

Collier's



EDITORIALS

Forget Your Prejudices

F ALL religions, the Christian is without doubt the one which should inspire toleration most, although up to now the Christians have been the most intoler-

This remark is only a little more than one hundred and fifty years old but it is as true today as it was when the famous philosopher first put the words on paper.

Intolerance is utterly opposed to Christianity and yet even in our enlightened age some of our most baffling prob-lems arise from the intolerance of Christians.

South of the Rio Grande, as Owen P. White so vividly shows in this week's Collier's, the chief menace to the Mexican government comes from the churches.

It does not matter whether President Calles or the hierarchy has the better case. The fact is that a religion whose highest virtue is good will toward men has divided a nation

into hostile camps, each bent upon the destruction of the other.

Is it not a strange spectacle to see a nation choosing civil war as a means of proving its loyalty to the Prince of Peace?

You say the Mexicans are four-fifths Indian and only partially Christianized and are therefore exceptions to the rule? All right, what about us?

Take the coming Presidential campaign, for instance. The chief matter so far considered in connection with candidates is the question of religious affiliation.

The fact that a man is a Jew, a Protestant or a Catholic has nothing to do with his fitness to be President.

The White House is not a religious office. Whatever his creed or his denomination, no President could do much to help or hinder any church.

Years ago the appointment of a member of the United States Supreme Court was opposed ostensibly because he was a Jew. For several years now he has sat upon that bench. Never during this long period has his religious faith had the slightest opportunity to influence his vote in any case before him for judgment.

Blind Trails

WHEN Chief Justice Taft was first a candidate for the ▼ Presidency, his membership in the Unitarian Church was cited against him. In the White House, however, he had

no theological responsibilities.

We have the right to ask if a candidate for the Presidency is a man of integrity. Has he shown executive capacity and a gift for leadership? What are his views on the domestic and foreign questions on which he may have to pass

judgment? Is he a man of force, steadfast in his purposes? Such questions as these are subordinated to considerations which have nothing to do with the office.

Intolerance also blinds us where important policies are involved. Enemies of the World Court opposed it in the Middle West with the assertion that the Pope dominated the League of Nations and its Court.

Respect the Rights of Others

THE argument was as fantastic as a disturbed child's nightmare, but it served the purpose in arousing preju-

Similarly religious animosity blocked the settlement of the prohibition issue.

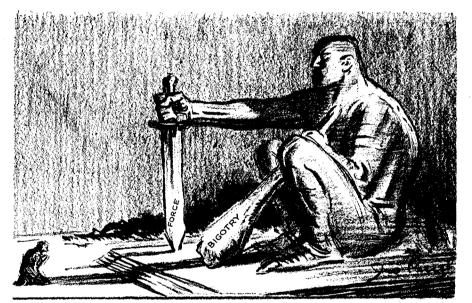
Although most of the churches have taken positions for or against prohibition, religion has little, sectarian prej-

udice certainly nothing, to do with it. Prohibition is the effort to do by compulsion what temperance sought to accomplish by persuasion.

No rational person doubts the reality of the evils due to excessive drinking. The practical question is whether excessive drinking can be better prevented by federal prohibition or by some other method.

The issue is essentially political. The effectiveness of government, the customs and habits of various kinds of people, the love of liberty: these are some of the prob-

lems involved. Yet religious prejudice stands in the way



Is Intolerance forever to rule us?

of an open-minded consideration of any of them.

We can't of course hope that the separation of church and state so precisely provided for in our Constitution will be fully reflected in our political life. Religion is so fundamental that from it we get our notions of right and wrong. Inevitably we carry our consciences, such as they are, into politics. We vote for what we believe to be right—or against what we believe to be wrong.

But we are not all of one faith and it is impossible to move ahead unless we are tolerant of one another.

We are a religious people but we are not now, and we never will be, a Catholic, a Methodist, a Baptist, a Christian Scientist or a Jewish nation.

Millions of us differ from one another in matters of reious preference and belief.

This is the privilege of every American.

With the enjoyment of religious freedom, however, goes the obligation not to interfere with the freedom of others. That is tolerance.

Try it. In respecting the rights of others you may find that you have done much to safeguard your own.



The fire that burns unseen in thousands of homes



THE only difference between rusting and burning is time. You can feel and see the fire produced by rapid burning. When metal

rusts, the process is too slow to see. You have no warning before the damage is done.

The way to fight rust-fire in your home is to make sure that you use a rust-resisting metal.

Look for the sheet metal shop in your neighborhood that displays the "Armco" Ingot Iron Shop sign! This sign is your guarantee of a long-time job on gutters, downspouts, roofing, flashing and all other weather-exposed metal parts about a house.

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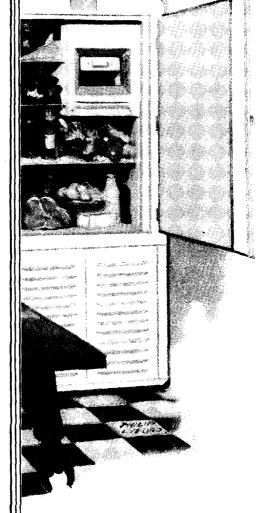
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