THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT

74 North Street, Rochester, N.Y.

BY THE

CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the office.

Report without any delay change of address giving both old and new

Communications solicited from all Catholics accompanied in every instance by the name of the author. Name of contributor withheld if desired.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year, In Advance..... $1.00

Entered at second class mail matter.

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Friday, May 11, 1917.

Raised a Regiment

We are indebted to the New York Evening World for a thrilling narrative which is at once a compliment to a patriotic nun and a tribute to the patriotism instilled into the foreign boys attending the Catholic schools in the Cherry Hill district of New York city and to the splendid response thereto on the part of the boys referred to.

Sister Marianne, of the Institute of Christian Doctrine at 173 Cherry street, in the heart of the Italian quarter, has been the inspiring genius in organizing four companies of the Columbus Volunteers, uniformed and equipped with rifles, from among the attendants and graduates of the Catholic schools in the neighborhood. The nuns of the Institute have raised every penny of the money needed to equip these four companies which were first started a year ago last May and have been continued up to now. They are well drilled and will enter the United States service whenever the call comes.

Sister Marianne says that the nuns could raise a regiment from the same quarter of New York did they have the funds to uniform and equip them.

When interviewed, Sister Marianne did not take any credit for what had been done, contending that it was in line of the teachers' service to instill into the minds and hearts of her pupils love of country as well of love of God and Holy Mother Church.

"The boys of this district," the Mother Superior told me, "are generally foreign-born or born here of foreign parents. In the main they are Italians, Armenians and Syrians, and it is these races which have furnished recruits for the Columbus Volunteers. The nucleus of the first company was formed by the boys of the St. Aloysius Club, an organization which has been developed by the institute.

"Our boys leave the public schools when they are fourteen to go to work. At that time they have thought little and heard little about what they owe to America. To them it is a place where they can make more money than if their parents had remained in Italy or Syria or Armenia. Liberty is just a word to them. They do not grasp an abstraction and the State is not personified, made visible to them by a sovereign, as it it in the countries from which they sprang.

"It was with the idea of making America real to them, of giving them an insight into the duties and responsibilities of citizenship that we began the movement which resulted in the formation of the Columbus Volunteers.

"Today there are no more enthusiastic Americans in the United States, and they wait impatiently for the drill now held weekly, but which Lieut. Saulnier, the drill master, tells me may now take place more frequently.

"The companies drill in the large school building which is part of the institute and in the street in front of the convent, and Lieut. Saulnier thinks the street drill is best because the boys in the neighborhood sometimes throw things at them or jeer, and when they have learned to march straight ahead without paying attention to these interruptions they have learned a valuable lesson in self-control.

"Some of the boys have already spoken to me about joining the Roosevelt brigade, but I do not think they have decided how they shall offer their services. They are all poor boys whose families need their wages up to the last moment, but when that moment comes they will volunteer for the duration of the war."

Safety In Building

It is announced by the State Industrial Commission that, according to investigations conducted and statistics compiled by its Bureau of Statistics and Information, there were more accidents in building construction and repair work from October 1, 1910 to October 1, 1911, than there were in all the factories of the state, despite the fact that during that period quoted there were three large factory fires entailing the loss of 208 lives.

Part of the blame for this condition of affairs is attributed to lack of specific statutory rules, duplication of effort or lack of effort on the part of state and municipal authorities at enforcement of existing laws and rules and inertia on the part of both building contractors and employees who appear to assume that there is just so much risk to be assumed in working on such a contract and that hence there is no need of making any effort at safety or averting accident. Contractors argue that because their equipment is not stationary or permanent, therefore they need not exert any effort to make the plant safe for their workmen.

On the other hand factories are permanent structures and their plans may be standarized, likewise machinery. Inspection may be made at stated intervals and it is perfectly feasible for the inspectors to note whether their safety orders have been complied with since the previous visit. Reverting to the ordinary building operations, how is it possible for an inspector to be sure that scaffolding, ropes, pulleys, etc., used on a job in one part of a city have been tested and found safe on another job in a different section of the city? If he is not there when the scaffolding is set up, he has to take the contractor's word and there are not enough industrial inspectors to have one on every building job and it would delay work too much to compel contractors to wait their turn for an inspector before beginning work.

It is proposed to overcome the lack of specific statutes by a safety code or set of rules formulated by the State Industrial Commission which have the force and effect of law. Then each contractor would know exactly what he had to do and if an inspector in making his stated rounds found equipment not properly safeguarded he could at once cite the rule or regulation violated, insist upon its being complied with under penalty of non-use of the faulty apparatus until remedied according to the code.

Industrial Commissioner James M. Lynch is to be commended upon the interest he is showing in this matter and New York's code may easily be a standard for all other the States.

Baseball opening did not insure the nicest sort of weather but it was ever thus.

Archbishop Hanna was in the home of his friends while in Rochester.

Fine Specimen.

Down in Tom Watson's Georgia they sure do raise some queer critters. The present Governor of the State, evidently one of the Watson ignorant bigots, is one of these from a letter he wrote recently to United States Attorney-General Thomas Watt Gregory demanding that he at once compel President Wilson to pardon some chap who is now confined in a Federal prison after conviction of violating the Federal laws.

Here is a literal transcript of this precious epistle:—

State of Florida, Executive Office.
S. J. Catts, Governor.
Tallahasse, Feb. 25, 1917.

Atty.-Gen. of the U. S., Washington, D.C.:

Dear Sir—You turned me down COLD on my application to the President for parole of Blake Campbell. Why did you do it? Thousands of other men worse than he are out.

I want to tell you square from THE SHOULDER that you and Pres. Wilson are just like OTHER MEN to me, and I demand FAIR treatment.

Why can't I get Blake Campbell's case before Mr. Wilson? Tell me the reason, and if there is any reason why I cannot I will remove it, but if you give me a raw deal, I will run for Pres't and get it, and TURN YOU OUT. Now I am GOING TO GET THIS pardon for Mr. Campbell and you might as well look at it from that angle. So write me all I must do, and help me like a man to get it. Best wishes.

Yours truly,
Sidney J. Catts,
Gov. of Florida.

Now, in slang phrase, "isn't that the limit?"

Clumsy Lie.

The International Catholic Truth Society does well to nail a malicious lie on the head in the following statement regarding a published report spread broadcast by the non-Catholic press:

"The Germans insist that Belgians condemned to death shall confess to German, and not to Belgian, priests. Consequently the German authorities learn secrets resulting in arrests."

Every Catholic knows that this is a clumsy lie. Catholics are extremely jealous of the secrecy of the confessional, and of the honor of their priests and religious, of every nationality; and if priests and nuns are baselessly dragged into publicity for the purpose of sensational journalism, or to intensify the passion of hatred the bitterness which will ensue must have a damaging effect on the cause which the falsehoods are supposed to bolster up.

There is evidence in the text that these statements about Germans and the confessional are written by persons who are entirely ignorant of the Catholic Sacrament of Penance. Every Catholic knows that if the confessor is a priest, English, Irish, French, German, or of any other nation, there is no Kaiserdom in existence that would induce him to deliver up his penitent or to reveal anything told him under the seal of Confession. In time of war, or at any other time, a Catholic in going to confession would not consider the nationality of the priest. A German, English, French or Belgian Catholic would confess to a priest who was an enemy subject without any hesitation. For it is the pride of the Church that through these nineteen centuries, though patriotism and party passion have frequently run strong, no Catholic priest has ever yet betrayed the secrets of the confessional.

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