

Catholic Courier

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Editorials: BALLYHOO AND BALONY... In agriculture a national problem? Every body of prominence, whatever his political hue, seems to say so.

LESS HASTE... Worthy of support is the bill introduced in the Legislature at Albany last week by Assemblywoman Jane H. Todd, requiring that there be an interval of three days between the issuance of a marriage license and the performance of the ceremony.

Spiritual Thoughts... To him who remembers that he has deserved hell all suffering seems right.

QUESTION BOX... Q—How many Holy Days of obligation are there in the United States? Is the number greater or less than that of other countries?

Q—What do the words "Mystical Body of Christ" refer to? A—The Mystical Body of Christ means His Church.

Q—Why does the priest hold his arms extended during the Mass that follows consecration? A—The priest holds his arms extended throughout the Mass to signify that he is offering the sacrifice of Christ.

Q—How is the date of Easter determined? A—The date of Easter is determined by the date of the vernal equinox and the first full moon thereafter.

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But again, as in 1861-1865, it will have to be decided by the Federal government, which, after all, does not reside in the moon but represents the states and their peoples.

In any event, the good of the country will require of Americans in the next several months that they recognize ballyhoo as ballyhoo, baloney as baloney, when set before them.

IN TOLEDO

In times like these labor-interests and industrial interests get great prominence in the news. Not so much is heard of community interests.

And when such extreme measures as strikes are taken, however necessary and justified, both business and employment suffer along with community interests.

In THE COMMONWEAL of January 31, Frank J. Oliver described the "Toledo Plan," which had its origin in the minds of three newspaper editors.

Beginning in 1934, a series of labor troubles visited Toledo. Unrest prevailed. Large corporations began to move out of town. New industries sought other towns.

In Toledo the three newspaper editors, Carlton K. Matson of the NEWS-BEE, Grove Patterson of the BLADE, Richard Patterson of the TIMES, who at once set about arousing a sense of community responsibility.

Mr. Oliver tells of the considerable success achieved. However, he has misgivings. "The question still to be answered," he says, "is whether the crusading newspapers will gain what they are striving for."

Whatever the results, Messrs. Patterson, Matson and Patterson deserve and get our approval. Let them be assured that not for long will stubborn reactionary industrialists be allowed to flout sound community interests anywhere.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST... A man cannot do much more than harm himself when he loses his temper, says a noted temperance speaker.

THE CHRISTIAN FRONT... THE CHRISTIAN FRONT is a group of people who are working to bring about a change in the government.

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Current Comment

By Victor Lohr (In America, Jesuit-Review)

Thanks to the Encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius XI the Catholic Church can be said to have very little to do with the industrial world.

Yet a Catholic may be pardoned for seeing red when liberal after liberal advanced thinker and broad observer after broad observer writes and speaks of the Catholic Church as though it were some sort of tactless guest who had been invited into the abode of the world.

Fortunately, modern decadent liberalism is not so forthright yet, and it must be highly embarrassing for the liberals to read that the German-Catholic-Democrats have bravely renounced Hitler in Germany, something the fearless liberals in Germany have not done since the Nazis assumed power in that country.

No doubt many liberals deplore the lack of tact shown by the Pope when he issued his famous Liber Encyclical, the title of which is such that liberals are unable to ridicule it. Hence, they ignore it.

Indeed, if we are to take the word "liberal" in its original sense, the Catholic Church is an amazing institution. It is at once democratic and plutocratic, and it is forever remaining silent while taking out of court the many who have that ask any self-styled liberal.

I personally am tired of defending the Catholic Church against the dogmatic thrusts of freeminded liberalism. I do not want to consider the Catholic side of the question, and yet you annoy them by offering it. They look at both sides of the question but they are blind to their conservative eye and see doubly and out of their left eye. They like to consider themselves as purveyors of advanced thought and Catholicism is a conservative institution.

As Miss Todd said, the bill "is in the public interest." She believes that "marriage should be something more than a bit of business proposition, and should only be entered into after careful consideration. Gin weddings, hasty marriages entered into for the sake of headlines, 'adventure' or merely for the purpose of surprising friends and adding to the conversational production of the world, should be frowned, bestirred, and I think this bill will help do that."

If we will consult the divorce records of the state, we will immediately become aware of the truth of the old adage, "Marriage is made in haste and repented at leisure." After all, if merely the lives of two persons who have been joined in matrimony were involved in this hasty marriage philosophy, it might not be so bad, but invariably families of both persons are dragged into subsequent divorce proceedings, and unfortunately, in many instances, children as well. Seventy-two hours, as provided in this bill, will give persons desiring to marry additional time to reflect. After all, marriage should be for a life-time, and not merely for a few months or a few years.

Provision is made in the bill for needed exceptions. Hurried marriage is allowed "when one of the parties is in danger of imminent death, or when by reason of other emergency public interest will be promoted thereby, or when such delay (seventy-two hours) will work irreparable injury or great hardship upon the contracting parties, or one of them."

However, according to press reports, in these emergencies "the order of a jurist" is necessary before the ceremony may be carried out. Any minister of religion can propose cases when time for such recourse would not be available. If properly reported, this feature of the bill needs reconsidering.

However, the general intent of the bill should be heartily approved by all. Of it THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE of February 14 said in an editorial:

"The license of today is merely the civil counterpart of the ecclesiastical bans, which ordinarily must be published days or weeks before the marriage can take place, and the bans only reflect the care and solemnity with which practically all peoples have from time immemorial surrounded the serious business of getting married. Marriage may no longer be the irrevocable step which it once was, but that is all the more reason why the state should not encourage people to leap into it if they cannot retain through a period of seventy-two hours what ought to be a lifetime devotion."

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA in addition to being SANTA CLAUS is claimed in some legends to have ORIGINATED THE PAWNBROKERS SIGN OF THREE GOLDEN BALLS by his charitable activities.

What is claimed to be the oldest dated telescope in the world was purchased in a London auction room in 1934. IT WAS MADE BY MARTA DE RHETTA, A BOHEMIAN MONK, IN 1646.

CHESS-PLAYING EXTRAORDINARY FATHER SACCHIERI, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS at Pavia, Italy in the early 18th century, could play 3 games of chess at once against 3 players WITHOUT SEEING THE BOARDS.

If we reckon Saint Peter's Pontificate from the ascension of Our Lord then no other Pope has held his exalted office for so long a period as least 67 years and probably 77 years according to the chronology which may be accepted.

The illusion of a "SLIPPING" Gothic arch, referred to last week, when intersected by an intervening pillar, is common and unalterable. It provides a proof that we cannot judge the direction of lines independently of that of the angle whose sides they form.

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Diocesan Recordings

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