

Sneers at race, or religion, or physical deformity will not be tolerated. "Dago," "Mick," "Sheeny," even "Chink" or "Jap," these are absolutely forbidden. This rule of regard for the feelings of others must be observed in every avenue of news, under any and all conditions.

There is a time for humor and there is a time for seriousness. The Bee likes snap and ginger at all times. It will not tolerate flippancy on serious subjects on any occasion.

The furnisher of an item is entitled to a hearing for his side at all times, not championship. If the latter is ever deemed necessary, the editorial department will attend to it.

Interviews given the paper at the paper's request are to be considered immune from sneers or criticism.

In every accusation against a public official or private citizen, make every effort to have the statement of the accused given prominence in the original item.

In the case of charges which are not ex-officio or from a public source, it is better to lose an item than to chance the doing of a wrong.

Consider the Bee always as a tribunal that desires to do justice to all; that fears far more to do injustice to the poorest beggar than to clash swords with wealthy injustice.

If every daily newspaper were to adopt those rules and in good faith enforce them, as does the Bee, we should have a journalism to be proud of. And it would be easy. The reporters of the United States, although there are some among them that are flippant and some that are malicious, are for the most part of honest purpose and serious motive. They need only to be assured by their superiors that it is the conscientious observance of such rules as the Bee's, and not their habitual violation, which brings professional recognition and reward. Let them be assured of this, practically and not merely by word of mouth, and they would be not only a brilliant group as they already are, but their brilliancy would shine with a genuine glow and no longer with an artificial sparkle.

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The March of the Referendum.

When South Dakota in 1898 adopted the initiative and referendum very slight attention was paid to the fact. But in a little while other States adopted it, and in 1902 Oregon came forward with a majority for it of 11 to 1, after a struggle of ten years led by W. S. U'Ren, who is sometimes called the father of the referendum in America. There was further encouragement in 1904 when the people of Oregon made their first use of the system by passing two laws without the intervention of the legislature, one for direct primaries and one for liquor local option, both of which previous legislatures had refused to enact. Oregon, bordering on the Pacific Ocean, though large in area was

small in population and might not exert much influence; but the friends of the movement saw in the action of that State a prophecy of greater things yet to come for pure democracy. With that thought in mind the Referendum League of Illinois, of which James P. Cadman is president, placed upon its literature the words, "Behold, there ariseth a cloud out of the sea, as small as a man's hand." Soon afterwards Oregon's example was followed by Montana and Oklahoma, west of the Mississippi; and now comes Maine on the Atlantic into the referendum sisterhood. The great strength of the referendum movement in Maine is indicated by the fact that although John P. Hale, U. S. Senator from Maine, honored these many years by his State, made a special canvass of every county urging the voters to oppose the amendment, it was ratified by a vote of over 2 to 1, and every county gave a majority for it.

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Death of Frank Parsons.

Many thousands will be shocked to learn of the death of Professor Frank Parsons, and grieved as well. He was a man whose democratic impulses were vitalized with a degree of industry that shrank from no task necessary to public enlightenment, and throughout the land there is an army of men and women he never knew who are grateful for the service he did them. As the author of "The City for the People," "Direct Legislation," "The Bondage of Cities," "The Story of New Zealand," and "The Heart of the Railroad Problem," Professor Parsons performed a public service which cannot soon be forgotten.

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POLITICS AND RELIGION.

Mr. Taft's candidacy has evoked opposition from some religious quarters because he is a Unitarian in religious faith. All such opposition to any candidate is unwholesome and to be discouraged. The religious convictions which Mr. Taft professes ought not to enter at all into the question of his fitness for the office of President of the United States. To fair minded citizens it makes no difference, not as citizens, whether a candidate for President is a Unitarian, a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Roman Catholic, or anything else, in his religious faith. It does make a difference, though, a very profound difference, and one which should appeal to American citizens with tremendous force, regardless of the candidate's religious affiliations, whether he is subject in any way in political matters to any for-

sign authority. We allude, of course, to the fact that the Italian hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church not only stands for Roman Catholicism as a religious faith, but has sometimes assumed world-wide political functions. Of the religious authority of this hierarchy, American citizenship ought to take no more notice than of the religious authority of any other church dignitaries; but American citizenship should be extremely vigilant regarding the affiliations of political candidates with any foreign hierarchy in connection with any effort the latter may make to influence our elections. Foreign entanglements are none the less dangerous for being churchly.

This duty of vigilance, which should apply to candidates regardless of whether or not they are Catholics in religious faith, or Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians or Unitarians, applies with peculiar force to Mr. Taft, though he is not a Roman Catholic in religion; for of Mr. Taft's political coterie there is much gossip indicative of secret understandings with the Roman hierarchy on its political side—understandings of a kind that endanger the freedom of American citizenship. The gossip to that effect is so general, the quarters in which it circulates are so significant of special knowledge, and it has endured so long, that it cannot be lightly ignored. These understandings are said to have grown out of Philippine affairs, and to have played an influential if not a decisive part in behalf of Mr. McKinley in the election of 1900, and in behalf of Mr. Roosevelt in the election of 1904. They are frequently referred to with confidence in the present campaign as not unlikely to be influential now in behalf of Mr. Taft.

Disturbing confirmation of the gossip referred to above may be found in the Westminster Gazette of August 15. It appears in what purports to be a dispatch from Rome, coming from or through some unnamed "Exchange." The dispatch is as follows:

The American Presidency.—Rome, Friday.—The Pope to-day received Cardinal Gibbons in farewell audience, and discussed with him the United States Presidential campaign. His Holiness expressed the hope that all Catholics in America would unite in working for the success of Mr. Taft, who in all questions in which the Catholic church was interested had shown himself favorably disposed towards the Papacy.—Exchange.

Inasmuch as gossip regarding the political understandings between Mr. Taft's coterie and the Roman hierarchy has all along associated the names of Cardinal Gibbons and Mr. Taft, the dispatch quoted above is more than usually signifi-

cant. American Catholics who, like the great Irish Catholic, Daniel O'Connell, take religion but not politics from Rome, would be uninfluenced by any politico-hierarchical understanding that might exist, unless to resent it. But there is a vast throng of naturalized immigrants from the Continent of Europe, whose ignorance of the difference between their religious and their political obligations might make them automatically responsive to the subtle influence of just such understandings. To discourage these Italian influences on political action in this country, presses upon thoughtful American Catholics as a civic duty. To all other Americans the subject is of vastly more importance with reference to Mr. Taft's candidacy than the petty and impertinent objection that he is a Unitarian.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, September 29, 1908.

The Bryan-Roosevelt Controversy.

In replying on the 23d to Mr. Bryan's letter to him of the 22d (p. 608), President Roosevelt evaded the issue over Gov. Haskell which he had made on the strength of Mr. Hearst's charge that Gov. Haskell had once tried, in the interest of the Standard Oil Co., to bribe Attorney-General Mott of Ohio, and for which Mr. Bryan had in his letter asked proof. On this point President Roosevelt's letter of the 23d was as follows:

In my statement I purposely made no specific allusion to the Ohio matter, and shall at this time make none, in spite of its significance, and in spite of the further fact that Gov. Haskell's close relations with the Standard Oil interests while he was in Ohio is a matter of common notoriety.

Having thus disposed of the original question in the controversy, President Roosevelt proceeded to charge Gov. Haskell with other delinquencies, the details of which would necessitate a report too long for these columns.

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The remainder of President Roosevelt's letter, also long and argumentative, dealt with the general issues of the campaign. In the course of it the President again vouched for Mr. Taft as the representative in the campaign of the policies of the Roosevelt administration.