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Reacts

Bishop Adna Leonard's diatribe against the Catholic Church and Governor Alfred E. Smith has not met with the enthusiastic reception the doughty Buffalo Methodist prelate expected.

Jews and Gentiles, Presbyterians, Episcopalians all have repudiated Mr. Leonard's bigoted sentiments. President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, characterized the Leonard offensive as unchristian and un-American. State Senator William F. Love, protested "as a Protestant and a Mason."

The New York "World" castigates the Buffalo prelate in the following vigorous editorial:—

"BISHOP LEONARD." "It would be interesting to know who invested Bishop Adna W. Leonard with his responsibilities and with just whom he shares them. We suggest Bishop Leonard, speaking apparently for the Anti-Saloon League, of which he is president, and for that portion of the Methodist Episcopal Church which may agree with him. We are the keepers of the Constitution, of the flag and of American citizenship."

"Are you indeed? Then we suggest, Bishop Leonard, that you accept your high responsibilities with the more evidence of having taken note of the risks which they involve. We suggest that you do not hit out recklessly against 'the Latins,' whom you describe as 'hordes of the least desirable nations (who) come here to down our Government.' We suggest that you do not play with the dynamic of religious feeling by declaring that 'this is a Protestant Nation and always will remain so.'"

The whole spirit of American law and the American tradition breathes liberty of worship. We suggest that you guard yourself against kindling sectional ill-feeling by describing New York as having surrendered its 'priceless American heritage to the hands of the foreigners who trample on our flag,' and we suggest that you go more slowly in describing those who wish to amend the law or to amend it as 'social outcasts in the American body politic.' These things we suggest because if you really are the keepers of the Constitution and the keepers of the flag and the keepers of American citizenship you will have an unloved Constitution, a torn flag, and a divided citizenship if you steer your course by sectionalism, intolerance and excommunication."

"If Bishop Leonard's statement stood alone it would be unimportant. It does not stand alone. It is one of a number of similar statements which have issued recently from militant churchmen, and it is time to ask what Christian end is served by egging races, sections and religions on toward hatred and suspicion. Surely churchmen waste fine opportunities when they plump for this sort of intolerance when this sort of intolerance is already so well man aged by the Ku Klux Klan."

Contrast

Dedication of a humble edifice in Lorain, Ohio, to accommodate about 1,500 Mexican workers who had hitherto had no meeting place gave Bishop Schrembs who officiated, administered confirmation an opportunity to contrast the conditions in the United States and Mexico, so far as religion and worship are concerned.

After Mass, Bishop Schrembs said the occasion had special significance in this land of liberty because it was in such marked contrast to conditions now prevalent in the native land of many of the congregation.

"Here in this land of liberty and freedom of religious principles," the Bishop said, "you are free to come to your church to worship God, to assist at holy mass, to receive the sacraments, and to bring your little ones that they may be instructed and learn of their Father in Heaven. We learn of the teachings of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin, and of the saints, your predecessors and

The Bishop also referred to former periods of persecution, saying these had been the experience of the Church since its foundation.

"In Mexico today," the Bishop said, "we see a policy put into effect that has hindered the Church in her work; a policy that has banished bishops, priests and nuns."

"Foolish men are they who imagine they can wipe out the Church of Jesus Christ; foolish, they are, who imagine they can put an end to the divine law of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Schrembs commented on a short procession that had preceded the service when he and the assisting priests were escorted by the congregation from St. John's parish house to the new edifice.

"If we did that in Mexico," he said, "we should be arrested and thrown into jail."

Local Improvements

Municipal finance is as intricate and complicated as either that of the Nation or State. In fact, it is more so because the State and Nation can levy taxes on many sources of revenue to meet expenditures, but the city government is restricted, in great part, to taxes upon real estate. City tax levies are soaring by leaps and bounds. Many students of financial problems are wondering if the day is not near at hand that real estate values will have risen so high as to prohibit only the very rich from owning their own homes.

One source of worry to the municipal officials is the necessity of new local improvements and repair of existing pavements, sidewalks, sewers, etc. The property owners along the line of the improvements cannot afford to pay for them forthwith so the practice is to issue bonds to run for five, ten, fifteen and twenty years, the property owners to pay their improvement assessments in installments sufficiently graded so as to retire these improvement bonds. These bonds, however, are included in the ten per cent limitation on a municipality's borrowing power. When that limit is reached, city progress must stop until retirement of bonds releases enough to go ahead a little while.

Mayor O'Neil thinks he has a plan whereby local improvements may proceed and yet not be chargeable against the ten per cent limitation. The Rochester "Times-Union" discusses the Mayor's plan as follows: Street pavements and other local improvements requiring a total expenditure of more than \$4,000,000 are now under consideration. They have been delayed because—under present laws—their cost except such an inconsiderable part as would be paid in cash, is chargeable against the city's 10 per cent debt limitation.

In most cases the property owners want work undertaken as soon as possible. But as the city is close to its legal debt limit, and any available margin is required for general improvements such as schools and the subway, city officials are seeking a new method of financing.

The present method of financing local improvements is by the city paying the contractor who does the work, getting its money back as the assessments levied are paid by property owners.

Under the proposed plan the contractor would be paid in improvement bonds. These are to be a lien against the property benefited, but not an obligation of the city as a whole and so will not be included in the city debt limit. Practical operation of such a plan has been tested in other states.

The legal side of the question requires careful consideration. It is not yet clear by what process the city will avoid the constitutional obstacle to a large local improvement program which arises from the necessity of lumping local improvements costs with all other capital expenditures in the city's bonding program.

It has been stated that authority for issuing the new local improvement bonds is granted by the Home Rule Amendment to the constitution. The corporation counsel has conferred with attorneys representing firms which deal in municipal securities and is understood to have received a favorable opinion regarding legality of the issue.

It is probable that property owners desiring improvements would welcome any method not involving too great expense which will enable the work to be undertaken promptly.

Education

With the fall school term only a few days away, it will not be amiss to call to the attention of Catholic parents to the action taken on Catholic schools and Catholic education by the National Catholic Educational Association at its recent convention in Louisville, Ky.

"We reaffirm our devotion to the cause of education. We recall that at this time 2,000,000 youths are receiving training in our schools, academies, colleges and universities. It has been that traditional course of the Church to foster learning. Indeed without the constant labors of the clergy and the patient industry of the monasteries, the lamp of learning must have been extinguished and the conflicts of the centuries and Europe must have lapsed into a dark night of ignorance. Civilization owes its existence to the enlightening efforts of the Church."

"The conducting of Catholic colleges and universities is a function proper to the Church and in keeping with her mission of safeguarding Christian faith and morals."

"According to the spirit of law of the Church, every Catholic pupil should be educated in a Catholic school, amid Catholic surroundings and environment, and this principle applies to college and university students as well as to those in primary and secondary schools."

"The association recognizes among the important principles of education that education is an end in itself, as perfecting the intelligence and the heart of man, entirely apart from any value which may attach to it as furthering the material advancement of the individual in practical life."

In accord with the above principles the following resolutions were passed without a dissenting voice:

"Resolved, that by a Catholic education is understood not merely the inclusion of religious courses in the curricula but such teaching even of secular branches as involves the recognition of the unchangeable principles of Catholic philosophy, theology and pedagogy."

"Resolved, that education in non-Catholic colleges and universities can in no way supply or substitute for the religious and moral education provided in our Catholic schools; that attendance at such places is not at all desirable but at most, in certain circumstances, tolerated, subject to the conditions laid down by the Holy See and the local ordinary."

"Resolved, that accordingly all encouragement of attendance of Catholics at non-Catholic colleges and universities, is discontinued, nor is the fact that provision is made for the safeguarding of the faith and morals of students, presumably in necessary attendance in such institutions, to be interpreted as a surrender of the Church's policy and tradition in the matter of higher education, or used as a means of diverting Catholic students and Catholic resources from our Catholic colleges and universities to such institutions."

"Resolved, that for the promotion and development of higher Catholic education our colleges and universities endeavor always to attain and maintain the best intellectual and scholastic as well as religious standards, and our duty of means be urged to make our Catholic colleges and universities the beneficiaries of their generosity, and our Catholic students and their parents be opportunely instructed in the spirit and law of the Church, regarding education divorced from religion and morality, and attendance at non-Catholic colleges."

Look on Her Side!

In the study made by the "Research and Review News" of Indianapolis, Ind., of the value of life insurance left by deceased as compared to the needs of the survivors, appears this pertinent discussion of how far the proceeds of a thousand dollar life insurance policy goes:—

"Yes, that's all right. That's the way you think it is going to be. Whenever you think of the thousand or so of life insurance you've got, why of course, you can just close your eyes and see your wife and children getting along in great shape."

"But, say, you aren't looking at it right. You aren't seeing the picture the way she is going to see it some day. I know a thousand dollars is a lot of money; and I am not going around making light of it."

"The trouble is that while you see a great big pile of money coming pouring down at your widow and children, you don't stop to think that she is going to have to make that pile of money last her—all her life."

"What will a thousand dollars do for her? Well, if you're lucky enough to have enough money in the bank to pay all your 'dead man's debts,' your doctor and your undertaker, so that she can actually have that thousand clear and she takes it down and puts it in the building and loan, she'll get just about 17 cents a day."

"A loaf of bread and a couple of eggs or a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk, that's all you are really leaving her. What if you have two thousand dollars—well, then she can have two loaves of bread and about four eggs."

"Of course, your intentions are good, but she can't have a roof over her head because even if you do own your own house, she can't pay the taxes out of 17 cents a day. She and the children will have to keep on patching up the old clothes until the patches won't hold the threads—because, don't you see, you aren't leaving her any money for clothes—and no money for fuel or doctor or education or anything except the care for misery."

St. Boniface Church, of Chicago, has a long and important history. It celebrated its diamond jubilee. Since this parish was organized by the Benedictine Fathers 75 years ago, its school has turned out 72 students for the religious life—56 nuns and 16 priests. Three of its young men are now studying for the priesthood.

Just as we have been expecting, Justice James C. Crosey appears on the scene as a possible Republican gubernatorial nominee. The Brooklyn jurist has a fine publicity bureau, apparently.

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Optimistic

We trust that the following not only cheerful but enthusiastic optimism displayed by a local secular contemporary will be justified by its outcome six or eight months hence: Your calendar assures you that the year is wearing on and that only a few weeks more will pass before one gets up in the morning to look out upon a time of frost upon the roofs.

But there are a number of things which are rather encouraging as Fall and Winter approach.

In the first place, there will be no shortage of fuel next winter. The cost of fuel is high, but it can be had. Reports declare that stocks of anthracite have recovered from the five months' strike of last winter. Bituminous coal is in plentiful supply, and there is no threat of strike or interruption in either field. Fuel orders will be promptly filled throughout the coming winter.

The potato crop is now expected to pass that of last year by more than 20 million bushels. It may go still higher than this, and there will be nothing like the serious shortage that was experienced last year, when the price of potatoes went to a higher figure than ever before in this country, and this product, which is a principal article of food in a great many families, became almost prohibitive in cost.

All grains crops are abundant, although record crops are not expected except in one or two instances.

Another considerable factor in food is sugar, and there are no prospects that this commodity will increase in price. It has sold throughout the summer at as low a figure as should be expected under the present tariff.

Fruits have been abundant and the later fruit crops which are coming on, such as apples, pears, plums and peaches, are also of high yield. Clothing and textile products are at low prices. They are probably down to the bedrock in cost, unless there should be a readjustment in wages, which does not seem imminent.

There is no shortage in housing. All over the country there is downward tendency in rents.

Now that is a situation upon which the average individual may look with satisfaction. The four months distant Winter is thus robbed of some of the terrors which have been present in several winters recently experienced.

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