

EDITORIAL

AGAINST RELIGIOUS STRIFE IN POLITICS

IN HIS ADDRESS as retiring president of the American Bar Association, one of the greatest Americans alive today, Charles Evans Hughes, announced the following warning to America against religious intolerance and the present tendency to stir up strife on racial and religious ground for political effect:

What could be a nobler exercise of governmental power than to destroy religious error and save the souls of men from perdition? That plausible pretext has given us the saddest pages of history. That is the road that leads back to the perversion of authority and the abhorrent practices of the dark days of political disqualifications on grounds of religion, of persecution, of religious wars, of tortures, of martyrdom. We have problems enough without introducing religious strife into our politics.

And there are millions of sound Americans of all creeds races, and nationalities who are in full accord with Mr. Hughes, because they believe that he has expressed not only what was in the minds of the founders of this nation, but they believe that this sentiment expresses the spirit and the will of every rational and fair-thinking American of today.

TAXES AND PROSPERITY

WHEN THE next Congress convenes early in December it is considered certain that one of the first matters to have attention is the income and surtax rates. Every indication is that a substantial reduction of both will be effected. The public is looking for a rate reduction in Federal taxes with considerable interest inasmuch as there is some ground for the contention that this will mean an added impetus to business and the promotion of greater general prosperity.

Of added significance, economically and politically, is the manifest confidence in government circles that the tax reduction and tax revision bill will be enacted in time to bring relief to the taxpayers for next year. Support for this belief is found in the evident change of attitude on the part of the more radical element in Congress.

GOVERNMENT PRISONS ARE FULL

UNCLE SAM has thrown up his hands in despair for his prisons are full to overflowing.

Politely we are informed by official Washington that the federal government is short of prison space for confinement of offenders against its laws and must now look to the states for quarters so that Uncle Sam can "farm" out his penalized subjects.

The federal prisons at Atlanta and Leavenworth both are housing more than three thousand two hundred convicts. The increase is attributed by department officials to Attorney-General Sargent's effort to clear the federal dockets.

This gives us a cue why federal prisoners so long

remain in the county jails or out on bail before they are tried. The department of justice waits for somebody's term to expire in order to get room for those who are on the waiting list. Is that it?

If so, isn't the situation rather discouraging?

Warden Biddle of the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth recently announced that, due to crowded prison conditions, he had made arrangements through the department of justice at Washington to send six hundred prisoners to the state penal institution at Huntsville, Texas, and to fourteen prison farms in that state.

A canvas of state penal institutions throughout the country has just been completed by the department of justice to ascertain what the chances are for quartering more federal prisoners under a contract system now in operation.

Poor Uncle Sam. He used to have a pretty decent sort of a family and very little trouble to speak of. Now his prisons are full and his criminal courts are working overtime. Trial costs, prison upkeep, food and clothing for long years of incarceration, imposed upon his wayward children, are causing him a tremendous economic burden.

Why not let us try a dose of constructive Americanization for a change, to see if we can't cut down the number of erring members of the American family. Almost everything else has been tried. Americanization is a constructive remedy. It begins with the education in citizenship of the neglected adults. It is a big job but it can be done if everybody gets behind the movement with half the vim with which they have been pushing the cart of some sort or other of Social Service—a form of humanitarian uplift which the American public has been "sold" on in recent years to the exclusion of almost every other kind of vital work sustaining our American structure of citizenship.

A BLOT ON AMERICAN HONOR

THE YOUNG Americans of the A. E. F. who became interested in, wooed and won the young maidens of foreign lands, while overseas, are apparently, in many cases, not doing the right thing by them, judging by much gossip and current news.

A Paris item states that twenty-seven wives of Americans were abandoned in France during the month of June. American husbands are charged with sending their French wives to their native land in Europe for a vacation, under promise of keeping them well supplied with money, but it is said that this is only a pretext for getting rid of them.

Figures are quoted to show to what extent the former American soldiers have practiced this form of abandonment on their unsophisticated young brides. According to these estimates it is asserted that one thousand out of five thousand, or one fifth, of the Franco-American marriages, consummated since the armistice, have ended this way. The situation is so alarming that French authorities have been asked to take up the matter with official Washington.

When the young wives return for a visit with relatives in France, it is said, that they are no longer provided for by their American husbands who in a number of instances are charged with having used