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AGAINST BEAUTY CONTESTS

The League of Nations Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, in session now at Geneva, Switzerland, has had brought before it the proposition to recommend to all governments that they for bid beauty contests. Action in the matter was released until additional data is secured.

Beauty contests are no more helpful to civilization than tree-sitting contests, or egg-eating contests, and are much more hamful. They are a grievous danger to morality, and they have brought unhappiness and life-long misery to many a poor girl who was induced to enter them. They are promoted for one purpose and one purpose only—the exploitaion of feminine charms for peculiary purposes. There is no thought about decency, about morality, or about the proper safeguarding of the girls who are induced to enter them. The contestants are usually from the homes of Lamilies. They are given sudden paricipation in the luxuries of life, with mocompanying adulation and admiration, and if they lack strength of character and spiri-

tual support they are grievously harmed,

as a rule. Their brief fame usually ends as

suddenly as it started, and they are dis-

carded as quickly as they were selected.

The Bishop of Galveston, Texas, some time ago, sent a personal letter to every contestant who had entered a beauty contest to be held in that city, and pleaded with each one to withdraw. His action was commended the world over, and it helped arouse a strong feeling of moral indignation against such contests. It is to be hoped that the committee now in session in Geneva will take definite and emphatic action against such contests and help put an end to them once and for all. They are, at best, cesspools of moral degradation, unworthy of recognition by any Christian peoples.

GATHOLICS IN AMERICA

The official Catholic Directory, just nublished, tells us there were 20,091,593 Catholics in the United States in 1930. This is 13,391 more than in 1929 (but it is 21,165 less than in 1928. There were 86,-376 converts to the Church in 1928; 38,-282 in 1929, and 39,528 in 1930. No figures are given as to the number of Catholic immigrants who came into America in these years. But there surely were a number of thousands each year. Deducting the number of converts and the number of immigrants each year, and we are confronted by the fact that our Church is not holding its own in its own ranks in America. Its losses are not startling, but there has been a loss, nevertheless, during the past two

The trend of the times is away from religion, and away from God; away from sutherity, and away from obedience to authority. It would be foolishly boastful to say our Church has not been affected by this trend. It is and has been affected. Bad example, bad companionship, bad influence, the lure of licentiousness, the siren call of pleasure—these have made their incodes upon our ranks in spite of the utmost watchfulness, labors and sacrifices of our priests and religious.

There is consolation in the thought, however, that our Church is meeting this emergency with colors flying and ranks unbroken. The Catholic priesthood increased nearly one thousand in number last year. Ten new theological seminaries were established, and there were 17,616 students in these during the year an increase of 1,816 students in these during the year. Sixty two new parallel were established in 1929, and 162 separation actions year. Creat progress, these along other lines—new orphanisches home for the area, new contains new longer or the area, new longer the heart of the Church lands along the heart of the Church lands area to heart of the Church lands are the lands are the heart of the Church lands are the lands are t

The Rosary

Not on the lute, or harp of many strings Shall all men praise the Master of all song. Our life is brief, one salth, and art is

long;
And skilled must be the laureates of kings.
Silent, O lips that utter foolish things!
Rest, awkward fingers striking all notes wrong!
How from your toll shall issue, white

and strong.

Music like that God's chosen poet sings?

There is one harp that any hand can play, And from its strings what harmonies arise!

There is one song that any mouth can

A song that lingers when all singing dies
When on their heads our Mother's children pray
Immortal music charms the grateful

Joyce Kilmer.

Church and to God. The time for doing our best work in stopping the leaks in our membership, like eternity, is ever present. That time is now. Good example, good works, sincere devotion, watchfulness over our loved ones, solicitude for the spiritual welfare of our friends and neighbors, and a hearty co-operation with every work undertaken by our Bishop and our pastors—these will help immeasurably.

POWER OF DIVINE GUIDANCE

"Going to college will be a wonderful thing for Bryan, though I am not qualified to advise him about an education of that kind. I can only teach him the difference between right and wrong, and tell him about the power of Divine Guidance."

This statement was made by Mrs. H. A. Untiedt, mother of Bryan Untiedt, the thirteen-year-old schoolboy hero who saved the lives of fifteen school children some weeks ago when the bus in which they were riding became stalled in a blizzard on the plains of Colorado. Bryan was left in charge of the bus while the driver went to seek help. It was thirty-six hours before help came. In the meantime five of the children had frozen to death, and fifteen others were saved from the same fate by the way Bryan kept them jumping, wrestling and otherwise exercising. He had removed nearly all of his clothing and spread it over the freezing children.

Bryan has been offered a four-year free college course by Washington College, at Chestertown, Mr., when he completes his high school course, and it was this offer which led his mother to make the above

statement.

Fortunate, indeed, is a boy who has a mother like that, and fortunate will that boy be if he keeps, all through life, an understanding of the difference between right and wrong, and an appreciation of the power of Divine Guidance. Some American colleges have a tendency to destroy these precious gifts of a mother to her boy. They train the intellect to a high state of perfection, but they forget, offtimes, that intellectual beauty is transitory and illusory unless there be added to it the goodness of conscience and of soul.

Bryan Untiedt is a hero chiefly because he has a mother who has a simple and sublime faith in God, and who has imparted to her boy the spirit of that faith. It is a pity that so many other American mothers. of this kind, and so many other American boys of Bryan's type, live lives of starved spirituality, drifting gradually away from God instead of closer and closer to Him. Every mother, in her heart, wants her boy to know the difference between right and wrong, and wants him to have a knowledge of the power of divine guidance. But when religion is missing in homes and hearts, mother and boy miss the best knowledge and most helpful influence they can have in their struggle for knowledge and for perfection. Not all mothers are as fortunate as Mrs. Untiedt, nor all sons as fortunate as Bryan in having a mother of this kind.

RELIGION BY CORRESPONDENCE

We have correspondence courses in almost everything. Why not in religion? Why not, indeed? If the course is a good one, with the right brain and the right pen behind it, much good surely can be done in fields where personal contact is well-nigh impossible.

Such a course has been established already. The material has been prepared by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Victor Day, V.G., of Helena, Montana, under the auspices of the N. C. W. C. Rural Life Bureau. We who walk or ride to Church on paved streets or highways, amid pleasant scenes and delightful surroundings, have little idea of the difficulties encountered in some parts of our country in providing religious services and religious education for the people. Take the Diocese of Helena, for instance. It is seven times in area as large as the Diocese of Rochester, and has about one hundred priests. Long distances. between villages, with lack of good roads and shortage of priests, make it almost impossible for priests to visit and instruct children or adults frequently.

Conditions are much worse in some of the Southern States. For instance, the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, presided over by Bishop Walsh, beloved in Rochester, covers the entire State, and has about two score priests to look after the spiritual welfare of Catholics in more than thirty thousand square miles of territory.

**The state of Day's correspondence courses in religion have been successfully employed in various parts of the country, we are told. They are attracted in convenient

Theodore Roosevelt Said --

"No social reform is worth discussing unless there are children in sufficient numbers to make the home and the school worth perpetuating... Of all foolish people, the most foolish are the half-baked educated people who advocate a profoundly immoral attitude towards life in the name of 'reform' through 'birth control.'... What this nation vitally needs is not negative preaching of birth control to the submerged tenth, but positive preaching of birth encouragement to the nine-tenths... Decreasing birth rate among intelligent people is a constant menace to the race."—Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, in his book: "Foes of The American Household."

form, and are available at reasonable prices.

In addition to a First Communion Course of thirteen lessons, there is a complete course based upon the Baltimore Catechism, in three parts. The first part consists of eighteen lessons on the Apostles' Creed; the second part consists of twenty-six lessons on the Sacraments, Sacramentals, and Prayer; the third consists of twenty lessons on the Commandments.

In the beginning of the course, the book of instructions, together with the first set of questions, is sent to the student. The child studies the lesson, fills in the answers to the questions, and returns his paper for correction. The paper, duly corrected and graded, with perhaps a short note of encouragement, is sent back to the child with a new set of questions. This is repeated weekly until the close of the course.

There is a vast amount of clerical work involved in mailing out questions, correcting returned papers, keeping records, and caring for personal correspondence. In some places, superannuated Sisters have performed these tasks, rejoicing in this splendid opportunity for further service. Catholic laywomen may be organized and each given charge of a certain number of students. A group of high school or college girls may correct papers each week. Where this plan is adopted, the girls must be carefully selected, and must be contantly guided and supervised in their

Experience with religious correspondence courses has led to the following wellestablished conclusions: that many children in the small missions and in the outlying districts can be effectively reached only by correspondence; that priests who are responsible for the souls of these children often find it difficult if not impossible to care for their religious education, and welcome a means by which they may be instructed in their religion; that parents, often poorly instructed themselves, are enger to make use of this opportunity to teach the children; and finally, that the children themselves, when reasonably encouraged, are faithful in following the series of lessons to completion.

WORLD WAR NEUTRALITY

There was a time, during the progress of the World War, before America became involved in that dreadful conflict, when this country was far more inclined towards hostility with Great Britain than with Germany, and had far more reason for the same. This statement is broadly intimated in an article written by the late Robert Lansing, Secretary of State under President Wilson, and published in the Saturday Evening Post of April eighteenth exactly as he wrote it a short time before his death.

A sound American thrashing is administered to the Hon. Walter Hines Page, U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, in Mr. Lansing's article, because of Mr. Page's violent prejudice in favor of Great Britain, even to the extent of glaring neglect of his duties and of subordinating American rights and liberties to Great Britain. It is broadly intimated in this article that if the Lusitania had not been sunk by Germany, and if Germany had not decided to engage in ruthless submarine warfare, that America might have declared war upon Great Britain because of her many and glaring violations of America's rights, all of them with the tacit approval of Mr. Page. This intimation is in keeping with that dramatic message once sent to another arch pro-British American, Admiral Sims, then in British waters, by his su-perior officer, Admiral Benson, supreme commander of the U.S. Navy during the World War, warning him to observe the strictest neutrality with all nations, and reminding him that America was not concerned what nation she fought, providing she had to fight for her rights.

The title of Mr. Lansing's article is. "The Difficulties of Neutrality." He tells of the dramatic resignation of the late William Jennings Bryan, when the latter refused to sign the note of protest to the German government over the sinking of the Lusitania, on the ground that it might involve the United States in war. And he relates how President Wilson appointed him to succeed Mr. Bryan. Some of Mr. Lansing's statements about Ambassador Page will not be pleasant reading to admirers of this diplomatic gentleman. Here are some samples:

Mr. Page's projective in favor of Great Britain had combarranced the Administration and commend Mr. Wilcom many anxious house."
"Unfortunately, Mr. Walter Hines Page

was no thereased to have so little concep-

tion of the state of public feeling in this country that he, doubtless without realizing it, discounted, as had from the beginning of the war, the instructions sent him by his own government, by showing his personal disapproval of them, and by giving the Brit-ish officials the impression that it was need-less to pay serious attention to the numer-ous complaints which he was directed to lay before them. Misreading American public opinion concerning the illegal interferences by the British Authorities with American commerce to neutral countries, and mistak-ing the bellicose expressions against Germany of a relatively small group of the press and people in the Eastern States to be the voice of the Nation, Mr. Page believed that the Department of State had no conception of the issues involved, that the Washington administration was not representing the real sentiments of the American people, and that, for political reasons or through a false appreciation of the vital interests at stake it was sending unwarranted, or at least needless, complaints and protests

"The truth is that to obtain any action in behalf of American citizens whose vessels or cargoes were selzed or detained, instructions had finally to be sent to the American Consul General Skinner, at London. Through his vigorous representations, much was accomplished."

"It is only in the light of subsequent events that any excuse can be found for the complacent way in which he (Mr. Page) accepted the illegal treatment of American interests, ignored the President's directions, bombarded him with prevish complaints against the Department of State, and sought to postpone disputes until after the war, meanwhile permitting Great Britain to continue without protest her illegal practises."

"One wonders why Mr. Wilson did not ask or accept his resignation. I wonder still more, after reading Mr. Page's published letters, for Mr. Wilson was not disposed to condone or forget disloyal service to his Administration."

"As a result, the American Embassy at London continued to be, up to the end of the year 1916, a grumbling, reluctant and unreliable agency through which the Department of State attempted to obtain redress for the wrongs done to Americans, and to present further invasions of their rights."

"He (Mr. Page) had no conception of American public opinion, or of the necessity of taking it into account in the conduct of our relations with Great Britain."

Mr. Lansing's article tells how Count von Bernstoff, German Ambassador to the United States, tried vainly to keep Germany from engaging in her ruthless submarine warfare, and nearly succeeded. Had he succeeded, Mr. Lansing wrote that he wonders what would have happened. He wrote:

"Could a clash with the British navy have been avoided? And would a clash have resulted in war? An American to-day, reviewing the two years preceding the declaration of war by Congress in April, 1917, may feel a chill of fear as he sees how the mere change of policy at Berlin in regard to submarine warfare—a change that nearly took place—might have reversed the whole coffra of events"—in other words, might have forced the United States to declare war upon Great Britain."

Mr. Lansing's article makes mighty interesting reading these days. It will be a distinct shock to lukewarm Americans to be told by one who knew the real inside that America was much more enraged at Great Britain than at Germany prior to the ruthless submarine warfare, and that year and a half after the sinking of the Lusitania, even with other submarine outrages added to the long score against Germany, that "one of the most prominent and influential of the Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives, Henry D. Flood, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that he had quietly made a personal canvass of the House, and that there was unquestionably a majority opposed to a declaration of war with Germany."

One cannot help conclude from Mr. Lansing's article that if Germany had agreed to abandon her ruthless submarine warfare there was the gravest kind of danger that war with Great Britain was almost inevitable. "British arrogance," backed by the disloyalty and assininity of the Hon. Walter Hines Page, was responsible for this situation, and it was a mighty precarious one, according to Mr. Lansing's article.

Prohibition will be a dominant issue in the next national campaign. Any Democrat nominated for the presidency in opposition to the wishes of former Governor Alfred E. Smith will be defeated."

The above statements were made by Arthur Brisbane, editor of the Hearst newspapers, on the occasion of his recent visit to Rochester. Mr. Brisbane travels the country over, is one of the best-posted men in America, and one of the ablest editors. His prophecy will not set well with fanatics, but will find a receptive place in the hearts of millions of Americans who have great respect and admiration for Alfred E. Smith, and who believe him to be one of the ablest men in public life in America to-day.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

We are not going to have such a dry summer this year as last. "Factual Surveys," the official newspaper of the Federal Prohibition Bureau, has been discontinued because Congress failed to appropriate any more of the taxpayers' money to keep it alive and kicking.

You have to be some dog to get a column obituary in the leading dailies of the country. Igloo did that. He was Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd's dog, had gone with him to the North and South poles, and numbered among his admirers such men as Calvin Coolidge, President Hoover and Col. Charles A. Lindberg. Igloo died the other day of intestinal trouble, with three veterinarians working hard to save his life. Admiral Byrd, on a lecture tour, cancelled all engagements and started home when a telegram told him Igloo was seriously sick. But Igloo died before his master reached him. He was a little white fox terrier, and he had braved death with his master in many places. Only those who have known the devoted companionship and unfailing loyalty of a dog will under-stand how Commander Byrd felt when Igloo died.

Kings have their troubles, like the rest of us. Take Babe Ruth, for instance-King of the Swat. He made a deal with a gentleman of the Hebraic race several months ago whereby the latter named his haberdashery shop the "Babe Ruth." In duced by appropriate emoluments, the guilible Babe attended the opening of the shop, and sold neckties, shirts and socks to benificent admirers. Well and good. But alas, the proprietor, Abraham Nocks, out of socks, likewise out of spondulics, is in financial difficulties. He has placarded his shop with such signs as: "Babe Ruth Quitting," "Babe Ruth Going Out of Business," much to the mental discomfiture of the Babe who is not quitting, or even laying down-for he knocked two homers in one game this week, and can run as fast as a fat calf on a farm. So the Babe has asked the Supreme Court to knock Nocks with a writ prohibiting the use of his name by Mr. Nocks on signs or socks henceforth and forevermore.

Fifteen paid death notices were published in The New York Times the other day for Joseph Lebiang by his rilends, and more than three thousand persons at tended his funeral at the Temple Emanu-EI, New York City, on Sunday. Among the mourners were scores of actors from the Lambs & Friars' Club, Mayor Walker and United States Senator Robert Wagner. The interior of Temple Emanu-El at Fifth Avenue and 65th Street was a floral dream. On the sidewalks hundreds unable to gain entrance into the synagogue waited for a glimpse of the rose and orchid bedecked casket. Leblang came to America a penniless immigrant youth, and friendless. He founded a cut-rate ticket agency for theaters, with the motto: "An empty theater seat is lost forever." He made money, and he made friends. He left millions, and lovable memories of endless charities to all people. He is mourned from coast to coast, for he never forgot the days that attuned his heart to the hearts of all who were afflicted by poverty, sickness or want.

CURRENT COMMENT

MORE FACTS

It costs in excess of one hundred and fifty dollars a year for each child in the public schools of this State. In addition the public school buildings represent an investment of approximately three hundred sixty-three dollars for each child enrolled. These figures are based on the report of the State Education Department for 1929.

There are approximately three hundred sixty thousand children in the parochial schools of this State. Here are the figures from the official Catholic Directory of 1930: Brokary it, 114,907; New York, 105,-059; Buffalo, 54,975; Rochester, 29,483; Albany, 27,624; Syracuse, 20,245; Ogdensburg, 7,390 amounting to a grand total of 859,633. If the State were called upon to furnish schools and teachers for them, its school bill would be increased over sixty millions of dollars a year.

Twenty-seven thousand children are in the parochial schools of this diocese. By providing our own school system we Catholics of the Albany Diocese are saving the State and its sub-divisions in excess of four and a half millions of dollars a year.

In addition to saving the State these sixty millions of dollars annually we are paying equally as much of the cost of operating the public schools as do those who use them.

Possibly some time in the future the grave injustice of this double taxation of Catholics will prompt the fairminded citizenry of this State to remedy the situation. The Catholics of other lands notably England, Canada and Holland are not subjected to any such disability. In fact in almost every other country the state contributes to the support of schools in which religion is taught.—The Evangelist, Albany, N. Y.