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## Catholics In North Ireland See Hope In New Elections

Dublin, May 16.—There are signs that at the approaching municipal elections in Northern Ireland, the Catholic population will put forward and elect a far greater number of candidates than they have chosen at any time since the establishment of the Northern Parliament. In many Northern towns, panels of Catholic Nationalist candidates have already been selected.

In Dungannon, Tyrone, the Catholic voters have derived encouragement from the displacement of two strong anti-Catholics from the local municipal council. These members, Messrs. Newell and Irwin, took a leading part in an attempt to oust a Catholic mayor from the management of the local public hospital. They were nominated for the east and central wards of the town by the "Unionist Association," which is a term synonymous with "non-Catholic Association." To the great surprise of the Association, two ladies, Mrs. Neill and Mrs. Browne, were nominated for the wards in opposition. Fearing defeat for their nominees, the Association withdrew their names.

Mrs. Neill, who was a member of the previous municipal council, took the side of fair play for Miss McGahan, the Catholic hospital superintendent, and made her opinions prevail. The election, unopposed, of these two ladies to the most Unionist wards in Dungannon, is regarded as a triumph for the Catholic party.

## Papal Decoration For Irish Officer

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)  
Dublin, May 16.—His Holiness has conferred the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice on Lieutenant Colonel Patrick W. O'Gorman, late of the Indian Medical Service, in recognition of a long series of services to Catholicity, carried out principally in India.

Colonel O'Gorman was born in Sligo in 1856. He was one of the founders of the Indian Catholic Federation, and of the Indian Catholic Society. He is editor of the "Catholic Guardian," the official organ of the Catholic Medical Guild, published in London.

## Birth Control Gets Approval of British Women's Federation

London, May 16.—The council of the Women's National Liberal Federation, meeting at Blackpool this week passed a resolution making the advocacy of birth prevention part of its policy.

The delegates accepted the view that "scientific birth control provides a means of increasing the efficiency of the nation."

Mrs. Runciman, wife of a former Liberal cabinet minister, moved an amendment stating that "inasmuch as there is no general consensus of scientific opinion on the subject of birth control and the question has given rise to deep-rooted differences of opinion on social, moral and religious grounds, it is undesirable to include a pronouncement on the subject in the policy of this council."

Mrs. Wynne, seconding, said she believed there was no better education than being a member of a large family. The amendment was rejected.

The council also accepted a resolution, moved by Lady Haworth, recording its opinion that information on birth control should be available to those who ask for it at the centres controlled by the Ministry of Health, "by this means enabling the poorest members of the community to obtain the information to which the wealthier classes already have access."

The resolution was carried with only two or three dissenters.

## Oakland Nursing School Dedicated

Oakland, Calif., May 14.—The \$100,000 nursing school building erected in connection with the new \$1,250,000 Providence Hospital, here was dedicated Thursday by the Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna with impressive ceremonies. Following the dedication the Archbishop presented the five graduating nurses with their diplomas. They are: Grace Griffin, Margaret Daly, Carmelita Judge, Anna Hanrahan, and Sister Monica.

Fr. Michael Kearns Dead  
Santa Clara, Calif., May 12.—The Rev. Michael Kearns died, after a prolonged illness, at El Serrano yesterday, aged 88 years. He was for many years pastor of St. Joseph's church, Berkeley, and for a time pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish, Redwood City.

## German Nun Tells Of Visiting Sister Of 'Little Flower'

Washington, May 20.—A letter containing interesting notes on the sister of St. Teresa, the Little Flower and on the spots in Lisleux, France, intimately connected with the devout life of the young saint, has been received here by the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Immigration. It comes from Germany and is written by a Carmelite Sister who was one of a party assisted by the Bureau in going from the United States to that country. Primarily, the Sister wrote to express deep thanks for the help the Bureau had given her group; she included incidentally an account of a visit to Lisleux on the way to Germany.

Recounting that the group was permitted to see Mother Agnes, sister of the Little Flower and herself a Carmelite nun, face to face and unveiled, the Sister adds: "I had to cry for joy to see her who had so much to do with the bringing up of the Little Flower of Lisleux and helping her to become a perfect saint in Carmel. Dear Reverend Mother Agnes surely is a saint herself. What struck me most in her perfect simplicity and her likeness to the Little Flower..."

"We visited all the holy places sacred to the memory of our dear Little Saint, the beautiful chapel of the monastery where her bones are enclosed in a wax figure, laid out as if in death and with trophies suitable to the 'Little Queen.' One of the most beautiful things about the shrine—these fresh roses—continually placed there by her clients and recipients of her favors..."

Telling of the building of a new monastery to replace the old inadequate one, the writer then turns to other mementoes of St. Teresa. She says: "In her former home, which we visited we saw all the intimate things of her child life—her doll, the little ship she used to sail, her sewing and writing materials and the tiny crib of Bethlehem made by herself. Her bedroom has been converted into a chapel, where Mass is often said."

## Nullity Of Marconi Marriage Clearly Evidenced To Rota

London, May 14.—The decree of the Sacred Roman Rota, declaring the nullity of the Marconi-O'Brien marriage, based on the conclusion that irrefutable evidence showed that Senator William Marconi and the Hon. Beatrice O'Brien before their marriage made an agreement by which either could sue for divorce at any time if they saw fit to do so, which is imminent in the Acts of the Holy See, has been privately communicated to the interested parties.

It states that the evidence submitted proves that Senator Marconi met Miss O'Brien (daughter of the fourteenth Baron Inchiquin) in 1903 at Brownsea, Dorset, and asked her to become his wife. After many difficulties raised by her and her mother the wedding was celebrated in the Anglican church of St. George, Hanover Square, London.

Miss O'Brien was a Protestant, and Senator Marconi was baptized a Roman Catholic and brought up as a Protestant. Difficulties were raised, especially by Lady Inchiquin, owing to the difference of nationality and because she thought that her daughter did not love Senator Marconi sufficiently to tie herself to tie herself to him for life.

The wedding, therefore, was concluded upon the distinct understanding that either could sue for divorce if life together became intolerable. This understanding was made not only with the bride, but also with her mother and her whole family.

Lady Inchiquin, especially, said that she had seen many marriages go wrong and would not consent to the wedding if it was indissoluble as marriages are for Roman Catholics. This condition was especially put to Senator Marconi because he was born a Roman Catholic, and he accepted it.

The agreement was never revoked because the possibility of divorce was never absent from the couple's minds during differences which arose after the marriage, which culminated in their separation in 1918, and their divorce at Rome in 1924.

These facts had been proved by numerous witnesses, chief among them being the brother of Signora Marconi, her sister, the Hon. Moira Bathurst, and Senator Marconi's friend, the Marquis Solari.

These facts brought into play Canon 1,045 of the Canon Law, which states that a wedding is null if at the time it is contracted some positive act of will intervened contrary to the substance of matrimony. Indissolubility is one of the essential properties of matrimony according to Roman Catholic doctrine; therefore, there was no doubt that the Marconi-O'Brien wedding was null.

The decree carries upon Senator Marconi, who brought the suit, to pay the expenses. It has been notified to the Hon. Beatrice O'Brien, who has married the Marquis Margnoli and is now known as the Marchesa di Montecorona.

An announcement has just been made that Benito Mussolini, Premier of Italy, will act as best man at the forthcoming wedding of Senator Marconi and the Countess Bezzecci, the date of which will not be set until it is determined when the Premier will be free to attend.

## Tidings' Criticizes Masonic Ceremony At Public School

Los Angeles, Cal., May 19.—Disclaiming any attempt to stir up controversy, The Tidings, official organ of the Diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego, has editorially questioned the laying of the cornerstone of a new public high school at Santa Barbara, Cal., by Masonic officials with the Masonic ritual, at the invitation of the head of the board of education. The incident, says the paper, "appears to be an abuse on the part of the president of the Santa Barbara board of education and an unwarranted assumption of semi-official character by the Masons."

"Why," asks The Tidings, "should a public function such as the laying of the cornerstone of a new public school be conducted by a private organization which to all intents and purposes, at least as far as a large body of the population is concerned, possesses all the characteristics of a religious sect?"

"The dedication of a public school or of a public building of any kind is a strictly public affair. The ceremonies attending it must be public in character. Any feature likely to offend the religious sensitivities of any section of the citizenry must be avoided."

Recalling that some time ago many public buildings were dedicated with Masonic ceremonies but that the custom has been largely discontinued, The Tidings adds: "The practice rests upon the theory of a close relation between Masonry and the conduct of the public schools and the functioning of the American government which has no basis in fact. We think that any fair-minded Mason will agree that he and his brethren has been presuming just a little too much upon the leniency of their fellow citizens."

"Masonic ritual at a public school cornerstone laying ceremony is just as much out of place as would be a Catholic function on the same occasion. If Bishop Cantwell had been invited to Santa Barbara to lay the cornerstone of La Cumbre Junior High School according to the Catholic ritual, any Mason might rightly protest. Yet the Catholic ceremony is impressive and lends color to such an affair. Nevertheless, it would be entirely out of place at such a time."

## Scion Of Ancient English Catholic Family Dies At 88

London, May 16.—Sir Richard Charles Acton Throckmorton, tenth Baronet, head of one of the oldest Catholic families in England, is dead at the age of 88 years. He was buried last week at Downside, where he was educated by the Benedictine monks.

The Throckmortons have had their present family seat, Coughton Court, Warwickshire, since the days of Henry VI. At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Coughton Court was leased to Sir Everard Digby, who sheltered priests there from Government agents. One member of the family, Francis Throckmorton, was executed at Tyburn in 1584 for complicity in designs on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots, who was beheaded by order of Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Richard Throckmorton was the son of Sir Robert Throckmorton and Elizabeth, only daughter of St. John Acton, who was commander of the land and sea forces of Naples and for several years Neapolitan Prime Minister. His grandfather was Lord Acton, the famous historian.

## Mrs. Hite's Bequest To Seminary Less Than First Stated

Baltimore, May 17.—The value of the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hite, prominent Catholic laywoman of this city, who died in her will \$250,000 in bequests to several Catholic societies and institutions, with the residue to go to St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, is \$350,000, instead of \$500,000 as at first reported.

Out of the remaining \$100,000, a trust fund of \$50,000 for the life benefit of a sister, Alice Hilberg, is to be deducted, which together with incidental expenses, will greatly diminish the amount that it was at first estimated would go to the Seminary.

## Joe Boland Named Aide In Football

Santa Clara, Calif., May 17.—Joe Boland, former star of the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed assistant football coach at the University of Santa Clara here, the Rev. Cornelius J. McCoy, S. J., president of the University, has just announced.

Boland will have complete charge of the line at Santa Clara and will be assistant to A. dam Walsh, former All-American center of Notre Dame's 1924 team, who is the head coach. Leonard J. Connelly, a star player of last year's varsity, has been appointed coach of the freshman eleven.

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**German Catholics Demand Religious Training For Youth**  
By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von (captaine, Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).  
Cologne, May 16.—The Cantsius House has just been dedicated at Dusseldorf, the center of the Catholic school organization. Chancellor Marx, Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Straeter, provost of Aix-la-Chapelle and representative of Cardinal Schulte, who was ill, many prelates, ministers and deputies attended the exercises.

**Unique Oratorical Contest For French Catholic Students**  
(By N. C. W. C. News Service)  
Paris, May 16.—At the latest "tournament of eloquence" just held in Paris under the auspices of the League of Rights of Religious Veterans, the pupils of the upper classes of Catholic colleges were guests at an oratorical contest the subject of which was "The Religious Should Recover Full Liberty of Teaching". The 27 winners of the regional contests met in Paris for a further test to choose the six best among them. These six in turn were called upon to speak in public at the Catholic Institute of Paris, before a jury composed of religious of several congregations, literary critics, journalists and writers.

Each of the students had to deliver a discourse prepared in advance, in favor of the religious, each addressing, as it were, a different audience. One was to speak to a meeting of Catholic men, one to an assembly of young unbelieving workmen, and so on. Finally to complicate the test, a subject for an impromptu speech was given to the young orators immediately before the contest.

With a wide diversity of temperament, several of the contestants gave evidence of oratorical talents which would be not unworthy of parliament. A boy of seventeen, pupil at a college in the vicinity of Lille was announced the victor. The jury declared that the other five showed great talent and really also deserved prizes.

A similar contest will be held each year. It is expected that it will help to show the young French the necessity of abolishing laws which limit the teaching rights of religious.

It is certain that a demand will be made for the education of Catholics and Protestants in the same school. With this in prospect and the Socialists and Communists the principal enemies of the confessional schools, the Catholics are organizing to preserve Christian education for their children. Protestant organizations also are demanding confessional schools and supporting the organization which is opposing the inter-confessional school idea.

Chancellor Marx, who at the General Assembly in Frankfurt-on-the-Main in 1911 warned against the dangers that threatened the Catholic school and Catholic education, is the leader of the Catholic school organization.

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