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Friday, February 6, 1925

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Splendid!

Those who are well informed about the history and accomplishments of the organization know that every word in the following editorial in the "Union and Times" regarding the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association is true.

The financial condition of the L. C. B. A. must be a source of general satisfaction to the officers and members of that splendid Catholic organization. Every million dollars surplus in the treasury means that the society with its insurance features is as strong as adamant. This vast sum has been accumulated under careful management and by wise investment. It is said of the officers of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association that they have never lost one dollar of the funds entrusted to their care.

The remarkable fact in the growth of the L. C. B. A. is the credit which necessarily goes to the Catholic women who have brought it to the high pinnacle of its glory. Men are inclined to question the ability of the father sex to handle large sums of money in a businesslike manner. What financier would believe that a crowd of women could build a large insurance organization and bring it to a point where it would have a surplus running into the millions? Women financiers! Women with an insurance society having a hundred and twenty thousand insured members and up one can compute the material good these millions have done to families brought to the door of destitution by the death of one in the household.

What Is Needed

Many suggestions have been made to Senator Whitley's committee to inquire into the cause for delay in workmen's compensation cases in New York State, as to improvement in the compensation law and its enforcement.

In our judgment, increase in the number of membership in the Industrial Board will not diminish or minimize the delays complained of. Increasing the number of trial referees might help the situation.

But the real underlying delay is the lack of hearing stenographers. There is always bound to be delay if minutes of previous hearings are not available immediately if appeals are taken. What is needed is a sufficient number of hearing stenographers and expert typists so that the stenographers may work in relay and when not reporting testimony, they shall be transcribing their notes so that all the testimony in every case shall be available at once whenever need arises.

Sufficient hearing stenographers to keep minutes written up promptly will obviate much of the advertised delay in compensation cases.

President Coolidge appears to be raising the Washington show pretty well, thank you. And he is not advertising for promoters.

Looks now as if the Sterling-Reed Federal centralization of educational control is to pass through Congress.

Who is the next philanthropist to give away a few millions?

Surprising

It is quite surprising to note the extent and amount of the propaganda sent forth whenever an organized attempt to raid the public treasury under the guise of new revenue producing tax schemes, increase in public revenue inevitably spells increase in public expenditure.

The Democrat and Chronicle, although a Republican organ, sees the trend of events. In a recent editorial our contemporary says:—

The latest proposal in state taxation is one on which the Regents of the University will focus attention at their meeting this week. It contemplates a direct state school tax on all communities in the state, sufficient to pay all teachers' salaries on a grade scale. If the Regents are won over to it, the legislative leaders will then take the matter up.

Lieutenant Governor Lowman points out that the innovation proposed will relieve municipalities of a heavy item of expense and increase the amount of money for general city purposes they can constitutionally raise and spend. Thus urban taxpayers will pay as much for local purposes as now, and a state school tax besides. They may not be enthusiastic at this prospect, since the taste for increased taxes is not a natural one and has to be acquired. But municipal controls are expected to acclaim it, while the feelings of teachers are likely to be mixed. For when Albany grades their salaries, some will be graded up and others down.

What we are indubitably coming to, though it may not be encouragingly close, is a state of mind in which taxpayers will budget their bodies empowered to spend their money and warn them to keep within limits or take unpleasant consequences.

Boycott

It would appear that the formerly much abused boycott is to be again employed by the American housewives if the "robber barons" attempt to place exorbitant prices on household supplies and commodities. If the following editorial in the Rochester "Times Union" is to be credited:—

It is suspected that a regulatory remedy has begun to set in its work in control of the unwarranted advance in the price of coffee.

Favorable result is discovered when the market reports show that the price is declining from a half-cent to a cent on occasions, and that conditions are "easier."

It is only a matter of the willingness of the consuming public to deny itself for a short time. A cornered market in any commodity may be controlled in that manner. During the war the lesson of abstinence was well learned on occasions, and attempts at profiteering were checked when the public backed up and refused to be bled.

The coffee situation is one of these occasions. Millions of people have been compelled to pay tribute to the coffee barons of Brazil. Taking as an excuse the existence of a comic opera "revolution" in one of the coffee raising districts, they have withheld shipments and increased the price of the product, really without justice or excuse. Many million dollars have been thus squeezed from the coffee drinkers of this country.

President Coolidge is having trouble with the United States Senate. He is not the first President in such a predicament.

Uncle Jim controls the Board of Supervisors and, as an object lesson to the faithful all county employees received increase in their wages January 1st. Not to be outdone—if he wants to succeed himself next fall, Mayor VanZandt has all the city employees wages raised.

City Assessor is not such a bad job now. Come to think of it, neither is the City Judgeship.

It does not matter under what form the city's business is administered if it is administered honestly and efficiently.

If you have not paid up your Aquinas pledge, by all means do so and help Bishop Hickey to pay the bills as they are presented in cash and so avoid borrowing and paying by interest charges.

Former Congressman Joseph W. Fordney, of Michigan has joined his wife and children in the Catholic faith.

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Priest's Address In Presbyterian Church In Indiana

Rector of Fort Wayne Cathedral Speaks To Audience of 1200 On Loyalty To Firm Religious Convictions.

Fort Wayne Ind., Jan. 30.—Fidelity to religious convictions, whether Catholic or non-Catholic is necessary to combat the present tendency toward infidelity, declared the Rev. Thomas M. Conroy, rector of the Cathedral here, in an address to more than twelve hundred persons in the First Presbyterian Church of this city. Father Conroy spoke on "My Neighbor, the Protestant," as one of a series of interdenominational sermons which is being given here. The Rev. Robert Little, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, is scheduled to deliver the next of the series on "My Neighbor, the Catholic."

Deplored prejudice or ill feeling toward anyone because of his religious beliefs Father Conroy pointed out that the teachings of the Catholic Church command all Catholics to love their neighbors and that the word "neighbor" is an all-inclusive term including even active enemies.

"I have been an active member of the Church's priesthood for twenty-two years," he said, "and I have never heard a sermon or a remark in the Catholic Church that would create a bad feeling against my neighbor, the Protestant. No one ever heard of an ex-Protestant minister receiving permission to preach in a Catholic church or hall that might slander his former companions in religion out of revenge or some other motive. The words, as Deane Swift calls them 'at have been thrown out of the Protestant vocabulary and never replanted in a Catholic garden."

American Ideals of Tolerance Referring to the principle of tolerance embodied in the founding of the American nation, the speaker went on to say:

"There has not been, and I am quite convinced there never will be, any conspiracy by the Church or any individual or group under direction or approval to deny to anyone the right to pursue his own sincere convictions as to the matter in which he shall acquit himself toward his Maker. 'Oh! you will exclaim, 'Can we not still perceive a faint odor of the musty Spanish dungeon in the day of the Inquisition and the muffled cry for mercy as the ropes tightened on the rack?' I might retort and say that it set my nerves on edge to think of the sharpness of Cromwell's sword on which was engraven texts from Holy Writ to sanctify his butcheries in the name of the Protestant religion.

"But what purpose would the exclamation and the retort serve? Cromwell and the Inquisition belong to another age and to Europe, and if there is to be a debate about the iniquity of one or the other, that argument should be made in Europe and in the periods that were impressed by Cromwell and the Inquisition. I fancy that if Cromwell and the judges of the Inquisition were to come out of the shadows they would be shocked to learn that centuries afterward in far-off free America, men were still ransacking a dead past for something to quarrel about.

I think my neighbor, the Protestant, is far more interested in basketball and the price of gasoline than he is in the Inquisition. In other words, the Catholic in America always has had, has now, and in the future will have, an active desire to be neighborly with the man next door, the Protestant."

Tolerance Not Weakness Emphasizing that toleration and neighborliness do not imply weakness of religious conviction, Father Conroy said:

"In order to complete this part of the argument, I maintain that if I were to tell you this evening that I considered Protestantism as good as Catholicism, in the sense that both are equally true, it would occur to you immediately that my convictions are rather hazy and shallow, or that I was not courageous and frank enough to tell you just what I do think about that point. At all events my force as a teacher with the ability to influence anyone in the direction of the Catholic Church would be negligible.

"If I wish to impress my sincerity upon others I am compelled to give a clear, inclusive account of the faith that is in me. Honestly would bind me to say that I believe that my Church was the one true church established by Jesus Christ and through her we shall find salvation. Holy Year is one of pardon and indulgence and for that reason the younger priests need not present themselves for the customary examination, which was to have been held here January 27 and 28.

Heaven is reserved exclusively for Catholics. My contention is that everyone who has a sincere conviction and has followed the light given him will never help anyone until he divests himself of the idea that a weak expression of belief or doctrine can imply anything but weakness in what he believes. Even to create a friendly feeling he has no right to minimize his religious principles because treachery to our convictions always means treachery to our friends.

Neighbors Who Respect One Another "I am strongly of the opinion that we will be better neighbors in proportion as we show fidelity to the convictions that are in us. To do otherwise accomplishes nothing, except to confuse further a situation that is now badly confused. If we are to succeed in spreading God's truth and push back this tide of infidelity and unreligion that threatens to engulf our beloved country, we must give utterance, in season and out of season, wholeheartedly and courageously, but kindly, to the convictions that have been woven into the very fibre of our souls."

Priests Are Aviators Of Spiritual Life, Wrote French Ace

Paris, Jan. 26.—A solemn funeral service, organized by several associations of former combatants, was celebrated recently in the Chapel of the Invalides, next to the crypt containing the tomb of Napoleon, in memory of Father Bourjade, former aviator, victor in 28 aerial combats, who died on October 22 last at the age of 35 years on a remote island of Oceania which he was striving to evangelize.

In the patriotic discourse in the course of the service, two admirable letters which he had written to his sister during the war, were read.

"Religious," he said in one of them, "are the aviators of the spiritual life. As the airplane carries its pilot, the religious life carries a soul above the miseries of the earth. One must be able to fly the divine motor, which is grace, and the plane will soar of its own accord and carry us with it."

Another time he wrote: "How low the earth seems from up there! what little things our houses and our cities are! The aviator's view, embracing several cities, has given me an idea of the vision of God which embraces the whole earth, the entire universe and all the centuries at the same time! What a little thing we are in the midst of all that! And yet with what love God loves us and cares for each one of us!"

Father Bourjade was fully conscious at the time of his death, as calm as he had been in the face of danger on the field of battle. He was not even able to conceal his homesickness for the other world. He appeared to revive somewhat after the administration of Extreme Unction, and said to the Father who had anointed him: "I was well on my way to the other world. Why did you bring me back?"

The British Government rendered him military honors.

Monk Proves Modern Music Originated From Oriental

Paris, Jan. 23.—It has been the belief of musical experts, up to the present time, that the origin of the modern major and minor modes came from the Greco-Latin musical art, by way of Gregorian chant.

A scholarly Benedictine of Haute-combe Abbey, Dom Jeannin, who has spent much time in the Near East, registering and noting Syriac and Chaldean melodies which have been handed down through the ages by oral tradition, has established the fact that this origin must be sought in oriental traditions.

This problem and several others of equal interest, for example, that of Gregorian rhythm, will be presented and solved in an important work which Dom Jeannin will publish at an early date under the title of "Melodies Liturgiques Syriaques et Chaldeennes."

The Supreme Pontiff has contributed 15,000 lire toward the publication of this work. An American, Mr. John Hoddard, has given \$900 and the French Government 3,500 francs.

Junior Clergy Given Holy Year Privilege

Cleveland, Jan. 23.—The annual examination of the junior clergy of the Cleveland diocese has been omitted this year by direction of Bishop Schrembs. The Bishop, in making the announcement, says the spirit of Holy Year is one of pardon and indulgence and for that reason the younger priests need not present themselves for the customary examination, which was to have been held here January 27 and 28.

PRESS MONTH APPEAL ISSUED BY CHAIRMAN OF PRESS DEPARTMENT

Rt. Rev. Philip R. McDevitt of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's Administrative Committee Asks General Catholic Interest In Promotion of Catholic Press

Washington, Jan. 30.—Rt. Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg and Chairman of the Department of Publicity, Press and Literature of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has sent to the Press Month Committee of the Catholic Press Association the following letter recommending that "all those having at heart the development of the Catholic Press make its promotion a matter of special consideration during the month of February":

At the meeting of the Hierarchy, September, 1923, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Sunday immediately preceding the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, proclaimed by the Holy Father Patron of the Catholic Publicity and Press throughout the World, be accepted and approved as Press Sunday in every Catholic Church in the United States of America.

In pursuance of this resolution, the Catholic Press Association has for the past two years named February as Press Month in the United States and Canada. At last year's meeting of the Catholic Press Association, a resolution was adopted suggesting that the Chairman of the Department of Publicity, Press and Literature of the National Catholic Welfare Conference issue a call for Press Month. Following out this recommendation, I hereby call upon all those who have at heart the development of the Catholic Press to make its promotion a matter of special consideration during the month of February.

At its meeting in September, 1923, the Hierarchy also adopted a resolution strongly urging "all Catholic periodicals to become affiliated, as pay subscribers, to the N. C. W. C. Press Service, and all pastors to use in their parishes, schools and societies the various periodicals issued by the N. C. W. C. Press Department." I renew this recommendation.

It has been especially gratifying to learn that the Knights of Columbus, the National Council of Catholic Men, and other Catholic organizations have manifested their interest in the progress of the Catholic Press by calling upon their membership during the month of February to consider by what means this progress can best be promoted. The suggestion of Admiral Benson of the National Council of Catholic Men to the various branches of the Council and to its affiliated organizations, numbering in all about one thousand, to set aside one or more evenings during the month as Catholic Press Nights should receive the strongest endorsement. Splendid results will follow the carrying out of this suggestion, not only by the branches of the Council of Catholic Men and their affiliated organizations, but also by all other Catholic societies.

The Catholic Press deserves the enthusiastic and generous help of all Catholics. Their support should go beyond the mere subscription to the Catholic paper of the diocese. Catholics should try to understand the needs of the Catholic Press; they should acquaint themselves with its actual achievements, and with the opportunities that are at hand to develop still further its tremendous power.

A highly efficient Catholic Press renders invaluable services. It strengthens the morale of the Catholic body; it increases the influence of the individual Catholic in the community to which he belongs; it aids the Church in the spreading of the faith and in forming a right public opinion upon all questions that touch faith and morals.

It is sincerely hoped that under the protection of St. Francis de Sales, the Catholic Press will find during the month of February a widespread revival of Catholic interest in its support and development.

Philip R. McDevitt, Chairman, Department of Publicity, Press and Literature.

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