

## K. OF C. TO HELP BELGIUM

### Raising Fund To Be Used For Reconstruction of Belgians' Educational System.

In response to an appeal made by Cardinal Mercier the Knights of Columbus have started a drive among the 600,000 members to raise a voluntary fund which will be turned over to the Belgian Primate to be used in the tremendous task of rebuilding Belgium's educational system. The news that the "Caseys" had enlisted in the fight which Cardinal Mercier has gone home to carry on against Bolshevism by means of educational methods was made public by James A. Flaherty, supreme knight of the order, to whom the cardinal made his appeal.

The message to Supreme Knight Flaherty follows: "The numerous and very gratifying marks of sympathy and affection extended to me at various times, on your visits to me at Malines, by many high officers and members of your organization, prompt me to be so bold as to appeal to you for the aid of your order in the superhuman task of educational reconstruction which faces me in Belgium.

"First, there is the University of Louvain. And as to it, I am glad of this opportunity to make it clear that the destruction of the library and two other buildings, the loss of the scientific instruments, are only a portion of the damage done to the university by the war. During the war the university was, although closed, obliged to continue providing for its professors and staff in Belgium, many of whom were in very painful circumstances owing to their homes having been destroyed; the expenditure was enormous, the income nil.

"In order to meet this situation the capital funds had to be drawn upon to the very last centime and loans had to be contracted. Louvain university is one of the bulwarks of moral and social order in Belgium, the only Catholic university. It is a complete university comprising all the faculties, medicine, law, civil engineering, theology, etc.; there are 140 professors, besides the subordinate staff. If it is to struggle on impoverished and unaided Belgium will be deprived of its most effective weapon against the social upheavals which threaten the whole of Europe.

Secondly, hundreds of school buildings have been destroyed; many, if not all of our schools, high schools and colleges have had to incur heavy debts in order to face the difficulties of the war. I wish to emphasize the fact that neither the university, nor the high schools or colleges receive any subsidy or aid of any kind from the state—they are entirely self-supporting.

"I am purposely confining my remarks to the educational side of our reconstruction problems, as I understand that your great organization wishes, in the future, especially to direct its energies and force to such matters, and under this head I must also mention the urgent distress of our Christian Workmen's Unions, as regards industrial schools. It seems unnecessary to enlarge on the absolute necessity now more than ever of giving our workmen every opportunity of acquiring skill and proper training in their trade, while keeping them in a truly Christian atmosphere.

"In concluding, ought I to apologize for this very open-hearted appeal to you and your order to help me in the immense need I am in? I feel I must not, and it is with great confidence that I send it to you and with my heartfelt gratitude for whatever the Knights of Columbus will be able to do to help me.

Yours very faithfully  
D. CARDINAL MERCIER,  
Archbishop of Malines."

In a nation-wide appeal on behalf of the plea of Cardinal Mercier, Supreme Knight Flaherty had the following sent throughout the country to the 1,800 councils of the order embracing a membership of 600,000:

"In this appeal lies a two-fold attraction to the sympathy of the Knights of Columbus. Not only can we, in keeping with our time-honored custom here in America, sustain Catholic education in stricken Belgium, but we can again show to his eminence, the Archbishop of Malines, the honor in which we hold him. In an age when men have exhibited the sternest courage, have faced the most terrible circumstances, have won through to glory against the most frightful obstacles, in an age when a million were tried under fire and proved that their manhood, the heroic primate of Belgium stand pre-eminent.

"This man of God, who never wavered from his duty to his people though put to the most severe trial by the invader, has come to the Knights of Columbus for assistance in the educational reconstruction of his nation. Here in America we have set out to fight the spread of radicalism throughout our citizenry. We have entered upon an era of wider educational effort, than we have ever essayed before. In the appeal from the cardinal we have a call to a parallel work.

"The supreme board of directors, to whom Cardinal Mercier's appeal was presented, has voted that the supreme knights should ask for contributions to this most worthy cause. Remittances should be made payable to the Knights of Columbus, Cardinal Mercier fund, and sent to William J. McGinley, supreme secretary, drawer 1670, New Haven, Conn. Fraternally yours,  
JAMES A. FLAHERTY."

Admiral W. S. Benson, chief of naval operations, retired recently, having reached the age of sixty-four. Secretary of the Navy Daniels paid a tribute to him, saying he had been of the "greatest service" to his country, and seventy-one officers gave him a banquet. He may reside in his old boyhood home, Macon, Ga. Legislation to give him the permanent rank and pay of an admiral is pending in congress. Admiral Benson is a convert and prominent Knights of Columbus.

## Duties Of Catholics In Americanization Work.

### Y. M. C. A. And Libraries Active While Catholics Are Negligent.

#### FEDERAL EFFORTS AT INTRODUCTION INTO CITIZENSHIP.

Written by Prof. Edw. F. Mohler, Toledo, O., for the Press Bulletin Service of the Central Bureau of the C. V.

I. Because of the many changes wrought in the character of our population by the World War it would be practically impossible to estimate the number of foreign born in this country who are not American citizens. That the number is astonishingly large may be taken for granted. The national Americanization plan recently launched presses that conclusion. Problem In The Larger Cities.

The larger cities of America present a problem which is bordered with the horrors of Bolshevism. We have not made Americans of the Albanians, Bohemians, Slovaks, Moravians, Silesians, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, Serbians, Croats, Slovenians, Lithuanians, Poles, Roumanians, Russians, Spaniards, Syrians and Ukrainians who have been residents of this country for years. The consensus of opinion seems to be that they live circumscribed by the work they do and the church they attend save for the somewhat helpful work of the Y. M. C. A. and the assistance which their sons and daughters obtain for them from the public library. This is a charge brought by Mary Antin (herself an immigrant who fought the uphill battle to American citizenship), in her book "They Who Knock at Our Gates."

Americans have been wont fondly to cherish the fulsome phrase "Land of Opportunity", yet hundreds of thousands of foreigners never learn that truth, never realize what it is to be really an American, never enjoy the advantages which the United States offers them so plentifully. These people oftentimes come from the same locality in Europe as our ancestors; they may worship at the same altar; yet we permit them to remain strangers and non-citizens.

### Catholics Negligent; Y. M. C. A. And Libraries Active.

While Catholic agencies have been woefully lax in measuring this problem and supplying the remedy of Americanization, the ever business-like Y. M. C. A. and the public libraries (usually "teaming" it) have been doing more than their share in making citizens. The Y. M. C. A. night classes enable the foreigner to learn English, thus overcoming the first and greatest obstacle to a love of things American; make him acquainted with American procedure along health, law, school and civic lines, thus removing the menaces of affright and distrust; get him in touch with social, civic, and religious agencies from which latter diffidence may have caused him to stray. The public libraries provide the foreigner with his native papers, with books in his own language, solve a thousand and one business, social and political problems for him, make him feel that there is really something about this strange and new America which is meant for service, not demands, which is not so hard to understand off-hand when acquaintance has been rightly made.

## Activities of Federal Government.

The Federal Government has opened a nation wide Americanization school which will fail unless all are ready to help. The timing of the plan is late by twenty-five years but it may work out happily. Educators throughout the country, social agencies, religious organizations were asked to provide teachers, halls, etc. It would be interesting to know just how generously Catholics have extended their help! The writer of this article knows that Catholic laymen and women, with time and means and no pressing demands on their energies, in some places have played the part of "stony ground" and received the word in silence. Thousands of those they have been asked to help are their co-religionists; these they have pitifully permitted to remain strangers in a strange land. Would the foreigner be as cold a host in his own country?

### Urgency of the Task.

Yet the task is an urgent one, especially urgent in view of the efforts of radicals of various stripes to lead the ignorant astray, to commandeer the forces represented by the immigrant into their own ranks. The times are critical, and some of the movements into which the immigrant is being drawn are inimical to the foundations of our Republic and of the social order as well. Hence not only guidance, but proper guidance is necessary, and none can excuse themselves from the duty of giving such guidance to the full measure of their time, means and ability. Catholics must share in this work.

(To be continued.)

## Catholics Kept Informed Regarding Clean Films

### Catholic Pre-Review Service Commends Additional Photoplays and Describes How It Arrives at Decisions.

By Charles J. Neegan

What is the standard by which we judge pictures? Easy! The writer has a wife and a young daughter. If a picture is clean and wholesome enough for them to view, he approves it from a moral standpoint. If there is real entertainment in it he says so—if not he says so. We are trying to serve our family as we would want our families served. That's all. No frills, no "holier than thou" attitude, no axe to grind, no desire to harm, no baneful influence to bow to.

As Catholics, we never forget that this Service is chiefly for Catholics—we bear in mind, always, the teachings of the Church. This is a safe standard by which to judge photoplays.

### Approved Films.

"Soldiers of Fortune"—all star cast (Realart Pictures—7 reels).

"Soldiers of Fortune" is Realart Pictures, Inc., first release and merits a big success. It's clean, appealing and entertaining. Colleges and schools would do well to show this to students—boys and girls.

"Ann of Green Gables"—Mary Miles Minter, star (Realart Pictures—6 reels).

Clean and wholesome, "Ann of Green Gables" is destined to achieve success. This picture will do credit to any theatre and is particularly adapted for colleges and schools. Adults and children will enjoy it.

For the first time in the history of the motion picture industry film has been transported by aeroplane from the west coast to the east.

## Catholic Lay Activities.

### Tasks For Catholic Laymen.

Written by Rev. Albert Muntsch, S. J., for the Press Service of the Central Bureau of the C. V.

### Continued from last week. Raising the General Standard of Living of Our People.

To say that "these people don't concern us; they're not of our parish." No wonder cases of this kind are referred to the Provident Association or to a "non-sectarian" body when Catholic laymen thus shirk their plain duty.

### The Catholic Lay Apostolate Must be Inspired by Catholic Principles.

When we draw up programs of social work for our Catholic women, we are sometimes reminded that "there are two distinct kinds of Feminism, the one based upon Christianity, the other upon revolt against revealed religion." So too are there two schools of social service, the one opposed to the other. The one has inscribed "philanthropy" on its banner and abhors the word "charity". It ignores supernatural motives and knows nothing about the charity taught by Christ. In the last installment we quoted the words of Professor Devine who says that "the idea of charity becomes in time obnoxious and an anomaly." This school wants to be strictly "scientific" and undenominational. But as Miss Fletcher rightly says: "The mental attitude defined upon paper as 'undenominational' has no existence in the human mind; the nearest approach to it is indifference. Below all sustained enthusiasms lie strong convictions."

Now our attitude in this matter is based upon the fact that the "social question" is not only economic, but also moral and religious. We can define our position in no better way than by quoting from "The Pope and the People, Select Letters and Addresses on Social Questions by Pope Leo XIII." (Catholic Truth Society, London, 1915.):

"It is the opinion of some... that 'the social question', as they call it, is merely 'economic'. The precise opposite is the truth, that it is first of all moral and religious, and for that reason its solution is to be expected mainly from the moral law and the pronouncements of religion. For suppose the productiveness of capital doubled, the hours of labour shortened, food cheap; yet if the wage-earner listens to teaching—as he commonly does, and acts upon it—which tends to destroy reverence for the Deity and to corrupt morals, his labour, too necessarily deteriorates and his earnings fall... That is the reason we have never encouraged Catholics to form associations for the assistance of the poor, or introduce other schemes of the kind, without at the same time warning them that such things must not be attempted without the sanction of religion, without its inclusion and aid... By the law of mutual charity, which, as it were, completes the law of justice, we are bidden not only to give to all their due and interfere with the rights of none, but also to do kindnesses one to another not in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth, remembering what Christ most lovingly said to His disciples: A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."

It stands to reason that many questions of social legislation, when carried out in a practical social order on religion. We must remain "neutral" when questions are dragged into the legislative arena. We must tend, for instance, of the parent to educate we will always look upon marriage as a Sacrament, and utterly oppose divorce, the rigid implication of "from now on" will always reject "socialism", which is, naturally, the basis of legislation and of many forms today.

### Conclusion

"Such then is the Lay Apostolate to which our Catholics are earnestly called today. As the opportunities for service are many let us hope that they listen to the call. We may say the statement made at the beginning of this series: New duties. The way of the Catholic layman to well-doing is loving charity and service to his community, to spread the Kingdom of God among the nations, ay, perhaps, to his own peace and welfare along the path pointed out by three great Pontiffs of changing times—Catholic Apostolate.

Margaret Fletcher, Feminism, Catholic Studies, Reform, VIII, London, E. S. S. Son, 1918.

## Late News of Ireland

### Carlow

The profession of Miss Hughbee, in religion Elizabeth Kevin, daughter of the late Rick Hughbee and of Mrs. Hugh Kildreenagh House, Bagninagh took place at the Convent of the Holy Trinity, Carlow. His Lordship, Rev. Dr. Foley, performed the ceremony.

### Dublin

At an ordination held at Cross College, Clontarf, following orders were conferred: The Most Rev. Dr. Milnes, Bishop of Down, to the Rev. Fr. St. Patrick's College, Drogheda; Rev. J. Donohoe, Deaconate; Rev. J. Donohoe, Robinson, Rev. J. Donohoe, Cross College; Rev. J. O. M. I.; Rev. P. Conway, O. M. I.; Rev. E. Doherty, O. M. I.; F. Hearn, O. M. I.; Miss P. Lyons, O. M. I., and T. O. M. I.

### Galway

At the Cathedral of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty to the priesthood Rev. M. Maboney, son of the late M. Maboney, Derrybeg, and of Rev. Father Columba, The Abbey, Loughrea. Married at St. Joseph's, Rahoon, Galway, by Rev. Fr. C. C. Clontarf, of the bride), assisted by Very Rev. P. Davis, Maurice Kenny, and Mary, daughter of Kenny, The Strand, Hill, Galway.

### Kildare

Athy Urban Council proceed to a meeting of 40 houses, held in a large school, with a view to development of the town to for £200,000.

### Wexford

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