about \$1.25 and the price was never more than \$1.50. To-day such a book could not be bought for less than \$2 or \$2.50. It is Mr. Churchill's plea that a good novel is not worth that price and that the people are imposed upon when asked to pay it.

Mr. Churchill must have overlooked the fact that the cost of book publication has fully doubled in the last ten years. The price of the good paper required has soared, the labor necessary, in spite of improved machinery, has leaped to higher figures than ever before and the publisher counts himself fortunate if he reaps a fair profit from his investment, unless the book has a large and ready sale it is likely to prove an expensive elephant and the volumes will find their way into junk shops where they can be bought for a song. Even some of the books classed as best sellers return no large profits to either publisher or author.

The price of books has simply kept pace with the price of other articles in common use. At this holiday season, when so many attractive and finely illustrated volumes have been placed upon the market, prices charged are reasonable and no higher than is to be expected. Mr. Churchill's contention that they are out of the reach of many who would like to read them is not borne out by the facts. More good books are published, sold and read to-day than ever before and people willingly pay the prices for them, even though they outlay calls for some sacrifice in other directions.

One Reason

The Rochester "Times-Union" cannot conceive why, if, as Congressman Dempsey says, the United States will bear the major share of the cost and up-keep of the proposed St. Lawrence river canalization, Secretary Hoover favors it.

That's easy. Herbert Hoover hopes to be President some day. The Western States think their shipments of products will be increased by the St. Lawrence river scheme. Admittedly, it will not redound to the advantage of New York state as a whole, because what is adverse to New York city's port supremacy, affects the entire state. New York state is quite likely to go for a democratic president.

Hence, for Mr. Hoover's political benefit, he is likely to profit more than by catering to the Western States than to New York.

His Own Boss

A local paper thinks all the mayor's friends should call upon him leaving out the heart, we cannot hope for any results in making him a good citizen. I have been told by some fathers that they attribute the fact that their children were successful and law-abiding to the extreme rigor with which they were brought up, in fear of their parents, and this is quite possible you can take a child as a young boy, cultivate his head, hold out the reward of economic success in money getting either in business or in a profession, narrow down his vision of life, make him a machine, press out of him his human soul, another the soul, and produce some kind of a successful monetary automation, but not a real human being with a big heart and a clean conscience and a sympathetic outlook on the brotherhood of man."

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Still At It

The infidel enemies of religion are still at it in Washington. Defeated in their attempt to extinguish all religious schools, rather all schools in which religious instruction is given to the pupils—even though these institutions are not supported by the taxpayers but by those parents who want their children to have instruction in religious tenets—by the firmness of the United States Supreme Court, these bigots are trying another line of attack.

Now they would cripple our institutions by depriving them of the customary tax exemptions granted to religious, charitable and educational institutions. Under the proposed revision of the tax laws, exemption to churches would be limited to those "whose seats are free to all" and to a circumscribed area in addition to that usually covered by the church and parsonage.

The proposed changes with regard to hospitals, orphanages, asylums and schools are such as would compel the appointment of specified public officials on the directing boards of all such institutions supported "in whole or in part by public donations or private charity": compel officials of schools and hospitals to make annual accountings under oath of all funds received and disbursed before claims to exemption could be allowed.

As applied to hospitals, orphanages, asylums, etc., the section of the act relating to his compulsory accounting reads as follows:

"The superintendent or manager of the library, orphanage, institution, home, or hospital claiming exemption from taxation under this act shall make oath before the assessor that the income and the receipts hereof, including donations to it, have been applied to the actual expenses of maintaining it, and to no other purpose. He shall also, under oath, make annual reports to the state board of health of its receipts and disbursements, specifying in detail the sources from which the receipts have been derived and the object to which the disbursements have been applied."

The requirement for a sworn statement as to educational institutions is practically identical in terms, including the provision for detailed accounts of the sources of revenue and the purposes of expenditures. It is provided, in general, that property of educational institutions exempted from taxation shall not exceed ten acres for each institution. An exemption of forty acres is allowed, however, to institutions of collegiate rank, except that "where such college is under the direction or control of any religious denomination such larger exemption shall be allowed to one college only directed or controlled by such religious denomination."

Cut Away!

We fancy a great many over-burdened taxpayers will coincide with the Rochester "Times-Union" when it says:—

It is intimated that Governor Smith may recommend another 25 per cent. cut in the state income tax. On the other hand, there is possibility that Republican leaders may go still further and propose to end the income tax in this state.

Republicans say that state tax reduction is possible as there are \$20,000,000 surplus in the treasury. If this is true, reduction is possible and must be provided. Heavy surplus in the state treasury is always a temptation and a danger. Legislatures have a way of making surpluses disappear as rapidly as fog on a June morning.

Just stick a pin in this prediction: Alfred E. Smith and James W. Wadsworth never will oppose each other for United States senator.

Vice President Dawes may pass his proposed revision of the Senate rules in banquet halls and public dinners but that does not mean adoption by the Senate.

Rochester's City Planning Commission, naturally, applauds the Court of Appeals decision that Mt. Vernon's zoning ordinance is illegal.

Cross word puzzles still attract nimble minds and persevering souls.

With the Rhinelander nastiness out of the way, let us hope the newspapers will print something fit for Christmas reading.

Monroe avenue widening pleases so well that now it is proposed to administer similar treatment to Lyell avenue.

The Catholic Daughters of America appear to have sold their service to the Holy Father, if that characterization be permitted.

Why not give one orphan a real Christmas week this year of 1925?

Safety congresses are worth while in the general proposition of safety at they'd be worth more if they could impel everybody to acquire his safety habit.

Governor Smith has been spared the expense of wedding breakfasts for two of his children. But, perhaps, he would have preferred the expense.

Still "Crimeless"

Recent statistics prove that Ireland is still "the most crimeless country" in that criminality in its most serious forms has been almost wholly absent from the country's record in the past years.

These facts having been misrepresented in English Protestant publications, the Protestant Bishop of Ossory took occasion at the Enniscorthy Synod to emphasize the truth.

"I saw it stated in an English religious publication the other day," he said, "that the South and West of Ireland were still disturbed and that outrages were frequent. Now I am in touch with people all over the South of Ireland, and it seems to me that in all this disturbed and restless world there are few quieter corners than this island in which we live. Our duty as Protestants is plain. We should not hold aloof from the life of the people, as if we belonged to a different caste. We should cooperate with the majority, though they happen to be of another creed, for the welfare and service of the nation. The persons who write those English reports as to trouble and violence in Ireland may do so in good faith. But it would be interesting to know where they get their information. The least one can say is that they have been grievously misled."

The bishop touched on another curious point, namely, that there are not enough Protestant teachers for the Protestant schools, and that it is being found necessary to appoint Catholics to the vacancies.

He quoted from the Irish Protestant Diocesan Board's report: "Protestant managers of schools have in several instances had to appoint Roman Catholic teachers because there were no members of the Protestant Church available." Commenting on this, he added: "Those Catholic teachers are doing excellent work. But it seems sad that our children should not be taught by members of their own religion. The case is as serious as the shortage of candidates for the Protestant ministry."

Just a little self-denial will enhance the pleasure of the Christmas feast.

There is no better or more appreciated Christmas gift than a year's subscription to the Catholic Journal.

Shop early and help to make it easier for the overworked clerks, office force and deliverymen.

While the practical is good in Christmas presents nevertheless sentiment is not amiss and the gift that is just personal is sure to be appreciated.

William Randolph Hearst is becoming one of the largest real estate owners in New York and in every big city in America.

There are still many of us who find cross word puzzles an aid to mental agility.

Mayor VanZandt may not be Santa Claus this year. Perhaps he'll withhold his gifts until New Year's.

Have you tried one of the much advertised substitutes for anthracite coal? If so, do you like it?

Newspapers are now conducted with due regard to producing revenues to meet expenses and yield a profit for the owners.

Help Society Meet

The Perpetual Help Society met Wednesday afternoon at St. Mary's Hospital. The following women served: Mrs. G. A. Dancy, chairman; Mrs. T. B. Dougherty, Mrs. Michael Doyle, Mrs. N. T. Devereaux, Miss Katherine Donough, Mrs. Herbert Dawson, Mrs. J. Duggan, Mrs. T. F. Dunn, Mrs. C. M. Danford, Mrs. T. B. Daly, Mrs. John Darby and Mrs. Daniel Donahue will preside.

Loretto Circle

Members of Loretto Circle met Thursday afternoon at the Girls' Orphanage. After the sewing was finished refreshments were served. Mrs. Edward Kammer was hostess, assisted by Miss Winifred Gavin, Mrs. Edward Dean, Mrs. Margaret Danford, Mrs. Barney Stern, Mrs. A. L. Argus, Mrs. W. J. Smyth, Mrs. J. E. McKenna, Miss Esther O'Kane, Mrs. D. McElligott, Mrs. Robert Gordon and Mrs. William Blackwood.

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