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Catholics and the Public Welfare.

Associated Activity For The Advancement of the General Good.

Noteworthy Action Taken in Toronto.

The public welfare is certainly the concern of all. Particularly is there a duty for the Catholic members of a state or community to turn their attention to the problems with which that state or community has to deal. They can contribute much toward the solution of these problems because of the stability which ordinarily characterizes the Catholic population. In the midst of the pressing necessities of present day social conditions this is all the more important. Pius X, in fact, in his encyclical on "Christian Social Action" points in an especial manner to this obligation on the part of Catholics to participate in the discussion of public affairs. "It is certain," he says, "that the present constitution of States offers to all without distinction the power of influencing public opinion, and Catholics, while recognizing the obligation imposed by the law of God and the precepts of the Church, may with safe conscience enjoy this liberty, and prove themselves capable, as much as, and even more than others, of co-operating in the material and civil well-being of the people, thus acquiring that authority and respect which may make it possible for them to defend and promote a higher good, namely, that of the soul."

A very interesting effort along this line of action has been recently launched in the city of Toronto by the Catholics of that municipality. The Catholics Municipal Association of Toronto has been formed. Its objects, as set forth in its constitution are: "to promote and encourage the study of civic administration in the system of government; and in the administration of civic affairs; to procure wise and progressive legislation, and to do all that is possible to insure a strong civic government composed of representatives pledged to efficiency, consistent with economy, and to promote, discuss and support measures relating to the welfare of the city and citizens."

Branches are to be organized in all the wards of the city and to keep in close touch with all the Catholic voters in their vicinity. Municipal measures are to be carefully studied and an especial effort is to be made to develop public speakers within the association, "so as to fit members to meet their fellow citizens on equal footing in public life." "All questions, measures and grievances," it is also interesting to note, "shall be discussed with the idea in view of the betterment of all classes and -creeds- that go to make up the population of the city, and matters taken up shall be dealt with in the spirit of broad Catholic charity, without heat, and all personalities and all unfounded statements shall be eliminated."

This work of the Catholic citizens of Toronto will be watched with a great deal of interest. Properly conducted, on the sound basis of true Catholic principles, it should be productive of great good for that municipality. Partisan politics must, of course, be scrupulously avoided. In our own country such activities have been carried on in a more or less systematic way by the district leagues which the German Catholic societies have organized in various communities and by local Catholic federations. Legislation affecting the welfare of the city has been carefully studied, and that which has been of value has been indorsed, and that which has been detrimental has been opposed. Such work deserves to be extended. In this way will the Catholics fulfill their duty to their community and also to the Church which is theirs.

C. B. of C. V.

In Japan are now about 70,000 Catholics.

News From Ireland

Rev. F. C. Henry, P. P., Carrickfergus, whose death, in his 52nd year, is announced, was a native of Ballymacarret, and was ordained in 1836. He was successively curate in Glenavy, Antrim, Larne, St. Malachy's and St. Peter's, Belfast, and was also Adm. in the Holy Family parish, Belfast.

The death, as a result of a motor accident, is reported from Waco, Texas, of Samuel J. Qua, superintendent of the city water works. Deceased was son of the late John Qua, Poyntzpass, County Armagh.

Married—At the Church of the Holy Rosary, Tullow, by the Rev. J. Fogarty, Adm., Sylvester J. Bourke, Carlow Hill, Lower Newtownmountkennedy, to Johanna, only daughter of the late James Brophy, Roscat, Tullow.

At the remarkable age of 104 years, Francis Hague, Plush, Butlersbridge, died on the 2nd inst. after a chill contracted a week previously.

Charles O'Brien (son of C. A. O'Brien, Crown and Peace office, Cavan), having obtained an appointment as clerk in the Dame street, Dublin, office of the Munster and Leinster bank, has taken up duty.

An old man named Carmody, a blacksmith, in Lower Mill street, Ennis, died very recently. He went to early Mass at the Franciscan church, and was only a few minutes in the church when he collapsed.

Professors Corby, Hartog, Merriam, P. T. O'Sullivan, Pearson and Ryan have been elected by the Academic Council, University College, Cork, to be members of the governing body which will come into office on February 1st next.

The citizens of Derry learned with painful surprise the news of the death at his residence, Great James street, of Alderman Patrick Campbell, J. P., after a few days' illness.

The death has occurred at Gilford of Henry J. Sayers, wine and spirit merchant.

A handsome life size statue of St. Vincent de Paul, erected in front of the new Free Night Shelter for Catholic Homeless Men at Back Lane, Christchurch place, was unveiled and blessed by the Right Rev. Mgr. Fitzpatrick, P. P. V. G. Since May last the shelter housed and provided warm food for about 100 destitute men each night and every care is taken by the committee that only deserving cases obtain relief.

The death of Edward Connolly, Roundstone, County Galway, has caused feelings of deep regret throughout Connemara. Deceased was at one time a respected member of the Clifden Rural District Council.

The Killarney Anglers' association has received permission to shoot cormorants on the lakes on certain days. It was stated that about 150 birds haunted the lakes and consumed an enormous amount of fish.

The death has occurred at an advanced age of Miss Agnes M. Morrin, Brook House, Thomas town, who was a generous benefactor to the poor and a subscriber to every Catholic movement.

William Gorman, who was agent for the Grand Canal Company, at Monasterevan, has been transferred to Tullamore station on promotion.

Died—At her residence, 7 Castle street, Bray, Mary, relict of the late Patrick McCanna.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 318 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The French Academy has awarded a prize of two hundred dollars to Mother Zenaida, Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, at Madagascar, in recognition of her ability as an educator.

A Sister of Charity working in Wenchow, Che-Kiang, says: "We have penetrated into a maze of paganism. Many of the people have never seen a European before, and they gaze at us with profound curiosity. We work among the orphans, both pagan and Christian. The pagan orphanage is besieged with women wishing to dispose of children, and in our own home we have as many as seventeen or eighteen a day offered us. In fact, the supply of cast-away babies in China is limitless."

Writing from Maritime Tonkin, Bishop Marcote states that he is already unable to cope with the crowds that come to the hospitals and refuges for help, and he predicts that the famine will increase from now until June, when there is promise of a new harvest. Let us pray that no calamity of nature will destroy the hopes of these suffering people.

Eighteen Dollars Will Repair a Presbytery For An Aged Priest.

This little story from Fr. Raphael of Acharapakam, India, will perhaps appeal to the sympathy of some of our generous readers: "I am an aged native priest of the Pondicherry mission, and my bishop has just sent me to Acharapakam, where I will have much work to do establishing a chapel and opening schools for the neophytes. I am not rich; what little money came to me I spent in my former district, nevertheless I carried with me here a supply of courage and good intentions, which the years have not robbed me of. "When I asked my bishop for eighteen dollars to be spent in repairing the presbytery here, he replied that the hard times would not allow him to send me even this small sum. My reason for wanting to improve the house is because it is very damp, and even in India rheumatism pursues us when we are old. "I am not accustomed to beg, but my benefactors may be assured that old Fr. Raphael will pray for them very sincerely if they care to help him."

What To Do With The Pennies.

If, by giving a dime or so, now and then we could here at home feed a poor soul for a month, we would not hesitate long in parting with that amount of loose change. Of course we know that such a miracle could not be worked in America, but in China there is nothing wonderful at all in doing a vast amount of good with a small sum of money. The following facts will encourage us to save our pennies for the missions:

Twelve cents will feed a widow for two months, or it will buy a clothing outfit for a child. Sixty cents, the offering of a member of the Propagation of the Faith for a year, will pay a poor man's rent for a month, or it will pay the bearers of six little foundlings, who are brought to the orphanages and who otherwise would perish by the wayside. Six dollars, the amount collected by a promoter in a year from ten districts, such a visitation usually makes and gave employment of by produces about two hundred baptisms of dying infants and does incalculable good among the adults.

This amount of \$6 will pay for the board of an infant, a cripple, or an aged person for six months. It will also support an apprentice in a technical school for the greater part of a year. Five dollars will feed 400 persons for one day, allowing to each person two meals of rice.

St. Mary's Hospital Appeals For Funds.

By order of the State Board of Education of St. Mary's Hospital is required to provide a better home for its nurses, one that is estimated will cost about \$75,000 and money for this work is now being pledged. The Sisters of Charity of the hospital make the following appeal:

"It will undoubtedly be admitted that St. Mary's Hospital makes few appeals for aid. Since the new addition was built some 13 years ago, no general public appeal has been made by the sisters in charge.

"It has now been found necessary to build a nurses' home, to comply with the imperative orders of the New York State Department of Education, with which the nurses' training school is registered and also those of the State Board of Charities, which condemns as inadequate the present accommodations of the nurses in training. For strong reasons of safety as well as for the proper heating of the hospital a new building for power house and laundry was recently erected. To defray the expenses of this, \$40,000 was borrowed from one of the city banks. With this mortgage on the hospital, it would not be possible to obtain another loan to build a nurses' home, hence the appeal.

"According to an estimate, it would require from \$75,000 to \$80,000 to build a plain fireproof nurses' home. This seems a large undertaking, yet there is much encouragement in the interest taken in the project since the immediate necessity for it was realized last summer. Even then some pledges were received by the women of the Flower League, who have kindly consented to help in raising the funds. Later the nurses' alumnae card party for the same purpose was well patronized.

"St. Mary's Hospital makes this appeal with confidence in the people of Rochester. As the pioneer hospital of this city, it has always been open to receive sick and suffering humanity without question as to means, race or creed. The names of the committee in charge of the nurses' home fund will soon be published.

"The Birth of a Nation" to be Shown at the Lyceum.

Commencing Monday evening, January 24th for two week's engagement, the Lyceum Theatre, will have for its attraction D. W. Griffith's famous spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation." After the opening there will be performances twice daily, at 2:15 and 8:15. In every respect the production to be seen at the Lyceum will be the same as the one that ran 10 months in New York City, including a symphony orchestra of thirty pieces.

The story which commences with the coming of African slaves to America, pictures the Civil War with its terrific battles; Sherman's march to the sea; the burning of Atlanta; the fall of Petersburg; Lee's surrender to Grant; the assassination of President Lincoln; the ordeal of the reconstruction period; the Ku-Klux Klan's solution of the problem and the final establishment of peace. These historic scenes are all shown in a way that links history to romance. It is all portrayed upon the largest plan ever conceived and executed by any artist in the world.

There are over 5,000 scenes and 200,000 historical details. The pictures took eight months in the making and gave employment of 18,000 actors and 3,000 horses. The magnitude of this spectacle has made it one of the most talked about offerings in the history

of the theatre. Richard Harding Davis has said that its battle scenes are the most powerful and realistic ever presented to the American public.

Seats for all performances are now on sale and mail orders will receive immediate attention.

St. Bridget's Entertainment Was a Splendid Success.

It was like old St. Bridget's, when on Friday evening, January 14th, the Young Peoples' Dramatic Club made its debut.

It brought one back in memory of the old days, when Father Tom?—"I almost felt his hand-clasp in the gloom."

The occasion was an entertainment given by the young people of the parish. "A try out," so to speak, for it was their first appearance before the public and their future is to be received by the success of their initial bow, then St. Bridget's may look forward to a loss of its membership, as we fear the stage will yet claim many stars from among its youth.

Two plays of one act each were rendered, one by the Young Ladies, entitled, "Mr. Trouble at Satterlee's Boarding School."

The cast of characters being as follows: Dorothy, Celestian Foley; Alice, Helen Nelligan; Miss Satterlee, Mary M. Dissett; Mildred, Mildred Welch; Marian, Anna Durbin; Bertha, Helen Cullinan; Kathleen (An Irish Maid), Rose E. Diabett.

The young men delivered an amusing farce entitled "When Doctors Disagree", in which our well known local medical fraternity came in for an amusing advertising in burlesque.

The cast of characters was: Captain Ryan (A veteran Jolly-far) William Bell; Dick Boots, William Welch; Dr. Pompey Pride (colored), James McGrath; Dr. Leo Berger, Raymond Welch; Dr. Judson Brown, Donald Nelligan; Dr. P. C. Guinan, William Keirns; Dr. Ananias Healing, George Durnin; Middleton-Mugg, Raymond Golding.

Both plays reflect much credit on the young people of St. Bridget's and insure greater success to their future efforts, this fact was manifest by the large attendance, the hall being crowded to its utmost capacity.

Miss Lillian Bell rendered several vocal selections and was repeatedly encored. Her voice is soft, melodious and pleasing. She held her audience in admiration throughout each selection and we bespeak a bright future in store for her with so pleasing a voice.

Roy Miller, an old St. Bridget's boy was recognized among the audience, and through the efforts of the most of his old-time friends present, his school-mates of old St. Bridget's he was induced to come forward. The expression on his face as he presented himself showed plainly the "Auld Lang Syne" feeling away down in his heart and he certainly did himself and St. Bridget's credit. The long and continuous encore he received plainly manifested that St. Bridget's never forgets, and always appreciates and enjoys the success that comes to any of her own.

The music for the occasion was furnished by the Louis Mingnona's Orchestra, another St. Bridget's boy. Sousa's Orchestra would not have been more appreciated than were the selections rendered by this orchestra. Hence we in all sincerity can say it was one St. Bridget's evening?

To Miss Katherine Van-Alatine too much credit cannot be given for the success of this "St. Bridget's Night", she it was who fostered, tutored and brought forth to such a crowning success the first initial entertainment of the Young Peoples' Dramatic Club, and even now in, as it were, her victory, she has flung to the breeze again, another banner upon which is inscribed "Excelsior."

Another entertainment, something new and of a heavier cast is promised for the near future.

The war is said to have given industries in Ireland a great impetus; Ireland is now prospering.

Catholic News Notes

DOMESTIC.

A fine Cathedral will be that of Omaha. It may be dedicated next Easter. Its High Altar, organ, pulpit and episcopal throne have already been donated.

The Catholic Converts' League of New York publishes a quarterly entitled "The Catholic Convert."

The Bishop of Wheeling, W. Va., announced the erection of a \$50,000 hospital at Charleston.

The Cathedral of Dubuque, Iowa, has been handsomely renovated at a cost of about \$20,000.

In Brooklyn, 500 members were initiated in the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association, which has a membership of 155,700 in 1,246 branches.

Buffalo, the great diocese of Bishops Timon, Ryan, Quigley, Colton and now of Dougherty, has over 390,000 Catholics, more than 650 priests and 230 churches.

The new Sisters' College at the Catholic University, Washington, is well equipped with chapel, classrooms, laboratories and reception rooms.

In Chicago there are eighty-nine conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The laundry of the Good Shepherd Sisters in San Antonio, Texas, was recently considerably damaged by fire.

Rev. Eugene S. Burke, D. D., an alumnus of the American College, Rome, has been appointed chaplain in the U. S. Navy.

Last year the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Milwaukee distributed \$10,340.63 among the needy poor.

A report comes from California that a new diocese will be erected in Nevada, with probably Reno as its episcopal city.

At Troy, Ala., the Bishop of Mobile laid the corner stone of the Martin Connor Memorial Church.

FORBIDDEN.

His Holiness, the Pope, has removed the interdiction that has for years rested upon the Pantheon Chapel in the Quirinal, Rome.

The "Catholic Theater Movement" has issued a bulletin announcing the addition of about 20 plays to its "White List" of February, 1916, containing 179 plays.

The Church in Spain and in Holland, too, is prospering; likewise in some of the South American Republics and Australia.

The war has made great inroads on the foreign colleges in Rome; they are greatly decimated in students.

In Paris the famous "Catholic Institute of Paris" was re-opened, Cardinal Amette, the Archbishop residing.

Knights of Columbus.

The Second Degree will be exemplified Monday, January 24th, at 8.30 p.m. A large class will receive the degree. The team will be assisted by J. David Enright, of Syracuse. Luncheon after the meeting.

The K. of C. Minstrel Show will be given in the Council Chamber Wednesday evening, January 25th. This will take the place of our regular monthly meeting.