

Swiss Catholics Now Number Over Million and Half

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Bern, Feb. 27.—Figures which have just been made public by the Swiss Federal Office for Statistics show that this little nation which, for centuries, has enjoyed the privilege of furnishing the guards of the Pope, has a flourishing Catholic life of its own. The total number of Swiss Catholics is 1,585,311, according to these statistics, as compared with 2,750,622 Protestants.

In the Cantons of Valais, Tessin, Uri, Freiburg, Lucerne, Solothurn, and St. Gallen there are Catholic majorities while the Protestants predominate in the Cantons of Bern, Basel-Stadt, Aargau, Neuchâtel, Thurgovia, Wat and Zurich.

Out of every thousand persons in Switzerland, 575 are Protestants, 409 are Catholics, five are Jews, and eleven are members of other denominations. Although Switzerland is a small nation it has members of thirty-one denominations within its borders.

Detroit Priest Given Archimandrite's Robes

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Detroit, March 1.—The Rt. Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, Bishop of Detroit, officiated at the investiture of the Rev. Clement Salman as Archimandrite of Our Lady of Redemption church here.

Archbishop's Pastoral Warns Against Some Subscription Agents

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Cincinnati, March 4.—In a pastoral to his priests regarding Catholic literature, Archbishop John T. McNicholas says: "We are constantly being asked to issue letters identifying and recommending the representatives of Catholic publications. This seems to us objectionable, as it means that we are asked to become virtually a part of their circulation or extension department. No letters therefore will be issued by diocesan officials recommending in particular any Catholic publication. Our approval includes all of them."

Monsignor McAuliffe Will Be Consecrated At Hartford, April 28

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Hartford, Conn., March 5.—The Papal Bulls officially elevating the Rt. Rev. Maurice F. McAuliffe to the episcopacy have been received by the bishop-elect. They designate him Bishop of Delco and appoint him Auxiliary to the Rt. Rev. John J. Niles, Bishop of Hartford. Notice of Monsignor McAuliffe's appointment was received in November.

Youth Of World To Pay Tribute To St. Aloysius

Imposing Ceremonies To Mark 200th Anniversary Of Canonization Of Saint Accepted As Model For All Young People

By Msgr. Enrico Pucel, (Rome Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).

Rome, March 1.—A world program, in which the youth of all nations will participate actively, is now being arranged for December 31 of this year, which will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the canonization by Pope Benedict XIII, of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

This program will be on a scale seldom organized in honor of a saint of the Church. A great central ceremony will be held at Rome, at which delegates from all the nations will attend, and simultaneously there will be conducted services throughout the Catholic world honoring this saint, who has been designated as patron of studious youth everywhere.

Disastrous Floods In Ireland Showing Signs Of Abatement

Dublin, March 1.—The floods in Ireland are abating, and it is likely that the people who "spend their lives fighting the river Shannon" have beaten the enemy for another year. In the Shannon district one day's rain marks an appreciable gain of water over land. As a result of constant flooding, the river has permanently widened in many places. Many years ago numbers of farmers left their old homes and built new ones on the uplands away from the floods—and those new houses are now practically submerged, so greatly has the river extended.

Card. Andrieu Calls On Women To Prepare For Use Of Franchise

Bordeaux, March 1.—Cardinal Andrieu, Archbishop of Bordeaux, has published in "L'Aquitaine", the official bulletin of the Archbishopric, an order concerning the preparation of French women for suffrage.

Meeting Of Hierarchy Discusses Problems In Czechoslovakia

Prague, March 1.—The annual conference of the hierarchy of Czechoslovakia held here at the residence of the archbishop, was attended by the bishops of every diocese in the country and also by His Eminence Cardinal Bertram, of Breslau, whose diocese contains a few parishes located in Moravia and Silesia. Four of the Czechoslovak dioceses are in Bohemia proper, two are in Moravia, seven in Slovakia and one in Subcarpathian Russia.

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Irish Army Officers To Study American Military Training

Dublin, March 1.—The British press takes a disapproving view of the assertions made in the Daily Ireland's neutrality in case Britain becomes involved in war. The "Manchester Guardian" says that a neutral Ireland would not be consistent with the "interdependence of the British Isles". It states that "no belligerent Power is likely to respect Ireland's neutrality, however much she declares it."

Such opinions evoke curiosity in Ireland, especially as the organization of the Irish army is under consideration. Colonel Moore holds that it is unnecessarily large and expensive, and should be reduced. He thinks that an army of 5,000 men with a large proportion of officers, backed by a reserve force, would suffice.

A delegation of Irish officers will leave for America within the next two months "to obtain experience and report back to the Dail." One of the purposes of the delegation will be to see how America trains her officers, and what arrangements exist for the prompt expansion of the lower ranks when necessary.

De Valera Would Seat North East Members If Oath Is Not Taken

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, March 1.—Eamonn De Valera, Irish Republican leader, is personally responsible for the proposal to be made at the forthcoming session of the Ard Fheis of Sinn Fein to allow Republicans elected to the legislatures of the Free State or of North East Ireland to take their seats in those bodies without, however, taking the oath of allegiance to the British King. Copies of the resolution which will be presented to the Ard Fheis bear a notation saying that the proposals are De Valera's personal ideas and are not to be taken as made on behalf of the Standing Committee. By the resolutions prepared by De Valera the Ard Fheis is asked:

"To declare that, when the oath of allegiance is removed, and this act of formal national apostasy no longer stands as a barrier to Republican action within the 26 County Assembly, it shall be the policy of Sinn Fein representatives to enter that Assembly and use it in the national interest—this line of action being the most peaceful, and, under existing conditions, the most effective way of working politically towards the achievement of Republican aims, and of preventing the 26 County institution from being continued as a denationalizing influence and a permanent obstacle to the attainment of full political and economic freedom for the whole country."

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"To make a similar declaration in regard to the Six-County assembly, should a convention representative of Republican opinion within the Six Counties so decide."

"To make the removal of the oath of allegiance and the non-acceptance of partition the immediate political issues at the next general election."

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Irish Voters Show Resentment Against Increasing Taxation

(Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, March 1.—With the approach of the Free State Budget, various parts of the country are showing acute impatience with burdensome taxation. Official extravagance is blamed as the principal cause of the impost. At Ennis, Clare County, a thronged meeting of protest was held. One man told the assembly: "I paid \$350 in rates on certain house property in 1916. This year I have to pay \$1,500. It is enough to knock out anybody."

At Castlepollard a public demand was made to have the number of central and local officials reduced. It was pointed out that the administrative work of a county used to be done several years ago by a secretary and one clerk, at a total cost of less than \$3,000 a year; now it is in the hands of large staffs and costs from fifteen to twenty times as much. The Press complains that there are superfluous State departments, namely of External Affairs which has 65 officials with an aggregate cost of \$250,000 a year. The Stationery Office has 113 officials, and the Ordnance Survey 224. In contrast to this expenditure it is emphasized that no provision has been made for widows and orphans, though the British Parliament has adopted such a measure, and that the Old Age Pension allowance in the Free State has been cut down by a shilling a week.

When the financial debates open in the Dail these will be topics of very animated discussion. Catholic charitable organizers are convinced that, as a social need, the Old Age Pension should be restored to its previous figures and that widows and fatherless families should be placed beyond destitution.

Demand That Mediums Be Investigated Made By English Physician

(C. News Service) London, Mar. 1.—Alarmed by the increase of sanity due to spiritism, Dr. Hayden Brown, noted neurologist, calls for a public inquiry into the activities of mediums with a view of legislation to restrict the menace. Dr. Brown's demand is prompted by the fact that in several recent cases of suicide it has been shown that the victim was a professed spiritist. "They make us wonder," he says, "how many others have died, or are in lunatic asylums without our knowledge."

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Dublin Theater Scene Of Riot On Opening Night Of New Play

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, March 1.—Sean O'Casey's new play got a reception at the Abbey Theater which recalled the tumultuous presentation of "The Playboy of the Western World." The piece, entitled "The Plough and the Stars", had reached the second act when the protest began. The players could no longer be heard. Protests rang out from various parts of the house, declaring the scene to be "a slander on the Citizen Army", and "a defamation of the men of Easter Week, 1916." One of the chief actors, F. J. McCormack, tried several times to address the audience, and was understood to say—"Please differentiate between the players and the author." Men and women from the audience invaded the stage. One voice cried above the rest—"The play may continue if that scene is omitted. It is a disgrace to a Catholic country." Senator Yeats excitedly shouted what seemed to be words of defiance to the objectors. The police intervened and ended the performance, but there were no arrests. The circumstance which aroused public indignation was the unrepresentative character and revolting speech, her companions being political bravadoes and the general atmosphere one of intemperance and profanity.

The Irish press brands the piece as "drivel for the dregs", and is strongly demanding a censorship to prevent foul language and demoralizing spectacles from being put before the public as drama. A call is also made for the stoppage of the Government subsidy which the Abbey Theatre enjoys.

Imported Medals Of St. Christopher Are Ruled Dutiable

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York, March 3.—Imported St. Christopher medals are properly dutiable under the provisions of paragraph 1446, tariff law of 1922. The Treasury Department has just advised the Collector of Customs at the port of New York, according to an announcement made today by the Collector's office. Gen. L. C. Andrews, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, in writing to the collector on this subject, says:

"The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo returning its reference, a letter from the Customs Information Exchange, relative to classification of Saint Christopher medals, like the same submitted, and which the appraiser states are adversely returned for duty as articles of religious devotion under paragraph 1446 of the tariff act, but in view of the decision of the Court of Customs Appeals (T.D. 40669), the crucifixes are excluded from the scope of paragraph 1446. He expressed the opinion that they are dutiable under paragraph 399 of the said act."

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St. Mary's College At San Antonio, Tex. Will Be University

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) San Antonio, March 3.—A new Catholic university has just been chartered in San Antonio, under the name of St. Mary's University. This university will supersede the present St. Mary's College, conducted by the priests and brothers of the Society of Mary. The change will not be made immediately, however, and the school will continue to function for some time under the title of St. Mary's College.