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The Rise of the O'Connors

There were fifteen O'Connors in the old tenement on Madison street. Just fifteen, of whom thirteen were the children of Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor. Had the family's fortunes and misfortunes occurred in more recent days O'Connor pere would have had an autograph letter of congratulation upon the size of his flock. But the days of the O'Connors of Madison street were long before it became the fashion to write such letters, and no one congratulated the O'Connors upon the number of their progeny. In fact everyone seemed to regard the size of the family as reprehensible, if not tragic, for the O'Connors were at once poor and lazy, a combination that means dependence upon the neighborhood.

They were amazingly healthy and gifted with appetites that needed no stimulation. But O'Connor, the head of the household, always lost his work and as a result of his regularity in doing that and the unfailing appetites of the youngsters, the O'Connors became one of the problems of the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference. The means of the Vincents were limited, there were other families who needed assistance—but there were the hungry ever-hungry and numerous O'Connors. And they had to live.

There are some families to whom assistance is a circumstance greatly to be deplored by them, who are rejoiced when opportunity comes to them, to get off the list of dependents. These families, overcome by temporal misfortune, do not lose their native pride or their spirit of self-help and willingness to support themselves. Such families command not only the sympathies, but the eager assistance and the encouragement of all who come in contact with them.

But everyone who has dealt with the problems of assisting the indigent knows that there are chronic dependents, natural shirkers, persons who take readily to beggary and utilize every possible means of procuring support without work. Some of these mendicants try the patience and resources of every philanthropic society or institution that they can possibly reach.

The O'Connors had become mendicants. The oldest child was but fourteen and this boy, with his three younger brothers and sisters, had been sent out to beg from neighbors and on the streets. It was true that the sums thus procured would not enrich the numerous family, but the worthy Vincents who were furnishing weekly aid, felt that to permit this mendicancy to continue unchecked meant the utter ruin of the family and the certain drift to vice and crime on the part of the entire group of children. Beggary becomes second nature to those early put to it, and the association of beggars mean moral ruin in a great city. The problem of the O'Connors became the big, important matter to the local Vincents.

At this time the Catholic Colonization Society had been formed, one of whose great functions it was to induce eastern Catholics to settle on western farm lands and engage in agriculture. The leader of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference which had been relieving the O'Connors conceived the plan of sending the family out to Nebraska, where a farm life could inspire the children with better instincts and a more hopeful outlook for the future than growing up in the crowded East side of New York could possibly bring about. He wrote out to the worthy Bishop who was at the head of the Colonization Society, detailing the case of the O'Connors. The good Bishop, who bore the same name as the family, responded promptly and that a quarter section of farm land would be given to the family on easy terms if they would come out to settle upon it. The farm of 160 acres would give employment and support to the family, and no payment of any kind

kind need be made until the second crop would be harvested.

The news was communicated to the O'Connors. One hundred and sixty acres—it seemed like a broad domain to O'Connor, the head of the household. He was glad, indeed, to go out West and become a farmer. He regretted he had not done so years before. It was a free, independent life. It was the life his forbears in Ireland had lived. But they had reared their families upon small, rented farms. One hundred and sixty acres—it would make them all independent. He would be glad to go. He thanked the Vincents heartily. Yes, yes, he would be glad to go.

But how to get to Nebraska—that was another problem. Fifteen persons mean a fairly large traveling party. At least twelve of them would have to pay fare. And the time consumed in travel and expense for food. It was a new angle to the same old problem. And it was finally solved by the audacity and determination of the gentleman upon whose shoulders fell most of the work in that particular conference.

He boldly went to the General Passenger Agent of the Erie Railroad and begged transportation. But he began rather cautiously. He sought a pass for a family to go to Chicago. After much palavering the pass was granted, and not until the passenger agent had announced his willingness to grant the pass did the favor-seeker announce that there were fifteen persons to travel on the pass. The passenger agent raised his head and hands to heaven. "Fifteen people," said he; "you don't mean a family, you mean a theatrical troupe."

But when he calmed down he stood by his word. He had said he would give the pass. And he did. There was jubilation among the Vincents at the coup of their president. Fifteen to go on one pass! Well, the O'Connors would soon be gone, and that was somewhat of a blessing.

But the little druggist who was one of the party most desirous of exiling the O'Connors caused consternation by asking who was to provide house furniture for the O'Connors in their new settlement. They could not be sent out to Nebraska with nothing but a railway pass. And again the Vincents found the O'Connor problem with them.

But an opening had been found. The transportation had been secured. A house to house canvas was started, and various persons were solicited to contribute to the setting up of the O'Connors as farmers in Nebraska. Small and fair-sized donations began to come in. The good nuns at the school where the O'Connor children attended became interested. They called upon the parents of some of the children in better circumstances. The case of the O'Connors became the neighborhood talk, then the chief business of the neighborhood. Articles of furniture were sent in by householders. A coal yard was selected as the depot of delivery. And, at last, as O'Connor senior walked about the streets he took on an air of importance, because of the number of times he had to answer questions about his coming departure to the west.

He told inquirers that the West was a fine place. He intimated that the Bishop out there was a distant relative, that he understood the Bishop's folks came from the same part of the old country as he did, that New York was no place for a man of family, and all big men—were men who had come from the West. Daily life could inspire the children with better instincts and a more hopeful outlook for the future than growing up in the crowded East side of New York could possibly bring about. He wrote out to the worthy Bishop who was at the head of the Colonization Society, detailing the case of the O'Connors. The good Bishop, who bore the same name as the family, responded promptly and that a quarter section of farm land would be given to the family on easy terms if they would come out to settle upon it. The farm of 160 acres would give employment and support to the family, and no payment of any kind

To be continued
At Elk Point, S. D., a church costing about \$25,000 will be erected.

VISIONS OF ARCHITECTS COME TRUE AS VAST EXHIBIT PALACES RISE ON SHORES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Whole World Will Be Represented at America's Eighty Million Dollar Panama Canal Celebration.

Wonderful progress has been attained in the superb Panama-Pacific International Exposition to be held in San Francisco in 1915 to celebrate the opening of the Panama canal. Thousands of men are now at work upon the exhibition grounds and the plans of the great architects for the city of exhibition palaces are more clearly revealed than they were by the first published designs and drawings. The huge main exhibit section is fast nearing completion and a world's record has been established in exhibition building.

Thousands of sightseers flock to the exhibition grounds every Sunday and on holidays—visitors are not permitted during working hours because of the injury which might result to them. From the work already accomplished the visitor gains a vision of the exhibition as it will appear when completed. Huge groups of statuary, executed by the world's most famous sculptors, have been enlarged and may be seen upon the exhibition grounds. Hundreds of acres, once a vast barren waste, have been transformed into beautiful park-like areas covered with green sward in which are being set thousands of rare trees, plants and shrubs, converting the grounds into a semi-tropical paradise. A wonderful color plan has been designed by Jules Guerin, world famous decorative artist, and superb mural paintings to decorate the walls and porticoes of the vast exhibition courts have reached San Francisco. Several hundred thousand dollars have been expended upon these paintings alone.

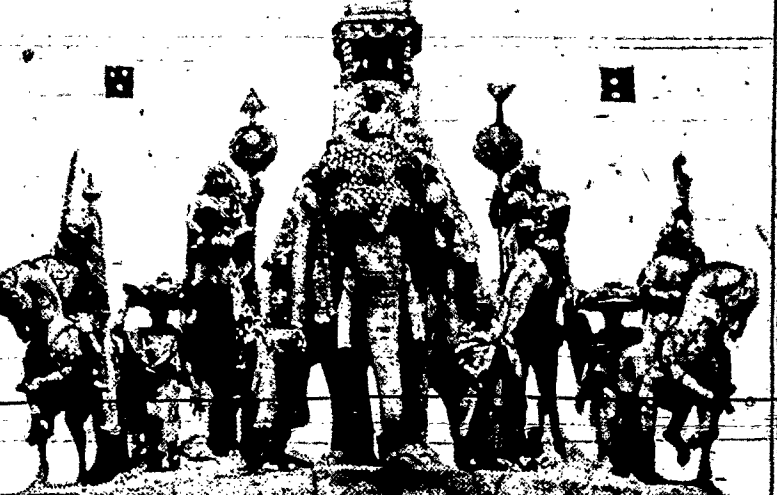
In the opinion of notable authorities in world's expositions the Panama-Pacific International Exposition has attained a greater degree of progress than that reached in any other formal world's exposition at a period so far in advance of its opening.

Hundreds of great conventions and congresses, whose delegates will come from all parts of the world, will meet in San Francisco during the exposition year. A wonderful display of the exhibits from all parts of the world is assured. At this writing thirty-one of the nations have officially accepted the invitation of the United States to take part in the exposition. Construction has begun upon the foreign pavilions and upon the concessions section. The concessions district will be one of the most marvelous features of the exposition grounds, entailing an expenditure of more than \$10,000,000. In the estimate of the comptroller, the exposition will involve an expenditure of eighty million dollars up to its opening day.

The opening ceremonies of the exposition will be in peculiar accord with its international character. President Wilson's invitation to the nations to be represented with detachments of their battleship fleets as the official celebration has met with an enthusiastic response; it is believed that more than two hundred battleships will be assembled at Hampton Roads, on the West Virginia coast, late in 1914. This magnificent fleet, the most formidable array of naval warcraft ever gathered together and representing the pick of the fighting strength of the world's navies, will proceed from Hampton Roads through the Panama canal, gathering in the Caribbean sea in time for the formal opening of the Panama canal on January 1st, 1915; thence the fleet will proceed to the Golden Gate, assembling off the site of the exposition, which opens on February 20, 1915.

The dramatic passage of the fleet can be easily imagined. The eyes of the whole world will be upon this vast array of battleships as they steam to the scene of America's brilliant Panama canal celebration.

SUPERB GROUP WILL SURMOUNT GREAT TRIUMPHAL ARCH AT PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.



Sketch of the group, "Nations of the East," to surmount the Arch of the Rising Sun in the Court of the Sun and Stars at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco in 1915. From the base of the pedestal is 42 feet. The standing figures will each be 13 feet 6 inches in height. This colossal group will rise 188 feet above the floors of the Court of the Sun and Stars. A. Stirling Calder, Leo Lentelli and Frederick G. R. Roth are the sculptors.



This photograph shows a part of one of the figures of the sculptural group, "Nations of the East," at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The group will crown the huge Arch of the Rising Sun in the Court of the Sun and Stars, and the highest figure in the group will rise 188 feet above the floors of the court. Frederick G. R. Roth, the noted animal sculptor, whose work is widely known both in America and abroad, designed the figure above. The entire group, "The Nations of the East," was the conception of A. Stirling Calder. A companion group, "The Nations of the West," depicting Occidental civilization, will balance the "Nations of the East" on the opposite side of the Court of the Sun and Stars.

News From Ireland Catholic News

Married.—At St. Patrick's church, Portrush, by the Rev. J. J. McKinley, P.P., Thomas H. O'Doherty, Longhill House, Carrickrock, to Sarah Hassan, 3 Golf Terrace, Portrush.

Murtagh McCann died at his home, 78 William St., Lurgan, at the age of 75 years.

Died.—Recently, at Copenagh, Tullow, Carlow, Anne Donohue, after a long illness.

Dr. J. McNamara, Ballinagh, has resigned as medical officer of that district.

The people of Kingscourt have started a movement to erect a memorial to the late Father Hood who had been 26 years rector of the parish.

Married.—At the Catholic church, Kiltrush (with nuptial mass), by the Rev. Canon J. McInerney, P.P., V. G., Kiltrush, George the eldest son of the late Herman Wheeloe, jeweler, Bank Place, Malbeg, Cork, to Mary, eldest daughter of Peter Dold, jeweler, Kiltrush.

The premises of O'Neill & Son, Main St., were badly damaged by a fire.

The Cork steamer *Risca* was sunk in a collision with a ferry boat at Liverpool on November 19. The crew of nineteen were rescued, but a stewardess was drowned.

The Very Rev. John O'Riordan parish priest of Cloyne, has been appointed by the Holy See, Canon of Aghuller in the Diocese of Cloyne, in succession to His Grace the Coadjutor Archbishop of Melbourne.

John James Carter Canning, manager of the Provincial Bank, Coleraine, died suddenly on November 16.

The death occurred on November 19, at Glenelg, of Rev. Hugh McCullough, lately rector of the Catholic parish of Latrobe, Pa.

Owing to long continued illness Dr. O. Riordan has resigned his position as medical officer of Meigh district.

J. O'Donnell has been elected chairman of Linnakee rural district council.

At the annual meeting of the Enniskillen branch, U. I. L., a sum of £106 15s was subscribed to the Home Rule.

Robert J. Doyle, K. C., has been appointed recorder of Galway.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Barrett, for 32 years parish priest of Headford, and Dean of the Archdiocese of Tuam celebrated his golden jubilee on November 15.

Joseph Shortall, Ballyroan, was united in marriage to Miss B. Cavanagh of Whiteswall in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, on October 29.

The death took place recently of Sister Lealia of the Marist Order. Deceased was a daughter of Bernard Moran, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Michael Burke, Hospital, has been elected secretary of the County Insurance society.

Miss Ellen Griffin, niece of the gifted Limerick poet, Gerald Griffin, died recently in Dublin in her sixtieth year.

Swinford Guardians have elected Dr. J. E. Sullivan medical officer of Charlestown dispensary district in succession to Dr. Murray.

The Navan Urban Council have sold their interest in the Navan disused military barracks to Mullingar man, the intention being to start a woollen mill there.

Notes

The new chapel of the new Charles College, at Carrick, Md., will be 100x25 feet with a foot tower. It will have a side chapel.

The inhabitants of Fond du Lac, Wis., raised the \$10,000 necessary for the new St. Anne Hospital. Its formal opening was a great event.

In a twelve month issue of the Catholic Truth Society, Pittsburgh, distributed more than 45,000 pamphlets.

Bishop Koudelka will make changes in the structure of the diocese of Superior.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Paul, Minn., was organized Nov. 16, 1884.

In 1790, the year in which the first Bishop of Baltimore, John Carroll, was appointed, the first church in Kentucky, Holy Cross, was erected.

In the now fast-growing case of Little Rock, St. Joseph Orphan Asylum was established by Bishop Morris on a tract of 720 acres of land and at a cost of \$150,000.

Delta County, Mich., has a hospital to a cost of \$75,000. The Sisters for \$1,000. This will add to the cost of \$75,000.

Rev. James Velt has been appointed rector of the 'Lancaster' in New York.

Everywhere in California the Church is prospering exceedingly.

Presentation parish in Chicago has a splendid church, rectory, hall, convent and school.

At a meeting of the Society of the Holy Name Society of the Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop was present. It was decided to spread the work of that Society in every parish.

The Rev. Henry B. Sweeney and Rev. S. Fay, Episcopal ministers at Oakfield and Fond du Lac, Wis., will enter a seminary to study for the priesthood.

St. Peter's Church in Baltimore has a new \$2,000 marble altar rail.

At the end of the school year in Philadelphia there was an attendance of 70,279. The estimated current expense of the Catholic schools in that city was \$600,000, or about \$8.00 per capita.

Bishop Koudelka, of Superior, is an accomplished linguist and speaker. He replied to an address of welcome at his enthronement a week ago, in eight languages.

At Eau Claire, Wis., the pastor of St. Patrick's church, Father A. B. C. Dunne received 263 converts in five years and 636 during his pastorate.

Through Cardinal O'Connell, Mrs. Thomas Riley gave the new St. Elizabeth Hospital to be erected at Brighton, \$50,000.

The new St. Elizabeth Hospital at Cleveland, O., will have seven stories, and will be an imposing edifice.

Get the E. E. I. Training

Young men and women prepared for business in the Rochester Business Institute day and evening classes. All graduates assisted in securing suitable positions. New term starts Monday, January 6th. Y. M. C. A. building.