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## Party Conventions Refuse To Indorse Smith-Towner Act

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Washington, D. C., July 10.—Both the big political parties having refused to approve the scheme for federalizing and centralizing education, the advocates of the Smith-Towner bill, which would create this bureau with a member of the President's Cabinet at its head, will have to continue their fight in the face of this double repudiation.

It is fully expected here that, notwithstanding the repulse which the lobbyists and propagandists for the program of centralization met at the Republican and Democratic conventions, they will subject Congressmen to further pressure.

Numerous champions of the bill appeared before the resolutions committee of the Republican National Convention and made the clamorous and insistent arguments in behalf of a plank that would commit the party to their bureaucratic plan. Despite all the eloquence and efforts of these advocates, the resolutions committee rejected their project, and adopted the following plank:

We indorse the principles of Federal aid to the states for the purposes of vocational and educational training.

Wherever Federal money is devoted to education, such education must be so directed as to awaken in the youth, the spirit of America, and a sense of patriotic duty to the United States.

A thorough system of physical education for all children up to the age of nineteen, including adequate health supervision and instruction, would remedy conditions revealed by the draft and would add to the economic and industrial strength of the nation.

National leadership and stimulation will be necessary to induce the states to a wise system of physical training.

The public health activities of the Federal Government are scattered through numerous departments and bureaus, resulting in inefficiency, duplication and extravagance. We advocate a greater centralization of the Federal functions, and in addition urge the better coordination of the work of the Federal, State and local health agencies.

Disappointed, but by no means discouraged, the lobby moved on to San Francisco to obtain from the Democratic National Convention what they had failed to get from the Republicans. The appeal for recognition of the Smith-Towner proposal was addressed with additional emphasis to the Democratic resolutions committee. What the Democrats gave was far short of the demands of these proponents of centralization.

The Democratic plank which came as a response to the propaganda, was this: Cooperative Federal assistance to the states is immediately required for the removal of illiteracy, for the increase of teachers' salaries and the instruction in citizenship of both native and foreign-born; (and) increased appropriations for vocational training in home economics.

While the Smith-Towner bill was pending in Congress all during the special session and the regular session—from May, 1919, to March, 1920—its friends urged

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## PASSION PLAY IN FRANCE, BUT NOT AT OBERAMMERGAU

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Paris, July 1.—Nancy's "Passion Play," which was inaugurated by Abbe Petit sixteen years ago, will be resumed this month after an interruption of five years. The play will be produced in the special theater which Abbe Petit founded among the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, of which he is pastor. Despite the damage which was done to the building by shellfire during the war, it has been restored, and generous gifts from friends have enabled Abbe Petit to purchase new costumes and accessories.

Christ's passion from the time of his entry into Jerusalem on the eve of his Crucifixion is the theme presented. The accompanying music is rendered by the Gregorian choir of St. Joseph's Church.

Abbe Petit insists that the part of Christ shall always be taken by the humblest civilian in the parish.

It seems assured now that there will be a production of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, the little Bavarian village, next year. The whole district surrounding Oberammergau has been so stricken by the war and so many of the actors in the sacred drama have been killed or disabled that it was impossible to present the play this year. Seventy of the villagers were killed. Richard Lang, who appeared as Lazarus in the play, is among the dead.

Anton Lang, for many years Christ of the Oberammergau play, says that he has again received an offer from an American impresario to present the drama in the United States, but has refused. He and the mayor of the village are at work selecting the new players who must take the places of those who have died. Except for the character of Lazarus none of the chief actors is wanting. Many musicians, however, will have to be recruited.

## Annual Catholic Congress at Liverpool

[By N. C. W. C. News Service.] London, June 30.—The Archbishop of Liverpool has given notice that the annual Catholic congress will be resumed this year for the first time since the outbreak of the war. The sessions will be held at Liverpool, and will begin on July 20, when after a short service in the Pro-Cathedral, Cardinal Bourne will hold a reception in the St. George's Hall, when he will deliver his presidential address. The proceedings proper will begin the next day, when the Lord Mayor of Liverpool will hold a civic reception to all the delegates to the congress in the Town Hall, after which the congress will settle down to business.

An enormous amount of work has to get through, and there are many pressing problems, both religious, social, and industrial which call for immediate consideration.

## Pope's Gift to Lithuanians

Chicago, July 12.—Announcement that His Holiness, Benedict XV, has transmitted to Lithuania 150,000 lire in order to relieve the starving children of that country, has been made in America by A. Steponaitis, commissioner of the Lithuanian Red Cross. The gift was subscribed through the Union International de Secours aux Enfants on June 10.

## Bishop of Trier Asks His Flock To Thank Pope

### Recounts the Kindly Acts of His Holiness to the Germans

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Trier, Germany, June 25.—The Bishop of Trier, Mgr. Felix Korum, has addressed an appeal to all the faithful of his diocese, in which he invites them to unite in offering their thanks to the Pope. The world is filled with hatred and self-seeking, the bishop says, and the Holy Father cannot but behold these things with sorrow and distress.

"Millions of oppressed and sorely-trying humanity have experienced his warm-hearted and unselfish sympathy, and the entire world has before it an example of Christian charity that shines as a bright light in the darkness," says the appeal.

Mgr. Korum reminds his people of what the Pope has done for humanity, and especially for them. He recalls the Pope's activities on behalf of the German prisoners of war; how he arranged for their exchange in some cases, or for a change of place of internment.

"Since November, 1918," he says, "no fewer than ten times did Pope Benedict XV make representations to the entente governments for amelioration of treatment, as well as for the repatriation of prisoners."

In addition to these matters, the bishop of Trier recalls what the Pope has done on behalf of the suffering, and particularly the starving children: "The future of our nation rests with our children, because from them must come the future generations."

"The Pope," Bishop Korum continues, "gave many millions of money from the funds which charitable Catholics in every part of the world placed at his disposal. To Germany alone the Pope donated 8,000,000 marks."

In making practical recommendation for the united act of thanksgiving to the Pope, Mgr. Korum says:

"Our repatriates and our children are pledged to the utmost thankfulness for this work of love rendered by the Supreme Pastor of the Church. The Catholic repatriates and children can best show their sense of gratitude to the Pope by deeds, and by helping, in their way, in bringing about a happy solution of some of the weighty problems with which the Holy Father, as head of the Church, is faced today."

"And so we urge, toward this end, that our repatriates and our children offer the Holy Communion on June 29, the Feast of the Holy Apostles, for the Pope's Intention. If that cannot be conveniently done, then let it be done on one of the Sundays of June or July."

"The German bishops will express to the Holy Father personally the thanks of all our children, and the Prisoners of War Relief Society of Paderborn will, in the name of all repatriated prisoners of war, offer their thanks to Pope Benedict XV on the festival of Saint Peter and Saint Paul."

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## Protestants Spreading Propaganda In Europe Through Use of Y.M.C.A.

### Belgian Priest Tells of Insidious Work Being Done In That Country --May Cause America to Lose Friends

[By Rev. J. Van Der Heyden] (Written for the N. C. W. C. Service) Brussels, June 30.—Since the war ended, American Catholic papers have often made mention of Protestant propaganda in European Catholic lands, notably in Belgium, and of the enormous sums of money collected by the "Interchurch World Movement" to carry on that propaganda.

Whatever may have been done elsewhere, we thought to have satisfied ourselves that no special proselytizing activity existed here. Letters to the episcopal chanceries elicited the uniform answer: "We know absolutely nothing of any organized work accomplished by the Evangelical sects in our diocese; neither priest nor layman as much as hinted at it thus far."

### Insidious Propaganda

Yet, was the campaign on for all that, conducted covertly, secretly, adroitly, so adroitly, indeed, that leading Catholics were inveigled into lending an unconscious aid to it and Catholic papers, as well as weeklies, into abetting it.

The Libre Belgique, for instance, the foremost Catholic daily, with a circulation wider than that of any other periodical in the land, had several eulogistic articles about the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. But yesterday, its regular correspondent from Bruges cited the Countess de Merode, a staunch Catholic of the highest nobility in the land, as having taken these essentially Protestant organizations under her patronage. She did so to awaken sympathy for the Y. M. C. A. of Bruges, ousted from the home it occupied since the armistice by "an Evangelical sect," which bought the place.

"The Y. M. C. A.," the correspondent writes, "is now in quest of a new home," and he makes an appeal in its behalf to the Catholic public, because, as he says, and no doubt also honestly believes, "it is merely a charitable agency with first rule to accord full recognition to the faith of the majority in the country in which it operates."

This guileless correspondent evidently does not know much about the Y. M. C. A. He does not know for instance that an American Mason, John L. M. Leish, M. D., taking up the cudgel for "Y" work in Europe, declared in the American Freeman, "Whoever assails the Y. M. C. A. assails the Masonic Fraternity," and again, "It is the particular agency to which Masonic support was most generously accorded during the war." Neither is that good correspondent of a Catholic daily aware of the statement: "The Y. M. C. A. frankly admitted that perhaps half of the association's secretaries, and many of its most efficient men serving in such capacity abroad, were Masons. At base and field, in high positions and low, in the United Kingdom and in Russia, I found Masons from many jurisdictions serving the Y. M. C. A." Thus wrote Brother Townsend Scudger, head of the Masonic Overseas Mission, in his official report to the United States lodges.

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## Nuncio to Prague Praises Devotion Of Czecho-Slovaks

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Prague, June 17.—Monsignor Kordac, archbishop of Prague and Monsignor Micara, the papal nuncio, were the principal speakers at the general assembly of the Congregation of St. Michael, recently held here in the great archiepiscopal seminary of Prague and attended by six Czecho-Slovak bishops as well as thousands of guests.

One of the most notable features of the event was the allocution of Monsignor Micara, who took occasion to thank the faithful Czecho-Slovak Catholics, both clerical and lay, for their persevering devotion to the Holy See and the filial love for the Holy Father.

"It will be a very agreeable task for me," he said, "to inform the Holy Father of this event and I am sure that your sentiments of devotion will be highly acceptable to him. For you are a chosen part of the Lord's flock, the administration of which has been committed to St. Peter and his successors. You have admired the love and solicitude of the Holy Father in his endeavors to help the suffering children of Czecho-Slovakia, but this is only a very imperfect proof of the warm affection which the Pope has for the Czecho-Slovak nation."

The benevolent words of the nuncio, interpreting the sentiments of His Holiness, were received with great enthusiasm. It seems that the assiduous efforts of the Catholic leaders of Czecho-Slovakia who allow themselves to be disturbed by no obstacles, have already borne fruit."

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## Pope Makes Gift To Aged Brother Of St. Gabriel

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Rome, July 10.—Dr. Michael Possenti, the aged brother of St. Gabriel of our Lady of Dolores, has received from Pope Benedict a handsome gold watch and chain bearing the papal arms and the date of the new saint's canonization.

Rare, if not unique, was the experience of Dr. Possenti, who had the privilege of attending the canonization of his brother.

Dr. Possenti is now eighty-six years old, four years the senior of his holy brother, but is still in good health. He was able to visit Rome for the canonization and was provided with special accommodations for the various ceremonies. He was the object of much attention from pilgrims who learned of his relationship to St. Gabriel, and the recipient of congratulations from many of the Pope's official family and from the Pontiff himself.

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Dolores was born in Assisi eighty-two years ago.

## EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Los Angeles, Calif., July 11.—A survey of the damage done by the earthquake of June 21, which shook a considerable portion of the suburban territory to the southwest of Los Angeles, shows that Catholic institutions suffered only relatively minor injuries. It is estimated that \$15,000 will more than repair the damage done. One school and two churches are affected.

## Munich Congress Discusses Relations Of Church and State

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Munich, June 17.—Discussion of the new relations of the church and state, as well as a consideration of the future of the Catholic schools were the outstanding topics at the recent diocesan congress held under the presidency of Mgr. Fuchsberger, archbishop of Munich-Freising.

Dr. Diriburger, dealing with the new relations of church and state, declared that although the new constitution of the German Empire and the Bavarian constitution permitted hope of certain liberties, they likewise concealed perils and difficulties. The Bavarian concordat being abolished in fact there had been prepared a project of new relations between church and state, but an insurmountable difficulty arose from the suppression of the contributions from the state to the church.

In the discussion on the subject it was pointed out by one speaker that materialism, socialism and masonry continued their contention against the Christian school system. The constitution and above all the perditional measures of Minister Hoffman on the school question made necessary all the vigilance of the clergy in order to defend their inalienable rights, parents must form associations; it was declared.

The third report concerned the clergy. The matter of recruiting new priests was discussed and it was pointed out that solid instruction and above all philosophical training was necessary. The clergy, it was said, could not remain aloof from the problems that concerned the laity such as the knowledge of finance and public hygiene. Dr. Schauer, rector of the seminary of Freising, treated of the altar and preaching.

## Angel Guardian Gets Check After Twenty Years

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Boston, Mass., July 11.—Caught in the woodwork of a small shop where it remained for twenty-two years, an envelope containing a check for \$18, drawn in favor of Brother Jude, treasurer of the House of the Angel Guardian, has been recovered by him. The envelope was discovered by a workman who was tearing down the old mail chute in the store house. The check bears the signature of P. P. Shaw, Treasury Department. Both the check and the envelope were torn and the check had dropped off, but it was welcomed by Brother Jude. Despite the fact that it was a little more than half a century old, it would have had in the meantime the time it was written.

The House of the Angel Guardian is an asylum for orphaned, destitute boys and girls in a school where had been and fourteen are from religious and moral training.

## NIGHT ATTACKS MADE ON DEERT CATHEDRAL

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Dublin, July 11.—A successful attempt was made to break into the Deert Cathedral from a window on the west side of the building. The attempt was frustrated by the vigilance of the night watchmen. The damage done was minimal.