

Interview Given By Bishop Walsh On Leaving Paris

Had Made A Study Of Early Career Of Fr. Rale, Noted Maine Missionary

(Note: The following account of the ardent labors in Europe of Bishop Walsh of Portland, whose death occurred May 19, concern a subject near to his heart the establishing of all facts possible concerning Father Sebastian Rale, the "Apostle of Maine". The interview was given before he was fatally stricken.)

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, April 24.—Mgr. Louis S. Walsh, Bishop of Portland, Me., who embarked yesterday at Cherbourg on his return to America, had the opportunity to make, in the course of his stay of two months in Europe some very interesting studies in Rome and Geneva, as well as in Paris and Pontarlier, where he went especially to collect souvenirs of Father R. P. Rale, one of the first priests to labor in the state of Maine.

I had the honor to have a long conversation with Bishop Walsh before his departure for America, and His Lordship gave me some valuable observations concerning his research relative to Father Rale, whom he ranked among the most remarkable and the greatest of the pioneers of the Catholic faith who evangelized the New World.

"Will you believe it," said Bishop Walsh, "the story of this magnificent hero has never been known as it really is. Even the compatriots of Father Rale themselves did not know all the brilliance and prestige that were his and that now surround his name in our eyes. Even those investigating his life were astonished at the discoveries, and they will now pursue with redoubled ardor the research which I have begun concerning the origin and youth of this saintly missionary."

"Furthermore, already the first work I have done has given me satisfying results. For instance, we have established that Father Sebastian Rale was born at Pontarlier in 1652, and not in 1657, as was formerly believed. Also, having seen the country in which he lived, it is possible for me to understand better that extraordinary physical resistance which astonishes one when one reads the story of his life; that mountainous country, picturesque but very cold, with its rugged climate and scanty sun, is inhabited by a race industrious and inured to hardship. Truly, it was necessary to come from that country to withstand all the privations and all the misery to which Father Rale was subjected in his career as a missionary."

"In what city was he was born? What exactly was his family? I am not yet able to say. Numerous families of the region bear the name Rale, and that fact did not aid me in my search. But the inquiry, after my departure, will be pursued with the assistance of the clergy and prominent people, and the facts indubitably will be ascertained. The Archbishop of Pontarlier caused to be read in his churches a notice asking all the faithful to contribute what they could to the success of this study."

"What we believe we can affirm definitely is that Sebastian Rale entered the house of the Jesuits toward 1680 and that he was ordained a priest at the age of 16 years. His studies were made at Nîmes at Carpentras and at Lyon. We are even told he profited by his stay in Lyon to do missionary work among the workmen every hour that he was free from his labors as a student."

"It was in 1689 that, at La Rochelle, he embarked for America, where he was to live thirty-five years, four years at first in Canada, then thirty-one years in the territory which was to become the state of Maine, and where he found, in 1724, an heroic death. It is sad that, his body having been burned, we are not able today to honor the remains of this apostle and martyr."

"Abbe Dimanche, Archbishop of Pontarlier, wished to confide to a committee composed of priests, two lawyers and two doctors the duty of continuing the research which I had begun. I must say that from the first hour of my work, I received from the Archbishop aid from his assistants the most hearty cooperation. I was the object, also, of attentions which touched me deeply. A banquet was given for me in the course of which flattering things were said by the clergy and laity. I was particularly struck by the happy terms with which a lawyer declared the union of the faithful in accomplishing this work. Naturally, I am very happy to find that the research which I have begun, the department believes,

has for France and Maine has for Pontarlier."

Bishop Walsh, who arrived in Europe in February, found himself in Paris just in time to assist at Notre Dame in the solemn Te Deum sung in honor of the anniversary of the coronation of Pope Pius XI and to participate in the reception held on the same day in the nunciature and at which the flower of French society, with the representatives of the religious and political worlds were present.

In course of his two stays in Paris, before and after his journey to Rome, the Bishop of Portland had numerous conversations with Cardinal Dubois, Mgr. Carretti and also with his old colleague, Mgr. Baillif, who was, it is said, one of the questioners at the Conference at Malines. He also met in Paris his Eminence Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster.

At Rome, he had the happiness to assist at the Consistory in the course of which the Cardinal's red hat, was conferred on Archbishop Muncie and Hayes, that incomparable ceremony which, for the first time in the history of the church, was held in the Basilica of St. Peter's itself. Bishop Walsh was the only American bishop present at this ceremony.

He had, in the course of his stay conversations with several Cardinals and was twice received in audience by the Holy Father.

On his return from Rome, he stopped at Geneva, where he saw the American observer at the League of Nations, Mr. Switzer, and where the Secretary General, Sir Eric Drummond, conducted him through the departments of the League.

"I was extremely interested in this visit," said Bishop Walsh "I believe that a work much more important than one can imagine from a distance is being accomplished at Geneva. It appears to me indispensable that Catholic opinion not remain indifferent to the manifestations of this activity."

After his visits at Lausanne, at Pontarlier and at Paris, Bishop Walsh went to Lisieux, where he celebrated Mass in the Chapel of Carmel. He visited the family home of Sister Teresa of the Infant Jesus and saw the sister of the beatified one, who is now superior of the convent.

Bishop Walsh returned to Paris to spend Holy Week. "I went to the Madeleine, Notre Dame, Saint Sulpice, Saint Etienne du Mont and many other churches," he said. "The fervor with which the crowds prayed roused my admiration. It is necessary to see their devotion to realize how deep is the faith of the people of Paris."

At the conclusion of his sojourn in France, the Bishop said Mass at the altar of the Blessed Virgin in the celebrated sanctuary of Notre Dame des Victoires.

Language Education, Topic of Franciscans

Mount Calvary, Wis. May 9.—The language element in education is the topic chosen for discussion at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Franciscan Educational Conference to be held here June 27-29. The meeting is to be held under the auspices of the Provincial Superiors and a special effort is being made to induce the attendance of language teachers from the various provinces of the Franciscans.

Some of the papers to be read at the meeting are: "Language Studies in the Franciscan Order," by the Rev. John M. Lehart, O. M. C.; "The Science of Language," by the Rev. Burthold Hartz, O. F. M.; "The Art of Language," by the Rev. Simon J. Archambault, O. F. M.; "The Teaching of Literature," by the Rev. Constant Klein, O. M. C.; and "Training our Students and Especially Our Clerics for Scholarly Activity and Productive Scholarship," by the Rev. Gabriel McCarthy, O. M. C.

Catholic High School Course for Catholics Held to be Imperative

Washington, D. C. May 2.—Despite a steady increase in the number of Catholic children attending high schools in recent years, 73 percent today are not in such schools, according to a report of the N. C. W. C. Department of Education. The report has revealed in its preparations for its drive to put Catholic children in Catholic high schools. This situation, says the department, must be remedied at once, and it looks to the Catholic High School Week, which will conduct May 11 to 17, to bring about a radical change in the figures for next year.

In 1922, the department's figures show 408,182 Catholic children were in secondary schools, out of a total of 1,508,722 of high school age. However, in the five years between 1916 and 1920, pupils in Catholic high schools increased by 69,462. A still more rapid advance is imperative, the department believes.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

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Ancient Egyptians Had Mummies at Their Revels

It was not unusual in the ancient days of Egypt's splendor for the tomb of the kings to be re-entered after burial and the body carried out to have a part in some significant ritual. Death was a foremost thought in the Egyptian mind and his daily life was a continual preparation for the life hereafter. In the height of his revels he took pains to remind himself of the seriousness of life and the omnipresence of death.

He held great feasts where death was perhaps furthest from his mind of all subjects. But suddenly the music ceased, dancers slunk away to darkened corners, feasters sat back half-sobered while wine goblets remained untouched.

From the far end of the hall came a somber procession; two or three slaves strained at heavy ropes which were attached to a cumbersome sled-like affair. Borne along on this was a many-colored painted coffin, the mummy case of a dead Pharaoh that had been rited from the tomb for the occasion.

Slowly the procession entered, passed on and disappeared while the guests looked on with staring eyes. After this sobering intermission the revelry was resumed, perhaps not as riotously as before the appearance of the mummy.

First American Ship Was Built at Buffalo

The first ship built in the western hemisphere was the Griffin, the keel of which was laid in 1679 by workmen in the employ of LaSalle. It was a bark of 60 tons and the keel was laid and the ship completed at the mouth of Cayuga creek, not far from the city of Buffalo's present site. It was armed with a battery of seven small cannon and some muskets and floated a flag bearing the device of an eagle. In August of the same year LaSalle embarked with his colony and sailed for the western end of Lake Erie. Thus began the Great Lakes commerce. She had a good voyage to Green Bay, but in the meantime LaSalle's creditors, thinking him lost, were selling at Montreal all his possessions. To prevent this he loaded the ship with cargoes of furs and sent it back with orders to return immediately.

LaSalle then explored the western country, but, returning to Fort Frontenac, he learned that the Griffin had been shipwrecked.

St. Peter's Chair

The festival of St. Peter's chair celebrated with great solemnity and splendor in St. Peter's Rome, had its origin in the Eighth century—possibly even earlier than that time. The chair, old, plain and worn, on which St. Peter is said to have been pontificated, is enshrined by a magnificent throne, supported by four gigantic figures and mounted upon a tribune decorated by Michelangelo. The throne stands in the great nave behind the altar of St. Peter's.

Cheeta a Fleet Animal

For short distances the cheeta is supposed to be the swiftest quadruped. However, it is not possible to ascribe the honor definitely to any particular animal. The cheeta, which is found in Asia and Africa, is a large tropical cat, slender of body and limb. It is from three to four feet long, and of a pale, tawny color, marked with numerous dark spots on its sides and back and almost white beneath. It resembles the leopard, and is often called the hunting leopard. The animal resembles the dog in docility. Its fur is not sleek like that of typical cats. It has a long tail, which is somewhat bushy at the end.

His Chance Next

"There are some ungodly young men over in that corner having fun with the girls," announced the preacher solemnly as he paused in the middle of his sermon and pointed accusingly in the direction of the graceless youths.

Not Too Timid

"I hear your son Tom has brought home a timid little bride."

Working Both Ways

The Accountant—Here's your personal property tax schedule, sir. Just finished it. Makes you out a pauper.

Under His Guard

Old McFadd—Do you collect anything?

NEW YORK NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State

Interesting News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points in the State and So Reduced in Size That It Will Appeal to All Classes of Readers.

Holding that they sought to evade the constitutional provision, Gov. Smith announced he had vetoed the Shacks-Jenks bills which would have increased the salaries of judges of the court of appeals and justices of the supreme court.

The evening services of the Pekin Methodist church at Sanborn was attended by 36 members of the Ku Klux Klan in full regalia. They presented to the Rev. D. Towne, pastor of the church, a purse. More than 500 people attended the services.

Burt P. Gage, collector of internal revenue, announced that the state bonus is exempt from federal income tax. The announcement was made after many queries had been made to the collector. The bonus was for services rendered in time of war and is not taxable.

The golf committee of the Lockport Town and Country club is considering the advisability of having girls for caddies on the Chestnut Ridge course this summer. Reasons are that there is a shortage of boys available as caddies. It is also claimed that girls give better service.

For the first four months of this year there have been almost as many license plates issued for automobiles in Erie county as there were for the 12 months of last year. The number issued since Jan. 1 is 82,000 for passenger cars. The number of plates issued for passenger car for 1923 was 88,000.

The gift of Buttermilk Falls and adjacent park lands located two miles south of Ithaca to New York state by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Tremar of Ithaca was announced there. The gift was made through the newly created Finger Lakes state park commission, of which Mr. Truman is the chairman.

The Perry Record, edited and published by C. G. Clarke & Son, has been selected as one of the six best country weeklies in this state. The papers were selected by J. W. Shaw of Elmira, secretary of the New York Press association, at the suggestion of the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

Prospects for a bumper fruit crop in Niagara county are especially bright this year, according to Leon P. Strickland, state horticultural expert or Niagara county, who has inspected Western New York orchards. There is "little ground" for rumors of backwardness in bud development. Mr. Strickland says:

Approximately \$1,000 was raised among the merchants of Honeoye Falls in one day last week by a committee of the Village Improvement association to purchase and fit up a site for the Bert Warren & Son automobile body factory which is now located in the Wellsberger building on North Main street.

Trout leaping a 10-foot dam at Hammondsport was a first-sign of spring sight that drew large crowds. The trout were leaping their winter habitat in Keuka lake for the upper water of Pleasant Valley creek. They took their start in a pool at the bottom of the dam and attempted the hazardous leap one at a time in orderly fashion.

The death of President Smith of the New York Central railroad will, in the opinion of Major Norton, chief engineer of the grade crossing and terminal commission of Buffalo, retard progress on plans for a new station, but he is hopeful that the study now being made of the terminal situation by the new president, Patrick E. Crowley, will bring results.

Whether the court can compute a wife's alimony on the income of her husband derived from bootlegging operations was the question submitted to Justice Hinkley in Buffalo in the separation action of Sophia Nowak against Anthony Nowak of Buffalo. Nowak, it was admitted by his lawyer, is a bootlegger and has had no other occupation for several years.

Car operations on the North Hornell line of the Hornell Traction company will be discontinued after May 14, it was announced officially. The line has been losing money ever since it was built. The experiment of reducing the fares from 8 to five cents recently has not proven successful.

Employment throughout the state showed a slight drop in April, according to reports filed with the state department of labor.

Edwin J. Carpenter, former member of assembly from Southern county, was found not guilty of driving an automobile while intoxicated by a jury in supreme court in Auburn. In his defense Mr. Carpenter, who had voted as a Dry in the legislature, charged enemies had conspired to place liquor in his automobile unknown to him and that the arrest was the result of a frameup. Carpenter was arrested in Ithaca some time ago, but succeeded in having the trial moved to Cayuga county.

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