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We Lead?

America leads in one thing, ac-
cording to the Baltimore "Sun"
which says:

"In the matter of parental educa-
tion," said one of the principal
speakers at the Child Study Associa-
tion convention here yesterday.
"America is probably ahead of the
rest of the world." This is good news,
particularly in view of the reputa-
tion of American children as being
more spoiled and impertinent than
those of any other country. But if
we have erred with our children, we
can at least claim that our parents
are preparing to make their own
second childhood innocuous.

We hope the parents are really
educated and the editorial quoted
recalls the fact that the matter of
"parental schools" was pioneered by
a Rochesterian, the late Bishop Mc-
Quaid, who encountered violent op-
position when he laid down the rule
that to the parent, not the State,
belonged the child and that the par-
ent had a right to send his child to
school of his own choosing and that,
so long as he received secular edu-
cation up to the standard exacted by
the State, the latter had no right to
object, if in addition, the child was
educated in the religious tenets of
the parent.

This being so, it is a matter of
concern that the parents be educa-
ted to a full sense of the responsibil-
ity imposed to know that their chil-
dren are being raised right.

Loose Reasoning.

There is a deal of loose reasoning
abroad these days and a lack of re-
search is responsible therefore, some-
times clever chap—more often than not a
clever publicity artist—makes a
plausible assertion and forthwith
editors and reformers adopt it for
general application without stopping
to inquire if it has been tried only
in limited area.

Mayhap it has worked well in
rural townships. There is no inquiry
as to whether it is adopted for city
application.

Somewhere in a big city demands
cheaper gas and electricity. Forth-
with there is a demand that large
areas of rural community life be
divested of human life and activity
in order that huge power reservoirs
be created. If the rural inhabitants
protest they are styled as unprogress-
ive, ignorant, stupid.

The city workers like "advanced
time" because it affords increased
recreational facilities for them. The
farmer protests for equally pow-
erful reasons to him, the city chap
is peeved. But he will rail at the
farmer if he asks higher prices for the
food products due to the higher
price of farm labor induced by this
"advanced time."

California would ruin the farmers
and vineyardists of Arizona, Color-
ado and new Mexico to provide
greater water supply for an already
overcrowded and over advertised
Pacific Coast area.

If there is protest then the press
of the East, ignorant and unfeeling
as to the actual conditions in these
Western States, brands Congressmen
who refuse to jump at California's
whip as cheap and petty grafters. An
instance of this editorial frame of
mind is seen in the following article
which appeared in a recent issue of a
local secular contemporary:—

"In sharp contrast to the way in
which a nation can be hurried into
war, with loss of thousands of lives
and billions of dollars, is the slow-
footed progress of constructive un-
derstandings of national importance.
For years Congress has had be-
fore it proposals to protect from
the fertile Imperial Valley of
California. The waters of the Color-
ado River irrigate this valley, but in
case of flood threaten to overwhelm
it. The river made the valley, and
may break it for it lies from

hundred to three hundred feet below
river level.

"Engineers have shown that by
a high dam in Boulder Canyon the
danger of flood can be ended and a
larger and more reliable supply of
irrigation water furnished. Sale of
power, produced by the surplus
water from the great reservoir the
dam will create, will furnish suf-
ficient revenue to repay to the gov-
ernment principal and interest on
the cost of construction.

"A few Arizona farmers, who have
an idea their lands could be irrigat-
ed if the government would under-
take a tremendously expensive
scheme of building a dam higher up
the river, at a point beyond the
range of any large market for power
have opposed the plan. More impor-
tant has been the opposition of
power interests, who want to control
the power development of the Colo-
rado.

"Yet it does not appear that either
the opposition of Arizona or the pro-
paganda of the power interests is
the chief cause of delay. The main
task of those who would protect and
further develop the Imperial Valley
with farms now worth hundreds of
millions of dollars, is to overcome
the inertia of Congress and its reluc-
tance to appropriate money for con-
structive enterprise.

"Strangely enough, the fact that
the power development would pay
the cost adds to the delay. Congress
has its full share of men who hold
to the doctrine that it is 'socialistic'
for national, state or municipal gov-
ernment to engage in undertakings
which will produce revenue.

"Meantime this year, and every
year until action is taken, one of
the most productive districts in the
country is in danger, not merely of
temporary inundation, but of being
submerged beneath the waters of an
inland sea."

Recreation.

In great measure we agree with
the following editorial in the Roch-
ester "Times-Union":

After looking over the ground,
preliminary to a thorough investiga-
tion of playground and recreational
facilities in Rochester, Charles B.
Raitt, former superintendent of rec-
reation in Los Angeles, is quoted as
saying that this city affords unusual
opportunities.

This is undoubtedly true of what
may be called long and medium
range opportunities. We have an ex-
cellent park system, could easily
make more use of the river, and en-
joy a location near Lake Ontario.

Opportunities for providing neigh-
borhood playgrounds are not so nu-
merous. Mr. Raitt speaks of Chicago
as having a playground system
which is regarded as a model for a
large city. Chicago developed in a
rather sprawling fashion, which left
large areas which were not built up
even after the city had spread far
beyond them. The movement for
playgrounds fortunately developed in
time so that many of these vacant
areas could be utilized.

Rochester has grown more com-
pactly. We have homes with private
yards, but not many large vacant
areas well within the city.

The question of safe and suitable
places for children to play has been
made more acute by automobile
traffic. That makes use of the streets
for play, always, undesirable, now
distinctly dangerous.

Many persons do not appreciate
how difficult, distressing, almost
heartrending this question of play
space for their children and keep-
ing them out of the streets is for
parents, and especially for mothers.

Backyards are not large enough
for play, except for quite small chil-
dren. The parks are often too dis-
tant for daily use. Yet the children
want to play and ought to play.

This report will be awaited with
interest, and should contain useful
recommendations. The city should
do its best to meet the need.

Suburban districts, if they act in
time, can avoid many of the city's
difficulties. The Times-Union strong-
ly urges these districts to reserve
space now, before the cost mounts.

But we must differ as to the con-
tentment that the back lot is too small
for recreation. If it were not for the
fact that two, three or four car garages in the
food products due to the higher
price of farm labor induced by this
"advanced time."

Says a contemporary of the ultra-
reformer type:—"A politician is a
Statesman who makes a mess of
things and then blames the sinister
influence of some other country."
Really, at the risk of appearing old-
fashioned we prefer to define: "A
politician is a statesman who does
nothing and gets things done occa-
sionally he is on the wrong track—
but he gets there."

Mayor O'Neil is awfully anxious
to have the subway in operation be-
fore September 1st. Is that the date
we are to have ten cent street car
fare in Rochester?

President Coolidge, we feel con-
fidently, is in a cowboy costume. He had better
stick to conventional sartorial habi-
tude.

Real Reason.

A local secular contemporary has
this comment to make on why some
people do not vote:—

"That thousands of American vot-
ers remain away from the polls as
a protest against the party system
of government is a discovery made by
John Hays Hammond, as chairman
of the Department of Political Edu-
cation of the Nonpartisan National
Civic Federation. Mr. Hammond's
information was gained through a
questionnaire covering a large area
and many sorts of citizens, so that
its results appear to be fairly rep-
resentative.

"Summed up, the protests received
by Mr. Hammond reveal a general
misapprehension of the meaning of
politics and of party systems of gov-
ernment. The definition of politics
as the science of government finds
no general acceptance among the
voters who protest against present
methods of conducting primaries and
elections. From the answers receiv-
ed, it appears that opinions regard-
ing political systems are so various
as to be irreconcilable, for many
voters believe the primary system a
failure and wish to return to the
convention system, while others are
just as firmly convinced that the ex-
tension and elaboration of the pri-
mary system is the only cure for
apparent evils.

"As Mr. Hammond points out, one
of the principal causes of complaints
the corruption and dishonesty that
crops out now and then in party
politics, is due directly to the failure
of citizens to take party government
in their own hands. The system of
party politics on which American
government rests is not in itself cor-
rupt. In fact, the results it has given
through decades of stress and storm
and contention show it to be well
adapted to the needs of a growing
turbulent, youthfully emotional re-
public such as America. It is the
failure of American citizens to un-
derstand and take advantage of their
own privileges in such a system of
government that has caused the evils
of which complaint is made.

"As Mr. Hammond points out, and
as most intelligent citizens them-
selves have foreseen, unless the
American people forsake their apathy
and rule their parties, corrupt
minorities will rule America."

It strikes us that Mr. Hammond
has mistaken cause for effect, at
least has swallowed lame excuses
hook, line and sinker.
Forty years ago the alibi for not
voting was that the polling places
were located in environment obnox-
ious to the ultra-refined and super-
cultured human being. Then follow-
ed the alibi that political bosses
thunderbombed the caucuses and con-
ventions, so these ultra-refined re-
fused to vote. Came direct primaries
and it is discovered that the dirty
public cannot be kept out.

So the only thing to do is to put
back the partisan barbed wire fence
parts on caucus and convention!

Separate Homes.

In this day of 'building in the air'
in order to utilize to the utmost
limit every available foot of ground
space, it is to be hoped that the
Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle"
is correct in its estimate that Roch-
ester is not losing its distinction as
"a city of separate homes."

"The Bureau of Labor statistics
reports that in the fourteen cities of
our nation with over half a million
population, the modern apartment
house is gaining rapidly in popular-
ity over the single home. In two
cities only—Baltimore and Milwau-
kee—are detached dwellings increas-
ing in attractiveness as homes. In
Washington the number of apart-
ment dwellers has grown from 24 to
56 per cent. of the populace in the
past six years; while in the borough
of Manhattan only one-tenth of one
per cent. of the people live in single
homes.

"The earliest human habitations
on this continent of which ruins re-
main are the apartment houses or
so-called pueblos of our Southwest
states. Some Indians also seem to
have had communal habitations or
tribal structures for use as such
upon occasion. But since that time
and until recent decades even the
double house was practically un-
known. Now the hive dwellings are
multiplying enormously in urban
centers, for life therein is cheaper,
easier, pleasanter in many ways, fit-
ting modern conditions and the small-
er families that are now the rule.

"Rochester has been essentially a
city of detached homes. There was
land enough for that; nor was it
ever necessary, as now in Washing-
ton, to provide by law that no dwell-
ing shall entirely cover all the lot
on which it stands. In fact our city
has had few blocks of adjoining
houses without side windows such
as are so common in many cities and
cover endless miles of Metropolitan
streets. Yet in the past few years
the conversion of stately residences
into apartment houses or their re-
placement by modern structures has
proceeded in certain sections at a
rather rapid rate.

"Our city is not included in the
Bureau of Labor statistics; but our
ceaseless and extensive suburban
developments and the new areas
covered annually by detached man-
sion villas, bungalows, appear to be
keeping us, as we have been from
the first, a city exceptional in its

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past preponderance of separat-
ism. Our room for expansion and
our transportation facilities combin-
ed with our traditional instincts for our
own "vine and fig tree" to make
this the case.

The fourth regional convention of
the Priests' Eucharistic League will
be held August 30th and 31st in
Buffalo.

Policemen and firemen in every
city of the United States are to be
united in a National organization,
League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

That the Church is coming into
its own again in England is evi-
denced by the following cable dispatch

The New York Charity Organiza-
tion avers that poverty, ignorance
and crime are more prevalent in na-
tive born Americans than among the
recently-landed foreign alien popula-
tion of New York.

We note that while Mayor O'Neil
and Leo MacSweeney are at odds
politically they are so far personal
friends as to attend together a "Din-
ner" Moore Corn beef and Cabbage
Dinner."

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, July 17.—St. Alexius.
Born in Rome of noble parents, St.
Alexius by God's special inspiration
secretly quit the city of his birth on
his wedding night and journeyed to
Edessa in the Far East, where he
was content to live upon alms, gath-
ered at the gate of Our Lady's church
in that city. After 17 years, when his
sanctity was miraculously manifested
by the Blessed Virgin's image, he
drifted back to Rome, where he
managed to subsist on charity begged
from a mean corner of his father's
palace. St. Alexius died early in the
fifth century.

Monday, July 18.—St. Camillus
de Lellis, at the age of 19, took service
with his father, an Italian noble,
against the Turks, and after four
years' campaigning found himself a
discharged soldier in bad circum-
stances. A few words from a Capu-
chin friar brought about his conver-
sion, and he decided to enter the re-
ligious life. He was ordained and
formed the community of Servants
of the Sick which was confirmed in
1586 by the Pope. He died in 1614.

Tuesday, July 19.—St. Vincent
de Paul, who was born in 1576, devoted
his life to the care of the poor and
the instruction of the rich in the
ways of charity. Soon after his or-

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