

Belgian Bishops Thank Mr. Hoover For New Library

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden (Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service) Louvain, Feb. 8.—The Belgian Bishops have addressed a letter to the Hon. Herbert C. Hoover, Secretary of Commerce...

Translated from the French the letter reads: Your Excellency: The Bishops of Belgium, official protectors of the University of Louvain, hail in you a great benefactor of Belgium and particularly of our beloved University.

The recollection of the perjury during industry and of the laborious negotiations which made it possible for Your Excellency to provide our people with food during the war is still fresh in our memories. And now we are beholden to you for a new testimonial of your magnanimous generosity.

Curtis-Reed Bill Hearing By Joint Committee Feb. 24

Washington, Feb. 12.—A Joint Committee of the Senate and House on Education will hold hearings on the Curtis-Reed Education Bill creating a Federal Department of Education, beginning February 24, it was announced this week.

Appointment of members of the subcommittee was completed last night. The members are: Senators Phipps of Colorado, chairman, Cousins of Michigan, Ferris of Michigan, Bingham of Connecticut and Copeland of New York; House—Reed of New York, chairman, Robinson of Kentucky, Mrs. Kahn of California, Lowrey of Mississippi and Black of New York.

The hearing has been timed for the meeting here of the Superintendents' section of the National Education Association, which is pushing the Curtis-Reed Bill energetically. There a strong representation from that body is expected to be present to urge its approval.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference, the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women will appear to oppose the bill, and other organizations expected to be represented in the ranks of its opponents are the Women's Constitutional League of Maryland, the Massachusetts Public Interests League, the Sentinels of the Republic, the Woman Patriot and the Federation of Democratic Women of Baltimore. Among the speakers against the bill it has been announced, will be Prof. J. Gresham Machen of the faculty of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Pilgrimage To Grotto Of Servites Planned

Portland, Ore., Feb. 12.—A pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother here is being organized for the coming summer. The plan is to start the pilgrimage from Chicago immediately after the International Eucharistic Congress there in June.

More than 25,000 persons have visited and registered at the grotto of the Sanctuary here during the past two months. Catholics and non-Catholics are included. Many more visited the Sanctuary but did not register.

The machinery for extracting the stone building material from the site of the Sanctuary itself is now in operation. The material is a silty gray granite which takes a high polish. It is found in unlimited quantity on the site of the Sanctuary.

'Burke's Peerage' May Pass With Issue Of Centenary Volume

Dublin, Feb. 8.—Ireland is smiling over a curious centenary that happens to coincide with a crisis for the institution it represents. Burke's 'Peerage', the bulky annual record of the peers, baronets, and knights of the British Commonwealth, is about to publish its hundredth issue.

At one time it found its way into every country mansion. But at the price of twenty-six dollars, its sale has dimly diminished among an impoverished aristocracy, and fears are expressed that this issue may be the last. John Burke who founded the publication, was an Irish journalist. He saw the profitable possibilities of endowing the prominent British families with long genealogies. His son, who became Sir Bernard Burke, carried on the good work so well that he was appointed chief heraldry officer known as the 'Lester King of Arms' for Ireland. Sir Bernard was a boon to industrial peers. For a fixed fee he gave them ancestors dating back to the Norman Conquest.

The task of editing Burke in very recent times has bristled with troubles and has not been quite free from ridicule. A skeptical public laughs at the coats of arms and long descents bestowed on the newest nobility. Brewers have gained a strong footing in the House of Lords, and sardonic wits sometimes speak of Burke's 'Peerage'. The peer peers are, to be sure, as good as any others. But a democratic age refuses to be dazzled by peers of any sort. So it happens that Burke's famous publication is being run at a loss. Its centennial issue may possibly be its farewell appearance.

Anton Hlavacek Noted Catholic Artist, Dies At Age Of 84 Years

By Dr. Frederick Funder (Vienna Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service) Vienna, Feb. 8.—The great Catholic artist Anton Hlavacek, doyen of Austrian landscape painters, is dead here at the age of eighty-four. He was known all over the world for his paintings of the Alps and Alpine lakes. There is hardly a large gallery in Europe which does not have one of his works. An outstanding characteristic of his life and work was his profound Catholic faith. This was illustrated in one of his last pictures in which he depicts himself wandering through a dark cypress-bordered pathway toward a stairway leading upward from the darkness to a shining cross. Shortly before his death Hlavacek called the attention of one of his friends to this picture saying: 'Look here! In this picture I have laid down all my longings for the Eternal Creator, all my profound faith, and the great confidence of my seeking soul. Regretfully, I am compelled to see how the people of the present day are moving farther and farther away from the knowledge of God. For me He is living in everything, in every tree and bush, in flowers and leaves, in all the beauties of eternal nature, and in every pure emotion of a human heart.'

To the same friend, he also said: 'Everywhere I find traces of God and I believe that with each of my pictures I get nearer to Him.' Hlavacek worked almost up to the time of his death. Some of his best work was done after he had passed his eightieth birthday.

'Universe' Supports Cardinal O'Connell's Plea To Aid Writers

London, Feb. 8.—'It is useless to bemoan the secularization of Catholic literary talent unless the mourners assist the talent when it turns towards the faith,' remarks the 'Universe' in supporting Cardinal O'Connell's plea at Boston for the encouragement of Catholic writers. Cardinal O'Connell asserted when talking to the Guild of the Infant Savior, that Catholics in America were not a reading public, and he urged Catholics to buy Catholic books if they did not read them.

'Catholic writers and dramatists', remarks the 'Universe', 'are compelled by economic necessity to confine themselves to secular themes, when they would gladly write as Catholics primarily for Catholic readers.'

The late Msgr. Robert Hugh Benson was an outstanding example of a Catholic novelist who found a big public with Catholic fiction. No one has arisen, so far, to replace him in that activity, unless it be Egid Dinns, a brilliant author who writes exclusively on Catholic subjects and whose work is appreciated as much in America as it is here.

Among the Catholic writers of fiction who have achieved national and international reputations are: Sir Phillip Gibbs, Cosmo Hamilton (Sir Phillip's brother); Compton Mackenzie, Lucas Malet, Ernest Olden, Douglas Newton and Father Ronald Knox. There is no dearth of Catholic literary talent. But it is a fact that it is not easy to get a general publisher to take a Catholic novel, and a Catholic lay would hardly get a reading.

German Soldier Tells Of Cardinal Mercier's Benevolence to Him

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Cologne, Feb. 8.—An anecdote illustrating the kindness and tolerance of the late Cardinal Mercier, even when dealing with the enemies of his nation in war, is published in the Berlin 'Tageblatt.' The story is related by Dr. Heinemann, a Protestant Professor of Berlin, formerly an officer in the German Army. It reads: 'It was on March 16, 1916, that a young German lieutenant (Dr. Heinemann himself) stood in the Cathedral of Malines admiring a beautiful painting of Rubens. Two ecclesiastics passed and one said to the other in Latin 'What may be the age of this boy?'

'At this the young Lieutenant turned and answered in Latin: "Diem natalem vicissim hodie Maminiens habeo." (I am celebrating my twentieth birthday today at Malines). "Still speaking in Latin the Cardinal, who was one of the ecclesiastics, congratulated the Lieutenant and invited the latter to dinner. At dinner the Lieutenant, in response to questions, told the Cardinal of his home, his parents and his studies. Noting the officer's stained uniform and war-worn appearance, the Cardinal asked: "And how do you endure the sorrowful life of the trenches?" "The officer replied with words from the Song of Solomon: "Ego dormio et cor mihi vixit! (I sleep but my heart is awake). "The Cardinal was deeply moved. After dinner the Cardinal bade the young officer an affectionate farewell, and although his guest was a Protestant, imparted his blessing saying: "It is not the Cardinal, my friend, but an old man who does only his duty, who gives his benediction to the young man who is going to do his duty. God be with you; may He bless and preserve you!" "As the officer was leaving a priest gave him a large package which, he found later, contained cakes, chocolate, fruits and a book, birthday presents from the Cardinal. The book was 'Horatii Carthago' and the Cardinal had underlined the passage reading: "Virtus, reclusus immeritis mori. "Caelum, nequata temptat iter via. "Coetusque volaris et adam. "Spernit humum fuxiente pluma. "The literal translation of the passage, which is from Book III, Ode II, lines 21-24, is as follows: "True worth, seeking Heaven wide for those deserving not to die, eschews its course by a path denied to others and spurns the vulgar crowd and damp earth on fleeting plinths. Dr. Heinemann concludes his story as follows: "The good old man died at the age of seventy-five years. He was a bitter but an honest enemy to Germany. A great, learned man, a strong Prince of the Church, and an able statesman, died with him a country man in mourning for him, the Cardinal saved the throne of her King a Queen, who was once a German Princess, is in mourning for him, she is the one member of her family (the Bavarian royal house) who retains her throne. In Germany, one man at least is grieved because of the death of Cardinal Mercier. That one is the man of thirty, grown old before his time in the bitterness of life, he who was once a young lieutenant to whom, amid blood and hatred, an old man gave a birthday present."

Archdiocese To Join In Spiritual Bouquet For Card. O'Connell

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Boston, Feb. 13.—A spiritual bouquet of Communions, Masses and prayers, in which every priest and layman of the Archdiocese will participate, is to constitute the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consecration of Cardinal O'Connell of Boston as a bishop. This decision has been reached by the Archbishop's Council upon His Eminence's insistence that such an observance would be the only one acceptable to him.

The entire archdiocese between the present date and May 19, the day of the anniversary, will unite in thanking to God for the spiritual benefits the cardinal's 25 years of stewardship have brought in that period, every man, woman and child will offer up as many Communions as possible, will have Masses said and will repeat the rosary and ejaculations for the cardinal and the welfare of the archdiocese.

Since the cardinal was born on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at his request all will also endeavor to offer a Mass and a Communion to the Blessed Virgin, his patroness, for protection bestowed upon him throughout his life. On May 19, all the priests of the archdiocese are to unite with His Eminence in saying low Masses at 7 o'clock, at which as many of the faithful as possible are urged to assist.

Little Rock Society Gives First Profits To Work For Negroes

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 9.—By direction of the Rt. Rev. John B. Morris, Bishop of Little Rock, the first \$100 of profits realized by the Catholic Benevolent Association of Arkansas, has been donated to the Catholic Colored Work in the diocese.

The Catholic Benevolent Association of Arkansas was organized on July 1, 1924. The Association borrows the money from its members at 4 per cent interest and loans to individuals or institutions at 6 per cent and 7 per cent. The profits must always be used for the benefit of the Catholic Church in the state of Arkansas under the direction of the Bishop.

Organized eighteen months ago, the Catholic Benevolent Association in its report of January 4, 1926, reported 400 stock members, with a total subscription of \$105,000, and an average weekly deposit of 50 cents per member. The actual paid-in capital amounts to \$11,437.29; the loans held by the Association amount to \$10,493.50, while another \$1,000 is ready for investment.

Cleveland Prepares To Raise \$1,500,000 For Charity Hospital

Cleveland, Feb. 9.—A campaign for \$1,500,000 for Charity Hospital will begin March 27 and continue until April 3. Approval to hold the campaign, which will be city-wide, has been given by the Welfare Federation. Charity was the first Catholic hospital in Cleveland and is in charge of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The plans are to build a new nurses home to accommodate 150 student nurses, 38 nuns, class rooms, demonstration room and gymnasium, new laboratory, dispensary, kitchen, chapel and garage. The chapel will be doubled in size.

Guardian Association Appeals To Pastors

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Washington, D. C., Feb. 9.—The American Guardian Association of Manila which seeks to provide for children of American fathers born in the Philippines who need help, has made an appeal to priests, ministers and rabbis to call the attention of their congregations to this situation and the work being done by the Association to relieve it.

Big Business Man Ordained a Priest

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Brussels, Feb. 7.—Brother Marie Albert, of the order of the Cistercians of the Trappe, was ordained in the Cathedral of Sees a few days ago.

In the world Brother Marie Albert was Charles van der Cruyssen, who was an important figure in business circles and in the diplomatic world.

Beatification Asked For Father Kolping

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Cologne, Feb. 8.—A petition asking for the beatification of the Rev. Adolf Kolping, founder of the "Gesselenvereine" has been presented to the Holy See by officials of a German workmen's union. When members of this organization were in Rome last year on a Holy Year Pilgrimage the Pope expressed great admiration for Father Kolping's life and works.

Ireland's Bank Situation Given Study By Experts

Dublin, Feb. 8.—Ireland is terribly hampered by an unsuitable banking system. The whole question is being inquired into by a special body in America who obtain divorces including experts drawn from outside the country.

Irish banks have enjoyed extraordinary prosperity and the Munster and Leinster Bank, which is Catholic, and Leinster Bank, which is Catholic, in an ownership and management, is one of the soundest and most successful financial concerns in the British Empire. Although its capital is only \$2,500,000, its deposits exceed \$130,000,000, and its reserves are proportionately large.

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It is characteristic of all Irish banks to have comparatively small capitals, and this compels them to deal only in short term loans so that their resources may be quickly available to meet any sudden panic among depositors that might cause a "run" on the bank. Short loans are quite suitable for industrial and commercial affairs; but Ireland is entirely agricultural, and farmers as a class need long credit. This explains why Irish banks do most of their lending business with Great Britain, while the Irish farmers who are their best depositors are unable to get financial accommodation from them.

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The country clergy have for a considerable time past been urging the authorities to do something for the farmers, who cannot find the necessary credit to carry out improvements or tide over a period of depression. The priests point out that the problem would have to be approached on liberal lines.

Land Bank Experiment

Some years ago an Irish Land Bank was established. Its resources, however, were not such as to give it a wide sphere of action. The priests think that a Government guarantee might help it to attract a good share of the deposits at present lodged in banks that do a purely industrial business. Loans to farmers are a "lock-up" transaction and the money must remain a long time with the borrowers to be of any utility to them. Meanwhile the Land Bank would have to be ready for emergencies, just like the others. For all these reasons it would need either a State guarantee or a much larger capital than suffices for industrial banking. The situation is so acute that the recommendations of the investigators are awaited with impatient interest.

Stonyhurst Has New Observatory Director

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) London, Feb. 8.—The new director of the Stonyhurst observatory, in succession to the late Father Cortis, S. J., is Father Edward O'Connor, S. J., M. A., Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Father O'Connor is a distinguished mathematician. He studied at Beaumont College and at Campion Hall, Oxford, and took a double first in mathematics. He was rector of Stonyhurst from 1916 to 1924.

Oblate's Centennial To Be Celebrated By Triduum At C.U.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The hundredth anniversary of the formal approval of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate will be celebrated with a Triduum ending February 17, in the Scholasticate of the Northern Province at the Catholic University here, and in all of the Oblate Churches throughout the world.

The Oblates were established in France by a young priest, Father Eugene de Mazenod in 1816. The little group of priests adopted the motto "To preach the Gospel to the poor He hath me." They journeyed all over France preaching the faith and attempting to repair the spiritual ravages of the French Revolution. In 1826 Pope Leo XII formally approved them as a religious congregation. At the same time His Holiness, as a favor unasked, gave a new name to the society. Their first name "Missionaries of Provence" was changed to that which they bear today.

The Oblates first came to America in 1841 and settled in Montreal, Canada. From Montreal their missionaries went out to every part of the Dominion and they are still laboring there. Texas was the scene of the first Oblate activities within the limits of the United States. They founded missions here in 1849 and a few years later began work in Oregon and Washington. Many of the Catholic Indian tribes in those regions owe their faith to the Oblates. Houses were established later at Buffalo, N. Y., Lowell, Mass., Plattsburgh, N. Y., McCook, Neb., Barley's Harbor, Wis., and Seattle, Wash.

There are four provinces of the Oblates in the United States. The Northern or first American Province, has its headquarters at Lowell, Mass., which is also the headquarters for the Province of St. John the Baptist (French). The other provinces have their headquarters at San Antonio, Tex., and Rogers, Minn. There are Oblate missions on every continent of the globe.

Judge Who Presided At Stillman Hearing Says Divorce Must Go

New York, February 9.—Supreme Court Justice Morschauser who tried the Stillman divorce case and the Rhineland annulment suit, declares that divorce must go, in an interview with John B. Kennedy, managing editor of 'Collier's Weekly', which is published in the current issue of that magazine.

Judge Morschauser says he opposes divorces of any kind, on any ground, and maintains also that all legal rights should be denied to Americans who obtain divorces abroad.

'A business contract made in America cannot be broken legally by a foreign jurisdiction', he points out. 'The same rule should apply to a marriage contract.

'If the nation has a right to regulate what its citizens shall drink, then the nation has a right to say that marriage, of vastly more concern to the state than thirst, shall be what nature and civilization demand—a permanent inviolable contract, entered into between two rational beings. Economically divorce is a menace, a worse menace than drink ever was.'

Judge Morschauser would tolerate legal separation in case of mental infirmity or other serious cause, and annulments in case of rank deception vitiating the marriage contract, and he "would never permit glaring disparity between the ages of those seeking marriage." He advocates rigid persecution of the guilty parties when adultery is the ground for divorce.

Oldest Active Priest Retires

London, Feb. 8.—Thought to be the oldest priest engaged in active parish work in England, Father John Ryan, S. J., of St. Winefride's, Holywell, has just announced his retirement at the age of 84.

Mayor Dever Decries Discrimination On Account Of Religion

St. Louis, Feb. 12.—Discrimination against members of the Catholic Church who are candidates for public office was decried by Mayor William E. Dever of Chicago in an address to the Knights of Columbus here. "It would seem to incite the anger of certain classes when a man who runs for public office is a Roman Catholic," the Mayor said. "I have run into such intolerance myself. I have never heard of any one voting for a man because he is a Roman Catholic, but time and again I have heard of men voting the other ticket for that reason."

The Mayor declared that a Catholic training "renders one well fitted to hold public office", and enumerated half a hundred Fourth Degree Knights who hold high public offices in Chicago. Discussing his stand for enforcement of the prohibition laws, Mayor Dever said that he is "probably the most wrongfully criticized Mayor in the country."

"But I have no right to question the wisdom of the Volstead law", he asserted. "It's enough for me to know that it is on the statute books, and that the eighteenth amendment is part of the Constitution. It is up to me to enforce the law in good faith, even though I would write a somewhat different law if I had the lawmaking power."

While in St. Louis Mayor Dever was the dinner guest of Archbishop Glennon at the Chase Hotel.

Milwaukee Priests Meet To Arrange For Laymen's Retreats

Milwaukee, Feb. 11.—A meeting of the clergy was held here on Tuesday at the call of Archbishop Messmer to discuss and formulate plans for retreats for laymen.

His Grace addressed the meeting and spoke of the great efficacy of retreats to meet the needs of the time and of his wish that all the laity of the diocese should have the opportunity of making a retreat. At the same time he expressed the hope that even the country places may find it possible to send at least some of their parishioners to take part in the exercises. He then requested Father Edward F. Garesche, S. J., who has made a special study of retreats and has recently published a book upon the subject, to tell of the movement and its possibilities. Father Garesche spoke of the great efficacy of laymen's retreats as a training school for lay apostolates, as a means of cultivating Catholic home life and of developing vocations. He sketched the movement in Europe and this country.

At the conclusion of his address, Father Mahoney, of Watertown, Wisconsin made the excellent suggestion that retreats be held each year after graduation for all the graduates from the eighth grade schools. Some of these, he said, might be accommodated at closed retreats at Spring Bank, near Okauchee, Wis. Father Garesche approved this idea as an excellent one and suggested that the city children could be grouped in various parish churches for retreats after school closes. The many priests who attended showed a lively interest in this suggestion, which will probably be carried out at the end of the present school year.

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