

Franciscan Friars Discuss Preaching At Yearly Meetings

About fifty Franciscan Fathers of the three Seraphic families of Minor Conventuals, Capuchins, and Friars Minor gathered in St. Francis College, here, for the ninth annual Franciscan Educational Conference, July 1 to 3. They were heartily welcomed by the Very Rev. Justin Figs, O. M. C., D. D., the Provincial superior of St. Anthony Province.

The following officers were elected for the year: President, Father Thomas Plassmann, O. F. M., D. D., and Secretary, Father Felix M. Kirsh, O. M. Cap., Litt. D.

The president of the conference, the Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann, O. F. M., Ph. D., who is the president of St. Bonaventure's Seminary in Allegany, N. Y., directed the meetings of the conference. The subject upon which all the discussions were centered was "The Preaching of the Friars."

Father Antony Linnweber, O. F. M., in charge of St. Francis Retreat House, San Francisco, Cal., and the author of a recent popular book on St. Francis, read a paper on "St. Francis the Man who Reached and Held the Heart of the World." Father Victor Mills, O. F. M., a professor of St. Bonaventure's Seminary, spoke on "The Work of Preaching in Our Franciscan Life." Father Victor Hoffman, O. F. M., superior of the Franciscan Priory in Oak Forest, Ill., had a treatise on "Franciscan Exposition of the Art of Preaching." Father Fulgence Meyer, O. F. M., a missionary of Cincinnati, O., and the author of "Uni Una" and several other popular books, spoke on "Franciscan Homiletics." Father Redo Hess, O. M. C., D. D., superior of St. Katherine's Monastery, Seaside Park, N. J., read a paper on "The Franciscan Mission."

State Should Aid Employees' Unions, Scotch Priest Says

(By N. C. W., C. News Service.) London, July 5.—It is the duty of the State to facilitate the formation of trade unions and to protect their rights, declared Father Henry Day, S. J., in an address at a Catholic Social Guild meeting in Edinburgh.

Father Day based his assertion on the necessity for machinery for conciliation between employers and employees. "The main business of trade unions, he said, is by combination and through trained negotiators to put the workers in a position to bargain on equal terms with the employers."

It was true to say that while many of the unions exercised their powers properly, a few had handed themselves over to unwise leaders. But they were not to condemn trade unions because some had acted stupidly.

Alluding to the Trades Disputes Bill now before Parliament—which seeks to limit the occasions on which strikes may be called—Father Day said they could not attack it upon general principles, but they could attack it on the question of expediency. He regarded the bill as a mere tinkering with legislation.

What they needed was to look into the whole question of trade unions to ascertain how far they had become a national necessity, and how far their power must be sanctioned by Parliament for the common good. That ought to be done for the salvation of the State and the welfare of the people.

Bishop Denounces Salacious Dramas

Los Angeles, July 1.—"Los Angeles must not be made the dumping ground for salacious plays which have been banned by New York censors," declared the Rt. Rev. John J. Cantwell, Bishop of Los Angeles-San Diego, in his address to the diocesan Council of Catholic Women, at its annual meeting in the Chamber of Commerce building here, a few days ago.

Bishop Cantwell called attention to many offenses which, he said, had recently been offered to the censors of the city and urged the women to do all in their power to prevent such plays from being offered to the public. He refused to

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Are Sun Spots to Blame For This?

Blasco Ibanez, who, from a safe distance, pook-pooked the King of Spain, discovered that Christopher Columbus did not discover America. Henry Albert Phillips, writing in the Dearborn Independent, discovered Mr. Ibanez' discovery. The editor of the Scottish Rite News Bureau discovered Mr. Phillips' discovery of Mr. Ibanez' discovery of the non-discovery of America by Christopher Columbus and passed it on to his readers on June 27th. Mr. Ibanez said: "After eight years of research, after I have examined all the reliable documents of the period, I am convinced that Christopher Columbus never set foot upon—never even saw—any part of the continent of America! I can prove it." And there the matter stood until June 25th. On that date Cincinnati Enquirer in an editorial said: "It was Thaurara O'Malley, an Irish citizen of the County Galway, who gave Columbus financial aid in all things necessary for his optical voyage and it is he who should be remembered as a co-partner in the great business of discovering a new world and the Knights of Columbus might as well admit the fact and give him proper honor." The authority for this is Brigit Flynn's "Short History of Ireland." And there you are—wherever that may be.

A Medium For Good

The editor of "The Compass," published by Milwaukee-Pere Marquette Council, No. 524, writes in the June issue: "When we view the work of the Order from an angle that eliminates a true perspective, when lounging in an easy chair, we only appreciate those things that go on about us, then we fail to grasp the magnitude of the things being accomplished. Then we fail to place a true valuation on the Order's work." The editorial then cites a few of the many contributions of State Councils to charity, to education and to the relief of human suffering.

The editorial concludes: "The significance of the work along national lines cannot be too strongly emphasized. Relief work among flood sufferers, labors in Rome, promotion of Catholic education through endowments and scholarships, social welfare work, all these good works constitute a vast whole which combined with the labors of the state and individual councils produce a medium for good, the immensity of which is difficult to realize."

Yet there are some who ask what the Order is doing, and who boggle on what ground we know not—that it is doing nothing. These, we are persuaded, are closely related to the man who, seeing a graffe for the first time, said: "There ain't no such animal."

Knights Again Praised For Flood Relief

A characteristic blast from Mr. Henry L. Mencken, a well-known "Bad Boy of Baltimore," has been the occasion of further praise for the Knights of Columbus flood relief contribution. Mr. Mencken in the Baltimore Evening Sun, argued that the three hundred thousand men, women and children in the flooded area should be permitted to starve to death promptly. He gave three reasons. First, because they are fundamentalists in religion; second, because they are—or have been known to be—easily misled by fiscal vagaries like "the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one"; third, because some of them have been the credulous victims of designing men preaching among them the doctrine of religious and racial proscription. The Birmingham (Alabama) News takes exception to his argument and says: "The real answer to all this drivel of Mr. Mencken's on this third point may be found in action taken not long ago by a national body of men deliberating at Chicago respecting this flood-suffering. When the Knights of Columbus voted \$25,000 for Red Cross relief among these lower Mississippi sufferers, a nobleness of temper was manifest that Mr. Mencken, by his own words in the Baltimore Evening Sun, would be utterly incapable of. In that body of men—Americans all, known each of their lower Mississippi countrymen—feelings like those phrased by Mr. Mencken were impossible. In the redeeming nobleness exemplified at Chicago by the Knights of Columbus, Mr. Mencken may find alluring refutation of his aspersions."

Nuns At St. Xavier College Number 308

Cincinnati, July 12.—Twelve orders of nuns are represented among the students in the Summer School of St. Xavier College, according to figures tabulated by Mrs. Catherine McGrath, registrar.

held aboard ship, when Archbishop Michael J. Curley, of Baltimore, celebrated Mass in the beautiful chapel of the new French liner, Ile de France. The ship's orchestra played religious music. At the close of the Mass, Archbishop Curley thanked the officials of the French Line for being the first transatlantic steamship company to provide passengers with a complete church.

Fund Spent, Order's War Work Ends

The Knights of Columbus, on June 30, concluded their program of educational and welfare work among veterans of the World War, having completed the administration of a fund of approximately \$43,000,000 since June 16, 1917. Twenty-five million were spent in camp, community, transport, overseas and employment service. The surplus of \$18,000,000 on hand at the end of the War has been exhausted.

During the war years, Knights of Columbus secretaries went wherever there were American soldiers, sailors or marines, providing the men in the trenches with a variety of creature comforts and performing for them a multitude of services. Buildings, huts, tents and clubhouses were constructed in army cantonments here and in military zones abroad. Everything done for the service man during the War, and since, was done without cost to him.

When demobilization began, the Knights of Columbus established employment bureaus in the large industrial centers of the country and found jobs for hundreds of thousands of returned veterans. The unexpended balance of the War Fund was devoted to welfare and educational work.

The educational work was carried on through evening schools, college scholarships and a correspondence school for ex-service men. One hundred and fifty free evening schools, with a total enrollment of 313,916, were organized and maintained from 1919 to 1925. In September, 1919, 403 scholarships in various colleges and universities, were awarded former service men. A correspondence school for veterans was instituted in 1922. More than one hundred thousand have enrolled in this school, which is still in operation. It will be continued until December 31st, 1927, to permit recently enrolled students to complete their courses.

Since the close of the War, Knights of Columbus secretaries have attended disabled veterans confined to hospitals throughout the country. The number of patients thus served is, at present, approximately 40,000. The Knights of Columbus provided for these disabled veterans the things not required in the ordinary routine Government service. Its general work consisted in developing recreation, providing athletic supplies, distributing cigarettes and other creature comforts and rendering personal service to patients confined to bed. The entire expense of carrying on this work was paid from the War Fund, no charge whatever being made to the patients for any service rendered, or for the use of any facilities furnished.

Jesuits' Quake Work Is Highly Praised

"A valuable contribution to seismology in the United States" is the estimate of the Jesuit Seismological Association's work made in a report recently issued by the Department of Commerce.

The Department's report lays particular stress upon the activity with which the study of wave transmission is being prosecuted and in this connection pays a high compliment to Rev. James B. Macelwane, S. J., head of the Department of Geophysics in the St. Louis University. It says: "The work of Father Macelwane in wave transmission is outstanding, and by the University of California) and Newman (of the Coast Geodetic Survey) are giving considerable attention to it."

Mission Priest Sends Appeal to Knights

Rev. Louis L. R. Morrow, General Secretary of the Catholic Truth Society of Manila, has forwarded a special appeal to the Knights of Columbus for Catholic books, pamphlets, magazines and papers. The Society distributes these among thousands of Catholic born Filipino students, who, on account of lack of priests and opportunities for instruction, are growing up entirely ignorant of their religion. It has increased its activities and now receives so many demands for Catholic literature that it is not able to supply all of them. Father Morrow asks all Knights to help him in his work by sending him their old copies of "Catholicism" and other Catholic magazines and papers. Last year, he is figured tabulated by Mrs. Catherine McGrath, registrar.

Monument Planned For Holland Bishop, Confidant of King

Louvain, July 5.—The movement for the erection of a monument to the late Bishop of 'S Hertogenbosch, Msgr. Zwysen, one of the great churchmen of the nineteenth century, is bringing out many interesting anecdotes about this venerable prelate. Here is one vouched for by an aged clergyman of the diocese:

When Bishop Zwysen was but an ordinary parish priest at Tilburg, where the Prince of Orange, who became King William II of Holland, resided, it happened that during one of the Lenten seasons, invitations were sent out for a ball in honor of His Royal Highness.

The moment the pastor heard of it he hastened to the Prince's palace, where he was always most welcome, and asked the Prince in quite a confidential tone: "What would Your Royal Highness do if one of your generals showed himself unconcerned about your commands?"

"Why, Your Reverence, I would deprive him of his command at once."

"Well, now," continued the priest, "what a King is to his generals that a Bishop is to his priests; and it happens that the Bishop, or rather the Vicar Apostolic, has forbidden balls and other worldly entertainments to be attended by my parishioners during the Lenten time. It is my duty to see to the execution of this order."

"Your duty is plain, indeed," replied the Prince, "do it."

"Well, then," said Father Zwysen, "I'll have to preach against this ball that has been announced and I must warn Catholics not to have any part in it."

"Once more, Father, I tell you, do what your duty commands you to do," was the royal adviser's reply.

Father Zwysen did his duty. Numerous generals and high officials were present at the ball and so was the Crown Prince; but the Catholics of Tilburg were absent. Only one Catholic lady had the sad courage to spurn her pastor's admonitions. After the ball, the Prince went up to her and said: "My Lady, you'll get the alms at Easter; for the pastor warned you not to appear at this ball." It was the last time that the lady assisted at a court ball during forbidden times.

The Prince of Orange had the greatest regard for Msgr. Zwysen, treated him as a most intimate friend, not only when still crown prince of the Netherlands, but also later when he had become king. King William II died suddenly in Tilburg March 17, 1849. His friend, the pastor of the city, had no time to bid the King a last farewell. The Queen, Anna Paulowna, who was a Russian Archduchess by birth, took up her abode with her suite in Pastor Zwysen's residence during the first days of mourning, and one of the first acts of King William III was to make his father's clerical friend Commissioner of the "Netherlandsche Lebruur."

Very Rev. V. Amberg Goes To Newark, N. J.

Manchester, N. H., July 6.—The Very Rev. Vincent Amberg, O. S. B., Sub-Prior and treasurer of St. Anselm's College here, is leaving the College for St. Mary's Abbey at Newark, N. J., it has been announced.

New Church Planned For Pittsburg, Calif.

Pittsburg, Calif., July 12.—Plans have been drawn for the erection of the new St. Peter's church here. The building is to be of reinforced concrete and will cost \$75,000. In architectural beauty it will equal any church in the San Francisco Archdiocese. The Rev. Father E. G. McMullen is the pastor of St. Peter's.

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