

# The Catholic Journal.

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## Admiral Benson To Be Knighted.

The ceremony of conferring upon Admiral William Shepherd Benson, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, the decoration of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, of which he has been made a Knight of the Grand Cross by Pope Benedict XV, will take place in the Baltimore Cathedral on Sunday, April 11th. Admiral Benson is the first American to receive this highest degree of knighthood in the military division of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Cardinal Gibbons will officiate at the ceremony of investiture. It is expected that in addition to several members of the Catholic hierarchy and numerous lesser dignitaries, there will be present many of Admiral Benson's fellow officers of the Navy, and important officials of the various Government departments in Washington.

Pope Benedict, in his brief bestowing the honor of Gregorian knighthood on Admiral Benson, explains that it is granted as a recognition of the latter's having set for his fellow citizens "a most worthy example of piety and Christian virtue". Admiral Benson's appointment was made at the suggestion of Cardinal Gibbons.

The decorations which Admiral Benson will be entitled to wear as a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order consist of a silver medal and an octagonal gold cross bearing on a field of red the image of St. Gregory the Great. The silver medal is worn on the left breast. The gold cross is attached to a red silk ribbon edged with yellow. There is a special uniform for Knights of the Order, but this is seldom worn.

The Order of St. Gregory the Great was founded by Pope Gregory XVI on September 1, 1831. Knighthood in the Order was intended by the Pope as a reward for the civil and military virtues of Catholics upon whom it was conferred. The Order was placed under the patronage of Pope (Saint) Gregory I—the same that sent St. Augustine to Christianize the English.

Admiral Benson's services during the war and since have been of the most important character. As Chief of Naval Operations he was responsible for the execution of the United States Government's plan for warfare against Germany on the seas. These plans contemplated not only offensive and defensive operations, but also the protection of transports on their way to Europe with troops and supplies for the American and Allied armies. He was stationed in Paris during nearly all the sessions of the Peace Conference.

It is taken for granted that Admiral Benson's notable success as Chief of Naval Operations prompted President Wilson to put him at the head of the Government's merchant marine.

As chairman of the United States Shipping Board, Admiral Benson has the official care of 1800 vessels, more than \$3,000,000,000 worth of property, and several thousand employes. These 1800 ships constitute the largest merchant fleet ever placed under the direction of a single operator. They are sailing in all the waters of both hemispheres.

The operation of this vast fleet is but a part of the task which Admiral Benson has undertaken. The vessels already built and delivered to the Board represent 10,000,000 deadweight tons of shipping. There are under construction 475 additional ships of an aggregate of 3,000,000 deadweight tons. Admiral Benson is expected to complete this program of construction.

More than \$300,000,000 worth of surplus materials remains to be disposed of by the Board. Admiral Benson will have charge of the disposition of this property and also of 7000 permanent dwellings, nearly 1000 housekeeping apartments, 102 stores, 94 dormitories, five hotels and six boarding houses; numerous small marine railways, yards and warehouses.

If Congress determines that the Government shall withdraw from the business of building, owning and operating ships, this investment of billions will have to be salvaged on the best possible terms. This will be the most difficult work Admiral Benson has in prospect.

Big jobs are not novelties to Admiral Benson. As Chief of Operations for the Navy during the eighteen months of war with Germany he had what is regarded as one of the most important and trying positions under the Government. Even before that he had much executive and administrative experience—first, and in a relatively smaller way, as commander of several different dreadnaughts, and subsequently commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard and supervisor of the third, fourth, and fifth naval districts, from August, 1913, until his assignment to duty as chief of operations in April, 1915. He was then promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. This rank was later changed to that of Admiral—August 29, 1916.

In the latter part of 1917, Admiral Benson was assigned to temporary duty abroad, and was stationed in London. He returned to the United States but was again sent to Europe, this time to Paris. He remained there on special duty from October 15, 1918, until June 11, 1919.

Admiral Benson was born in Bibb county, Georgia, September 25, 1855. He was appointed as a cadet midshipman to the Naval Academy on September 23, 1872, and was graduated June 20, 1877. He was appointed ensign July 27, 1881; lieutenant (junior grade) 1888; lieutenant commander, 1900; commander, 1905; and captain, 1909.

New York—Buried with full military honors in Calvary Cemetery on the morning of March 19, although classed as a pauper, Private Oliver Dana Dyer of Leominster, Mass., hero of the war, late of the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion, with which outfit he saw service for more than eighteen months overseas, was saved by the Knights of Columbus from the Potter's Field after his death in the New York city hospital.

## Why Catholics in the U.S. Became Democrats

### The Effect of the Know-Nothing Movement.

Written by Henry W. C. Block for the Press Bulletin Service of the Central Bureau of the Central Verein.

Our fellow-citizens of Irish descent are united as never before in a desire to see full justice done to the national aspirations of Ireland, whose soul has not surrendered and whose heart still beats for liberty despite seven centuries of ruthless British oppression. Owing to the attitude of President Wilson in regard to the Irish situation, many of them are threatening to leave the Democratic party, to which they have been clinging for years. In St. Louis, for instance, Democrats of Irish extraction, members of the Friends of Irish Freedom, voted unanimously at a meeting held at Knights of Columbus Hall, on March 12th, to quit the Democratic party if the Democratic State Convention endorsed the League of Nations Covenant in any form.

### Roots of Anti-Catholic Sentiment.

It may be of interest briefly to review the causes leading to the birth and growth of Irish Catholic affiliation with the Democratic party in this country. They are connected with events in a remote period of England's history. The anti-Catholic sentiment, which sprang up in the days of Henry VIII, the colonists carried with them from their English homes. Warfare with the French Catholics on the North and West, and with the Spanish Catholics in Florida strengthened this sentiment. The assistance of Catholic France to the colonies during the Revolution practically quieted it from 1780 to 1830. There was little ground for alarm on the part of the Nativists in the number of our immigrants up to the latter year. As a matter of fact, dislike of European immigrants on account of their birth or religion was always more or less sporadic. In all nativistic contentions fair-mindedness and common sense, which saw in the Irish and German immigrants material for national enrichment, triumphed over the forces of intolerance and prejudice.

From 1831 to 1840 the immigrants increased to a total of nearly 600,000. From 1840 to 1850 1,700,000 immigrants arrived, nearly one-half of whom were Irish; probably three-fifths of them were Catholics. That which gave nativism its main strength was anti-Catholicism, and this rooted, as already stated, in colonial days. The first outbreak of nativism occurred in 1834, the burning of the Ursuline convent at Charleston, near Boston. It continued to manifest itself in different parts of the country, and the foreigners, of course, did not brook unjust attacks in silence. How could they in an American atmosphere?

### The Know-Nothing Movement.

The American or Know-Nothing Order came into existence about 1835. It was the outgrowth of a number of Nativist societies, which were formed from 1845 to 1849: The Star-Spangled Banner Order, the United Americans, the American Protestant Association, the Sons of America and others. The English historian Bryce says in his publication, "The Native American or so-called Know-Nothing party, had,

in two years from its foundation, become a tremendous force rising, and seemingly for a time to carry its own presidential candidate. In three years more it was dead and without a hope of revival."

Owing to the fact that the real name and purpose of the party were only disclosed to those of its members who had taken the higher degrees, the members ordinarily, when questioned about the order, replied: "I don't know." For this reason they were called "Know-Nothings".

"While in the North the crusade (against foreigners) was carried on mainly against the Irish," says Von Holst (VI-188). "The South was chiefly concerned in assuring the harmlessness of the wicked Germans." The movement attracted the rowdy elements of the population. In June and July, 1854, several Catholic churches were burned. This was followed by serious disturbances in Manchester, N.H.; Providence, R. I.; Baltimore, Louisville, Washington, New York, Brooklyn and other cities. On August 7th and 8th, St. Louis was the scene of riots precipitated by the Know-Nothings, resulting in destruction of life and property. Two hundred houses, including many belonging to Catholics, were more or less damaged. A crowd, which had assembled in front of St. Louis University, a Catholic college, and a mob, attempting to storm the office of the Anzeiger des Westens a German newspaper, were dispersed by local militia.

(Concluded next week.)

## Rev. Felix O'Hanlon Receives Gift.

Shortsville, April 6.—St. Dominic's Parish, which includes Shortsville, Manchester, and the surrounding country, gave a reception to Rev. Felix J. O'Hanlon, of Clifton Springs, rector of St. Dominic's Church for the past 25 years, in the school hall, Shortsville, at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening. A program was given by Walter M. Barry, Frank O'Brien, Frank Gilligan and Mathew Hill, after which a social hour was enjoyed. During the evening a purse was presented to Father O'Hanlon, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by his parishioners here.

Rev. Felix J. O'Hanlon was born in Ovid, N. Y., in 1859, and studied in St. Andrew's Seminary, Rochester, and St. Joseph's Seminary, in Troy.

His first charge was in Scottsville, where he was assistant rector, in 1886. The following year he was transferred to St. Mary's Church, Rochester, where he remained until February 12, 1895, when he was made rector of St. Dominic's, Shortsville, and St. Felix, Clifton Springs. The church here has made a remarkable growth under his leadership.

## Archbishop Hayes Donates Cup for "The Great Casey 600."

New York—Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes is announced as the donor of a \$1,000 silver cup which will be the coveted prize in the great Casey 600-yards invitation race, one of the principal events of the annual indoor games and reception to be held under the auspices of the New York Chapter of the Knights of Columbus on Saturday evening, April 22nd, in the Twenty-second regiment armory, 168th Street and Broadway.

The proceeds of the affair will be turned over to the local charities of the New York State Chapter, of which Dr. Harry P. Swift is chairman.

## IRISH NEWS IN BRIEF

### CONNAUGHT

Rt. Rev. Dr. O'Doherty has appointed Rev. J. Fallon, P. P., Clontuskert, to be V. F.

A ship with a cargo of 4,500 tons of corn has arrived at the deep water berth at Sligo Quay.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Naughton presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the Cathedral, Ballina, for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. Pádraic Loftus.

### LEINSTER

The death occurred at St. Louis, U. S. A., of Mrs. James Brazil, mother of Rev. Mother Alphonsa, Superioress Brigidine Convent, Mountrath.

The solemn profession took place at the Convent of Mercy, Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Australia, of Miss Maisie Ryan, in religion, Sister Mary Ita, daughter of Mr. Daniel Ryan, the Square, Mount-rath.

For the first time in Ireland a lady magistrate—Lady Redmond of Gortmore, Dundrum, County Dublin—took her seat on the Bench at Dundrum Petty Sessions and adjudicated with five other justices in the various cases.

The death has occurred at 4 Aldborough Parade, Dublin, of Mr. James Charles Collins, eldest son of the late James Collins of Drogheda, and formerly for a number of years chief clerk of the city hall.

In his Lenten Pastoral Rt. Rev. Dr. Hoare deals with the new education bill and points out that it is the duty of pastors and people to reject it as anti-Catholic and anti-National.

### MUNSTER

Rev. T. J. Hurley, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Harrison, N. J., died at St. James Hospital, Newark, N. J., aged 32. He was a son of the late Timothy and Hannah Hurley, Scanscra, Dunmanway.

Brother Benedict Murray has died at Roscrea, in Mount St. Joseph. He was one of the first colony of monks who came from Mount Melleray.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Sullivan, Kerry, expressed appreciation and thanks to the Kerry County Council and the Killarney, Tralee and Listowel Urban and Rural District Councils for their patriotic denunciation of the chief secretary's education bill, and their prompt profession of loyalty to the Catholic Hierarchy, and for their generous promise of support in the fight they intended to make against this latest attempt of English statesmen to tamper with the national and religious spirit of the people.

The SS. Milwaukee Bridge (Moore McCormack Line), direct from the United States, has berthed in Cork at Ford's Works with 800 tons of material for the company besides general cargo for city merchants.

### ULSTER

Among 12 Passionist students ordained to the priesthood at Sutton Monastery, St. Helens, by the Archbishop of Liverpool, were Rev. Fathers Matthews, Gribben, and Carolan, of Belfast.

The death occurred at the Parochial House, Carncorn, Castle-derg, of Rev. George Nelson, P. P., Ardstraw West.

The people of Annayalla Parish of Clontibret, near Monaghan, have decided on erecting a new chapel at a cost of over £20,000. The old church at Annayalla is fast falling.

Anne Dunne, aged 103, has died at Pullaughan, near Tullamore. John O'Brien, Ballinamore, Tullamore, died recently, aged 107.

## The K. of C. "Oath"

(From the N. Y. Evening Post, March 15th, 1920.)

The Knights of Columbus are reminded, from time to time, of the persistent purpose of certain persons to stir up religious hatreds in election years. Copies of the notorious "base" fourth degree oath attributed to them have been circulated in various parts of the country. This offensive production, which is about equally blasphemous and revolting has been circulated, occasionally, for many years. It is an old and worn out imposture and among intelligent persons defeats its own ends by its own absurdity.

Perhaps the best way to make clear what the obligation is which is assumed by the Knights of Columbus on entering the organization is to print it as it really is.

I swear to support the Constitution of the United States, to pledge myself, as a Catholic citizen and Knight of Columbus, to enlighten myself fully upon my duties as a citizen, and to conscientiously perform my duties entirely in the interest of my country and regardless of all personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and position of the ballot, and to promote reverence and respect for law and order. I promise to practice my religion openly and conscientiously, but without ostentation, and to conduct myself in public affairs, and in the exercise of my civic virtues as to reflect nothing to credit upon, our Holy Church, at the end that she may be glorified and our country prospered by the honor and glory of God.

If this is not a simple statement of good Americanism and of citizenship, what would be?

## Department of Social Action Formed

### For the Service of Catholics and the United States.

The new Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Council is starting on its important work. Last September when the Bishops of the United States met in Washington they formed a permanent organization, under the immediate administration of a committee of the Hierarchy, to further the religious, educational and social welfare of Catholics in the United States. The work of this permanent organization, which is called the National Catholic Welfare Council, is divided into several departments. One of these departments, all of which are under the control and direction of the Hierarchy, is the Department of Social Action.

Rt. Rev. Peter J. Muldoon, Bishop of Rockford, Illinois, member of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Council, was elected Chairman of the Department of Social Action. When he met with the organizing the Department of Social Action, he called a meeting of a number of eminent Catholic clergymen and laymen to consider such a board. At the meeting the plans for the Department were outlined and an Executive Committee chosen.

Bishop Muldoon and the Executive Committee will direct the work of the Department of Social Action, but immediately after it is given to John A. ... D. and John A. Ryan, ...

The Department of Social Action will deal with the ... ing the ... and social ...