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SOCIALISM (continued)

BY C. S. DEVAS

Diffused Ownership.

Lastly, we come to the fourth line of true social reform, namely, diffused ownership, on which Leo XIII. laid such stress. That the majority of the people should not live merely from hand to mouth, but should have, each family its small capital, some partnership, shares or stocks, but principally a small plot of mother earth, from the size of a garden to the size of a small farm, that no creditor could touch, that belonged to the family rather than the individual, that would be greatly eased of local and imperial taxation and of legal charges (it is done in Belgium), that would serve as insurance against unemployment, that would solve (and alone solve) the problem of the exodus from country villages, and would allay the complaint of physical degeneration. And if I envy the Germans their insurance laws, I envy still more their millions of peasant proprietors, who, far from dwindling away, as the Socialists and some economists had prophesied, not only weathered the storm of low prices and agricultural depression, but have increased in recent years both absolutely and in the proportion of the cultivated land which they hold. True, in this country we have special difficulties in the way of the endowment, or rather the re-endowment, of half our population with property; but with the will there is the way; the extension of allotments, the movements towards rural factories and garden cities, are movements in the right direction; and we are gradually shaking off the baleful superstition that the money lender, the company promoter, the credit draper, the army contractor, the drink seller, the slum owner, and others, have a sacred right to make what contracts they please, to pocket what profit they can, and devour the hard-earned savings of genuine labor.

But I have said enough for our purpose, the social reform along the lines of protected labor, organized labor, insured labor, and diffused ownership, sweeps away the only remaining defence and last prop of socialism, its alleged necessity.

Yet one word of caution in conclusion. I have spoken with great approval of many social reforms. But there is a corrosive poison that eats away the value of them all. This poison is irreligion, whether instilled by godless schools, or godless homes, or godless professors. Thus the very Germany that among the great countries of the world leads the vanguard of social reform, is herself afflicted with the gravest social discontent; and America with all her wonderful resources is beginning, at last, to recognise, let us hope before it is too late, that for modern nations even temporal welfare is bound up inseparably with Christian schools and Christian homes.

NOTED KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The passing of Dr. Sir John Arvid Ouchterlony, Knight of St. Gregory, is the most distinct laic loss the Church in Kentucky has sustained since the death of Hon. B. J. Webb, says the "Record" of Louisville. Aside from

his foremost rank as physician and teacher, and his eminent standing in the medical world, he was a thoroughly practical Christian—a man of firm Catholic faith, of deep Catholic piety and of exemplary Catholic ways.

VATICAN ASTRONOMER

Has Discovered a Sun Spot of Enormous Dimensions

Father Rodrigues, director of the astronomical observatory of the Vatican, announces that he has discovered on the sun a spot of extraordinary dimensions, larger than that observed last February.

The spot is composed of seven principal nuclei, and in length it is one-eighth the diameter of the sun and a little less in width. The area covered by the spot is over 12,000,000,000 square miles.

In a few days, Father Rodrigues says, the spot will reach the centre of the sun, where the area as it will face the world will seem larger. The spot can now be seen with the naked eye.

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A returned traveller who spent half of his holiday in a tour of Ireland brought back a sample of the happy-go-lucky wit of the Irish "jarvey," or driver, says "Reynold's Newspaper." In a break-neck race down hill he suddenly realized that the spirited little Irish mare was running away. "Pull her up!" he shouted excitedly. "Hold tight your honor," returned the jarvey easily. "Pull her up!" again commanded the traveller, making a grab for the reins. "For your life, don't touch the reins," the jarvey answered, without tightening his grip. "Sure, they're as rotten as pears." The traveller made ready to jump, but the jarvey laid a soothing hand on his shoulder. "Sit aisy," he said reassuringly. "I'll turn her into the river at the bridge below here. Sure that'll stop her."

Why take a Catholic Paper?

Addressing the people of St. Michael's parish, Flint, Mich., of which he is pastor, Rev. T. J. Murphy said. "Most of you subscribe for daily papers, and you do so because you wish to keep in touch with the world, to learn what is going on in finance, war, politics and in all branches of civil and commercial life; but when you take a Catholic paper, it is for a different purpose, and to a different end. You read your Catholic paper to learn

of the progress Holy Mother Church is making here and abroad, to supplement and add to your own early religious instruction, and to arm yourself with facts and reasons and convincing arguments which you will find of great value when discussing religion with your well-informed, truth-seeking Protestant friends or acquaintances. You take and pay for your Catholic paper so that your children may profit by the weekly perusal of the articles and items explaining the different practices and devotions of the Church, when through business or lack of time you yourself could not do so. The writings of little letters and seeing their names in print, as a reward for their earnest effort, tends to implant a just pride and the seeds of a beautiful ambition in the hearts of your little sons and daughters, to improve and make themselves in time honorable young men and women, a source of pride to their parents and a credit to the Church."

A certain man had, somewhat late in life, taken unto himself a wife who was, to put it temperately, not precisely in the first bloom of her youth. At the wedding the man's mother took occasion to say: "Yes, I'm glad to see John married and settled at last. An' I'm really pleased at the choice he's made, too. He couldn't 'a suited me better. Ye see, young girls is skittish and hard to manage, and widders is set in their ways, but old maids is always so chankful and 'willin' to please."

A Mere Accident

Johnny Ralston was a very good boy, declares "Answers," but he had one fault which it seemed impossible for his mother to overcome; he would fight with other boys. He had been re-proved, and at last Johnny had made a faithful promise that he would battle no more.

That very evening he returned from school with a cut cheek and a swollen nose.

"Johnny," said his mother, "you promised me this morning that you would not fight again."

"But I haven't been fighting, ma. This is an accident."

"An accident?"
"Yes, ma. I was sitting on Tommy Biggs, and I forgot to hold his feet."

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