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Thirty Years

Writing on the activities of the Catholic laymen in "Columbia", Thomas F. Meehan calls attention to the fact that the real co-ordination and correlation of Catholic lay activities into a national organization really dates back to the American Catholic Congress in 1889 when the late Archbishop Ireland gave this admonition to the delegates to that gathering:—"Go to your homes," he told them, "filled with the enthusiasm that has marked this first Catholic Congress of America. Go back and say to your fellow Catholics that there is a departure among the Catholics of the United States. Tell them that heretofore, so to speak, you have done but little, but that henceforth you are going to do great things. Tell them that there is a mission for laymen."

This new factor was the work of the Knights of Columbus so unobtrusively inaugurated by ten laymen, under the direction of the Rev. Michael Joseph McGivney, on the evening of January 16, 1882, in the parish house of St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Connecticut. The ideal of its inception was "to meet the vital need for a society of laymen which would unite the male element of the Church at its strongest point, strengthen above all its spiritual aspirations and complete that synthesis between faith and good works, that combination of righteousness and the conduct of everyday temporal affairs, which must be in our world the providence of religion."

Wise and conservative management, with prompt acceptance of ecclesiastical counsel, gradually developed the new Order from its first parochial limits into the great national representative organization that in the World War, and after, proved in the most unassailable manner that the Knights of Columbus, as the synthesis of Catholic lay activity, was a society meeting every requirement in "a tremendous crisis which demanded the highest qualities and the most energetic effort which could be required of any body of men."

Grand Knight McInerney is not modest. If Marshal Foch stops anywhere he should come to Rochester says Jack. Right you are!

Says the New York "Times":—Every official encouragement should be given to the free, full and ardent expression of the nation's heart in its petition for the success of the conference in which America has taken the initiative. Americans will not be alone in their prayers and their hopes for like hopes and prayers will rise from every people touched by the great war.

A contemporary wonders if Armistice day should be observed as a feast day or a fast day? Why not observe it both ways—and in a spiritual sense only.

Unemployment

Undoubtedly, many level-headed, hardboiled business men rather scoffed at the recent unemployment conference held in Washington under direction of Secretary Hoover. Quite likely many theorists were sceptical of any actual accomplishment unless their pet theory and that only was put into effect, adopted as the panacea by the conference. As Arthur Woods told the Mayors and Governor Miller in Albany the other day nothing new was presented or developed, but an effort was made to put into practical effect immediately some of the old remedies that had worked successfully in other years and other localities.

After all, the Post Express is not so far astray when it says:— Practical men are disposed to laugh at such things as the recent unemployment conference in Washington. But practical men did not expect from it concrete and direct results in doing away with unemployment. The conference did not make void the forebodings of such men, but it did some good, and even these men are willing to acknowledge the good. It did make more clear the necessity of immediate measures for the relief of unemployment. Most of these measures have to be taken by municipalities or by private employers. Many of those who should have taken such measures did not do so until the conference pointed out the pressing necessity for taking them. It received reports, before its adjournment, from trade bodies in 119 cities that the emergency measures recommended by the conference had been or would at once be taken, and it is likely that more such bodies will now proceed to act. Some of the suggestions of the conference were impractical, but we should at least give it credit for waking up the country to the imperative need of action towards solving the unemployment problem.

Think It Over!

Who is really at fault in the impending transportation crisis? Are the employees the aggressors? Or are the railroad managers back to the days of Vanderbilt, Morgan and Baer in their assumption that the Almighty really made them the custodians of the wealth and resources of the country and entrusted its distribution to them alone and upon the terms they choose to prescribe?

The New York "World" takes this attitude:—Excepting government costs, railroad rates are about the only notable war charge upon the country that has failed to liquidate in some measure at least. There has been failure even to liquidate rates as railroad wages have so far been liquidated. And now we are told that the roads have no intention of liquidating rates except in so far as wages are additionally liquidated. Can monopolistic arrogance go further?

Clubs

If there is a national or international club unrepresented in Rochester, now that the Lions' Club has let out its initial roar, we would like to know what it is. There are the Rotary, Ad, Kiwanis, Optimist, Masonic, City, Columbus, Moose, Woman's City, Eagles, Elks, and what not all meeting in the noon-day and nightly luncheons, fraternizing, trying to devise ways and means for civic and individual betterment, promote closer and better business relations and to conserve the general good as the club fraters see it.

Let the Lions roar! They are the latest invaders of Rochester's club preserve. Long may they survive and may their den in Rochester be a lambs resort rather than the suggestion that might makes right and that only the strong will survive.

Stop It

While every one would like to see the railroads prosperous and making money; while everybody would like to see the railroad workers receive high wages; nevertheless they cannot do so unless we are working and purchasing.

If the railroad executives are obstinate in declining to treat with their men; if the workers are obstinate and refuse to work; then we of the outside public cannot work or eat very long and then the whole community suffers. Much as most of us dislike to resort to forcible means, nevertheless if some machinery for compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes is not provided there are troublesome times ahead.

Let the workers think twice before they force public ownership of railroads. Let them look upon the postal workers. Is their condition bettered by governmental control of the postal service?

Irish Culture

Irish culture is not dead as witness the following extract from the Irish Independent:—

Count Plunkett, in whose hands the direction of affairs rests, is qualified in an eminent degree for his appointment as Minister. His book on Botticelli is justly famous, and many academies and schools of art on the Continent insert his name upon their most honored list. The Count, who was director of the National Museum, and president of the Irish Society of Antiquaries, has been for years vice-president of the Royal Irish Academy.

"One of the projects that he has already in hand is an exhibition of works of art illustrative of Irish genius. This he proposes to hold early in the coming year, first in Dublin, and later in Paris, timing it possibly with the Irish Race Convention, for which arrangements are already being made. He is also concerned with the formation of an Academy of Christian Art. This, as well as educating the Irish priesthood in a very necessary branch of training, should also prove of practical benefit to the Irish craftsman."

In the passing of Father Fidelles (James Kent Stone) a noted writer and famed missionary priest the Catholic Church loses one of her devoted sons. May his soul rest in peace.

One consolation, Rev. John Sayles, the bigot candidate for Mayor of Buffalo ran last in the recent open primaries. But it is a sad reflection that there were 4275 bigots in Buffalo for that many cast their ballots for Sayles.

Is it not a lethargic municipal campaign?

Women voters seem to be losing interest in the franchise, judging from the registration in Rochester.

They are still paying compliments to the Catholic Journal's Calendar and Historical Review.

It is your duty to vote Tuesday, November 8th, and may the best man win!

Hunting season is on. Safety first parties please take notice.

Football is the King of outdoor sports now although golf and tennis have their ardent admirers.

Many congratulations were received by the Catholic Journal on its industrial and historical review. Our local contemporaries of the daily press were very kind in their comments.

All of us could be more considerate for those around us.

If each of us strove to do at least one kind act each day it would be a great help.

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