

In vain will you find missions and build schools, if you are not able to wield the offensive and defensive weapons of a loyal Catholic press.—Pope Pius X.

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N. C. W. C. News Service

K. OF C. COMPLETING WELFARE SYSTEM IN ETERNAL CITY

By Msgr. Enrico Pucci

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

Rome, April 1.—The welfare and recreation centers for children established here by the Knights of Columbus now represent an investment of approximately \$1,000,000. Five extensive sites have been acquired and the work of improving these sites is either complete or rapidly progressing toward completion in all cases. The vast extent of the work being done here was hardly realized until recently when the representatives of American newspapers were invited to make a tour of inspection and what they saw moved many to wonder.

The first unit of the welfare system established by the Knights is the "Oratorio di San Pietro," concerning which full accounts were carried in the N. C. W. C. News Service dispatches at the time it was formally dedicated last year. This center consists of 5,000 square meters near St. Peter's on which are grouped a spacious theater, a gymnasium, two chapels—one for boys and one for girls—study rooms and living quarters for the students. The Pope takes a special interest in this institution which provides a center for the children in the immediate vicinity of the Vatican, and each week His Holiness receives reports on the work carried on there from Monsignor Borgognini-Duca, Secretary of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, to whom has been entrusted the supervision of the Oratorio.

The Great Athletic Field

The most ambitious unit in the project, from the standpoint of providing recreational facilities, is the great athletic field on the top of the hill of the Basilica of St. Peter's. It has an area of 50,000 square meters and includes two football fields, a running track, three tennis courts, a basketball court and other provisions for outdoor athletics. It is designed as a center for athletic contests for the young men of the entire city. The site is near the center of the city and easily accessible by several trolley lines. From this center there is a magnificent view of the city. At a glance one can see the Basilica of St. Peter's, the Vatican Palaces, Monte Mario, Gianicolo, and practically every other prominent feature of Rome.

In preparing this field the task undertaken by the Knights was gigantic. It was necessary to level off the top of the hill and to use the material taken from the top to fill in around the sides in order to increase the area of the field. A modern clubhouse is being built on this field and work on it is practically completed. It is expected that this field will be opened within a few weeks.

The San Lorenzo district, one of the most densely populated areas in Rome, has been selected by the Knights for the third of their recreation centers. Here a field of 18,000 square meters has been obtained and a clubhouse is now being put up. The field will be arranged for various kinds of outdoor athletics and the clubhouse will contain shower baths, rest rooms, study halls, and a gymnasium. Both will be opened in the near future. This center will supply recreational facilities for 6,000 children from the three parochial schools in the neighborhood. At present there recreation and since the district is one of the poorest as well as the most thickly settled in Rome, the need for such facilities is very great. The children in this center are greatly excited about the project and are using the field already whenever they have a chance to do so.

Other Units of System

In striking contrast to the neighborhood around the San Lorenzo center are the surroundings of the fourth K. of C. center in the Valle Giulia. This site is between the villas of Popes Pius IV and Julius III in one of the richest and most beautiful sections of the city. In selecting this site the Knights were motivated by a desire that no element of the youth of Rome should be neglected. A field of 15,000 square meters has been purchased and the work of leveling it and installing outdoor athletic appliances is now in progress.

The fifth unit in the Knights' recreational system is a field of 15,000 meters in area near the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Here there will be facilities for all kinds of outdoor athletics.

The task of promoting and supervising the establishment of this vast system of welfare work here has been entrusted to Commissioner Hearn, representative of the Knights of Columbus next October was extended by Senator McKinley, of Illinois, when he called at the White House this week.

Bishop Ties Pontificates At Holy Sepulchre

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

Jerusalem, March 9.—The Rt. Rev. Francis J. Ties, Bishop of Concordia, Kansas, pontificated at the solemn High Mass celebrated at the Holy Sepulchre here today as part of the observance of Holy Thursday. The Bishop was invited to pontificate by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Monsignor Barlasina. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Nash of Buffalo, N. Y., and the Rev. James Th. Coffey of St. Louis assisted in the celebration of the Mass.

Bishop Ties is in Jerusalem with the Third American Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land conducted by the Franciscan Fathers of the Commissariat of the Holy Land. The Bishop is Spiritual Director of the pilgrimage. The pilgrims left New York early in March. After spending Easter in the Holy Land they will go to Rome where they will remain for ten days during which time they will have an audience with the Pope and will be given an opportunity to gain the Holy Year Indulgences.

Admiral Benson and Gen. Castelnau Exchange Letters

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

Washington, April 10.—Recently Admiral Benson, president of the National Council of Catholic Men, addressed a communication to General de Castelnau, president of the National Catholic Federation of France, soliciting him on the formation of the new Catholic organization in France and suggesting an exchange of publications between the two groups. General de Castelnau replied offering the cordial greeting of his organization in turn, and accepting the Admiral's suggestion.

The following additional correspondence has now taken place:

February 24, 1925.

General de Castelnau, President, 16 rue de Saint Peres, Paris, France.

My dear General Castelnau: Please accept from me and from my associates in the National Council of Catholic Men our cordial thanks for the generous sentiments expressed in your letter of February 6, 1925. It is an honor as well as a pleasure to have your commendation and good wishes. Be assured, my dear General, that your fine Catholic spirit and the aims and works of your Federation have our sincere admiration.

"Under separate cover there have been sent to you a copy of the constitution of the National Council of the American Hierarchy, issued in 1919, a set of the Council's Information Bulletin for the last six months and certain pamphlets recounting the program and the activities of our organization. With this letter you are receiving a copy of the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Sheet containing an article concerning your letter to me. This sheet is part of the news service that is supplied by the Welfare Conference to about 90 Catholic newspapers (including one daily) in the United States and Canada. These newspapers have more than two million Catholic readers. I trust that this widespread introduction of you my dear General, and of your Federation, to American Catholics, will increase even the present high esteem in which you and the Federation are held in the United States.

"With grateful acknowledgement of your kindness and earnest well wishes for the success of the Catholic Federation of France, I am Sincerely and faithfully, W. S. Benson, President."

"National Catholic Federation, 36 rue du Montparnasse, March 26, 1925."

"My dear Admiral: Thank you for sending the documents concerning the National Council of Catholic Men. I received them with gratitude, together with the publication enclosed in your letter."

"I am happy over the feelings of friendship and mutual esteem which unite the Catholics of our two nations, and I beg you again, my dear Admiral, to receive the assurance of my high esteem in common devotion to the cause of religion."

"General de Castelnau."

K. of C. Invites Coolidge Washington, April 10.—An invitation to President Coolidge to attend the Knights of Columbus celebration in Chicago next October was extended by Senator McKinley, of Illinois, when he called at the White House this week.

The Senator bade farewell to the President before sailing for Europe where he will confer with the Executive Committee of the Interparliamentary Union concerning the meeting of that organization to be held in Washington in the fall.

Division Of Arabs Proving A Help To The Zionists

By Dr. Alexander Mombelli

(Jerusalem Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Jerusalem, April 1.—The opening of the new Hebrew University on Mount Scopus here; the presence of the Earl of Balfour, author of the famous "Balfour Declaration" and the impending departure of Sir Herbert Samuel, British High Commissioner, have served to focus attention upon the real status of the Zionist movement and organization in Palestine. The subject has been thoroughly reviewed in the local press with varying comment upon the success of the British Mandate Administration during Sir Herbert's term of office which ends with his departure in June.

It will be recalled that the original "Balfour Declaration" was contained in a letter written by the then Foreign Minister of England to Lord Rothschild in November 1917, in which it was said that:

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

The Arabs of Palestine have been bitterly opposed to this National Home policy saying that it reduces them to the position of mere lodgers in their own home. The Arabs assert that in reality they should be recognized as an independent nation in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations which says that "certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized, subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone."

To show their displeasure with the National Home Policy, the Arabs boycotted the elections held in 1923 for the Legislative Council and they are now demanding a national government in which both Jews and Arabs would be represented in proportion to their respective numbers. The Zionists, however, are determined to carry out the policy of the League of Nations. They say bluntly that under the British Mandate they have been sold by the Mandatory Power to the Zionists. As evidence of the truth of their assertions they point out that the High Commissioner is a Jew, as are the Legal Secretary, the Director of Commerce and Industry, and the Chief of Immigration. That Hebrew has made an official language in Palestine on a par with English and Arabic although less than ten per cent of the population is Jewish; and they cite instances in which they allege the Zionists have confiscated Arab lands in order to sell them to the Jews.

It is the contention of the Arabs that the British Mandate for Palestine is being so administered that all the Zionist elements will ultimately be admitted, notwithstanding the pledge contained in the "Balfour Declaration." Supporting this contention they refer to declarations by Zionist leaders.

Arabs Are Divided A serious obstacle in the way of the Arab efforts to combat Zionist activities here is the discord which divides their own ranks. At present they are split up into the Moslem-Christian Association, the Arab National Party, and the Peasant Party.

What effect Zionist dominance will have on the religious life of Palestine is a matter for conjecture. There is a disposition on the part of some of the Orthodox Jews to regard Zionism as tainted with atheism and Rationalism. For instance, only recently, the Orthodox Jews petitioned the Colonial Office in London to veto the educational program of the Zionist Administration of Palestine. They asserted the program violated the terms of the Mandate providing for free exercise of religion.

Monroe Convent Girl Wins First Michigan Prize In Essay Test

Detroit, April 6.—Miss Mary McGilivray, who was graduated last June from Saint Mary's Academy conducted by the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Monroe, Michigan, was this week awarded first prize by the American Legion for the best essay from the state of Michigan on "Why Communism is a Menace to Americanism."

The contest was announced at the school last spring. At the suggestion of her history teacher, Miss McGilivray began the writing of the essay but did not finish it until the summer vacation. The prize awarded was a silver medal. Her essay will be entered in the National contest. Miss McGilivray is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. McGilivray of 190 Chalmers Avenue, this city.

Masons Present Catholic Priest With K. of C. Pin

Champaign, Ill., April 9.—Members of Acacia Masonic Fraternity at the University of Illinois, presented a gold Knights of Columbus emblem to the Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph. D., chaplain of Catholic students at the University, at the chapter house Friday evening.

The presentation was made by John Wendell, a senior in the University and president of the Fraternity. Among the Acacia members participating in the ceremony was Rev. J. C. Baker, a Methodist minister.

In presenting the emblem to Dr. O'Brien, Mr. Wendell said: "In these days of racial prejudice and religious rancor, we deem it an event of unusual and far-reaching significance when an organization composed entirely of Masons bestows a K. of C. emblem upon a Catholic priest in recognition of the great services he has rendered in breaking down the barriers reared upon misunderstanding and fostering the splendid spirit of harmony and good will between Catholics and Protestants."

"We look upon this occurrence as heralding the dawn of a new day of religious and racial tolerance among the citizens of America."

Blessing of First American Norbertine

DePere, Wis., April 10.—The ceremony of blessing the Very Rev. B. H. Penning, O. Praem., as the first abbot in Wisconsin and the first American Norbertine abbot in the United States, has been set for April 23. Father Penning will be the abbot of St. Norbert's, which at the same time will be raised from a priory to an abbey. At present he is prior. An application was made last summer, at the General Chapter of the order at Tepi, Czechoslovakia, for the raising of St. Norbert's to the rank of an abbey and its prior to the office of abbot. The Papal brief authorizing the change has now arrived. St. Norbert's thus becomes the first Norbertine abbey in the United States.

PHENOMENA OF SEANCES DO NOT EMANATE FROM THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD

Vienna, April 4.—Two recent attacks on spiritism by scholars who were formerly staunch believers in that cult, have aroused widespread interest in Catholic circles in Central Europe. One attack was that made in a speech at Dresden by Dr. Max Kroning, the noted neurologist, on the topic "Is There Life After Death?" The other attack is contained in a new book by Godfrey Raupert, a convert to the Catholic Church well known in the United States for his lectures and writings exposing the fallacies and frauds of spiritism.

Dr. Kroning and Raupert reach divergent conclusions in defining their positions with regard to alleged spiritist manifestations. Kroning, attributing them to purely natural laws at present unknown to science, and Raupert inclining to the belief that they are demonic in origin, when not fraudulent. On many points, however, the two scholars are in agreement.

Occult Phenomena Explained Kroning declares that the psychological investigator of the present day is constantly faced with startling manifestations which, at least at present, cannot be explained by science. However, he says, although he was for many years an enthusiastic supporter of spiritism, he can no longer agree that these so-called occult phenomena are to be ascribed to the spirits of the dead. This fact, he says, is conclusively demonstrated by scientific investigations and experiences. Even the amazing imitations of the speech and habits of the dead and the disclosures of secret thoughts and happenings—so prevalent in spirit seances—can, Dr. Kroning says, be explained on the basis of purely natural laws.

"The medium takes the knowledge for his manifestations unconsciously from the subconsciousness of persons unknown to him or her and even from those absent at the time," he declared. "In the sub-consciousness of the cerebrum, thoughts and impressions are registered which, in part, do not even come within the perception of the individual himself. But these thoughts and impressions do exist in some form or other and are perceived by the medium through a natural ability which may be inherent only in that particular medium."

Dr. Kroning cited several impressive instances to show that a medium is able to repeat only such things as have entered the brain of another person in some manner. To be sure, Dr. Kroning said, there are some instances which call for serious reflection. He mentioned one particular case coming within his own personal knowledge. A woman in Stuttgart while in a state of trance saw what

PARISH SCHOOL BOY WINS OVER 400,000 IN EASY CONTEST

Carrier Of First Prize In National Safety Campaign—To Be Received By President and Mrs. Coolidge

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Washington, April 10.—A parish school boy, Francis J. French, of Elizabeth, N. J., has won the National Safety Campaign contest, triumphing over more than 100 other competitors. French, a 12-year-old school all-around star, won the highest prize with headquarters here, announced.

To Be Received By President and Mrs. Coolidge. The young champion will receive the young champion's prize, White House here April 14, and the President will present to him a certificate attesting his prowess. The presentation will take place in the course of a week's visit of the boy to Washington with all expenses paid by the National Safety Council. He also will receive a gold watch and a gold medal.

John J. Tigert, United States Commissioner of Education, is chairman of the Highway Education Board which seeks through educational means to develop the highway of the nation and to make the road a part of his life for every child. Other members of the board are: Henry C. Jewett, Education Commissioner of the State of New York; J. B. MacDonell, Chief of the Bureau of Public Health, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; E. L. Blanton, Secretary for the Promotion of the Education; B. E. Buchanan, Secretary of the Society of Automotive Engineers; and Harry A. Brown, Secretary of the Automobile Club of America.

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