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European Catholics Organize To Defend International Law

Principles Proclaimed and Resolutions Adopted by Paris Conference

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Paris, Nov. 25.—At the very moment when a number of Catholics were assembling in the Cathedral of Our Lady at Geneva to implore the Lord's blessings on the works of the assembly of the League of Nations, other prominent Catholics in Paris were laying the foundations of an international organization whose purpose is the study and the defense of international law.

The Paris conference, which lasted three days, met with a complete success. It was attended by men of highest standing in Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Chili, Poland and Czechoslovakia. The resolutions adopted were endorsed by such prelates as Mgr. Roland-Gosselin, who presided at the opening sitting; Mgr. Jullien, of Arras; Mgr. Deploige, of Louvain; such ministers as Mr. Van den Heuvel, Secretary of State for Belgium, and Mr. Meda, Italian Secretary of the Treasury; such eminent clergymen as Fr. Sertillanges, O. P., and Fr. de la Briere, S. J., and such diplomats as the Polish Minister to the Vatican. Professors of law, newspaper men, members of parliament, conservative Catholics as Senator de Lamazelle, democratic Catholics as Deputy Marc Sangnier have also adhered.

After hearing the reports of Baron de Montenach, Federal Counsellor for Fribourg; Mgr. Deploige, Director of the Institute of Philosophy of Louvain; Fr. de la Briere, editor of the Etudes, and Mr. le Fur, Professor of Law at the University of Strassbourg, the members of the Congress reached an agreement on these conclusions:

Principles Agreed Upon

The Catholics have no right to remain unconcerned as to the relations of nations among themselves and all organizations that may tend to the betterment of said relations.

No progress is to be expected in international intercourse unless the rules of a law of nations consistent with Catholic ethics be enforced among all nations.

It is necessary that the claims of justice be guaranteed in all intercourse among nations. Therefore, international judicial organizations are of paramount need. Said organizations should be empowered with the right to apply all necessary sanctions.

The Catholics should support all endeavors tending to the establishment of arbitration, instead of violence, in the settlement of quarrels among peoples.

The different orators pointed out that these principles are consistent with the constant directions of the Sovereign Pontiffs which were confirmed and specified in the last Encyclical Letter of Benedict XV, on Reconciliation and Peace. This appeal to brotherhood is to be found again in the telegram sent by Cardinal Gasparri to the Paris Conference in the name of the Holy Father.

The members of the conference were unanimous in expressing the wish that the League of Nations ultimately appeal to the Pope, and thereby secure the assistance of the highest moral authority in the world. The orators availed themselves of this

opportunity to recall the public tribute paid to the universal authority of the Holy See, in the report presented before the French Chamber on the subject of the resumption of relations with the Vatican.

Some speakers laid great stress on Cardinal Gibbons' statement in favor of the League of Nations. Resolutions Adopted

Governing principles having been agreed upon, practical resolutions were then passed as follows:

1. A meeting shall be called, every year, for the study among Catholics, of various international questions, such, for instance, as international labor legislation, immigration regulations, national and international protection of Missions.

2. Scholars, theologians and professors are requested to study, collect and publish the teachings of the Fathers of the Church, and of the different Councils and Popes, on the law of nations and fraternity among peoples.

3. Catholic universities should organize the teaching of International Christian Law (a professorship was already in existence at Louvain, another one has been created this year at Paris), and these plans should be built on a broad scale.

4. Catholic scholars shall be invited to participate in great numbers in the annual conference.

5. The Holy Father shall be respectfully asked to appoint a correspondent in the Vatican for the International Union of Study. The headquarters of the Union is to be located at Louvain, No. 1 Rue des Flamands. The office of the secretary will be filled by the Revd. Harmignie, Professor of Moral Philosophy at the Catholic University.

New York's First Catholic Church

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
New York, Dec. 1.—The one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of New York's first Catholic Church was celebrated last Sunday at St. Peter's Church, Barclay and Church streets.

At the time St. Peter's was built, in 1785, New York was chiefly Dutch and English in character and not only non-Catholic, but decidedly anti-Catholic in its tendencies. However, the aid given America by Catholic France had a great deal to do with removing the prejudices of the day. The Spanish minister officiated at the laying of the cornerstone.

It was the members of St. Peter's parish who founded and built St. Patrick's Cathedral. The anniversary of the cornerstone laying occurred November 4, but the celebration was deferred to the first Sunday of Advent.

Paris, Nov. 15.—Mgr. Fabre, Bishop of Marseilles, on Sunday, November 7, laid the first stone of a church to be erected at Marseilles in memory of heroes that fell in the war. A public fund will defray the cost of the construction. This church is to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart, and will have a tower 63 meters high.

Paris, Nov. 25.—The Novena of the St. Quentin Pilgrimage, which was interrupted by the war, has been resumed this year with a large attendance. Under the presidency of Mgr. Biner, Bishop of Soissons, the procession of the relics of the glorious martyr was conducted within the walls of the wrecked Basilica.

K. of C. to Oppose Plan to Revive Old "Blue Laws"

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
New York, Dec. 6.—The false philosophy of those radical reformers who would force upon America a program of "organized and legalized" unhappiness will be combated by the Knights of Columbus in their winter series of lectures against Bolshevism and other extremist movements, according to announcements made by Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty and Supreme Secretary William J. McGinley, in discussing the proposed legislation whereby the Lord's Day Alliance and the National Reform Association hope ultimately to bring about the prohibition of golf, baseball, railroad transportation, moving-pictures and even the movement of the mails on Sundays.

"The organization will take no part in paid activity against 'blue laws,'" declared Secretary McGinley, "as that course is no less censurable than that of those who accept pay to agitate for them. It is a matter of patriotic consciousness. Common sense forces us to pity the man who will accept wages for his attempts to force his own views of righteousness on the nation. America has common sense and will reject any program that calls for organized and legalized unhappiness."

Secretary McGinley admitted that the order had already received numerous proposals from those who would campaign against the proposed "blue laws" under K. of C. auspices.

"We have even had offers to contribute to a campaign fund to be used in countering the 'blue law' advocates," he said.

Supreme Knight Flaherty, in his statement referred to the "mischievous interference" of those attempting to promote the rigid blue laws and asserted that the organization believed lawful Sunday sports were an aid to a healthy public life.

According to the advocates of the proposed "blue law" measures, including members of the Lord's Day Alliance and the National Reform Association, the entering wedge in the fight will be the enactment of legislation for the District of Columbia and for United States insular possessions and all Army and Navy reservations. Senator Wesley K. Jones of Washington will lead the fight in the Senate and Representative Henry W. Temple of Pennsylvania will introduce the bill in the House.

French Naval Officers Organize For Spiritual Good

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Toulon, France, Nov. 21.—A religious confraternity of French naval officers with headquarters at Toulon has now spread from Constantine to Copenhagen, wherever the French fleet is stationed.

The confraternity has for its object the perfection of its members by means of the interior life and the love of God. Every member offers communion once a month for the members of the confraternity.

A monthly bulletin is sent to all the members and in every group a weekly meeting is held for prayer in common followed by conferences on the truth of Catholic faith and the spiritual life.

Tyrol Sisters Appeal to America

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—Funds to buy wax tapers in order that the Blessed Sacrament may be continually exposed in the little chapel of the Convent of the Perpetual Adoration of Imbsbruck, Tyrol, Austria, are being besought of Americans by the superior of the convent, Mother Maria Magdalena Hehman.

"The principal end of our Holy Institute," writes Mother Maria, "is the perpetual adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, exposed day and night, should receive the homage of his little spouses and adoration and reparation for those who forget him, and offend him by their ingratitude and blasphemies. But the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament requires a continual illumination of wax tapers, the price of which is so enormous that we have great difficulty in paying for them. We have already often shed tears because we have not been able to buy them and our Lord was obliged to feel our want. This is the greatest sorrow in our hearts, not to have sufficient money for the glory of our Lord and the respect that is due Him. His altar is so badly lighted day and night. We also need the capital necessary for installing electric light in our chapel. May the good God send us a benefactor for this."

According to Mother Maria a majority of the Sisters cannot walk any more owing to a malady of the bones caused by living a long time on nothing but vegetables boiled in water. They are required to pay thirty and forty times as much for flour as before the war and nearly one hundred times as much as before the war for eggs and butter.

Social Studies Congress in Rome

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Rome, Nov. 21.—Plans for a Congress of Social Studies to be held in Rome from December 13 to 18 have been completed by the Italian Popular Union.

Many of the foremost Italian authorities on social problems are scheduled to address the congress, including Professor Angelo Mauri, member of the Chamber of Deputies, who will discuss the development of the small farming system.

The Rev. Arthur Vermeersch, professor in the Gregorian University is to treat of the Social Function of Property.

The first three days will be devoted to a discussion of the Italian land question, which is regarded as a grave one by the country at large. The latter days of the congress will have to do with the position of wage workers in industry. Professor Federico Marconini, of the University of Turin, will speak on "The Wage System and Its Characteristics" and the Rev. Angelo Bruccoleri will discuss "Workers' Participation in Profits, Management and Ownership of Industry."

One of the most important papers of the latter days of the congress will be that of Professor Antonio Bettanini, who is to speak on "Catholic and International Organized Movements." An open forum will follow each discussion.

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Italian Elections Show Increase In Catholic Strength

Rome, Nov. 12.—Increased power for the Italian Popular Party and a decided loss in strength for the Socialists are shown in the returns of the municipal elections of Italy which have been thus far announced.

The Socialists, who controlled nearly one-third of the entire parliament as a result of the elections of 1919, have met defeat at Turin, where, on account of previous revolts, they held themselves sure of victory, and won out in Milan only by a scant majority. Bologna is the only other large center they have thus far captured, although they expressed confidence they would sweep the nation.

There are 6,647 municipal elections already decided, and the Socialists have captured 1,913. The remaining elections cannot raise this number any higher than 2,000, which is less than one-fourth of the whole number of boroughs.

Mt. Carmel Basilica, Built Over Century Ago, Consecrated

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Jerusalem, Nov. 10.—The Basilica of Our Lady, erected on the top of Mount Carmel, finally has been consecrated by Monsignor Barlassina, the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The Basilica was constructed more than one hundred years ago and is the sixth church that has been raised on the sacred soil which it occupies. The first was erected in 83 and was followed by one of noble proportions built in the fourth century by St. Helen, mother of Constantine.

A regular monastery was established in the twelfth century by St. Berthold and another shortly afterwards was built by St. Brocard. Following the ransacking of these, St. Prosper undertook the building of another edifice in the seventeenth century. After this was destroyed Brother John Baptist started work on the present structure, the solemn consecration of which has given joy not only to the Order of Carmel, but to the devout clients of Mary the world over.

French Foreign Missions Conference

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
New York, Dec. 8.—The Very Reverend F. Delmas, Superior of the Paris Foreign Missions, is passing through this country on his way to Hongkong for an important conference with the Bishops of his society.

He arrived in New York on the steamer La France and was received by the Very Reverend James A. Walsh of the American Missions.

After a few days at Maryknoll, Father Delmas, continued his long journey to the coast, to embark for China at Seattle.

The Paris Seminary, of which Father Delmas is Superior, counts almost 1,400 priests in Eastern Asia, and the coming conference in Hongkong is the outcome of recent deliberations in Rome concerning the welfare of this great Society whose history is a record of martyrs and of noble achievement under trying conditions.

Raiding Priests' Homes Latest Phase of British Rule in Ireland

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Dublin, Nov. 25.—The warfare in Ireland is characterized by increasing hostility to priests. In the night the residences of the Jesuits in Limerick was visited by three armed and partly disguised men who entered through a window by a ladder. They searched the priests' bedrooms and showed a paper of which was written "If you move from here for two hours you will be shot."

One of the raiders had an electric torch. After a four hour search they departed, taking with them the war trophies—cartridge-clips and helmets—that were in the college museum.

Government forces broke up a night into the Augustinian monastery in the same city and were cutting their way through the zinc screen in the hall when Father Hunt, aroused by the sounds, came down and opened the door. Every room in the building was ransacked.

There was similar procedure at night, in the Capuchin Priory at Rochester, near Cork. Nothing to justify these searches was found.

The experience of Father Fallon, Parish Priest of Chesham, Hertfordshire, County of Herts., will suffice to illustrate a more revolting phase of anti-Catholicism. Armed forces of the British Government pulled him out of bed and beat him with the butt ends of revolvers. They said they were going to shoot him, and put him kneeling against the wall in his bedroom.

"One!" was called out to the firing party. Father Fallon told them they could shoot away, but they would not make him afraid. In the end they did not shoot, before going they used full language and called the priest's names.

Four Catholic Mayors Elected in England

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
London, Nov. 25.—Four Catholic Mayors have been elected to office by various municipalities.

One of these so-called "lady" mayors, Mrs. Chapman, who becomes Mayor of Northampton, a little town on the south coast of England. The borough of Lambeth, south of Westminster, has a Catholic Mayor this year, the town of Sudbury, in Suffolk, has elected its first Catholic Mayor since the Reformation.

The Mayor of Sudbury is an army officer with a distinguished military career of some 44 years. Major Gont, who in addition to his civic duties finds time to serve the daily Mass in the town of which he is chief magistrate. Mayor Gont's first predecessor in the mayoral chair was installed in the year 1282.

Holy Name Society Has New Director

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—The Very Rev. Michael J. O'P., of Baltimore, has been appointed National Director of the Holy Name Society of the United States to succeed the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, who was appointed to the position in the philosophy of the University. The new director of the Society whose history is a record of martyrs and of noble achievement under trying conditions.