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Belfast Congress Studies Social Problems

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin — Aspects of reconstruction were considered at the annual St. Vincent de Paul Congress of the Diocese of Down and Connor held in Belfast. It was agreed that the Church's teachings could be applied to solve many difficulties with which the world is grappling.
The Church has fearlessly faced the question of the two extremes of income—the income of capital and the income of labor. That the industry in which a man is employed should provide him with what is necessary for his entire life is a doctrine which has the holiest sanction. The way out of the present situation is to substitute class co-operation for class combat. Consumers and producers must cooperate. And the three producing units—the farmer, the worker, and the capitalist—must cooperate among themselves. By these means wage troubles, threatening in trade, and the scandal of profiteering might be eliminated. American bishops were quoted on the subject. And a strong plea was made for a close Catholic study of such matters, that there might be a truce to the warfare of the different sections of human society, and that social peace and security might not perish from the earth.

Advertising for Judges
British law administered in Ireland has been a system of robbery based on jobbery. It was indefinitely expensive and its results were always problematical. Between justice and the justices there was a sharp division. Political humbugs secured the judgeships, from which Catholic lawyers were practically excluded—their technical fitness being almost as serious a disqualification as their religious views. Those British courts in Ireland have been suddenly thrown idle. The people's courts, now functioning throughout the main portion of the country, are attracting nearly all the legal business. Enlightened by Catholic jurisprudence, the procedure is cheap, swift and trustworthy. Protestants and Unionists are among the litigants appearing.

Much consideration has been caused in fossilized legal circles by an advertisement that has just been published in the southern papers for three judges to act in the people's High Court of Munster District. This plain method of picking the best men is deeply resented by old timers, because it is likely to produce a judiciary more learned in law than in politics and Anti-Popery. Hitherto, place-hunting was rampant and the man sought office. Now, for a change, the office seeks the man.

Worse than Zola
French journalists who are in Ireland making a first-hand study of affairs, are taking particular interest in the crusade against impure literature and unclean theatrical productions. They consider the action of the Irish Vigilance Committee more direct and effective than that lately resorted to by the French Senate in their own country.

Boasting literature and low plays are dumped upon Ireland by English publishers and theatrical companies. They constitute a national danger—for these things tend to create the taste by which they are enjoyed.

The Rev. J. S. Sheehy, C. M., made a vigorous protest at the last meeting of the Vigilance Committee against the circulation in Ireland of objectionable English journals, especially English Sunday newspapers. Their news and views are revolting to Catholics.
"Such unhealthy pabulum," declared Father Sheehy, "served up on the Lord's Day and shouted in the ears of religious men, is a menace and a scandal in our old Catholic land. We must extirpate the pest if we are worthy of the name of Catholics and Irishmen."

He held that the shocking details in these papers rivaled the coarse realism of Zola. They assailed the nation's moral ideal, and were more to be dreaded than the force at present employed to crush its physical life. "Let every Catholic lend its aid to smash and pulverize this paganism," is urged.

Recently all the parcels of vicious papers were seized on their arrival and hung into the Liffey.

Cardinal Logue's Homecoming
On his return to Armagh from Rome, Cardinal Logue was received by thousands accompanied by several bands. Unyoking the horses from his landau, the leading residents drew him from the railway station to St. Patrick's Cathedral. His eminence, in thanking them, said that he bore back to Armagh the inheritance of a deathless renown. Oliver Plunket, his martyred predecessor, had passed into the history of the church. That name would perpetuate the memory of the diocese when modern empires were forgotten.

Interviewed on behalf of the National Catholic Welfare Council, his eminence spoke of the scenes of splendor at the celebrations in honor of Ireland's martyr primate. "My Heart," he declared, "was filled with great joy at seeing the magnificent gathering of prelates from Ireland, America, and every other part of the world." His audience with the Pope and his meeting with Cardinal O'Connell gave him special pleasure.

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