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Why French-Vatican Relations Are Halted

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Paris, July 30.—Not during the past fifteen years has religious politics been so much mooted in France as during this month. When the rumor suddenly spread that the parliamentary discussion with respect to the relations between the Republic and the Holy See was postponed because the negotiations carried on for the past three months in Rome were not ended, all newspapers endeavored to state the delicate difference that was responsible for this failure. The Government being bound by diplomatic secrecy, and all the bishops observing the most complete silence about a problem of which the solution depends on the Supreme Pontiff, it is necessary to remark that no information given out as to the state of the pending negotiations is to be given the value of an official pronouncement.

Why Negotiations Were Halted

The newspapers are unanimous in declaring that the only reason why the conversations between Cardinal Gasparri and the French Charge d'Affaires are not yet ended is that these conversations, instead of being confined to the question of the re-establishment of the embassy, encroached upon a wider and more difficult question, namely, the legal status of the Church in France.

In order to grasp the full meaning of this problem it is necessary to recall how the Law of Separation was voted in 1905. The law, in the first place, decreed that the State would not give official recognition to any cult. The anti-clerical majority of that epoch was indisposed to bestow upon the Catholic Church, in the persons of its bishops, all the ecclesiastical properties (churches, palaces, rectories, donations, foundations, etc.), holding that to make this concession would be to appear as bowing down before the Catholic hierarchy. They decided that, in each parish, the properties should be assigned to a "religious association" established by the parishioners.

Pope Pius X realized that such an organization was liable to relinquish into the hands of laymen—and perhaps even into the hands of quite doubtful Catholics—the material government of the parishes. He discarded it as contrary to the constitution of the Church.

The French Catholics obeyed the order of the head of the Church. Not a single "religious association" was established by the parishioners. The only attempts came from men who were notoriously strangers to the Catholic community.

In vain had M. Briand obtained the vote of a motion stating that "religious associations," in order to be legally recognized, should be established "in conformity with the general regulations of the cult." He had thus hoped to tranquilize the Catholics and have his constitution accepted. The Sovereign Pontiff repelled the formula as too uncertain. The Catholics continued their opposition to the "cultuelles" (religious associations), and the law miscarried.

The Government was then compelled to give up all hope of having the law enforced. The palaces were taken away from the bishops, the rectories from the rectors, and the revenues arising from the denations were no longer paid to the priest.

Benediction Given On Site of Shrine

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Washington, D. C., August 9.—By special permission of Cardinal Gibbons, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given for the 371 Sisters of the Summer School of the Catholic University, in the open air on the site of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, last Wednesday afternoon. Very Rev. George A. Dougherty, S. T. D., was on the altar in the absence of Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, Rector of the University.

The hundreds of Sisters, in habits of the respective styles and colors of their different orders, kneeling on the sward before the altar, and chorsing hymns in Gregorian chant, was a beautiful and impressive sight. The altar itself was the same at which Father Carroll, afterwards the first Bishop of the Catholic Church in the United States, was accustomed to celebrate mass more than 100 years ago.

Before benediction Rev. Father Bernard A. McKenna, S. T. D., turned the first sod on the spot where the foundation stone of the Shrine is to be laid with solemn ceremonies on September 23. Many of the Sisters kissed the sod and nearly all of them took away bits of the turf and other objects of souvenirs of the event.

Niece of the Pope Takes Residence On Fifth Avenue

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, August 6.—The Countess Lelia Biege di Costabissara, a niece of Pope Benedict XV, is paying her first visit to the United States, and, with her husband, Dr. Christian Manroner, has taken up her residence at No. 816 Fifth Avenue, where he leased a residence. Dr. Manroner, who is a graduate of Cambridge University, England; was a captain in the Italian Army aviation forces. In addition to being a niece of Pope Benedict, Mrs. Manroner is a niece of the Italian Ambassador at Paris, Count Lelio Bonin Longare. The Manroners have brought many of their art treasures to the United States with them.

Salesian Fathers Start Agricultural College In Ireland

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Dublin, July 25.—A new enterprise, resembling the activities of the Church in former days, has been undertaken by the Salesian Fathers in the diocese of Limerick. Having acquired a substantial estate in that county, they have established an agricultural college at which young men will be taught practical and scientific farming. This is the first institution of its kind in Ireland. Most Rev. Dr. Hallinan, Bishop of Limerick, opened and blessed the college.

In the old days the clergy in monasteries and abbeys were expert agriculturists. The late Archbishop Healy, one of the ablest archbishops produced by the Church, asserts in one of his works that so perfect and intensive were their methods of agriculture that the lands immediately adjoining the ruins of old monasteries revealed, on modern cultivation, a high state of cultivation in the past. There is every indication that the Limerick venture will be a complete success.

Eucharist League Holds Convention In Philadelphia

Recommendation to Holy See and Resolutions to Promote Canonizations

(By N. C. W. C. Service)
Philadelphia, Aug. 6.—Resolutions that the title of "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament," be recommended to the Holy See for consideration as worthy of a place in the liturgy of the Church, and that the causes of the canonization of the Venerable Peter Julian Eymard and the Venerable John Neumann be zealously promoted, were adopted at the closing session of the regional congress of the Priests' Eucharistic League, which finished its thirty-fourth annual convention here yesterday. Father Eymard was the founder of the Priests' Eucharistic League and Bishop Neumann, the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, introduced into the United States the devotion of the Forty Hours.

Hundreds of priests from points east of the Mississippi attended the congress, which was marked by impressive religious ceremonies in St. Peter's and Paul's Cathedral and by the reading and discussion of papers on different phases of devotion to the Holy Eucharist at the sessions held in the Girls' High School. Among the distinguished prelates who participated in the different exercises were the Most Rev. Dennis J. Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia; the Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, rector of the Catholic University; the Right Rev. Joseph Schrembs, of Toledo, Bishop Protector of the Priests' Eucharistic League; the Right Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, of Detroit and the Right Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, of Harrisburg.

Socialist Moves Against the Church Meet With Defeat

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Paris, July 30.—The Socialist minority in the Paris City Council moved to have the bill providing credits for the repairing of the Paris churches adjourned until all necessary repairs were completed in the schools. This motion was rejected by 53 votes against 15.

In the General Council of the Seine, the Socialists also proposed a motion calling upon Parliament to vote against the proposed embassy to the Vatican. The motion was also defeated by 48 votes against 20.

Scholarship Exchange With South America

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Notre Dame, Ind., Aug. 9.—Nine South American universities have entered into agreement for an interchange of scholarships with Notre Dame University this fall, according to advices received here from the Rev. John O'Hara, dean of the department of commerce, who is now in South America investigating educational and economic conditions. Father O'Hara has been received by leading diplomats and financiers of the principal South American republics and has had an audience with the President of Chile and his cabinet, at which Latin-American relations were discussed.

Pope Benedict Lauds Work of Fr. Champagnat

Rome, July 17.—On Sunday in the Consistorial Hall of the Vatican, in the presence of the Holy Father, there was read the Decree of the Heroism of the virtue of the Ven. Mariettin Joseph Benoit Champagnat, Marist, founder of the Institute of the Little Brothers of Mary. Mgr. Russell, Bishop of Charleston, was among those present. Mgr. Verde, secretary of the Congregation of the Rites, read the Decree and the address of thanks to His Holiness was delivered by Father Copere, Procurator General of the Marist, Postulator of the Cause.

The Holy Father based his reply, as he so often does, on the Gospel of the Sunday. The Ven. Champagnat was indeed a tree giving forth good fruits; these are seen in the progress of the work he founded. Referring too, to the other part of the Gospel, His Holiness showed how, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were false prophets in France, disseminating false and ruinous doctrine, called Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, but based on a false conception and interpretation of those words.

The Sodality founded by the Ven. Champagnat came providentially to confound those false doctrines and to mitigate the harm they were doing, by teaching truth to the growing generations. The result is seen in its progress, the number of those benefitting by it rising from five thousand to a hundred thousand.

Pope Buys House For Clergy of His Old Parish

(By the N. C. W. C. News Service)
Rome, July 25.—For a number of years while Pope Benedict XV was, as Mgr. Della Chiesa, working at the Secretariate of State, he lived in a home close to the parish church of Sant' Eustachio, where he said mass, had a confessional and assisted his clergy in parish work. The clergy house is now in a condition quite unworthy of such an important central parish and His Holiness has now bought for the use of the priests the house adjoining the church itself. There is a tablet, put up by the parishioners, on the house where the Holy Father used to live and an inscription on his confessional.

Catholic Honors Conferred

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Rome, July 25.—Don Paolo Albers, rector of the Salesians of Don Bosco, has been nominated grand officer of the Order of Sts. Maurice and Lazarus in recognition of the patriotic and charitable work of himself and his people during the war and at other times. His Holiness' sister, Countess Perisco Della Chiesa, has been named by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, acting as Pontifical Lieutenant of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher, Dame of the First Class of that order.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Paris, July 25.—The Catholics of the Viviers Diocese, in southeastern France, have just founded a Catholic union for the purpose of fighting against the high cost of living. The union has established, in the first place, a purchasing and selling co-operative society. A Vice-General of the Bishop was appointed chairman of the board of directors.

K. Of C. Convention Reveals Order's Great War Work

Delegation To Dedicate Lafayette Statue Sails Irish Freedom Indorsed

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, August 6.—With a final hurrah from the crowded decks of the excursion steamer Highland and an answering cheer from the French liner Leopoldine, the 250 members of the Knights of Columbus who will represent the order at the dedication of the Lafayette monument at Metz, Ind., left New York on August 5. The order and present him with the beautifully jeweled baton which is the Knights' tribute to him personally, bade goodbye to the thousand or more of their comrades who had escorted them down the bay. And with this customary thirty-eighth annual convention of the Knights of Columbus passed into the eventful and brilliant history of that organization. The convention, which was held at the Hotel Commodore, began Tuesday and ended at noon Thursday.

Finances of Order

The final financial report was presented at the first day of the convention. After reciting that through its employment bureau, 350,900 service men had been placed in positions since they were mustered out, the report showed that the enormous sum of \$21,516,497.70 had been spent on camp, community and employment activities in the United States, \$5,008,618 on work abroad, and \$1,791,855 on educational work, exclusive of college scholarships and including only actual accomplishments up to June 30. Funds invested in equipment, educational aid otherwise, were not included as expenditure.

The attention of the delegates was drawn to an exhibit of work done in K. C. schools and of students under the care of the K. C. which was set out in the hall room of the Commodore. The drawings by a young artist, much promise in the K. C. school at Philadelphia attracted a lot of favorable attention, as did the work of students in the night school connected with the Hospital for the Insane at Washington and toys, posters and cabinet work by convalescents under K. C. protection.

Great enthusiasm was aroused in the convention by the announcement that Marshal Foch was to be initiated into the order at Metz on August 21, the day of the present of the Lafayette statue, and when a cablegram from the great French soldier was read in which he praised their work and assured them of a warm welcome in France.

Insurance Membership

Supreme Secretary William J. McGinley announced in his report an increase of 170,381, bringing the total membership up to 750,000.

After the passage of the first Irish resolution on Wednesday a letter was received from Eamonn de Valera, president of the Irish Republic, dated August 2 at the headquarters of the Irish movement in Washington, calling attention to the facts that last year the Knights had favored Irish freedom. This led to the introduction of a second resolution at the morning session Thursday supported by a wonderful display of address by Joseph S. ...

PRIESTS DEAD DISCLOSE CHURCHES

Such is Dublin Report by Military ...

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin, July 25.—As the military occupation of the city continues, the military outrages are common. Priests are being up by the soldiers. ...

400 Catholics Resign From ... Force In

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin, July 25.—From the British ... Ireland continue ... Dr. Coburn ... when alluding to the Lord Mayor of ... the following ... "Should the ... police that they ... consequence to ... acts of violence ... the people ... that there can be ... unlawfulness ... of government ... the usual law ... on ... The ...