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A Shame!

It will be a source of shame to the Catholics of Rochester if Bishop Heisey's cherished plan of a free Catholic high school in Rochester for boys is not to be realized and that it is found necessary to revert to the pay-for-tuition of the boys in attendance upon Aquinas Institute.

It is humiliating to learn that there are still remaining unpaid subscriptions to the original Aquinas building fund. With 24 months to pay there is no excuse for this dereliction except death or illness.

It is even more humiliating to learn that not one in ten responded to the Bishop's recent appeal for pledges to the annual maintenance fund of Aquinas. We cannot afford to have Aquinas close its doors now that it has been built and opened. We need Catholic high schools. It is a duty we owe to maintain Aquinas. And those of us who have no boys there should feel it a pleasure to help support a Catholic high school for the boys who do go there. The boys of today will be the men of tomorrow. And we owe it to our boys to provide educational facilities that will include the secular branches and, in addition, will ground them in their faith.

If we have neglected this duty or held back for any reason let us forthwith send in our subscriptions to the Aquinas maintenance fund.

If we have not yet paid our original subscription let us strain a point and pay up. We never will regret it.

Not Exactly!

Says the Syracuse "Post Standard" "A Washington dispatch, regretably brief, records the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the commonwealth of Massachusetts against the state of New York, involving title to a strip of land in the city of Rochester on the shore of Lake Ontario, holding that "the commonwealth of Massachusetts had no right to the bed of the lake, and therefore had no valid claim to the strip along the shore of the lake."

"How the commonwealth of Massachusetts was persuaded that it held title to the shore of Lake Ontario we know not. There must have been some basis to its claim that it should go to the Supreme Court for adjudication. Happily, all ends well. The city of Rochester in an expansive mood and moment expanded its boundaries to the lake, that it might be a lake port and a lake resort. Having thus expanded, it would have been humiliating indeed if it had found that a portion of its municipal area was Massachusetts territory. Massachusetts is a worthy and proud state, even worthy to be the alma mater of so complacent a city as Rochester. But Massachusetts is a long way from home on the pleasant shores of Charlotte. Rochester has become so accustomed to its own political position that it would doubtless be confused seeking to abide the laws of Boston as well as Albany.

The decision of the Supreme Court must have caused relief to the government and people of Rochester. Not exactly "relief". Had the Supreme Court of the United States decided in favor of Massachusetts, it is understood our sister Commonwealth would have at once executed a quit claim deed to Rochester. As it is, the private ownership of what is now Ontario Beach park has been upheld and it will cost the City of Rochester upwards of \$600,000 to clear its title.

Let us hope that elimination of the deadly grade crossing will go forward apace!

Ten years ago there was a strike of machinists in Rochester for an eight hour day.

A secular contemporary ironically remarks: "Speaking of bookkeeping, wouldn't you like to audit the shelves of friends who keep your books?"

Issues.

Recent events tend to inspire the belief that the state elections of 1926 and the presidential election of 1928 will be hotly contested and fraught with great significance.

Far from a settled proposition, prohibition is the most vigorously controverted of all the issues now before the American electorate. The hearings before the Senate Committee in Washington show that the wets and drys are intensely bitter, not to say intolerant. In the heated controversy between the self-interest exponents of these two issues, the great third party to the controversy—the public—is lost sight of entirely.

No sane man expects the old-fashioned saloon to return—even though there were not nearly so great a source of evil as its present-day substitute, the speak-easy dispensary of poison liquor. But the real rebel against the Volstead law restrictions as well as the prohibition amendment itself is the average citizen who never will agree that the Government has any right to dictate what he shall eat or drink. He is willing to concede that the Government can punish or penalize him for any damage ensuing or resulting from his abuse of eating or drinking but not to restrict his choice of what he shall eat or drink. He does not feel himself a criminal for entertaining these views any more than those who dumped the tea in Boston harbor considered themselves criminals. Probably, the British overlords thought the participants in the tea party should be dealt with as criminals which is an attitude analogous to that entertained and expressed by the parties to the wet and dry controversy of today. It is patent that prohibition will be a burning issue in 1926 and 1928 and for years thereafter.

The sensational primaries in Illinois have brought the wet and dry issue squarely into the ensuing elections, likewise another pet plan of former President Harding and President Coolidge—entrance of the United States into the World Court. Illinois voters, of the republican persuasion at least, made it plain by an adverse majority for his opponent that they condemned Senator William McKinley's vote in favor of joining the World Court. We fancy that is the attitude of the Central and Western State Republicans. They have no objection for the World Court—for the nation's of Europe—but want the United States to stay out.

It is too early yet to make positive predictions but if it should happen that Alfred E. Smith and Calvin Coolidge oppose each other in the presidential campaign of 1928 a lively, entertaining, instructive campaign is bound to ensue with the ultimate result in doubt until the votes are counted.

Be Warned!

While no one may be thinking of any such contingency, nevertheless it behooves the city authorities and the owners and operators of public utilities to take the necessary precautions to avoid any such contingency in connection with Rochester's subway and public utilities as is embraced in the following indictment by a New York secular contemporary of the metropolitan subway:

"Subway patrons are fured to discomfort and are surprisingly patient about such things as overcrowding of cars, being pushed and jostled by burly guards and being delayed on their daily trips to and from their work.

"There is one situation in the subway, however, that even the most patient straphanger can no longer endure, and that is the disease-breeding condition of the comfort stations.

"These comfort stations have become so filthy that no one dares venture into them without risk of becoming ill. The women's rooms are just as bad as the men's. Scores of women and children have been made actually sick by the filth and odor in these rooms. Women dread taking their children into them but sometimes it is absolutely necessary.

"There is no reason why subway lavatories cannot be kept clean. There is no excuse for the noxious effluvia that emanates from them and permeates the entire subway platforms at some stations. There is no excuse for the seepage of sewage so noticeable in these places and so disgustingly tracked out onto the platforms and into the cars.

"The Health Department is responsible for sanitation in the city. If the subway officials won't keep the comfort stations clean on their own responsibility then it is up to the Health Department to compel them to do so.

The health of the city demands that these disease-breeding conditions be corrected at once."

Give liberally to the collection for the propagation of the faith when it is taken in your church. It is for a good and worthy cause.

Mayor Jimmie Walker in New York is a real official municipal greeter.

Governor Al. Smith has achieved another notable triumph. He has put through his programme in great part even with a supposedly hostile legislature.

Problem: Will we ever be paid the debts owed by the European nations?

"If".

While no one really expects another World's War in a hurry, there are writers and thinkers who speculate on future possibilities and contingencies. One of these is Arthur Brisbane, said to be the highest-salaried editorial writer in the world. Writing in his daily column for the Hearst newspapers, recently Mr. Brisbane delivered himself of this "If":

"If Mussolini Lives, a very big if, in view of numerous attacks on his life, he will be remembered in history and not merely as another Rientzi. In his plan to revive the greatness of the Roman Empire, he does not merely dream like Byron that Greece might yet be free. Mussolini works at his idea, plans great Italian colonies in Africa, means to make the Mediterranean an Italian lake, as it was once a private Roman lake. And no old ideas about individual freedom or anything else stand in his way.

"Lloyd George, usually cold, not easy to stampede, takes Mussolini seriously as he should. He sees Mussolini sailing for Africa accompanied by such an imposing flotilla or armed ships as never escorted any emperor in the ancient or modern world on a peaceable mission to part of his dominions.

"If this were all swagger, says Lloyd George, the world would laugh, but there is an uneasy feeling abroad that it signifies business of a portentous kind.

"Italian imperialism," says Lloyd George, "has been aroused to a pitch of enthusiastic confidence in its destiny, such as the peninsula has not experienced since the days of the Caesars."

"This shows what one man of powerful will can do following a great war that weakens the wills of feeble men. It took the French Revolution and the exhaustion that followed to pave the way for Napoleon. Mussolini follows 1914.

"While the powerful Italian reconstructs the Roman Empire with his own strength and personality, the Japanese carry on an imperial work that interests Europe and America.

China breaking up, means Japan building up. Where the Chinese lose ground, Japanese gain. Another Roman Empire in Europe might be balanced by a greater empire in Asia."

Encouraging.

It is gratifying to read in a secular paper such an editorial as the following which appeared in a recent issue of the Rochester "Times-Union":

"In spite of bitter religious controversies during the past year, especially those that arose over the subject of evolution, churches in the United States made a larger gain in membership than before in a great many years, according to the annual census that has just been announced by the Christian Herald.

"The gain in membership has been more than 800,000, and there are now in this country nearly 47,000,000.

"That they are all active, interested, working, what might be called real "live" members, is not claimed. But that so large a number are identified with churches in some manner and that the number has been increased by so many thousands during a twelvemonth, is an encouraging and satisfactory situation.

"There are not many people who would choose to live in communities in which there were no churches, and in which the church was not recognized as a institution that exerting a powerful influence.

"And yet, we here in this country would resist to the last any attempt to establish a state church, or to admit the commanding influence of any creed or denomination in the councils of our government.

"We are satisfied here that there is freedom of worship, and that church and state have been kept apart. The result has been a wonderful harmony between different religious bodies, and each has prospered.

"The figures quoted prove that there is still great opportunity for the churches to extend their influence in our own country. While the growth is encouraging, there are still too many who are "unattached," who do not bear a helping hand in carrying out those efforts in which all churches are engaged, designed to help, cheer, sustain and strengthen the lives of all who come within their influence."

In a few days more the baseball plays and scores will be the de luxe features on the radio programme.

So Silent Cal outstared the wise old owl!

Radio fans around Rochester are wondering just why they don't achieve as good reception as the chap in the rural district whose house is not surrounded by factories or other high buildings and whose village is not blessed with an independent broadcasting station.

Who is in the worse position:—William Hohenzollern in exile in Holland, or Victor Emmanuel, nominally king in Italy, while Mussolini receives all the actual imperial honors?

Question whether General Smedley Butler really is ahead by the way he loves to bask in the bright lights of the publicity midway.

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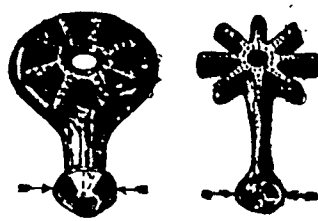
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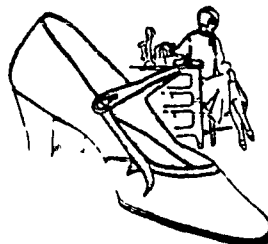
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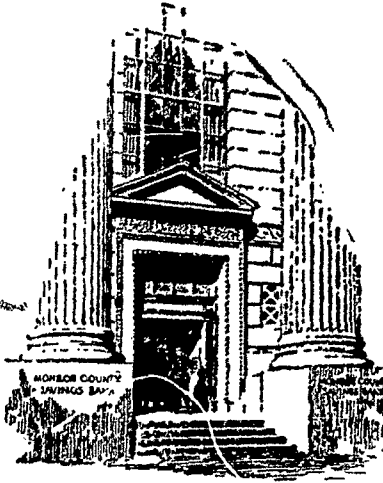
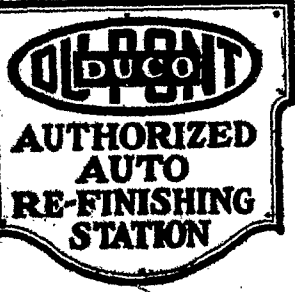
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