

CATHOLICS IN NEW YORK.

Big Congregations and Crowded Churches the Rule.

A New York correspondent says: Western Catholics have little conception of the difficulties attending the securing of a seat at most of the Masses in New York's great crowded, cosmopolitan Catholic community. On four Sundays out of five we are compelled to stand in the aisles or in the space near the doors owing to the determination of 20,000 Catholics living in a parish which experiences no little trouble in attempting the impossible feat of dividing the number who desire to be present through six or seven Sunday Masses.

Last winter we lived in West Ninety-seventh street, attending the Church of the Holy Name, corner of Amsterdam avenue and Ninety-sixth street. This season finds my family in a house in West Eighty-eighth street, only nine blocks away from our former residence. The nearest Catholic church is the Church of the Holy Trinity in West Eighty-second street. Both of these churches are crowded at all Masses, and yet this section of the city is not credited as one of the big Catholic parishes. Therefore what must it be in the really Catholic neighborhoods of the big city, which is said to contain 2,000,000 Catholic souls?

The size of many of these parishes as to number of people, not distances, is simply stupendous.

St. Patrick's cathedral does not provide for the largest congregation, spacious as is the great cathedral. It has 15,000 parishioners and seats 5,600. Old St. Patrick's church, in Mulberry street, manages to provide for the spiritual wants of 28,000 parishioners and looks after a Sunday school of 3,500 children, and yet the church only seats 1,200 persons.

Syracuse is a good sized Catholic city with 40,000 Catholics all told, only 12,000 more than endeavor to hear Mass in this one downtown church just off the Mowry, near Five Points.

But the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish) in West Fourteenth street records the largest congregation of all, 35,000 parishioners.—Catholic Citizen.

THE JESUITS.

Rev. Father Freddi is Acting Head of the Order.

According to advices from Rome, Rev. Father Ruggero Freddi, assistant for Italy to the late Rev. Father Louis Martin, superior general of the Society of Jesus, is acting as vicar general of the order. There has been a custom in the order of long standing that within six weeks or two months after the death of a superior general a new general is elected. It is stated that the practice will not be carried out in this case, inasmuch as the calling of congregations throughout the Jesuit world to elect delegates to send to Rome to attend the grand conclave would work a serious hardship to the many institutions of learning conducted by the order. Since there is no absolute necessity for such a step, the vicar having full power to conduct the affairs of the order ad interim, it will probably be about the middle of July before the congregations are called.

Formal notice of the call will be sent out to the provincials of the order throughout the world, who will themselves issue orders for the calling of province congregations. In these minor congregations two delegates and the provincial are elected to represent each province at the conclave in Rome.

Rev. Father Freddi is a highly cultured scholar and the author of numerous works. He has been provincial of the Jesuits in Rome and for some time past editor of the Review Civita Catholic. His special work at charity has been the conversion of young criminals.

Catholicism in Germany.

Thirty-five years ago Catholicism in Germany was more threatened than it is in France today. Churches were closed, prisons full of priests, bishops and archbishops, and Bismarck swore he would never, never go to Canossa, but he did go. In 1871 there were only fifty-eight Catholics in the reichstag, representing 720,000 electors. Now there are more than a hundred, representing 1,800,000 electors. They are really the ruling elements in the country.—Catholic Citizen.

Catholic Loss in San Francisco.

Catholics have been very anxious to know the loss to Church property caused by the recent San Francisco disaster. For they must have suffered very heavily. One estimate is that the loss will reach \$5,000,000. It is certain that many magnificent churches, educational and charitable institutions have been destroyed, but to what extent no definite information has as yet been published.—Church Calendar.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The first preachers of the gospel in Germany were Irish priests.

The Jesuit fathers in charge of the Shanghai Catholic mission in their recent annual report announce an increase of 6,375 converts received during the year 1905 into the church.

A convent of the Dominican sisters has just been founded at Detroit. Mother Mary Emmanuel, superior of St. Dominic's convent, Newark, N. J., will be at the head of the new branch.

Peter Larsen of Helena, Mont., the mining man, lumber king and railroad contractor, has contributed \$25,000 to Bishop Carroll of Helena for the erection of a Catholic cathedral in that city.

There are in the United States 15,000 priests, of whom 3,700 belong to religious orders, principally Jesuits, Benedictines and Franciscans. There are about 150 Dominicans and 100 Augustinians.

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HEAD HUNTERS OF FORMOSA.

Like Dyaks, They Have an Unpleasant Mania for Decapitation.

The mountainous interior of Formosa is inhabited by a race of bloodthirsty savages, whose chief delight is to sally forth on head hunting raids. Few strangers (the exceptions being some intrepid Japanese explorers) have ever penetrated far into the wild mountain country which is the home of these savages. They appear to be akin to the Dyaks of Borneo, says Macmillan's, but no definite study of their language or habits has yet been made though interesting details will be found in Consul Davidson's voluminous book on Formosa. For hundreds of years the tribes, eight in number, have withstood their enemies, who have never been able to penetrate to their fastnesses. It remains to be seen what success the more systematic Japanese will achieve.

It seems almost incredible that the station of a military force should not be safe from the raids of these head hunters, but it was the case a few years ago. At that time one of the tribes crept in the night upon a post of the Japanese and made off with a score of heads.

Their more usual method is to stalk the Chinese of either sex when they are engaged in tea picking. The savage creeps up unobserved to his victim, transfixes him with his spear, secures his head and is lost in a moment in the neighboring jungle.

Mountain Sheep Sacred in Colorado.
State Game and Fish Commissioner Jim Woodard declares that the mountain sheep of Colorado is in the same class as the sacred bull of India. It must not be touched, says Woodard. If the animal is seen browsing upon the mountainside the gun of the hunter must not be pointed in its direction.

The animal, therefore, may be called the "sacred sheep of Colorado." There are not many of them left, but under the protection of the law they are increasing every year. There is a band of them on the hills between Florence and Victor, and Mr. Woodard has a photograph of a bunch grazing on a hillside a short distance from Florence.

But for the passage of a law which heavily fines those who kill this animal, the species would have been extinct long ago.

A letter received in Mr. Woodard's office recently tells of the arrest and conviction of one Fred Klantzky for killing a mountain sheep. Klantzky was fined \$300 and costs in the county court at Canon City. The costs amounted to \$149, and if the

accused man does not settle he will have a long term to serve in the county jail.

Burmese Woman's Ambition.

The Burmese woman's highest ambition is to maintain her husband in lordly idleness and to supply him with abundant funds for cock fighting, bullock cart racing and gambling.

Many of the Burmese women do big deals in timber, buying up in advance the paddy crops of a whole district, and so on, on a scale that requires big financing.

LEARNED IMMIGRANTS.

Twelve Thousand Professional Men Among Last Year's Arrivals.

In 1905 more than 12,000 professional men were among the immigrants who arrived in this country.

There were 193 physicians from England, 190 from Germany, 64 from France, 106 from Italy and 94 under the designation Hebrew.

There were 144 English lawyers, 24 Scotch lawyers, 39 South American lawyers, 40 from France and 76 from Cuba.

There were 1,157 actors, of whom 446 were from England, 189 from Germany, 116 from Italy, 63 from France, 36 from Russia and 82 from Ireland.

Some 1,625 musicians came to the United States as immigrants in 1905, of whom 342 were Hebrews, 327 Germans, 96 English, 278 Italians and 49 Poles.

In all 2,256 teachers came to the United States, of whom 222 were Hebrews, 365 French, 333 English, 146 Irish and 474 German.

There were 645 architects, 1,459 clergymen, 1,533 engineers, of whom 654 were Englishmen, and 819 painters and sculptors. Of this last number 168 were Italians, 139 German, 131 French, 141 English and 17 Scotch. One was described as "African, black."

There were 14 Chinese teachers and 10 Chinese actors. There were also, though there is nothing to corroborate the Government's statement in this regard, three "Chinese musicians."

Postoffice as Debt Collector.

A debt-collecting agency which is run as a part of the regular postal system is the newest "improvement" of the postoffices of Austria. Despite the novelty of the enterprise the plan has worked admirably, so that thousands of pounds are collected annually by the postmen throughout the Austrian empire. The system is very simple. Suppose a tradesman in Vienna has an account due from a customer in, say, such a distant

town as Budapest, which he wishes to collect. Distance does not matter in the least. He merely sends the bill to the postoffice in the capital, whence it is at once transmitted to the postoffice at Budapest. There the postman presents it to the debtor, collects the cash, and remits it to the tradesman by postman. In the event of payment being refused, which, of course, sometimes happens, the creditor is promptly apprised of the fact, and valuable time is thus frequently saved.

"Tar" for "Sailor."

"Togo's tars" and "Jap Tars" are phrases that have proved irrefragable to the makers of contents bill and headlines. It is curious that, while the use of "tar" for "sailors" is as familiar to everybody as this indicates, there is not unanimity of opinion as to the origin thereof. Some dictionaries make the allusion to the seaman's tarry hands and clothes—the "savor of tar" of Stephen's song in "The Tempest"; and it may be noted that Burns uses "tarry-breaks" as equivalent to "sailor." But it is much more probable that "tar" is short for "tarpaulin," since Garendon and other writers colloquially use "tarpaulin" to signify a seaman. Of course this ultimately gets back to tar, a tarpaulin being a "tarry" "palling" or covering (the same word as "pail.")

Germany's War Chest.

A Berlin contemporary has discovered that Germany's holding of foreign obligations totals \$506,000,000, or four times the amount of the French war indemnity—a striking instance of the enormous rate at which the wealth of the empire has accumulated in recent years. This figure has been cited as a reply to the contention that financial stress would restrain Germany from a great war owing to the difficulty of realizing all this money. It is forgotten that the empire has a war chest fund of \$6,000,000 sterling, which was set apart from the French milliards against the coming of another evil day. This enormous sum in gold has been lying for the last thirty-five years in the Julius Tower at Spandau.—Exchange.

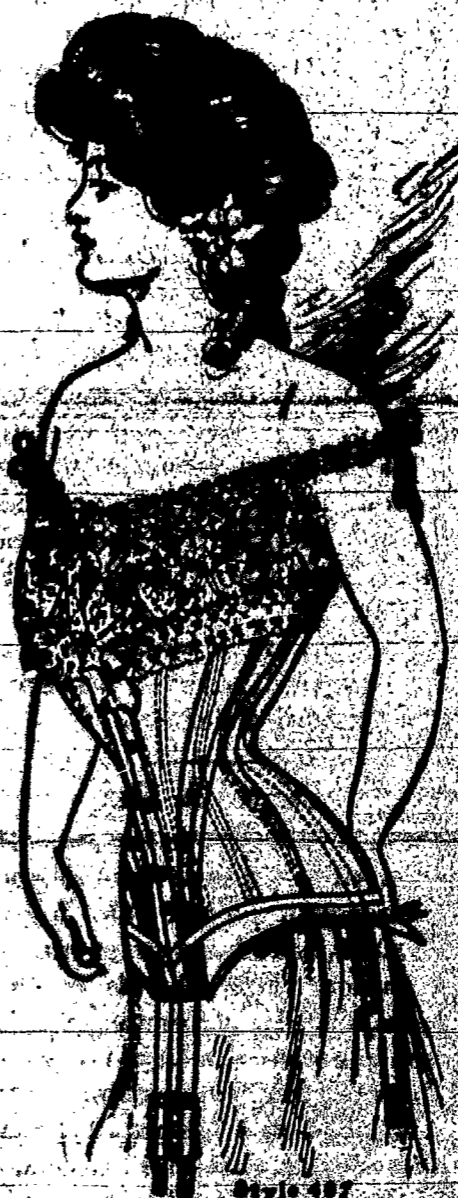
Exactng Payments of Rates.

The municipality of Orlamunde just issued a notice to the effect that admittance to all cafes and public houses is henceforth to be denied to all who do not pay their rates and taxes within the legal limit of time. It is not altogether an innovation, for a somewhat similar measure has been in force for a number of years in Switzerland, and has answered its purpose excellently.—Exchange.

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