

OREGONIAN EDITOR DOUBTS STATEMENT OF PRESS CONTROL

Correspondent, in Brilliant Article, Tells Some Truths About Newspapers.

LET THE READERS JUDGE

Mr. Piper is Honest and Independent, but Doubts Roman Control.

Naturally, the distinguished Editor of The Oregonian, one of the world's greatest newspapers, resented the sweeping charge of a writer that "the papal political machine controls practically all the press of America," and he declined to give space to the letter which appears below. In publishing this letter The Western American does not intend any discourtesy toward the Editor of The Oregonian, knowing him to be an honest and independent American.

If a majority of the editors of the American press were as able and honest as Mr. Edgar B. Piper, there would be no justification for the terrible charge made by the correspondent, and there is much truth in the article—not as concerns the Editor of The Oregonian, but of the press in general.

The time has come for the brave and loyal editors in charge of great dailies to take a personal hand in the editing of news reports and in the writing of news stories and special articles.

The Oregonian is a great publicity institution and it is going to be in the future, as it has been to a great extent in the past, the champion of

popular rights and pure Americanism, a mighty bulwark of our institutions of liberty.

Mr. Edgar B. Piper,
Editor, Morning Oregonian.

Dear Mr. Piper: Thank you for your courtesy in returning my anti-Roman-hierarchy letter to your paper, which I received this morning, together with your emphatic denial of my main contention—that the papal political machine controls practically all the press of America.

Perhaps it did not occur to you that denial without proofs are equivalent to a confession of guilt. Why did you not—for once—print such anti-papal mendacity as mine just for the opportunity of showing how thoroughly you could vindicate the press against such a charge?

For instance: In your issue of Feb. 28, your paper gives a full-face heading to the fact that Henry McGinn attended Catholic school; but no such prominence is given to the equally important statement that he attended the Methodist Sunday school and there acquired that taste for the noble literature of the Bible for which he was noted. Why not full face for the one no less than for the other?

The scurrility and vindictiveness with which papalism meets its challengers proves it in the wrong. Its defenders have no fair, reasonable way of meeting charges against them. Every prelate in sufficiently high standing in this country to merit such an invitation, has been courteously invited to debate the outstanding questions at issue between Catholicism and non-Catholicism—the debate to be written and to appear, in a widely read Catholic paper, and at the same time in an equally widely read non-Catholic paper, so that all parties in interest may judge for themselves. The challenger is a man of high standing as a jurist and also as a doctor of philosophy; a man more thoroughly versed in canon law than many of the Catholic hierarchy; but his courteous invitations, sent by registered mail, have either been ignored or met with anger and vituperative insult.

Roman Catholicism dare not meet intelligence and integrity in public debate. It is wrong; it knows it is wrong. It is a leftover from ancient paganism calling itself Christian. The twentieth century has no use for it; and struggle, wriggle, plot and connive as it will, its days are numbered. You had better get in out of the wet. I do not refer to physical violence. I do not believe in that; but the ideas on which this monstrous institution of greed, graft and superstition has been reared are false and outworn. They cannot endure the light; they are doomed to annihilation. Your very sincerely,
E. F. BALDWIN.

To the Editor, Morning Oregonian:
Under dateline March 2, you recently printed an item headed "Pope's Envoy Arrives"; and in the second and third line of this item you refer to him as "the new apostolic delegate to Washington." Both the headline and the last quotation are so Jesuitically phrased as to convey the idea to careless readers that this prelate is an official, accredited representative of the Vatican to the United States Government, which is false, since no such representative is recognized by our Government. Why should he be, if the Catholic church is a church, as it claims, and not a civil power among other civil powers? This newcomer is merely an addition to the operative of complex papal political machinery installed at the national capitol and working overtime at grinding out vicious and false propaganda to strengthen Vatican interests here and devising new ways to exploit the national, state and other treasuries that may be within their greedy hands.

Such are the "religious" activities of the Roman hierarchy in the United States, especially at Washington; so, with the struggle to cover their black, bloody, serpentine trail of the past; and their pious labors for present and prospective devils, papal prelates and agents are busy indeed. But they can afford it, being care-free as to the problems of subsistence which vexes thousands of better men. They are luxuriously supported on funds wrung from the "faithful" by one pretext or another; and by largess from our taxpayers of all and no faiths, via the public treasuries, state and national.

It is such diabolical half-truths as the one noted at the beginning of this letter that are the blackest lies. They nauseate thinking, honest people—Catholic and non-Catholic alike. It is just this sort of fraud which inspires the ecclesiastical circus, so frequently arranged in the capitol city, to which on one ridiculous pretext or another, high government officials are lured to small income and watch the voodooistic, comic opera performances of puffy, petticoated prelates, these performances being staged to impress upon the public mind the lie that the United States is giving official recognition to the alleged Catholic church, which is in actuality a machine for acquiring pecuniary and political power, bearing no more resemblance to the simple, "ruthful, straightforward Christ than does the satyr to Hyperion.

No wonder Archbishop Ireland in his talk about "making America Catholic" said that the way to do this was to get the Indians, the negroes, and the schools, which was equivalent to saying that to get men of principle and intelligence was impossible; hence the appeal must be to the unlearned, the unsuspecting, the emotional, and innocent, impressionable childhood. But he might have added a factor, which he wisely chose to conceal, that another way was to corral the press which indubitably has been done with characteristic papal thoroughness. Its Romish chains clank loudly above the roar of the Atlantic surf or the thunderous tides of the Pacific. A Wash-



MABELL JONES, winner of the fifth prize in the WESTERN AMERICAN subscription contest, a \$200 diamond ring, was the chosen candidate of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire and for two weeks toward the finish was the leader in the race. Unfortunately she became ill and was in bed for ten days, causing her to fall behind and lose first honors. She made a splendid race and was greatly admired for her fine salesmanship.

ington periodical of the highest character and intelligence says:

No other menace to our country is comparable in magnitude and wickedness to the shameless press tied in abject slavery to the chariot wheels of papal Rome. The only hopeful sign of coming relief from that menace is the gradual awakening of the public to the fact that the controlled press is so mendacious as to be utterly unworthy of serious attention.

The quotation following presents the logical and ultimate solution of the papal-political problem in this country and eventually in all countries. To it all true and informed American citizens are being forced by the very activities of papalism itself; and by its abominable intrigues, whose sole intent is to nullify all our republican institutions, reducing the government merely to a handy and well-filled pocket in the papal shirt.

The only adequate and righteous solution of the problem in every country, is to disfranchise Roman Catholics because of their hyphenated allegiance to two governments, both of which are members of the family of nations. The only alternative is to eliminate the papacy as a political authority. The pontifical throne has no right to direct legislation at Prague or at any other capital.

E. F. BALDWIN,
595 Madison Street,
Portland, Oregon.
March 9, 1923.

Attacks Promote Klan.

OWENSBORO, Ky.—Recent attacks on the Ku Klux Klan here has served the purpose of drawing large numbers of persons into the Klan. It is said the character of the attackers was the principal reason for the new members coming in. They said anything those people fought was worth being in.

Tennesseans Joining
MEMPHIS, Tenn.—A class numbering more than 1000 were naturalized into the Ku Klux Klan here several evenings ago. Thousands of automobiles came to the big 40-acre grove where the initiation was held. Klan officials from Atlanta were present at the ceremonies and addressed the candidates.

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