

The Catholic Journal

Published Every Friday At No. 118 North Water Street The Catholic Journal Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y.

If the paper is not received promptly notify the office.

Report without delay change of address giving both old and new.

Communications solicited from all Catholics accompanied in every instance by the name of the author. Name of contributor withheld if desired.

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FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1927.

TELEPHONE, MAIN 1567.

Rated as second class mail matter.

Non Partisan.

The Appellate Division has reversed Justice Robert Thompson's decision that the proposed city manager charter was defective in that it proposed a method of electing officers (councilmen) in a manner contrary to the state election law, in that party designations and party emblems were to be eliminated.

The Appellate Division holds that under the Home Rule law, cities may elect their local officers in any manner they choose.

If the Court of Appeals sustains the Appellate Division, anybody who can induce 300 signers to sign his nomination petition if for a general and 75 to nominate as a district councilman. Five general and 4 district Councilmen have the power to select a city manager who is to have all the powers of the present Mayor plus control of the Police, Fire, Health, Taxation, Finance, Public Works, etc. etc.

There will be two primaries—the first anybody can enter who can secure the requisite number of signatures. The 10 highest for general and the 8 highest for district councilman, will go before all the electors in the regular November election and the nine highest will constitute the elected Council.

It is a tangled skein and will hardly be untangled to the satisfaction of anybody until after the city has been governed by a Council and City manager for several years—provided, of course—that the Court of Appeals sustains the charter. The fact that such seasoned jurists as Sawyer of Wayne and Clark of Steuben hold that the entire new Charter is a bad thing weigh heavily with the Judges in the highest court.

There should be a clean cut decision by the Court of last resort.

Typical.

Not so many years ago there were intellectual giants in the editorial chairs of the daily newspapers. Dana, Greeley, Raymond, McKelway, Pulitzer, Thurlow, Weed, William Parcell, Joseph O'Connor, James D. Warren, Samuel Bowles were names to conjure by.

None of these would have perpetrated this editorial which appeared a few days ago in a leading daily and if anybody can sift out a positive opinion therefrom he's a wonder.

Conditions in Russia today are admittedly bad. Not that they have ever been good, judged by our standards; but it is asserted that there is as much tyranny and smaller production of goods than in the days of the czarist regime.

Russia's curse is ignorance. During the days of the Red Terror, many members of the relatively small group of the educated and well-informed perished, leaving Russia by so much the poorer.

We are told that the Soviet government is more favorable to education, especially primary education, than was the government of the czars. The question is whether these are merely paper plans, or are being placed in practice.

It is hard to get at the facts, but this much can safely be said. If education is being extended to wider and wider groups, then Russia is on the road of progress. If, on the other hand educational facilities have declined in quality and made no important gains in quantity, then Russia's future is dark indeed.

Ignorance and despotism go hand in hand. The touchstone of Russian progress or retrogression is not political or economic theory but whether light is coming to those so long in darkness.

President Calles expels the Catholic bishops from Mexico. Then he confiscates the Church's property, the bishops' personal belongings, the libraries of old books and valuable paintings and tapestries, the accumulation of centuries. They are to be assigned to the president as national custodians—temporarily!

End of Street Play.

That children playing in the open streets will soon not be tolerated in the opinion of the "American City" which says editorially:—

A child was killed in Somerville, Mass., recently while gliding along the street on one roller-skate. Following the death, Frank A. Goodwin State Registrar of Motor Vehicles, issued a statement urging parents and teachers to do all possible to prevent street skating in future. He refers in this statement to the recent tremendous increase in the number of children to be seen in the streets on roller-skates and issues a warning against this one more menace "on the highways of Massachusetts. Accident statistics will show that this warning might apply with equal force to other states. According to figures made public in April of this year by the Health Commissioner of New York City, 422 children were killed on the streets of that city alone during 1926—figures which show a substantial increase over those for 1925 from the same source.

"While it is true," Registrar Goodwin states, "that children must play somewhere, it is equally true that automobiles have some rights on the highways. No motorist can tell what a child on roller-skates is going to do, because the child, especially a small child, doesn't know what is going to happen to him next.

"There is no way of preventing children from skating in the streets through law, because no penalty can be meted out in the courts to small children, but it is too bad that some punishment cannot be meted out to fathers and mothers who are foolish enough to buy roller-skates for their children and then permit them to skate in the street filled with death-dealing motor vehicles."

Summer and the season for outdoor play have come, and as the Massachusetts official points out, there are difficulties in attempting to legislate against child play: It would be as easy to legislate the dandelion that pushes through the broken curbstone at the edge of the street. There are even difficulties in dealing with the parents. But fortunately the rights of the child are beginning to be generally recognized as including better places to play in than the street ever provided. City planners, and experts in other phases of complex modern life are carefully mapping out streets adequate for the ever increasing flow of motor traffic, and with equal care are mapping out adequate playing areas. Parks and playgrounds have for some time been generally recognized as having their important part in promoting child health and preventing juvenile delinquency. They are coming to be recognized as an essential of child safety.

Which Horn?

It has come to be the rule for the prohibitionist to claim for the Eighteenth Amendment all the credit for all the good things that have happened since 1919—such as increase in bank deposits, decrease in number of arrests for intoxication, etc. But we wonder if the converse be true and admitted.

The "Union and Times" discusses the problem from another angle. It says:

During the last eight years we, as a nation, have boasted in superlative terms of our growing prosperity. From certain groups we learn that our wealth during this period is due to the after effects of the war. It may be attributable to this cause in part. Prohibitionists claim that since 1919 our prosperity is due to the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act. With this we cannot agree.

After looking over the Bradstreet reports from 1919 to 1926, we begin to wonder whether this prosperity is as great and as widespread as we think it.

In a period of eight years the number of failures grew over three times and a half, while the liabilities increased over five hundred per cent. Some will argue that increasing prosperity will cause a rise in the number of failures. But has our property trebled in the last eight years? And if it is true that the number of failures jumped from five thousand in 1919 to eighteen thousand in 1926, which we call a period of prosperity, what would the number be in a period of depression?

Eighteen thousand failures in one year, with liabilities of over a half billion, is not a healthy sign. It is indicative of many things. Among these are the effort to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few with the customary coercive measures attending such a procedure; the inability of certain branches of business to obtain a just and reasonable price; and to a depressed market for certain commodities. There are, of course, a thousand and one reasons for commercial failures. What we would like to know is—whether or not prohibitionists are as anxious to attribute these failures to prohibition as they are to claim our prosperity to be the direct result of Volsteadism. It is always easy to see how our pet hobby produces many blessings. We often close our eyes to all evils believing that these are due to separate and distinct causes.

But it is another story when one sets out to substantiate the argument.

Rural Sickness?

Additional publicity has been gained for the "subsidized country doctor proposal" by the alleged failure of five doctors to answer a summons to attend and care for a boy in Batavia, N. Y. The failure to respond cost the boy's life.

After reading the following editorial in the Rochester "Times-Union" just what would you infer would be a remedy for the condition cited?

Charges presented by Stafford Grange to the Genesee County Medical Society emphasize a serious situation in the rural regions of this state with regard to the scarcity of physicians who can or will respond to night calls. A woman reported to the grange that her young son died late in January without adequate medical attention, although she appealed to five Batavia doctors to hasten to their home, which is only two miles outside of the city limits. The child died before the mother could bring it to the city and now the grange has taken up the matter with the county medical society.

This tragic case is not an isolated one. Some of us know of similar instances, in cities as well as outside. One hears caustic criticism occasionally of the medical profession for refusing to respond to such calls. But there is another side to the picture. More and more city doctors are specializing. Others have reached the age when night calls impose a real hardship. They cannot reasonably be expected to respond to such calls except from their own patients. Every doctor's books are full of uncollectable accounts from this sort of case. And in the country the number of doctors is rapidly declining. City practice is more appealing and more profitable. In short the practice of medicine has changed and that fact will have to be recognized.

Yet every medical society appreciates that cases like this present a real problem, a challenge to the profession that needs somehow or other to be solved. It might be done by agreement among the able bodied physicians, designating one or more of their number to serve in emergency cases for certain periods. Or perhaps trained nurses might be employed to respond to such calls and determine whether a physician's services are actually needed, or if not, do what is necessary themselves. Or perhaps young and ambitious doctors eager for experience and physically able to stand the grind, may be persuaded to take up the work as valuable training. At all events, this is a situation that must be met.

Shutting Down.

The gun toter and the pistol carrier are to find it harder to obtain firearms. Congress has passed and President Coolidge has signed a law that makes it illegal to ship deadly or concealed weapons through the mails. This law took effect May 10th and the reasons for its being in the statute books is thus set forth by an esteemed secular contemporary:

"After the tenth of this month, by the terms of a bill passed by Congress and signed by the President, it will be illegal to send concealable deadly weapons by mail. A heavy penalty is provided for the enforcement of the law, which is aimed particularly at the mail order business in pistols and revolvers.

"Because a great part of America is still only a few years removed from frontier conditions, the use of the deadly weapons is familiar to millions of persons. The ordeal of the World War resulted in training a host of young men in the handling of firearms. But it is not likely that either the backwoods hunters or the veterans of the World War have contributed measurably to the ranks of gun-toting criminals whose only purpose in carrying an automatic pistol or a revolver is to kill human beings who may oppose them. It is at the stealthy owners of pocketly arsenals that the new law is aimed.

"There are plenty of statutes in this and other communities of the United States regulating the sale and use of firearms. But police have pointed out for years that they are virtually helpless to enforce local laws against the carrying of concealed weapons as long as it is possible for criminally inclined persons to purchase their arms and have them delivered through the mail. No doubt, with the mails closed to deadly weapons of pocket size, other means will be found for obtaining the pistols and revolvers sought by gunmen. But closing the mails to such traffic is at least a beginning, and a good one in an effort that is likely to be broadened to include other possible sources of illegal firearms.

"Eventually America may come to the point of view of England, which has virtually eliminated the pistol and revolver from criminal use in that country. The English law regards the mere possession of a pocket weapon of deadly nature as evidence of intent to commit murder, so that it is not well to be found with a pistol in the pocket on British soil.

"But for the present, the closing of the mails to small firearms is an advance that promises a great deal, since it shuts off one of the principal channels through which the underworld has kept itself armed."

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, May—Sts. Peter and Dionysia. St. Peter was the first condemned to die in the Decian persecution at Lampsacus, Asia Minor. He was chained to a wheel and his bones broken. Later he was beheaded. St. Dionysia won the crown an apostate lost when he renounced Christ in the face of suffering. St. Dionysia prayed God to let her suffer martyrdom for Him. Her desire was granted.

Monday, May 16.—St. John Nepomucen was born at Nepomuc, Bohemia, in 1330. He was consecrated to God and a holy life. He became chaplain to Emperor Wenceslas, who was intensely jealous of his wife. The Emperor sought through torture to extort the Empress' confession from the Saint and finally martyred him in the effort. When the Saint's shrine was opened 330 years after his death all the flesh had disappeared, but his tongue remained intact.

Tuesday, May 17.—St. Paschal Baylon as a mere boy instructed the herdsmen in the hills of Aragon. At the age of 24 he entered the Franciscan Order. He was devout in prayer and took to himself the most servile tasks. God withheld the crown of martyrdom from him, although he was in great danger from the Huguenots on a journey through France. One day as he attended the sheep on a mountainside while the villagers were going to Mass in the valley below, an angel bearing the Sacred Host appeared to him as he fell on his knees at the sound of the consecration bell. He died in 1592.

Wednesday, May 18.—St. Venantius, Martyr, born in Camerino, Italy, was miraculously saved from torture for being a Christian. The Saint's zeal in the trials and a hovering angel brought about the conversion of the judge's secretary. He was beheaded with many of his converts in 250.

Thursday May 19. St. Peter Celestine as a child had visions of the Blessed Virgin, the angels and the saints. After surviving three years' temptation in the mountain he founded the Celestine Order. He was elected Pope and built himself a boarded cell in his palace to continue his hermit life.

Friday, May 20.—St. Bernardine of Siena, in 1408 St. Vincent Ferrer once suddenly interrupted his sermon to declare that among his auditors was a young Franciscan who one day would be a greater preacher than himself. It was Bernardine of noble birth. His eloquence brought many miraculous conversions and reformed the greater part of Italy. He was called a heretic but lived to see himself and his teachings justified. He died on Ascension Eve, 1444.

Saturday, May 21.—St. Hospius, recluse, shut himself up in the ruins of an old tower near Villafranca and girded himself with heavy iron chains and lived in bread and dates. Heaven honored him with gifts of prophecy and miracles. He died May 21, 887.

Prayer At Women's Meeting Pays Tender Tribute To Mary

Washington, May 6.—The Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, rector of the Catholic University of America, paid a tender tribute to the Blessed Virgin in an invocation delivered before a meeting of the Woman's Universal Alliance here yesterday. The meeting is the Alliance's second convocation on world welfare work.

The Bishop's invocation follows: "Look down benignly on this assembly, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ! In Thy name have its members foregathered from far and near, to praise the dignity of womanhood and assert its glorious service; to recall its rights and acknowledge its duties; to set forth its ideals and its hopes; above all, to outline clearly the exalted way of womanhood amid the new conditions of human life.

"It is Thy daughters of the New World particularly who stand before Thee on this day, and implore Thy blessing on all their words and acts. They are conscious that Thou wert born of the most glorious among women, and didst accept to the end her most tender love and her daily care. We know that within her sheltering arms, so to speak, Thy holy Religion began its beneficent career. We are aware that with the name of Mary a new era began for woman, and the child, for the poor and the weak, and for all the lowly elements of our human kind. We remember that the name of this blessed maid of Israel is given eternally on the lands and waters of the New World, and we trust that similarly our counsels will embrace the best interests of all womankind in these vast regions that Thy Providence has opened to our human endeavor.

"Let this greatest of womankind be our inspiration and our model in all our deliberations, to the end that the entire world, old and new, may praise their wisdom and profit by the happy skill with which they enshrine the dictates of reason and experience. We praise Thy holy Name O Lord of heaven and earth, and we pray Thee to have us forever in Thy holy keeping, and to let the light of Thy countenance shine forever in our thoughts and our hearts."

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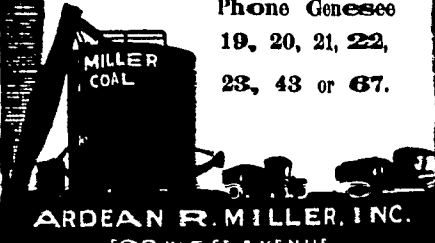
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