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Easter

Once again the ecclesiastical year has rolled around and we are about to celebrate the joyous feast of Easter.

We have finished the Lenten penitential season. We have followed the Saviour through His earthly sojourn in this world. We have witnessed His institution of the Blessed Eucharist. We have watched with Him on Olivet. We have heard His betrayal. We have shared His agony on the Cross. We have seen Him laid in the tomb.

And now comes Resurrection Morn. He has broken His fetters. He has emerged from the tomb and after a brief stay on earth, is to resume His throne on high.

Blessed, indeed, are we to whom is vouchsafed the God given gift of shavers in the great Church He founded and which shall continue as long as earthly kin shall last.

Let us rejoice and be happy on this Easter of 1927!

Good News.

With the price of paper soaring and the dire predictions that the price will go higher because of our fast disappearing forests, it is to be hoped that the good news indicated by the following editorial in the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" may come true.

"It may be that the end of the economic troubles of the corn states, Iowa and others which cling to that great staple crop, is looming in the distance. Representative Cole of Iowa introduced a Congressional bill not long ago asking fifty thousand dollars for research work with a view to producing paper from corn stalks thus saving part of the five million cords of wood used annually in paper-making. There is a feeling that stalks, and cobs perhaps, in time will be found available in paper making; and already a process promising to make them of much value is announced.

"Bela Dorner, a Hungarian chemist of world distinction, has found a way of producing rayon fiber from cornstarch pulp which is declared to be superior to the fiber made from cotton or wood. This is considered to mean that the stalk pulp will come into use at once in making rayon, paper, picture films, explosives, celluloid, lacquers, artificial leather and various other useful products. Plans are already far matured for two such pulp factories in Illinois; and claim is made that their product will be the cheapest pulp known. Heretofore the technical obstacles have been the difficulty of removing the pith and knuckle of the stalks; but the Dorner process grinds up the entire stalk.

"The reports of leading American experts have been so glowing that a powerful financial group has obtained American rights to the process and is putting all needed capital in. The Corn Belt produces stalks enough for all the pulp needs of our country; and hitherto they have gone to waste, except as Nature returned their elements to the soil. With by-products of value, corn may come to be our greatest staple, as it has long been in the bushels of foodstuff it yields. The tensile strength of the stalk fiber is almost unrivaled; and a dress fabric resistant to wear and tear, and a paper which will not yellow, disintegrate and crumble inside of three decades, as woodpulp paper does, may be in sight."

Governor Alfred Smith will inform the world that there is no inconsistency between adherence to the Catholic faith, spiritually, and American citizenship, politically.

Rochester's baselard situation appears to be very much "off again, on again, gone again, Finnegan."

Even though Lent be over, there is no good reason for gluttony and ailing or amusement.

Sound.

Whatever opinion one may have formed previously, as to the ability of Theodore Roosevelt the younger he cannot help feeling that Mr. Roosevelt demonstrates ability to think straight and shoot straight in these opinions expressed in his speech before a local fraternity in Rochester last week.

"At this time, there is a general tendency to sap the importance of our citizens. It is brought about in such fashion that it is often difficult to make people see what is going on. One of the ways it is being done is by undue centralization of the powers of government. There is a tendency for the powers to be taken from the township, village, county and city, and vested in the state. There is an even more dangerous tendency for the powers to be taken away from the state and vested in the federal government. Much of this is done in the name of efficient and economical administration.

"I gravely doubt whether efficiency and economy are really served thereby, but even granting that to a certain extent they may be, the loss to us as a nation, through improper centralization of powers, is very great. By improper centralization, you take from the shoulders of the man in the community the responsibility for governing himself. It is axiomatic that men and women develop mainly through having responsibilities put on their shoulders, not through having responsibilities taken off their shoulders.

"At this time, not only is the governmental importance of our citizens threatened, but in addition, certain of what I consider as personal duties are being improperly taken from them and assigned to the state. There is a great tendency in modern times to legislate on matters that I do not believe are properly the subjects of legislation. There are many evils and abuses in America. We are not perfect by any manner of means. Many good people, seeing improper conduct of various kinds in a community, and desiring to change them, rush to the Legislature to get a law passed thereon. Nine times out of ten, this is the wrong procedure. It is tantamount to putting that ankle supporter on for good. You cannot cure morals by legislation. You must cure them by education. Education is an infinitely slower process, but an infinitely sounder and more lasting one. Undue paternalism is bad.

"If the mania for legislation on all subjects continues unchecked, we will make of ourselves mere automata, who depend on the state for everything, and on whom the state cannot depend. We will destroy the individualism which brought about the War of the Rebellion, and which fought it through to a successful conclusion. Our aim in legislation should be to foster and protect the individual American, so that he has every opportunity to develop himself to the highest point possible consistent with justice to his fellow citizens. If we believe in the ideals of the men who fought to establish this country, we must fight to maintain the social duties and privileges of the individual American."

Cleaning Up.

It looks as if New York had really woken up to the bad national reputation that obscene shows and rotten night clubs were giving the metropolis of the Western Hemisphere.

It is also a fact that real native New Yorkers were not the patrons of these indecent performances. Those who kept them up were the rich visitors from the North, South, East and West, who reveled in filth while in New York and then went home and proclaimed to the house-stops that Sodom and Gomorrah were not nearly so bad as New York.

The New Yorkers quietly decided that these visitors would be minus their amusement on their next visit. Shows were raided by the police and players and producers indicted, convicted and sent to jail.

The New York State Legislature took a hand with this result as stated by a secular contemporary: "Action and reaction, the old text books used to say, are opposite and equal."

"Certain New York producers went the limit in seeking to make money as purveyors of indecency and exploiters of nudity.

"Now the Legislature has passed and the Governor has signed the Theater Padlock bill, which goes to the extreme of giving the commissioner of licenses authority to make it for a year a theater which housed a play against which a conviction has been secured.

"Such property is, as a rule, more valuable than the type of place used for those speakies which have been padlocked. The penalty is not imposed by the courts, but by an administrative official. Owners are far less likely to know that their property is being used for an illegal purpose than in the case of illegal liquor selling.

"This is a drastic law, but Broadway brought it on itself by flaunting indecency for sake of gain."

Charles E. Bostwick loves political blizzards. He is against any League of Nations peace politics. He would prefer a political oligarchy if he could be its Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

What Big Men Do.

It may be that those who deplore "big men" going into business rather than public life are, to use a common expression, "crying before they are hurt."

In a recent issue the Baltimore "Sun" said: "It is partly true, at least, that our men of great ability shun politics for industrial or other fields of private efforts, as Dr. Arthur E. Bestor, president of Chautauqua Institution, said to the City Club on Saturday. But it is misleading and erroneous to generalize too broadly as to the fact or as to its implications.

"In the first place, there are exceptions to Dr. Bestor's rule so marked and conspicuous and numerous as to bring the generalizer up quite short. A nation that within the decade has in the forefront of its political life Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, Charles Evans Hughes, William E. Borah, James A. Reed and Herbert Hoover is very far from bankrupt of brains. That group—and other men of ability could be added—would serenely survive comparison of intellectual power or force of character with the best that the industry and finance of the nation can offer.

"The truth in Dr. Bestor's statement probably is in this fact: An overwhelmingly larger percentage of what the late Thomas R. Marshall called first-class second-rate men go into business than into politics. By first-class second-rate men Mr. Marshall meant men of large ability—big men—but men not of towering proportions. Here, too, exceptions are to be noted. For example, in intellectual vigor Governor Ritchie will stand comparison quite comfortably with our business leaders in Maryland. But the general rule seems quite clear. Business does command more men of the next-to-top rank than politics."

Having said this much, the "Sun" goes on to indicate what we hinted in opening this article.

However, it is not to be assumed that this condition is necessary and absolutely bad. It is a paradoxical fact that in local and state governments, and to an extent in national government, there has been distinct improvement in tone and in administration simultaneously with the appearance of this strong movement of big men toward business rather than politics. The explanation is that brains in business tend to eliminate problems of government. To illustrate: To-day, enlightened men, who understand that fair dealing pays in the long run, are acquiring control of our railroads. The consequence is that the old acute problems of public and labor relations are gradually disappearing. Wilson and Roosevelt worked their hearts out trying to solve those problems when a less enlightened attitude prevailed in railroad management.

After all, it needs to be remembered that government is a necessary evil, created largely to protect individuals from each other. Every highly intelligent man in business increases the chance that the enlightened view of self-interest will prevail; to the extent that it prevails, the function of government contracts, and as it contracts the call from government for a people's best brains lessens. Of course, we shall never see the day when men will not need government, but the names mentioned above show we also are far from the day when government can command no able men.

Out of the Wet.

Perhaps the Times-Union is right in the following editorial, perhaps it under-estimates the real situation.

Reorganization of the prohibition forces of the government under the law passed at the last session of Congress has attracted much comment. Drys are pleased with establishment of a separate bureau with Roy A. Haynes at its head, as well as with placing of prohibition officers under civil service. Wets have attempted to ridicule the plan as "just another shake-up."

But the biggest shake-up of all in the history of prohibition, which is now in progress, will draw no smiles from the wets. It is the haste and unity of action which politicians of both parties are exhibiting in getting rid of wet labels.

Many formerly identified with the cause of the wets are now pointing out with great care that prohibition is not an issue and cannot be made one. Admission has been made in unexpected quarters that the Eighteenth Amendment is a real part of the Constitution, and is no more an issue than is female suffrage or counterfeiting. They look grave when they talk of the necessity for law enforcement, and would expunge from speeches, writings and other utterances, if they could, endorsement of nullification practices and encouragement to bootleggers and poison booze.

Observers, as the months come along toward the national election, how anxious they are to get in out of the wet.

Two retired American Archbishops were buried recently—Monsignor Seton and Most Rev. Regis Caserin. Both had had distinguished themselves in service of Holy Mother Church.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, April 17.—St. Anicetus, Pope, Martyr, was head of the Church from 165 to 173. His vigilance protected his flock from the wiles of the heretics Valentine and Marcion. The first 36 Bishops of Rome, down to Liberius, and, this one excepted, all the popes to Symmachus, the fifty-second, in 498, are honored among the Saints and 78 popes are named in the Roman martyrology.

Monday, April 18.—At Apollonius, Martyr, was a Roman senator who was given the opportunity to denounce the Christian religion and thus save his life and property. He indignantly refused these terms of safety and was beheaded about the year 186.

Tuesday, April 19.—St. Elphege, Archbishop, was born in 954 of a noble Saxon family. After entering a monastery near Tewkesbury, England, he became a hermit near Bath. He was made Bishop of Winchester at 30, and later Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1011 he was carried off by the Danes, who had captured Canterbury. He would not allow his poor flock to ransom him and for this was brutally beaten and stoned by his captors. One of his tormentors, whom he converted before he died, put an end to his misery with a blow from an axe. He died Easter Saturday, April 19, 1012, with his last words a prayer for his murderers.

Wednesday, April 20.—St. Marcellinus, Bishop, was born in Africa of a noble family. He preached with great success in Gaul and the Alps and built a chapel at Embrun. After laboring all day he would spend the nights in prayer. He died about the year 374. St. Gregory of Tours tells of many miracles at his tomb at Embrun.

Thursday, April 21.—St. Anselm, Archbishop, lost his religious fervor temporarily, when at the age of 15 he was forbidden to enter religion. His vocation revived, he later became a monk at Bee in Normandy. As Archbishop of Canterbury, to which see he had been appointed by William Rufus, he was in bitter conflict with the king because of his defense of the Pope. Worldly pleasures called him "traitors" but the barons eventually sided with him. He is famed for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He died in 1109.

Friday, April 22.—St. Sotir, Pope and Martyr, became head of the Church in 173. He was liberal in charity. He vigorously opposed the Montanus heresy and ruled the Church until 177.

Saturday, April 23.—St. George, Martyr, was born in Cappadocia of Christian parents at the end of the third century. Although as a soldier he had won the favor of Diocletian, he rebuked the emperor when he began his persecution of Christians. He became a type of successful combatant against the ruler of the dragon. The devotion to St. George is one of the most ancient and widespread in the Church.

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