

GUARD THE SCHOOLS!

Menace of Centralization and Control by State Growing.

Recent Efforts in California.

For some time past it has been evident that the parochial school would be made the target for opposition in the press and in the State Legislatures. The Archbishop of St. Louis, the Most Rev. John J. Glennon, recently stated that new dangers threatened these schools, and in some of the States, for instance in Florida, adverse legislation is now being advocated. It has even been urged in Washington that the entire system of education in the United States be nationalized, thus proving anew the contention that the desire for centralization and control of education, which naturally must work out to the detriment of private and parochial schools, is alive and active, and has not been crowded into the background by the big issues of the war and its concomitant problems.

As a matter of fact, even the war issues have been used by unscrupulous persons to serve their ulterior aims. Catholic schools, especially those in which instruction is given in foreign languages, have been termed un-American, although no proof has been advanced to support such an accusation, which, indeed, it would be impossible to prove.

Yet, not only under the above mentioned pretext but also on general principles efforts have been made to eliminate, absorb or render useless the parochial schools which are the fruit of the toil and sacrifices of countless sturdy American parents. In the State of California, e. g., efforts detrimental to the parochial schools have matured to a point where they can no longer be lightly considered. According to the Christian Science Monitor of recent date, quoting a "Special to the C. S. M. from its Pacific Coast Bureau", "important recommendations looking toward the reorganization of educational forms and functions in California along new and radical lines are made in a report to the State Board of Education by a subcommittee on school administration, this sub-committee being part of a committee of 21 on the reorganization of the public school system of the State. The report in question was written by Alexis F. Lanze, professor of education and director of the school of education, of the University of California.

The committee reaches the conclusion that the constitution should provide for one unified system of state education, embodying in definite outline an adequate plan of administration which should embrace a State Department of Education, and a nonpartisan State Board of Education with a provision directing this body to appoint a state commissioner of education as the chief administrative officer of the State Department of Education, and a County Board of Education for each county in the State.

"Among those phases of public school education that, in the opinion of this committee, should be made a matter of constitutional provision, is the question of compulsory education, the report taking the ground that the constitution should specifically fix the minimum duration of education, whether carried on by public or private agencies. In this respect and to this extent, if the provisions of this report are carried out, the practices and policies of private and parochial schools will be under the control and direction of the State."

Our parochial schools seek to conform to the standards of hours and of training set by the State, and are ever eager to meet the highest demands properly set for them to accomplish. But the California plan demands more than this, as is apparent from the lines quoted. But if there be any doubt as to this contention, the report quoted quickly sets that doubt aside. We read further: "The powers of this State Board of Education would, according to the plans of this committee, be very broad. As the powers and duties of this board are specifically set forth in the report the board shall:

- (1) Appoint its own administrative officers and other agents.
- (2) Keep itself and the people of the State informed concerning the operation of the educational system established by law.
- (3) See that the educational laws of the State are complied with.
- (4) Have power to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, for the maintenance and promotion of wholesome school conditions.
- (5) Have power to veto requirements for admission to educational institutions supported wholly or in part by the State.
- (6) Have exclusive control of the certification of teachers throughout the State.
- (7) Have the power and discharge the duty of proposing needed or desirable changes in educational legislation.
- (8) Perform such additional duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Legislature."

Further information is given in the "Monitor" regarding the plan proposed in California; but point 6 is sufficiently plain to convince even the skeptic of the approaching crisis. It is imperative that, in other states as well as in California, Catholics guard the interests of the schools against aggression. The tendency to centralize and control education by the State is not a healthy tendency.

C. B. of the C. V

Father John's Office.

K. of C. War News Service.

Paris, Sept. 24: (By Mail)—"Father John's Office," announced a sign outside a dugout on a certain sector being held by the Yanks. Apparently the office of "Father John" was a popular place, if the number of soldiers coming from and going into it, indicated anything.

The "office" proved to be the headquarters of Chaplain John De Valles, a Knights of Columbus volunteer priest, winner of the Croix-de-Guerre, who before the war was rector of a church at New Bedford, Massachusetts. Quite recently Father De Valles was offered a commission by the United States Government as a reward for his bravery, but to the boys of his outfit he's still plain "Father John" carrying out the joint work of a chaplain and a Knights of Columbus secretary.

It happens that most of the boys in the regiment: Father De Valles is attached to hail from the New England states, and it can be said, without betraying any military secrets, that they are part and parcel of the famous Twenty-sixth, or Yanks Division, which has been cited by General Pershing on several occasions.

Father De Valles' office is about as busy a place as can be found in the area of that division. He answers questions of every description that the boys hurl at him, and tries to settle some of the many problems the lads in khaki have. If a boy gets a letter from home stating that no allotments have been received from him for a few months, it is to Father De Valles he goes with that letter, and the volunteer chaplain does his best to help him out.

"Say I've done everything in this outfit from shaving men to umpiring ball games and refereeing boxing bouts for them," said Father De Valles, to a new chaplain from the United States who had just been assigned to that regiment.

Father De Valles didn't add that he had also gone over the top with the doughboys on nearly every raid they had made, and that he had been awarded the Croix de Guerre and the D. S. C. for bravery. Neither did he show the citation in which is mentioned the fact that "in spite of a heavy barrage fire, Father De Valles ministered to the wounded on the battlefield and by his courage set an inspiring example to the men of the regiment. Nor did Father De Valles tell of the work he did in the early days of the war before the Knights of Columbus had secretaries to send to that division, in supplying the boys with the stationery and cigarettes that the K. of C. sent to him for distribution.

By a strange co-incidence the Knights of Columbus chaplain in another regiment in that same division, is from New Bedford, too, and he also won the Croix de Guerre at almost the same time Father De Valles did.

"There's just one thing I wish," said the Colonel of Father De Valles' regiment, one day: "I wish I had a few more of those New Bedford chaplains with my outfit. Father John's medicine is pretty good stuff for my doughboys."

R. B. I. Evening Courses

may be started next Tuesday evening, November 19. You may register any time before, or on that evening.—Adv.

Church-Closing

Bishop Hickey's Letter Read in The Churches Last Sunday.

The letter of Bishop Thomas F. Hickey on the reopening of the churches after the influenza epidemic was read from the pulpita last Sunday and in part is as follows:

"Within the past several weeks our country and other lands have felt the terrible effects of a disease which has assumed the form of epidemic in the manner and extent of its operation. According to reports, our own city has suffered far less than other communities, and it seemed necessary to those charged with the responsibility of the health of our citizens in Rochester that the churches should be closed during the prevalence of the disease."

"In recognition of the word of duly constituted authority we obeyed, and out of that act of obedience we suffered the privation of the greatest consolations in our religious life, i. e., assistance at holy mass and the reception of the Holy Eucharist. We can imagine with what eager fervor our people will approach God's temple on the first day of the official opening of the churches and with what devotion they will go to the holy table.

"We believe that the effect of this temporary privation will not easily pass out of their lives, but that they will appreciate in an increasing measure God's gifts, which are so easily available for their use and benefit.

"Many of our families have been stricken and the rate of mortality has been heavy. Here or there the father, the mother, or both parents, have been taken, and we have on our hands to-day a serious problem of providing for many orphan children. We beg to extend our word of sympathy to all who have been afflicted, and especially to those from whose homes death has claimed one or more as victims of the disease.

"The church closing has taken place at a time when many special devotions are held, but in this connection it will be only a matter of postponement, as bishop and priests in their respective duties will provide for all at a later date."

C. M. B. A. COMMITTEE MEETING

Special Meeting of Ways and Means Committee on Sunday.

Herbert G. Stellwagen, president of the Central Council of the C. M. B. A., has called a special meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the Central Council of the C. M. B. A. at St. Peter and Paul's hall for Sunday, November 17th, at 3 P. M.

Grand Deputy William Jean Berdel has appointed the following district deputies and invites them to meet him on Sunday afternoon. T. B. Loughney, Peter Hemmer, David Hays, Frank Hehnlein, Andrew Shell, Charles M. Dispenza, Fred Imo, Val. Knapp, Frank J. G. Connors, Albert Newman, Frank Miller, George A. Gurry, H. G. Stellwagen, John P. Haley.

The Pennsylvania Grand Council, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, held a convention a few days ago in that city. Represented were 200 State branches. The Archbishop celebrated Pontifical Mass. In 42 years the association has paid widows and orphans \$36,000,000. Pennsylvania membership numbers 15,000.

Catholic Short Notes.

At Camp Fremont in California is a soldiers' sodality.

Mother Thomas has been re-elected head of the Dominican Sisters at Sparkhill, N. Y.

Large Protestant missionary funds are being directed to Palestine.

The Abbot of St. Paul's Benedictine monastery, in Rome, Rt. Rev. Monaster, O. S. B., is but 39 years old.

In Allentown, Pa., a Magyar church, St. Stephen's, was dedicated.

In three parish schools of Boston the number of pupils in each is from 2,000 to 2,200 each. In 13 other schools the number is over 1,000 in each.

Some Catholic service flags have over 1,000 stars.

The Vatican Printing Press has printed in English that portion of the new Code of Canon Law appertaining to religious orders and congregations.

The University of Bologna is probably the oldest university in Italy. In the Middle Ages it had 10,000 students.

In one place in France, Catholic soldiers under orders to march, went to Confession and received Holy Communion in the church in the night, with only the altar candles illuminating the interior.

Jacob's Well in Palestine is four thousand years old.

It is as yet undecided where the new Vatican museum to contain the great store of historical objects that lie in the Vatican grottoes beneath the pavement of St. Peter's is to be located. These objects embrace all that remains of the old Basilica of St. Peter's, Constantine's, dating from the year 320.

Poland is always Poland, the land of Catholic faith, of saints and of sacrifice. Its people are now rallying with big hearts around the Apostolic Visitor sent them by the Pope. With land horribly devastated by war, they are, despite their poverty and suffering, planning to establish a Catholic university at Warsaw and have given for it a sum equal to \$4,700,000.

In documents before 1472, has been found a Bull of Pope Clement V. dated July, 1310, alluding to a pilgrimage made by the Chevalier Charles Louis of Schevreden to the feet of the miraculous Virgin Mary at Loretto, Italy.

Bishop Warns of Difficulties.

In an address Monday noon in Buffalo, in the interest of the United War Work campaign, Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, warned his hearers of difficulties facing the United States with the advent of peace. He also paid an eloquent tribute to the genius of President Wilson and to the President's straightforward championship of the cause of world democracy.

R. B. I. Day Courses

may be started next Monday, November 18. You may register any time between now and that date.—Adv.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow

Married—September 17, at Dublin, by the Rev. Father MacDonald, St. Paul's, Arran quay, assisted by Rev. Father Burke, James, son of the late John Deering, Knockavagh, Carlow, to Agnes, daughter of William Gunn Board of Works, Ireland.

Cork

Cork Corporation renamed Great George's street "Washington" street, as a compliment to America.

Skibbereen Guardians and U. D. C. adjourned as a tribute to the late Henry Jennings.

M. Kelleher has been appointed Town Clerk and Executive Sanitary Officer of Macroom.

Dublin

The late John Gore, Solicitor, left £22,389. He left £100 for Masses and bequeathed £100 each to Father Aloysius, Church street, for temperance work there, and Rev. J. A. Cullin, S. J., for temperance work among the poor, and also £100 each for temperance work to the Temperance Hall, York street, and the Incorporated Temperance Society.

Patrick J. Plunkett, who has died at the age of 101, at his residence, 14 Palmerston road, Dublin, belonged to the well known family of the Fingall Plunketts. He was a zealous worker in the cause of charity.

W. Hayes, head of Messrs. Hayes, Conynghan & Robinson, left £14,731.

Kerry

Solemn requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Thomas Ashe was celebrated at St. John's Church, Tralee.

Limerick

W. M. Beauchamp, Clerk of the Crown and Peace for the City and County of Limerick for 20 years, has died suddenly.

Thomas Ryan was elected clerk of Limerick [No. 7] District Council by 20 votes to 17 for E. Ryan.

Silgo

Tobercurry Guardians expressed sorrow on the death of T. J. Howley, Curry, Charlestown A. O. H. expressed sympathy with Canon Keveney, P. P., on the death of his sister.

Tipperary

John Lovatt, Clonmel, has been appointed J. P.

Daniel Flanagan, Land Surveyor, Nenagh, has died suddenly. Over £10,000 has been paid by Clonmel dealers for wild fruit during the season. In one instance as much as £1,872 was paid for 52 tons of blackberries.

Tyrone

Michael Conroy, Main street, Strabane, who has died, carried on a prosperous drapery business in the town for forty years. He was father of Eugene Conroy, J. P., formerly chairman U. D. C.

Waterford

The officers elected by the Waterford Gaelic League were: Rev. J. Kelleher, president; Rev. M. Dowley and T. D. Connolly, vice-presidents; E. Matthew, treasurer; J. J. Daly, secretary.

Wexford

Married—September 25, at the Cathedral, Enniscorthy, by the Very Rev. Canon Browne, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Very Rev. James Rossiter, Adm., Enniscorthy, the Rev. J. Seaver, Maynooth, and the Rev. M. Boylan, Donabate, James, son of Andrew Fitzpatrick, Newtown, Swords, to Catherine, eldest daughter of Timothy O'Connor, Spring Farm, Enniscorthy.

The Coiste Gnatha expressed sorrow at the death of Seamus Rafter, Enniscorthy.