

erly have lived in peace and tranquillity, has caused other elements of our citizens to organize themselves for the purpose of coming out in the open with their opposition to these attacks upon their principles and the spiritual institutions they have built in America and are ready to defend with their very lives.

So far the organization throughout the country, from its lines of shrouded secrecy, has refrained from making a general attack, fearing the possibilities of a boomerang. The present form of operation has been limited to some drastic legislative proposals disguised in the cloak of would-be straight laced patriotism, dressed in language conveying the point that the country was going to perdition unless such "remedial" legislation was adopted, besides getting "members" appointed and elected to office, from the policeman on the beat to the senator in congress. In some states the organization has been very successful in both respects. Oregon, a state generally held to be fertile soil for almost any kind of phobia or mental bacteria has been thoroughly seeded with "Invisible Empirites" and some splendid returns have already been harvested by the promoters.

While none but native Americans of certain species, according to the inner gospel of the organization, can claim legitimate title to anything tangible or intangible within Uncle Sam's domain, some efforts here and there have been made to gather a volunteer auxiliary of the "motley crew of foreigners" of Protestant origin. While they can not share in the "equal rights" of the inner circle, the sop of "standing in for protection purposes" has been thrown to the foreign born with no small measure of success. Again the old adage is true that some Americans consider "anything good enough for the foreigner." Maybe he ought not to ask much, but if he measures up, surely, if we have not annulled our accepted code of American principles, he ought not to be made "the goat" for anybody's selfish purposes, political or otherwise.

While many citizens previous to the elections in Oregon last year were very much opposed to some parochial schools in Oregon the ultimatum against all private and parochial schools to put them out of business, is generally said to have come directly from this new secret organization whose members, except the officials, with few exceptions, most vigorously deny being affiliated and may to prove their denial even engage in mild criticism of the organization. As an "underground" system, this American Invisible Empire has got the most perfected spy system of recent war days backed off the map. This is not knocking them for it. It is giving them credit for it.

The legislative idea no doubt has gained momentum throughout the country since the prohibitive legislation against private schools was enacted last November through the Oregon initiative. On the other hand it has given rise to suspicion that the friends and members of the Invisible Empire are not going to have things their own way but that there is going to be some strenuous and well organized opposition coming partly from some very unexpected sources.

A news item of April 15th from La Porte, Indiana, states that thousands of Lutherans of the Missouri synod attended on that date a meeting to voice their

protest against these legislative movements, basing their discussion upon the recently adopted and now very much advertised "Oregon Law" which will, if enforceable, in an immediate future prevent parents in this state from sending their children to private or parochial schools. The news item in brief conveys the following information:

The meeting voiced the protest that it was an abridgement of personal liberty to take from parents the right to send their children to schools of their choice.

Similar meetings of protest will be held by all the Lutheran churches in the Missouri synod, the largest body of Lutheran churchmen in the United States.

Catholics in all the dioceses of the United States, it was said, have been called upon to raise \$2,000,000 with which to fight the law in the supreme court of the United States upon the ground that the measure adopted by popular vote in Oregon is abridgement of the constitution.

There is no doubt that the development of this intolerance movement in America, sponsored by a certain secret fraternity, calling itself an Invisible Empire, is shortly going to furnish the people of this country a very disagreeable problem along entirely new lines, something different and far more difficult to deal with than anything we have experienced in form of domestic controversies in politics and industry.

The American public school is in no danger with the public sentiment of America overwhelmingly for it and for its perfection. The private and parochial schools of this country have gradually given way and become superfluous, from an education standpoint, in proportion to the community attention given to the importance of making the public school fill the educational requirements. Without patronage no private school of any kind can exist. As the educational requirements have been met in the public schools sustained by taxation, the private schools are gradually going out of business, because few people who can obtain for their children the attention in the public school they are required to pay for, in form of tuition to the private school, are willing to carry this excess load of the high cost of living.

Checking up on the progress of the public school in America it is nothing short of phenomenal. In fact the progress has been so rapid that few people are really able to keep pace with the developments unless they take the time to keep in close touch with this truly American institution.

But inasmuch as this is true, where is the reason for taking up the cudgel today against the few remaining private schools for children in America?

While this domestic innovation is engaging the attention of some of our best people, among politicians, business men, professional men, tradesmen and laborers, who either have been misled or perforce of circumstances are giving this movement their whole attention on one side or another, the revolutionary propagandist is having things pretty much his own way, working himself in, under cover, getting the ear of the discontented citizen and in the vernacular is "making hay while the sun is shining."

People say of Oregon that it never rains but it pours. Indications are that we are presently due for a literal interpretation of this saying and there is apparently no mistake about that either. Our only