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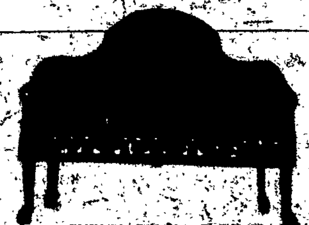

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French People Catholic Despite Radical Regime, Monsignor Noll Asserts

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Noll.

Republican France offers many perplexities to the traveler, especially to an American, whose conception of a Republic is so different from that of the Frenchman.

However, there is not a vast difference between the form of government in France, and the Constitutional monarchy which obtains in England. In most European countries the King or President is anything but the ruler of the country. His Prime Minister, or Secretary of State, heads the government, and the President or King is not expected even to express himself on political questions. The principal objection brought against M. Millerand, during the late campaign, was that he had expressed a political opinion on the question of Reparations. Both Kings and Presidents are expected to stand apart from the strife of political parties, and exhibit a dignity which will command respect. The present rulers of France are M. Doumergue, President, and M. Herriot, Prime Minister. The latter had been Mayor of Lyons, and had long been known throughout France as a radical socialist, and as an anti-clerical. The former, despite the overwhelming Catholic population of France, is a Protestant.

People Not Anti-Catholic

The change in the personnel of the French rulers does not signify that the people preferred a policy which is less Catholic. If religion had entered the campaign at all, the people would rather have expressed a preference for a more Catholic governing body, because the Church is much better liked than it was ten and twenty years ago. In France the idea prevails that religion should have absolutely no part in politics, and members of parliament will, in their representative capacity, vote entirely different from what they would as private individuals. For instance, at the time the Separation Law was passed, many Senators and Deputies voted for the secularization of education, and then reached down into their pockets to pay for the support of private religious schools, and sent their children to them.

Civil Service Vote Important

There are so many political parties in France that the party in power is able to perpetuate itself, unless economic conditions demand a change. The philosophy of such a situation is that the government employs several million voters consisting of all the postmasters and mail carriers in the land, all school teachers, policemen, all the workers in tobacco, cigar and cigarette factories besides many railroad workers. The votes of this army would outclass that of any other one party, except under extraordinary economic conditions such as obtained during the last year of Millerand and Poincare.

In order to reduce government expenses, Poincare discharged thousands upon thousands of men, and threatened to reduce the budget to the extent of 1,000,000,000 francs by further reductions. Then came the fall of the franc, with the consequent raising of taxes, for which the powers that be were blamed. Add to these factors the unrest which was aroused by difference of opinion concerning the Ruhr situation, and you have the real explanation for the overthrow of the existing government in May.

The outlook for the Catholic Church in France was excellent until the recent change in political rulers, and while Herriot had a few anti-clerical planks in his platform it is believed he will be very slow about trying to enforce them. If the French only had the spirit of the people of Alsace-Lorraine, they could make any government be good.

It has long been said that the Frenchman is either very fervent or cold in the faith; that there are very few who would occupy a middle place between these extremes. While this is not altogether true, the two extremes are quite noticeable.

Many Famous Shrines

France is the home of world-cherished shrines. Everybody knows of Lourdes, of Paray-le-Monial, where the Sacred Heart appeared, of Lisieux, where the Little Flower lived and died. The writer was at Lourdes on the feast of the "Apparition," February 11th, and visited both the cemetery grave and the present tomb of The Little Flower.

The Catholic clergy is supported directly by the people, but their allowance is very small. One or more large churches in every city, especially the old ones, are regarded as national monuments, and are kept in repair by the government.

While the state supports a public school system, it is surprising how large a percentage of the children attends private religious schools following the dismissal of the teaching religious orders twenty years ago.

Though Protestantism has made no impression on France, there are a few places where they are quite numerous, such as in Nîmes, Montpellier.

Ecclesiastical marriages usually follow a civil marriage and the couple brings notice of the civil marriage to the priest.

Aerial travel is far more advanced throughout Europe than in our country. Two trips are made from Paris to London. I tried it and enjoyed it very much. The 260 miles are made in two hours and thirty minutes.

Mondern Insurance Rates Reasonable

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Chicago—Insurance is one of America's greatest bulwarks against divorce, declared Mary T. Downes, High Chief Ranger of the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters in an address here. Saving for insurance by both husband and wife has done more to keep the home intact than any amount of preachment on the sanctity of marriage, she asserted.

"Insurance, and especially fraternal insurance, gives a married couple of modest means a goal, an incentive," said Miss Downes, whose organization composed entirely of women numbers more than 70,000 members in 1100 courts. "Too many young married people lack a vision of the future. Living only for the present frequently results in strained relationship which often ends in the divorce court.

"Modern insurance rates are so reasonable that expense can no longer be offered as an excuse. The wife of to-day may, without hardship, set a little aside for old age and for her children. The fact that she is doing something really tangible and constructive for the future of the home forms a tie that is hard to break. It is a further advantage to this end that fraternal insurance bodies, conducted entirely by women and solely for women, are available for the purpose.

"Kindness, consideration and affection are desirable [illegible] there may be [illegible] by prudent saving for loved ones, [illegible] outlet which is best and [illegible] offered by fraternal [illegible] which afford not only insurance, but social and [illegible] work as well."

Marquette Dedicates Great New Stadium With Game Saturday

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 11.—Milwaukee, long a sport-loving city with a desire for greater collegiate football games, will see another dream come true here next Saturday, when the new Marquette University stadium will be dedicated with a [illegible] program the feature of which [illegible] football game between Marquette and John Carroll university of Cleveland, O.

The Marquette stadium will be one of the largest in the country. In the Middle West, it is believed, only those of Ohio State, Illinois [illegible] Michigan will be larger. The ultimate seating capacity will be [illegible], and about half of the structure, or the main tiers on each side, [illegible] ready for occupancy.

Professional landscape workers and gardeners have been in charge of constructing the gridiron, and the result is one of the most attractive playing fields in the Middle West. The turf, although recently seeded, is in excellent condition and will afford the Marquette "Golden Avalanche" much better facilities than did the old campus with its hard clay and stones.

Every modern convenience has been installed. Squad and shower rooms for home and visiting teams are provided beneath the spacious stands. Equipment rooms, rest rooms, ticket booths, offices and storage space also has been constructed. The stadium will include two gridirons—one for practice—and a six-lane quarter-mile running track as well as several straight-away lanes.

Announcements sent to alumni feature also the homecoming game with Creighton University, of Omaha, Nov. 1; the annual struggle with the University of North Dakota here Nov. 15, and the intersectional tilt with the University of Vermont, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Day. Alumni are told it will be possible for Marquette followers to purchase season tickets, a block of two or three games, with the dedication, homecoming and Thanksgiving day games being the most popular. Single admission for stadium games will be $2, but a strip ticket, good for the John Carroll, Creighton and Vermont games can be purchased for $5 and will be given preference in the allotment of seats.

Eviction Of Nuns From France Is To Be Re[illegible]

League of [illegible] Who Fought in War To Undertake Their Defense

By M. [illegible]
(Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, October—As the N. C. W. C. News Service had already announced, the Sisters of Saint Claire of the Carol in Alençon, in Normandy, suddenly dispersed a few weeks ago owing to a threat of persecution. Another menace has now appeared, this time directed at the Poor Clares of Evian in Savoy. But, differing from their sisters in Alençon, the nuns of Evian, in accordance with religious authority have decided not to leave their convent and to resist any measures which eventually may be taken against them.

The Legal Situation of the Orders

It is unnecessary to give here more than a brief summary of the respective situations of these two communities. At the time of the Combes persecution twenty years ago, [illegible] of the Poor Clares of Alençon and Evian went abroad and their houses were declared dissolved. Only a few old and infirm nuns remained. The war breaking out and the [illegible]

[illegible]