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Easter

Once more the ecclesiastical year has rolled round.

Once more we celebrate the glorious feast of Easter.

Once more we commemorate the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

If we have followed the Lenten penitential season in proper spirit we are now clean spiritually and we are sane mentally and we are better physically.

We are, therefore, in the proper frame of mind and body to rejoice at the privilege that is ours of participating in the joys of the Resurrection Morn—because He said that the Way of the Cross and its subsequent events were to be kept up and that He would be with us on every Easter even as He was with His Apostles and His followers on that Easter in Jerusalem centuries ago.

The Catholic Journal hopes and wishes for all its readers the fullest measure of joy and happiness on the Easter Morn we are approaching!

Problem

Careful thinkers—this is said advisedly because, queer as it may sound there are so many careless thinkers these days—are coming to realize that there is something wrong in our educational system—at least that part of the system that is controlled by non-Catholics. And, in this age of mixed marriages and state supervision of schools and compulsory uniformity in certain courses of study, whatever is wrong with the non-Catholic portion of the educational machinery, has an indirect effect of the Catholic portion of the aforesaid educational machinery.

First of all, careful thinkers agree that absence of definite religious trend in our educational curricula or system at large is not a positive advertisement in favor of the non-Catholic portion of the educational system. It is at once agreed, by careful thinkers—not the rattle-brained enthusiasts who could not think straight—that it is exceedingly difficult to frame a code of religious or moral instruction that will not be open to some criticism. The net result is that the preparation of curricula has fallen into the hands of those temporizers who aim to please everybody and about the only division of society who is pleased is those who have very definite ideas of non-belief.

A generation or so ago when family ties held tighter when there was parental control and discipline over the boys and girls, yes even when they were budding into manhood and womanhood, this lack of definite moral and religious in the school curriculum was not so noticeable or so generally observed as now when boys and girls do about as they please and go so far as to declare themselves "Damned Souls".

If there could be a return to the days of parental control and discipline, it would be better for the young people themselves and the entire community. But unless the parents are believers, unless the parents themselves insist that what is joined together by God shall not be sundered ruthlessly by man; unless the parents set the example the presence or absence of definite moral or religious instruction in school curricula makes little difference. We shall have pagan or heathen students whose glory is in their unbelief.

After all is said and written and done, the home is where the lasting impressions are made. The school and teacher, may supplement; they never can take the place of the home.

And now an Essex County assemblyman wants nothing but New York State products to enter into the construction of New York state public buildings!

Perhaps, the diplomats may be able to do in South America what the hard, direct, straight-thinking, hard-hitting General Pershing could not do.

The Other Side

Senator William Borah is hard to figure. Apparently a theorist, he possesses the practical faculty of compelling an audience for his theories. Irreconcilable to the ideas of the majority of his colleagues—unless they happen to coincide with his own—he must represent the views of his constituents because Idaho continues to re-elect him to the United States Senate. Borah is the antithesis of President Coolidge yet the two appear to be on friendly terms.

No matter whether you agree with Borah or not, you are compelled to admire the terse and understandable English in which he couches his views as for instance the following: "The League of Nations is the death knell of Washington's policies. It is not surprising that the foreign minister of Great Britain advised his friends in Europe not to say anything about the second step which was to be taken. In other words: do not let the people know what is going on."

"When we were discussing the reservations in the Senate, a reservation was offered to the effect that the members of the Court ought not to resort to war in the enforcement of the Court's decrees. It was rejected because the Senate was told that Europe would not tolerate any interference with her right to go to war whenever she wanted to go to war. Since the signing of the armistice, there have been twenty-eight wars in Europe—wars for oil, wars for territory, wars of imperialism, wars by strong against the weak.

"There is your record of Europe's willingness to accept American principles. I will pause while someone will name a single American principle in behalf of peace which Europe has accepted. I will pause again while someone will name a single oldtime European principle in behalf of war which Europe has surrendered.

"Was imperialism ever so flagrant and world wide as it is found embodied in the Versailles treaty? Has not the League become the sorry, sordid lackey of the Versailles treaty?

"Was injustice ever more flagrant and the violation of solemn pledges toward a weak people ever more brutal than that of the European powers relative to Syria, where men, women and children are being decimated under the mandate of the League and in the name of peace?"

"And when a great power intimidated to the League with reference to Syria that it be quiet, did not the League crouch at the feet of its master like a whipped slave? And in this program of imperialism and exploitation, in these policies, the Court, of which we are to be a member, is to be the adviser and counselor."

Times Do Change

There is an old saw that goes something like this "Times and men do change." Not in many a day have we seen this illustrated more strikingly than in the following editorial from the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle", erstwhile one of the most vigorous champions of direct primaries:

The New Jersey legislature lacked but one vote for repeal of the direct primary law and return to the convention system of choosing candidates for governor and senator; and sentiment is growing in other states that the direct primary has not justified itself by results. President Harding was one of our many more illustrious publicists who openly advocated a return to the older system. Six states never abandoned the traditional method, and they are giving the country some of its most forceful senators—Borah from Idaho, Smoot from Utah, a scion of the distinguished Bayard family from Delaware, and from Connecticut Brandegee and his scholarly successor Senator Bingham. Few of the forty-two other states are keeping at Washington equally outstanding men; and many of them which once gave national figures to the country are choosing a very different type of senator to-day.

The argument is, of course, that a convention of party leaders for the credit and prestige of the party will make a wiser choice of a better qualified candidate than the rank and file of the voters would be likely to make. But the different idea prevailed when the movement for direct primaries swept the land.

All hail to the gallant Aquinas Quint. They fought a good fight and upheld the traditions of their school, and carried themselves as true sports.

If prohibition ever is to prohibit all citizens must be united in their determination to obey the law and to do everything in their power to induce their neighbors to do likewise.

Babe Ruth is thinner. But is he fatter?

Source Of Weakness

Our well informed Catholic contemporary, the Union and Times presents this forceful argument against the Curtis-Reed bill before the United States Congress to create a "Czar of Education" with plenary powers in America:—

The intelligence of America is aligned against the Curtis-Reed Bill which is the opening wedge for the federalization of education. This is as it should be. Besides the danger of centralizing all authority, there is the added danger in such legislation of standardizing education to a point where the youth of America will lose both personality and individuality. Educators clearly understand this. The human mind is something more than a mould into which is poured formulas and theorems and principles as the moulder runs the molten metal. The more personal education becomes, the greater attention the instructor can give to the individual student, the more perfect it is possible to develop the faculties and powers of the mind. Even with state supervision of education it is noticeable that standardized methods of teaching fail to bring out the best in the child. Sometimes, when we talk too loudly about our educated men and women, it might be well to bear in mind that we would have to rack our brains in search of one name in our own generation that will be respected a century or two hence. Too often when we speak of genius, we refer to mediocrity which is a poor substitute for genius. Does not the fault lie at the door of standardization?

What will become, then, of the nation, if state supervision and standardization swell into national supervision and standardization? If the state witnesses its faults and failures, which it does, in providing a curriculum for the needs of the average child, what will be the faults and failures of federalized supervision that standardizes a curriculum for the Georgia boy, the California boy and the New York boy? The National Education Association will answer that the Federal Government will study these problems and will provide a solution for the widely separated sections. But what is the necessity for it? Have not the states educated their children satisfactorily for the last seventy years? Except in remote cases, have not these states by their own initiative and resources built up a school system which offers every advantage without cost to the American child? Federalized education, in the final analysis, is without reason and without merit. It is a gigantic political maneuver attempted by job-seekers.

Hard To Please

Inasmuch as the Legislature has decreed that New York State's income tax reductions and exemptions shall conform to the Federal income tax requirements, one would think everybody would be happy but here is the way the Rochester "Times-Union" praises and damns the Legislature of 1926:—

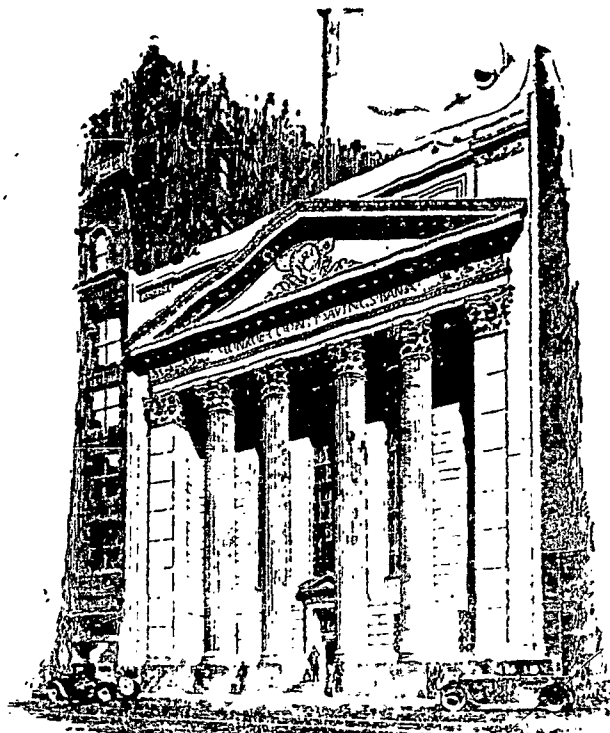
Both houses of the State Legislature have set the seal of approval on a reduction of 25 per cent. on the state income tax, as well as increasing the exemption. Single persons will be exempt \$1,500 instead of \$1,000, and married persons will be exempt \$3,500 instead of \$2,500 as at present. The law will apply to the tax to be reported upon and paid on or before April 15.

It is expected that slight differences in the bills which have passed both Assembly and Senate will be harmonized and the legislation will reach the Governor perhaps by the latter part of the week. The Legislature has waited long to pass this legislation. It was an agreed subject by both parties before the election last fall. Republicans and Democrats alike were pledged to tax reduction. There is no reason why the necessary bills should not have been passed during the first weeks of the legislative session.

But the Legislature made no move toward tax reduction until after the Federal law had been changed, and not then until newspapers throughout the state began to demand action. However, the thing is accomplished—will be within a day or two—and perhaps it is not well to find fault with a bridge that has helped you to cross the stream, although it may have creaked considerably when the passage was being made. For this much the Legislature is to be thanked.

Lloyd George, personally, would not object if Austen Chamberlain made such a mess of the British participation in the League of Nations that Premier Baldwin would have to resign.

Twenty-five years ago the lovers of scenic beauty berated the power people as heartless devastators of Niagara's scenic beauty. To-day these same lovers are calling upon the same power iconoclasts to save the Falls from disintegration.



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Graymoor's Perpetual Novena To St. Anthony Increases In Popularity.

A new Novena to St. Anthony is started every Tuesday by the Friars of the Atonement in the Church of St. Francis at Graymoor, New York. This amounts in actual practice to a Perpetual Novena, for as a Novena which begins on Tuesday ends on Wednesday of the following week, before its conclusion a new Novena begins, and consequently, these Tuesday Novenas constitute an endless chain, each Novena being interlinked with its successor. For thirteen years, without intermission, these Novenas have continued unceasingly at St. Anthony's Graymoor Shrine and all the while their popularity increases. A thousand clients of the Wonder-Worker of Padua now appeal to him through his Graymoor Novena to every hundred who did so a few years ago. Thousands of testimonials like the following explain the why and the wherefore.

A. B. Phila, Pa.: "Thanks be to God and St. Anthony our prayers have been heard. My dear brother's mind was restored and he was able to receive the Last Sacraments before he died."

T. J. C. Ky.: "The petition which I sent in last month has been answered. I have secured a position giving me steady employment."

L. F. P. Vt.: "Enclosed you will find a small offering which I promised to St. Anthony if he would grant me a favor which I greatly desired. Good St. Anthony has answered my prayer a hundred-fold. May God be honored ever more and more through the Wonder-Worker of Padua."

M. B. N. Y. C.: "Enclosed find an offering which I promised to St. Anthony's Bread Fund for an increase in salary."

B. J. D. N. Y. C.: "Enclosed find donation for St. Anthony's Bread which I promised a few months ago if petition was obtained. I firmly believe your prayers have helped me, as I secured a good position after asking for remembrance in the Novena."

Mrs. D. C. M. N. Dak.: "Enclosed you will find my donation for St. Anthony's Bread in gratitude for benefits received through the Perpetual Novena. I have gotten back my health and strength for which I am very grateful."

F. J. P. Providence, R. I.: "Enclosed please find offering which I promised to St. Anthony if I found a position and also had our two tenements rented. Thanks to St. Anthony both my requests were granted."

Mr. and Mrs. T. D.: "Words cannot express our thanks to St. Anthony for obtaining a favor that was almost impossible. The fourth day of the Novena the favor was granted."

Address all communications to ST. ANTHONY'S GRAYMOOR SHRINE, BOX 316, PEEKSKILL, N. Y. N. B. A short Life of St. Anthony will be mailed upon request post-paid for 25 cents. Graymoor Prayer Manual containing prayers for St. Anthony's Novena 10 cents.



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