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Slovakia Schism Has Been Quelled By Authorities

Dr. Vance, Who Aided in Suppression, Accorded Honors

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Prague, July 19.—One incident in the stormy career of the Catholic Church in Czecho-Slovakia has been closed by the departure of the Rev. Dr. Vance, of the archdiocese of Westminster in England, who is leaving Prague after a residence in the city of more than a year. During his stay in the Republic, Dr. Vance incurred the wrath of the anti-Catholic faction by his stirring defense of the Church, both in the press and in the pulpit, and his call to loyal Catholics to rally to the defense of their Church at a time when it was sought to undermine their allegiance, and to lead them away to the schismatic faction, which has now been excommunicated by the Holy Office.

Honors to Dr. Vance
On the eve of Dr. Vance's departure for England, where he has been recalled by his Ordinary, a banquet was given in his honor. The chair was taken by Prince Adolf Schwarzenberg, and among the guests were the Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Micara, and members of the British colony in Prague. The Archbishop of Prague, Mgr. Kordac, had hoped to be present at the function, but was prevented at the last moment by sickness.

In recognition of the services to the Catholic Church in Bohemia, Archbishop Kordac has conferred on Dr. Vance the title of Counselor of the Consistory of Prague, which is the highest honor at the disposal of the Archbishop. The Faculty of Theology of the University of Prague is also desirous of conferring some honor on Dr. Vance, while a lengthy document, signed by hundreds of Czech and German-Bohemian Catholics, has been sent to the Holy Father, testifying to the important work done by the Doctor during his stay in the Republic.

Minister Croce Favors Freedom of Education

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Rome, July 19.—The recent pronouncement of Benedetto Croce, the new Minister of Education in the Giolitti cabinet, in favor of freedom in education as opposed to state domination, has given the Catholics of Italy great hope that under his jurisdiction Catholic education will find far more favorable conditions than during the past fifty years.

"The atheistic or neutral or non-religious school," declared Croce, "is a logical absurdity and moral and intellectual fogliosity. Christianity has created the moral life in which we live and that in that sense we are all Christians is as indubitable as that since Rome has created law and Greece literature, we are in one sense Romans and Greeks. Religious thought alone allows us to resist the horrors which the world has seen in the past few years."

The Italian Catholics base their claims for freedom in education on the fact that the right of the parent is superior to that of the state. It is thought that under Croce's regime the movement for religious education in Italian schools may be freed from the obstacles which heretofore have hampered it.

Laymen's Council Soon to Hold Its First Convention

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Washington, D. C., Aug. 2.—The call for the first convention of the National Laymen's Council, to be held in Washington the last week in September, will be sent out this month by the Board of Directors of that organization and promises to bring together delegates from all national Catholic men's societies as well as representative laymen appointed by the spiritual heads of every archdiocese and diocese in the United States.

The board of directors will meet early next month to outline the complete program for the convention. Michael J. Slattery, executive secretary of the board of directors, who has just returned from a visit to many of the cities of the Far West, has found remarkable enthusiasm for the work of the council in San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Oakland, Los Angeles and Cheyenne in all of which he discussed plans for the forthcoming convention with prominent Catholic laymen.

Edward J. Tobin, of San Francisco, who was recently appointed a member of the board of directors, has expressed his conviction that the Laymen's Council will bring about the living results so much desired by active Catholic laymen.

"In fact," said Mr. Tobin, "such an organization has been a dream of mine for years and I am pleased to know that that dream is about to be realized." Richmond Dean, chairman of the board, has announced that John D. Ryan, of New York, and George T. Slade, of St. Paul, have accepted appointments as members of the board of directors of the organization.

Perpetual Mass On Battlefield For French Dead

[By N. C. W. C. Service] Paris, July 15.—On Douaumont Hill, where 400,000 soldiers fell, and where 300,000 bodies hastily buried in the course of furious battles, shall never be identified, a parish-priest of the Meuse, who was a military chaplain during the war, the Rev. Fr. Noel, has permanently established his residence to stand his watch amongst the dead. He will say mass every day for the souls of the soldiers on the very spot where they fell.

In the near future, on the highest part of the battlefields, near the Fort Douaumont, a great basilica is to be built. The cornerstone of the basilica was laid by Cardinal Dubois in the presence of Marshal Petain. There the Holy Sacrifice shall be celebrated forever, for all who lost their lives in the battle of Verdun. An immense ossuary intended for all the unidentified bodies is to be erected in the vicinity of the Cathedral.

Chaplain General Kelley On Road To Recovery

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Washington, July 31.—Telegrams from St. Louis give the information that Rev. Father Francis A. Kelley, Chaplain General of the American Legion and Special National Field Scout Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, who was severely injured when he was thrown from an automobile in that city on July 25, is out of danger and steadily recovering.

Part Being Played By Catholics In Italy's Politics

Popular Party Not Catholic Party Though Composed of Catholics

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Rome, July 19.—The Popular Party, which has attracted so much attention outside of Italy, by its program and accomplishments, is not a Catholic party; there is and can be no such thing. Catholic action here is an entirely different sphere. It is plain, however, that when certain people, known Catholics, and the principal organizer in their number a priest, formed the Popular Party, they felt sure their action could not be blamed.

The Holy See is not censuring those individuals, known to be Catholics, for taking part in the political life of the country. It has said nothing. It has no responsibility for what those and other individuals may do, nor does it give them any support. In fact, the very day on which the formal announcement was given to the world of the formation of this new political party, the Holy Father gave audience to Count Dalla Torre, who is head of "Catholic Action"—the Popular Union among Italian Catholics here—and explicitly and publicly told him that this latter organization alone was authoritative, ecclesiastical, Pontifical, and must continue with all the energy of old to represent and realize "Catholic Action" in Italy.

How the Popular Party Started
The first notice the world had of the formation of the Popular Party was the publication of its program. It was then learned that this proposed party would, like the Liberal, Radical, Socialist, and other parties, exercise political activity in future, but that it would not be a Catholic party and that the "Vatican had nothing to do with it. It was made known, too, that it would be called the Popular Party; that it would take Pope Leo's "Rerum Novarum" as its guiding text book, and that it would set itself to be the party of the people just as the "Rerum Novarum," while inculcating duties as well as rights, was commonly called the "People's Charter." All who desired to accept and uphold these principles were to be welcome.

The Popular Party's program was enormous. It included, first of all, naturally, such matters as had been objects of Catholic contention in the political sphere for years—freedom of education, for instance. It covered also many propositions which, while not strictly within the ordinary compass of Catholic political action, were morally good and desirable, and it comprehended in its objectives votes for women, the development of water power and many other things of a purely political or economic nature. The most important of these was electoral reform on the lines of proportional representation.

Chicago Leading in Relief For Central Europe

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Chicago, Ill., July 30.—Urged on by Archbishop George W. Mundelein, who subscribed \$1,000 out of his personal funds, the Catholics of Chicago have taken a long lead in the relief of the sufferers of Central Europe.

Catholic Girl Artist Gaining Great Distinction

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Washington, D. C., August 2.—Catholic women of America are not only taking a prominent part in reconstruction and social welfare works in which the country is engaged, but are successfully invading the field of art.

A Catholic girl, scarcely out of her teens, is already being recognized by American art critics as having attained a high place among the younger school of American painters. She is Miss Noretta McCormick Smith of New York, who established her studio in Washington last winter and who has painted such distinguished men in public life as President Wilson, Governor Cox, Governor Smith of New York State, and Mayor Hylan of New York City.

Miss Smith, who attended the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Name in Albany, is now ambitious to paint Pope Benedict XV, and with that end in view will travel to Europe next year. She has already done one likeness of the Pope for the Cathedral in New York.

Two prominent American prelates have already sat for pictures by the young artist. They are the Right Rev. Michael J. Curley, of St. Augustine and the late Right Rev. Thomas F. Cusack, of Albany.

Miss Smith's first work was done at the age of ten years. At the age of twelve she had already attracted widespread attention. The National Academy of Design bestowed on her a gold medal in 1914. By special permission she was allowed to copy the celebrated Colonna Madonna of Raphael, hung in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

Her work for the past few years has been confined largely to life pictures of prominent living men. In her little studio in the Arlington Hotel in Washington, she has paintings of scores of notable Americans of today who have sat for her.

Catholic Young Men's National Union To Meet

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] New York, August 2.—Inspired by the thought that the ideals toward which the organization has been striving in the forty-five years of its existence are bearing fruit in the establishment of the National Catholic Laymen's Council, the representatives of the 200,000 members of the Catholic Young Men's National Union will meet for their fifty-sixth annual convention in this city on August 28 and 29.

The sessions will be held at Hotel Vanderbilt.

Plans and details of the manner in which the annual Catholic Laymen's Council hopes shortly to establish Catholic civic centers for young men, and a training school wherein young men may be equipped for social service work, will be discussed at the meeting.

Twenty-two states, in which the organization has 693 branches, will be represented at the convention. The officers of the Young Men's Catholic Union include the Most Rev. P. J. Hayes, New York, spiritual director; Michael J. Slattery, LL. D., president; Edward R. Reagan, vice-president; Charles L. Ewart, second vice-president and Thomas J. Thornton, secretary-treasurer.

English Memorial To Irish Heroes Causes Debate

W. Cooze, M. P., Starts Inquiry—Is Squelched By Churchill

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] London, July 25.—A neat setback was administered in the House of Commons a few days ago to Mr. W. Cooze, member of parliament for South Tyrone, a bigoted champion of political Protestantism, who returned only a short time ago from a somewhat unenviable mission in the United States.

Getting up in the House with the obvious aim of making mischief about the proposed memorial to the soldiers of the Irish regiments, which is to be placed in Westminster Cathedral, Mr. Cooze asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that a circular had been issued under the patronage of the Duke of Cohnaught and other military personages, soliciting funds for the erection of a memorial to the men of the Irish regiments who had fallen in the war.

The burden of his complaint, as Cooze was at some pains to show, was that the memorial was to take the form of decorations in a "Roman Catholic chapel in a Roman Catholic cathedral in London." Cooze maintained that the men who fell were Protestants, and therefore the Secretary for War should take steps to see that the proposed memorial should be unsectarian in nature.

Cooze Squelched by Churchill
The War Secretary disagreed with him, and said that it was a matter for the individual subscribers, and not one in which the War Office should intervene. Cooze stuck to his guns, and with righteous indignation asked the minister if he was aware that men in the highest positions in the British army were engaged in propagating a circular, appealing to the friends of the Protestant soldiers in Ireland who have fallen to support this Catholic memorial.

"Will they be allowed," he asked wrathfully, "to go on in their capacity as British officers in high offices in the army?"

Evidently they will be allowed to go on, for Mr. Churchill replied very sharply to Cooze that a campaign to raise a Catholic memorial to Catholic soldiers who died fighting for the country is not one which, to say the least, calls for any sort of interference on the part of the War Office.

The House of Commons cheered this reply, and Cooze sat down, having deservedly got what he asked for.

Catholic Descendant Of Luther Appointed Pastor In Colorado

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Denver, Colo., July 30.—Rev. Father Aloysius Luther, O. S. B., a descendant of Martin Luther, founder of Protestantism, has been appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist's church at Longmont, Colo., to succeed Rev. Father Leo Eichenlaub, O. S. B., who has been transferred to Boulder. The appointment of Father Luther was made by the Right Rev. Abbot Aurelius Stehle, O. S. B., of St. Vincent's arch-abbey, Beatty, Pa.

Cardinal Logue Is Accorded Apology By Foreign Office

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] London, July 20.—A diplomatic apology has been furnished by the Foreign Office for the indignities put upon Cardinal Logue when, owing to the stupidity of a clerk-keeper, or some other underling, the venerable Archbishop of Armagh was obliged to call personally at the British Passport Office in Rome to have his passport revised.

In a statement issued by the Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, it is said that the Cardinal's secretary called at the Passport Office in Rome to inquire whether the Cardinal's personal attendance was necessary. The orderly in attendance replied that personal attendance was necessary, being ignorant that the presence of a Cardinal would not be insisted on, or that Cardinals apply for diplomatic visas at the Embassy and not at the Passport Office.

Apparently, from this statement, the Control Officer was unaware of the indignity that had been put upon Cardinal Logue, and it was not until His Eminence actually appeared in person that it was known that his attendance had been demanded. The orderly was reprimanded by his superior officer, who immediately called at the Irish Embassy to present his apology to Cardinal Logue. His Eminence had then left Rome, and the official issued a statement of the case to the Vice-Rector of the College, who assured him that Cardinal Logue wished that no publicity should be given to the incident.

The incident created a bad impression, but it is clear from the official apology that has been tendered that the slight was not intentional, and the fact that the Foreign Office called for a detailed report of the incident shows that its seriousness was recognized in the right quarters.

Miraculous Escape Through Appeal To Our Lady of Lourdes

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] London, July 25.—What Miss Kathleen McMillan, of Twenty-six, piously regards as her miraculous escape from death at the hands of a negro, who first leveled a revolver at her and then killed herself, is being related by her friends. Miss McMillan describes her immunity from the negro's insane attack to the convention of Our Lady of Lourdes. In addition to this, Miss McMillan declares she has been cured of a long illness by a visit to Lourdes.

Miss McMillan was in a hotel in Soho when three persons shot dead by the negro. She declares that the man who shot her and pointed a pistol at her, evidently with the intention of killing her.

"As I faced the woman could say to myself, 'Our Lady of Lourdes, help me.' Miss McMillan told her mother, a negro-frowned, turned the revolver against himself and later and sent a bullet into the left temple." Miss McMillan has pronounced herself completely cured of her illness. Both she and her mother are now in good health.