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PRIME FIVE CENTS

Belgian Farmers' Catholic League Doing Great Work

Annual Report Shows Extent of Its Activities—Publications of League—Operations of Its Central Bank

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden

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

Louvain, Oct. 30.—The Belgian Farmers' League (Boerenbond) has just issued its report—a volume of 190 octavo pages—for the year 1927. From the wealth of details it contains about the activity of this Catholic organization, next to the mightiest in the land, I cull the following:

At the end of the year 1927, the League numbered 1,184 local guilds with 112,978 households inscribed on their membership rolls.

The guilds are local organizations whose business it is to attend to the general interests (religious, moral, social and professional) of its members. In the bosom of the guild, and for its members only, there are sections pursuing a limited aim, either social, economical or professional. Thus there is the section for the agricultural male youth, with 12,325 members; the section for the farmers' wives and daughters, with a membership roll of 78,660 distributed among 748 circles; the truck gardeners' section, etc.

Publications of the League

All the local guilds and circles are autonomous; their bond of union is the General Secretariat at Louvain, whence they receive guidance and direction. That Secretariat publishes for the benefit of the associates: 1. A weekly, "De Goer" (The Peasant) in three editions—a Flemish, a French and a German sent—gratuitously to all the members. It contains in every issue, besides the regular news items and articles of professional interest, a leader on a religious or moral subject by one of Belgium's leading theologians; 2. A monthly, "De Gids" (The Guide), for the special benefit of the officials of the local guilds; 3. Another monthly, "De Boerin," which goes to every one of the members of the women's circles; 4. "Onze Plough" (Our Plough), a monthly of a more scientific character intended for agricultural engineers and teachers and for the more scientifically inclined among the farmers; 5. "Pluim en Klein Vee" (Feathered and Small Stock), sent out monthly to the ever increasing numbers of small holders who, following the League's advice, specialize themselves in the raising of small stock; 6. A monthly review that keeps the members of rural town councils posted on rural legislation and on all that the farmers are entitled to expect from their mandates in the municipal administrations.

The General Secretariat publishes also a series of technical manuals, having added two to the series in 1927—one on Agricultural Machinery and the other on the Fight Against Horticultural Parasites. The series now includes eleven volumes.

The religious interests of the members being a primordial concern of the League, every local guild has its own chaplain, who is either the local pastor or his assistant.

Retreats for Farmers

Every year the General Louvain Secretariat organizes closed retreats for the League's members of both sexes and teachers and for the members on a pilgrimage to Rome.

There is not a subject of use to farmers that is not the concern of the League's Secretariat. It contributes to the creation and maintenance of regional agricultural schools of which there are thirty, or eleven more than in 1926. These schools have a two-year course. It encourages the creation of technical farmers' libraries, of which there are 247. It maintains at the Louvain headquarters: a farm-building service, an electrical service, an agricultural hydraulic service, a land-reclaiming service, a savings and credit bank, a sugar-beet syndicate, a buying and selling syndicate, a general information bureau and laboratories with staffs of engineers, lawyers, veterinary surgeons, agricultural school graduates, etc.

During the year over which the report extends, the laboratories made 3,442 analyses of samples sent by members.

Central Bank Loans and Receipts

During the same period the Central Bank of the League loaned 11,276,000 fr. to its members and received from them \$56,596,930 fr. deposits. These sums do not represent all the financial capacity of the association; so much should be added all the amounts received for life-insurance premiums, for insurance against fire,

Toral Exonerates Nun of Complicity in Obregon's Death

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

San Angel, Mexico, Nov. 5.—Resuming the witness stand in his trial for the killing of Gen. Alvaro Obregon, Jose de Leon Toral completely exonerated Mother Concepcion, his co-defendant, of having had any part in the death of the President-elect.

Toral, answering questions put to him by counsel for Mother Concepcion, testified that he "was prepared to do something of the sort," when Mother Concepcion, casually remarked to him that only by the death of General Obregon, President Calles or "Patriarch" Perez of the Mexican Schismatic Church could the religious situation in Mexico be solved.

The defendant asked the court to bear in mind that "not only Mother Concepcion but thousands of others throughout Mexico were making such remarks" and that she was guilty of nothing that was not also applicable to these others.

"On the brink of the grave and before all the nation," the attorney said to Toral, "I demand of you to say sincerely what responsibility did Mother Concepcion have in Obregon's assassination?"

"None, absolutely none," Toral answered.

After her remark, Toral said, although she was utterly unaware of its effect and he kept his plans from her and all others, he resolved to kill the President-elect.

Previously Toral described terrible tortures which, he said, were inflicted upon him at police headquarters in an attempt to force him to confess he had an accomplice. For six hours, he said, he was beaten, burned with matches, stuck with pins and hung by his thumbs and then by a restricting cord about his chest.

The proceedings of the trial are being broadcast by radio and several times the defendant has taken the microphone from the judge's desk and placed it on his own table so that he might be certain his statements would be clearly heard.

Catholic Book Club Lauds Autobiography

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

New York, Nov. 5.—The Catholic Book Club has selected as its November book "Jorgensen: An Autobiography," translated from the Danish of Johannes Jorgensen by Ingeborg Lund—Longmans, Green & Company, New York.

The Catholic Book Club, in presenting Jorgensen's autobiography, declared it one that will be listed among the great books of the Catholic tradition. Of it the club's announcement says:

"The autobiography is a detailed record of Jorgensen's mental development. But it has the gripping interest of a psychological novel. It throws in a pen-picture of a panorama that might be framed, a vivid re-creation of a village in Denmark or a landscape in Italy. In straight strokes it sketches a character, or with a scalpel it probes down into a soul. It reviews the books that shook the world in the last quarter of the past century. It points the upstate that a false philosophy made; and it goes into a very ecstasy over some religious discovery."

Sister of Mercy Dies in California Convent

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

Grass Valley, Cal., Nov. 5.—Sister M. Evangelist O'Connor of the order of Sisters of Mercy, who died here Sunday, was buried after services in the convent chapel Wednesday.

Sister Evangelist was a native of Ireland, born in 1850. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1872 and was for many years connected with the local branch.

Against hall, against the diseases and mortality of cattle, etc.

The latest addition to the League's activity is a claim of general merchandise retail stores for its members and for workingmen. There exist already 303 such stores, which or the ten first months of the year 1927 sold 43,442,177 fr. worth of goods.

In reading the above figures one must not forget that Belgium is about a thousand square miles smaller in area than Maryland and that the Farmers' League is but little known in the southern provinces of the land.

Labor Encyclical Anniversary Will Be Celebrated

N. C. W. C. Social Action Department Planning Nation-Wide Observance of Thirty-Eighth Birth-day of Pope Leo's Famous Declaration

Washington, Nov. 2.—Observance in the colleges and universities of the United States of the thirty-eighth anniversary of Pope Leo's Encyclical on the Condition of Labor, which falls on May 15, 1929, is planned by the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in an ambitious program just revealed here.

The Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan, Professor of Moral Theology at the Catholic University of America and director of the Department of Social Action, has invited more than 150 Catholic colleges and universities for men and women to participate in the observance. He has sent a similar invitation to more than 100 Newman clubs and similar Catholic groups in the various secular institutions of higher learning throughout the country.

"The Encyclical," says Dr. Ryan, in the invitation, "is the charter of Catholic social teaching on economic questions and general and thorough knowledge of its main principles and their application today is a necessity if America is to establish justice and fairness in industry."

"We are extending this invitation to all Catholic colleges and universities throughout the country. In the hope of awakening an interest in this classic of the Church on the labor problem."

The invitation is extended to the Newman Clubs and Catholic clubs of secular universities for the same reason, it is said.

Various types of commemorative programs might be followed, and it is found inadvisable to have the entire school participate in such programs, the classes in economics might with profit devote an evening to this topic, the invitation says. If it is desirable, the Department of Social Action will cooperate with representatives of the schools or organizations in planning the observance and a program for the occasion.

Suggestions that have been made to the various Catholic schools as to types of programs that might be followed include: An address to the student body on the Encyclical, a special evening meeting for students and their friends with one or more addresses on the Encyclical, a sermon on the Sunday nearest the anniversary of the Encyclical and a program arranged by members of the class in economics.

The suggestions as to types of program made to the Newman Clubs and other Catholic clubs in secular institutions include: An address on the Encyclical at a regular meeting of the organization, a special public meeting of the organization with one or more addresses on the Encyclical or the Church and Industry; a luncheon meeting at which one person would speak, possibly followed by short, extemporaneous talks by those present; a dinner meeting with two or three speakers on the Encyclical, and an evening meeting with two short talks on the Encyclical and general discussion from the floor.

Anniversaries of Pope Leo's Encyclical are regularly observed throughout Europe, but this is believed to be the first time that such an observance has been undertaken in this country.

Catholic Membership in Minn. U. Sorority Not To Be Curtailed

As St. Paul, Oct. 30.—No instructions to curtail Catholic membership in the Alpha Xi Delta chapter of the University of Minnesota have been received from the National committee of the sorority, Miss Ethelene Frederick, president of the Minnesota chapter, informed The Catholic Bulletin this week when the Hunter college incident was brought to her attention.

The rule of the society limiting the number of Catholic members to one fifth of the chapter roll is adhered to strictly at the University of Minnesota. Miss Frederick said: "The Catholic minority is always low," she added.

The head of the Minnesota chapter also disclosed that Catholic members are not permitted to hold the major offices in the sorority. "This prohibition is not contained in the constitution, but is traditionally handed down because of the Protestantism of the sorority's founders," Miss Frederick said.

Jews are never admitted to the sorority, she said.

Religious Record of the O'Hern Family

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 3.—

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. Francis O'Hern, who has just been named Apostolic Administrator of the See of Rochester, left vacant by the resignation of Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, because of illness, is one of 14 children, four of whom became priests, three cousins are also priests.

The Rev. Dennis O'Hern, who died at St. Patrick's Cathedral here in 1911, was a brother of the Apostolic Administrator. The Rev. Lewis J. O'Hern, C. S. P., pastor of the Apostolic Mission House in Washington, and the Rev. Thomas J. O'Hern, pastor of St. Bartholomew's church, Buffalo, are the other brothers that took Holy Orders. Another brother, Col. E. P. O'Hern, U. S. A., was chief ordnance officer of the First American Army in France.

The Rev. T. Maurice O'Hern, rector of St. Clara's church, Clarendon, Pa.; the Rev. William E. O'Hern, pastor of St. Mark's church, Emporium, Pa.; and the Rev. John E. Casey, pastor of St. John's church, Clyde, N. Y., are cousins.

Nun, on Stand Denies Part in Obregon Death

Mexico City, Nov. 6.—Asserting her entire innocence of the charge that she "inspired" Jose de Leon Toral, slayer of General Alvaro Obregon, Mother Concepcion Acevedo de la Lata was the central figure in the trial yesterday as she testified that she had no knowledge of Toral's intention to kill the President-elect.

Mother Concepcion's testimony was heard without the benefit of the nationwide radio hook-up over which Toral's words were broadcast. Judge Mendoza removed the microphone after protest by government counsel that the defense was using it to incite rebellion. The judge also prohibited the taking of photographs and stenographic records of testimony.

The nun admitted that she had learned later, after the assassination, that there had been a conspiracy to kill Calles and Obregon at Golaya and to manufacture bombs. She insisted, however, that she was not informed of the plans of the conspirators. She said she had sought only to console and give comfort to those who visited her house and had counseled them not to commit any illegal acts.

Counsel for Mother Concepcion took advantage at one point of sentiment aroused in her favor to deliver an ardent defense of her private life, and then said: "Will you swear before everything sacred to you that you are innocent?"

"I swear it," she replied.

Cornerstone Is Laid For Capital School

Washington, Nov. 5.—The Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, yesterday laid the cornerstone of the new \$150,000 parochial school of the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament here. The building will accommodate 500 pupils and will be one of the most modern schools in the Capital.

Archbishop Curley was assisted at the ceremonies by the Rev. Thomas G. Smyth, pastor of the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, and a number of members of the clergy of this city and Baltimore. Following the laying of the cornerstone, the Rev. Eugene A. Hannan of Bethesda, Md., celebrated Mass, and His Grace administered Confirmation to a class of 100 children.

English Catholics Plan To Celebrate Their Emancipation

London, Oct. 29.—English Catholics will celebrate the centenary of their emancipation by big gatherings here during the week-end September 13-15, 1929.

The Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 was passed earlier in the year, and on the anniversary of its passing there will be a Mass of thanksgiving at Westminster Cathedral at which all the Bishops of England and Wales will be present.

The public celebrations will coincide with the triennial recurrence of the National Catholic Congress, which next year will be held in London to give it special significance in view of the centenary. No details of the program have yet been issued, but it is understood that the largest building in London has been secured for several meetings, and it is certain that its accommodations will prove inadequate.

Brother Dutton Friend of Lepers Gains in Health

Washington, Nov. 3.—

Brother Joseph Dutton, the world famous hero of the leper colony of Kalawao, Molokai, Hawaii, having just recovered from a serious illness, is praying in this his eighty-sixth year for the "strength and time" to finish his work. He advises his friends here in a letter just received by Charles A. McMahon, editor of the N. C. W. C. Bulletin.

In the letter, which is brief and touching, and which he got out of bed to write, Brother Dutton reveals that since July he has not been reading print, except for a "small bit daily in 'The Blessed Peace of Death,' or what must be read in forming a system to clear up the accumulation of correspondence and records."

"Am begging Our Lord and St. Joseph for strength and time to finish," he adds, underlining the word, time.

Molokai, Hawaii, Oct. 20.—Brother Joseph Dutton, successor to Father Damien and since 1888 the constant servant of the lepers on this island, has recovered from a serious attack of influenza which confined him to his bed for several weeks. Brother Dutton, who is more than 85 years old, has entered upon his forty-third year in the services of the lepers here.

Shortly before he was taken ill, early in August, Brother Dutton sent a small gift to President Coolidge through the editor of a newspaper in Janesville, Wis., where he once lived. The President, on vacation at the time in Wisconsin, acknowledged the gift with expressions of particular pleasure and a deep interest in the brother's work among the lepers.

The veteran missionary's strength, it is said, is returning slowly, and he has asked his many friends and well-wishers who have written him to have patience, as it has been impossible for him to reply personally to all of them. Despite his advanced age, the leper missionary has retained remarkable vitality, memory and energy, it is said.

Brother Dutton, a convert to the Catholic faith, is also a veteran of the Civil War, having forsaken a brilliant military career to isolate himself in this leper colony. For years the missionary refused to accept a pension for his war services, but finally accepted it, sending the money to a convent in the United States. It has long been a tradition in the G. A. R. that at the national encampments a message or token be sent to "Comrade Dutton."

Widows and Orphans Pension Bill Argued Before Irish Day

Dublin, Oct. 30.—Mr. T. Murphy, Labor Deputy for West Cork, proposed a motion in the Dail, that the Executive Council should present to the Oireachtas for consideration, a bill to provide pensions for widows and orphans.

Mr. Murphy pointed out that in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, such an insurance scheme exists, and that it provides widows with a weekly pension of £2.50 weekly, with an additional dollar for each child.

Mr. Murphy's proposal was supported by Mr. Sean MacEntee, Finance Bill member for Dublin County, who promised the support of his party for the motion.

Mr. Ernest Blythe, Minister for Finance, informed the House that he opposed the motion on the ground of cost alone, as such a scheme would cost three and a quarter million dollars annually.

The debate on the motion stands adjourned. The system of relieving the poor by taking them into State Workhouses, is giving way more and more to the distribution of food and money to their homes. This has resulted in the closing of about fifty per cent of the workhouses in the Free State.

Hospital Cornerstone Is Blessed By Bishop

Orange, Cal., Nov. 6.—

The cornerstone of St. Joseph's hospital, being erected here by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was placed and blessed by Bishop Cantwell Sunday, Oct. 28.

Several thousand persons, representing every city in Orange county, assembled to pay tribute to the new institution of mercy. The Knights of Columbus acted as a guard of honor. The speakers were: Bishop Cantwell, the Rev. Joseph Rhode, C. J. E. W. H. A. Johnson, M. D., and V. D. Johnson, secretary of the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

Man Whom Pastors Saved at Unveiling Of His Monument

Chicago, Nov. 3.—

Latent stood reverently at attention here Saturday, as a monument to Louis Pasteur was unveiled near the Field Museum of Natural History.

Just 44 years ago, Lane and three other boys were bitten by a mad dog that raced into a Newark, N. J. butcher shop and snapped the kids before it was killed. That was in 1884 and in 1885 Pasteur's "certain death."

Lane told how the families of the four boys rushed them to Paris how the crowds fell back as they were hurried through the streets, and how a little wrinkled man, with a pair of kindly but piercing eyes and a black skull cap, saved his life and the lives of his three comrades, just as he saved the lives of thousands in the years that followed.

M. Paul Claudel, the Ambassador of France, and Vice-President Davis attended the unveiling ceremony.

Poincare Accepts Compromise On His Religious Proposals

Paris, Oct. 31.—In order to save France from internal dissension at a time when she is striving to cooperate with her allies for a united front on reparations and other international questions, Premier Raymond Poincare has accepted a Radical compromise putting a limit on congressional and executive other changes in the text of articles 70 and 71 of the proposed budget for 1929.

The premier, who has maintained power by virtual dictatorship since very controversial question for more than two years, fought for the original wording of the budget during one of the longest and bitterest cabinet sessions his administration has experienced. After five hours of very debate, he agreed to change the text of the articles and to limit the number of religious orders who would be permitted to have missionary training schools in France to nine. It is further provided that this number cannot be increased without special vote by Parliament and that authorization for the existence of clerical orders should be given only by direct parliamentary vote, instead of by Government decree as heretofore. Edouard Herriot, Minister of Education and representative of the indignant Radical Socialists, accepted the compromise but none too graciously.

The compromise effected is believed to have averted the fall of the present cabinet and to have saved the National Union at considerable cost to the Government's prestige. However, it is by no means certain that what Minister Herriot accepted reluctantly will be at all acceptable to the Radical Socialist Congress when it meets at Angoulême this week.

Swiss Nun In India Is Dying of Leprosy

Ranchi, East India, Oct. 20.—

Franchi, a Swiss nun of the American Jesuit Mission of Patna, India, is dying here of leprosy. The disease brought on insanity, necessitating the removal of Sister Franchi to this asylum here.

She was very much loved by the Indians, both Catholic and pagan, having endeared her self by her tender care for the afflicted.

Sister Franchi is the second nun of the Patna Mission to contract the dread disease. Both she and the previous victim belonged to the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, with headquarters in Switzerland and a novitiate at Merrill, Wisconsin.

Sports Event On Lake Tiberias

Jerusalem, Nov. 3.—

For the first time in the history of modern Jerusalem the Lake of Tiberias will be the scene, next spring, of a sporting event, according to plans formulated here by the Jewish Maccabi, a sports organization. A regatta will feature the event, which will be held about the time of the Jewish Passover.

Hibernian Band to Play

San Francisco, Nov. 3.—

The Hibernian Band of fifty pieces, organized less than a year ago, is to give its first public concert in the Civic Auditorium here, Dec. 1. The organization is the only Catholic national band in the West and the only Hibernian Band in the United States.

Maryknoll Home Fund Grows

New York, Nov. 3.—

The Catholic Daughters of America in raising a fund for the construction of a Mother Home for the Maryknoll Sisters in New York City, are being approached, according to Elizabeth Abner, mother of the