

The Catholic Journal

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Lent.

Once more the season of Lent is upon us.

In her wisdom, Holy Mother Church decrees a forty-day period each year, of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting from rich and unnecessary foods that overload the body, slow the digestive machinery, and slow up mental exercise.

Abstinence from amusement pastimes; from more than the ordinary cares of business; from the dance and other carnal pleasures; steady and unchecked indulgence in which tend to make us forgetful of God and Holy Church.

Physically, mentally and spiritually, the Lenten season is of inestimable value if only we approach it and go through it in the spirit and manner prescribed by Holy Church.

Shall we reap the full benefit of the 1926 Lenten season?

Fair Play!

In practical operation, the new immigration law, as was to be expected, works hardships and should be amended in many respects.

Following editorial in the Rochester "Democrat and Chronicle" points out one of these flaws and the way Senator Wadsworth would correct it—

United States Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., is making an earnest fight for such modification of the immigration law as will accord fair treatment to those aliens who have already given evidence of their desire to become citizens of the United States.

The law, as it stands to-day, fails to recognize the services of those unfortunates who, through the American troops during the European war and who, though they have returned here, are unable to bring their families across.

"I know of the case of one man," said Senator Wadsworth in a recent speech, "who fought in our army for two years and who won distinction for his bravery in the Argonne. To-day that man is selling pencils out side the American consulate in a city in southeastern Europe because he has not been able to get inside the quota from his country and return to the United States. He enlisted in our army of his own accord, although under no obligation to do so, and to put up the ban against him now seems to me to be the height of cruelty."

Under the provisions of an amendment, called the Perriman-Wadsworth bill, now under consideration in Congress, such a case as that cited above could not occur. More than this the new bill would permit aliens, who had taken out their first citizenship papers to bring their families over at once. Under the present law any alien who came here after July 1, 1924, had to become a citizen before he could bring his family across and that would mean a wait of at least five years.

The proposed amendments would allow him to be united with his loved ones when he took his first step toward citizenship. As the Senator well says: "It would put a little human kindness and gratitude into our present immigration legislation."

The Senator seeks no radical changes in the present law, no increase in the quotas allowed the different countries of Europe. He insists that the law, as a whole, has worked in a most satisfactory manner except in its treatment of those aliens, who after residence in this country have for some cause or other been compelled to go back and cannot return. Modification of the law to cover these cases and to permit prompt reunion of families would seem to be the duty of this government from a humanitarian standpoint if from no other.

The Catholic Journal is a local product, upholding local traditions, supporting local industries and institutions and is entitled to local support.

Pshaw!

George Bernard Shaw is a very clever self-advertiser. Like the lamented Mr. Barnum he thrives on publicity and is not over scrupulous, mentally, as to how he achieves it.

No one can judge from his writings, exactly what he believes or stands for. Not infrequently, he goes off in a tangent, attacking and contradicting what the world has revered for centuries. When the smoke of battle clears up, Shaw coolly lets it be known he believes not at all what he has written but launched it for the express purpose of drawing the fire of the gullible.

Hence it is refreshing to find a writer who has taken Shaw's measure, as well as that of others, in the following sprightly paragraphs:—

George Bernard Shaw is as whimsical, as provocative and as stimulating as in those wild days when he wrote Fabian essays and scribbled pieces for the London papers. That Sir John Lavery portrait of him, now on exhibition at a Boston art gallery, shows the bedevilling nature of the man. The picture fascinates, as the man himself fascinates. He has had the world guessing and gasping for a generation or two, and will not let up.

Monomarks now engage him, and get into the cable dispatches. "Life is impossible," he has discovered, unless occasionally one can be an insignificant private individual." So, explaining that persons of fame are embarrassed by the attention they receive from tradesmen, he has registered his monomark. He will order goods from shops, not over his signature, but over his monomark. The merchandise will be delivered to the agency where he has registered the monomark, and nobody will know who the purchaser is except the agency, which will not give him away. The idea seems so good to him that he has told the wide world about it.

Like many of his notions, old things in new garb, Mr Shaw's monomark is but an adaptation of an old idea. Our wealthiest citizens have been carrying it out in effect for many years. They have discovered that it is not well to have a reputation as bounteous givers. The more they give, openly, the more the people expect them to give. We have, therefore, an astounding number of anonymous gifts to this and that good cause. Even Mr. Eastman found it necessary to remain "the mysterious Mr. S." for a long period after his great gift to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Only Uncle Sam knows nowadays the identity of all givers. For once, Mr. Shaw and those plutocratic gentlemen of whom he has had so many clever and biting things to say are in the same boat.

Which Is Right?

Settlement of the coal strike with much credit thereto given to Governor Pinchot and Secretary of Labor James J. Davis by President Lewis of the Mine Workers' Union, leads one to wonder if the Rochester "Herald" was altogether right in the following editorial published several days ago:—

It is a matter of record and common knowledge that United States Senator George Wharton Pepper of Pennsylvania will reach the end of his present Senatorial term in March, 1927. In order to succeed himself, he will have to be re-elected in the fall of 1926.

In Pennsylvania, most persons of voting age are aware of the fact that Senator Pepper is exceedingly anxious to succeed himself as Senator. Not only that, but large sections of the Republican organization in Pennsylvania are extremely desirous of seeing Senator Pepper returned to Washington. So fearful is the Senator that Pennsylvania voters will overlook his desires that he has for a number of weeks been conducting a more or less vigorous campaign to assist the resident of the Keystone State to remember what he wishes.

If there is one thing more than another that the Republican organization of Pennsylvania dreads, it is that Gifford Pinchot, now Governor, may do something to get himself elected Senator in place of Mr. Pepper. Efforts of the Governor to settle the anthracite strike have been blocked by the Republican organization in Harrisburg. Settlement of the coal strike by the Governor would give him a leverage on the Senatorship that ought to enable him to lift it easily. It would never do to let the Governor settle the coal strike. Better a million persons out of work and a half a state thrown into bankruptcy than Pinchot a Senator.

Thus the anthracite dispute simmers down to a Senatorial strike, a fact which, if he is half as clever as his enemies think he is, Gifford Pinchot will publish from one end of Pennsylvania to the other and thus insure himself a seat in the United States Senate.

Just the same, lay a bet on Pinchot for the United States Senate and James J. Davis for Governor in Pennsylvania.

This is Catholic Press month. If there is no Catholic paper or magazine in your home now is the time to remedy that condition.

Signs of spring: discussion of the spring training camps for the baseball teams.

Catholic Press Month.

One reason why the Catholic press in the United States is waxing stronger and more influential is such support as is given by Rev. Father Pivger, a clerical editor, writing as follows in the "Union and Times":—

The Bishops of the United States have set aside February as Catholic Press Month to increase the general interest in Catholic periodicals. It is customary for the pastors in their pulpits to lay particular stress upon the urgent need for clean and instructive literature. The family is the foundation of government whether it be civil or spiritual government. To preserve right order, to inculcate the virtues particular to the form of government are its high and holy purposes. Nothing is quite so necessary at this time as clean, wholesome, decent literature for the American home.

This is apparent when one considers the wide influence that journalism has in molding character, in shaping ideals, in forming opinion. Millions and millions of dollars are spent—not yearly, but daily by American readers to acquaint themselves with what is occurring in every nook and corner of the world. A large number of people read nothing else, think nothing else, accept nothing else but what is contained in the family magazine or newspaper. The power of the human voice or of human action pales into insignificance when compared with the practically unlimited power of the press.

That power may be employed to heighten the sense of morality in the home; all too often it is not. The number of periodicals sold in the public places of America that rob the cheek of the blush of innocence, that inoculate the American youth with the virus of indecency, outweighs whatever benefit is derived from the sale of periodicals that rise above the standards of journalism of the day.

With this knowledge before her the Catholic Church has but one course to follow. She must counsel the purchase of that which strengthens the foundation of society; she must build up her own press to a point where others, seeing the power of it, will follow her example. The Church has been the leader in every field of endeavor that had for its purpose the glory of God, the spread of truth and the protection of virtue. Whether it is art, architecture, science, literature or music, the Catholic Church has set the standards high and by her assistance her great names in the records of achievement have given to posterity the grandest evidences of the handwork of manhood. Now the Church must take the lead in the field of journalism to raise it from a slough of indecency to its rightful and righteous place. By this we do not mean that all periodicals have degenerated into literary libelites. We do mean that too many are commercial propositions sacrificing morality at the altar of greed. And in this effort to elevate the press and to make it a power for good, as it has too often been the spokesman of evil, the Church will find the great body of citizenry anxious to cooperate in a necessary work.

What better time for priest and people to begin this noble purpose than the month of February, set aside as the time to stand shoulder to shoulder in support of the Catholic Press? What more opportune moment to build a barrier around the home to shut it off from the journalistic leeches that will suck the last vestige of decency from the flower of American manhood and womanhood?

It used to be the complaint that the smaller radio sets were of precious little use except on Sunday or Monday because the air programme on the only station broadcasting was unchanged for a week. To-day with three local stations battling for the air, the owners of the local sets are blessed with a surfeit of air programmes and, not infrequently fall to receive either with any degree of satisfaction.

Senator James W. Wadsworth is a man of conviction to say the least. And he is ready to fight for his convictions, too.

Why could not the anthracite coal strike have been prevented by judicious counsels and wise leadership?

Bigger City.

Robert M. Searle, President of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, is not only a hard-headed man of affairs but he is possessed of a lively imagination. In an interesting talk at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Searle painted a picture of Rochester, as he sees it, in 1935—only nine years off. Here is Mr. Searle's picture:—

Concentration of an immense population in the country between Buffalo and New York will be caused by development of an additional 800,000 horsepower in electricity, Mr. Searle said. He declared that the undeveloped power lies in the Genesee Valley, and through it Rochester will rise to heights undreamed of as yet.

He predicted the Eastman School of Music would be the musical center of the world in 1935, and that Rochester will have its own grand opera.

In addition to the \$55,000,000 already invested by the gas and electric industry in Rochester, the next ten years, Mr. Searle said, would see the investment of an additional \$600,000,000, of which eighty per cent will be Rochester capital.

Alluring picture, eh? Well it is not improbable or impossible of fulfillment.

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These words composed by St. Bonaventure, a contemporary of St. Anthony of Padua, have been echoed by millions of Catholics during the past seven hundred years out of the conviction confirmed by their own experience of the Wonder-Working Power of St. Anthony of Padua.

It would be difficult to find a Catholic Church in the United States that does not contain a statue of St. Anthony. But the Best Known Shrine of the Saint in America is probably that of the Graymoor Friars on the Mount of the Atonement.

By participating in the Perpetual Novena to St. Anthony conducted by the Graymoor Fathers—a new Novena beginning every Tuesday—thousands upon thousands of the clients of the Wonder-Worker of Padua have obtained their petitions.

The readers of The Catholic Journal are invited to follow their example, and test for themselves the efficacy of this special Novena.

Mrs. C. M. C. Washington, D. C.: "I am sending this donation for St. Anthony's Bread in thanksgiving for many favors granted. One of them was the sale of a property that just seemed impossible to sell."

K. G., New York: "Enclosed find a thank offering to St. Anthony for his intercession in obtaining my restoration to health. I was deperately ill, having been given up by the doctors when I requested the aid of the Saint at his Graymoor Shrine."

Mrs. I. S., Iowa: "Some months ago I sent in a petition that I might sell my place in a distant state, at the same time praying an offering. St. Anthony answered my prayers, and I gratefully enclose the promised donation."

Mrs. J. K., Florida: "The petitions I asked for in the Novena, namely, a safe trip to Florida, and a position for my husband, have been granted."

A. P. R., Providence: "I wish to thank St. Anthony for the many favors received through his intercession and the prayers of the Friars. I have secured the position for which I have been praying for some months. My eyesight, in regard to which I wrote you a short time ago, is also good again."

Mrs. A. J. W., Arizona: "Enclosed find offering for St. Anthony's Bread, as my husband has found work with good pay. Many thanks to St. Anthony, and all who pray for us at Graymoor."

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