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## Swiss Catholics Are Successful At The Polls

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)  
Vienna, November 10.—The Swiss Catholics achieved a splendid success in the parliamentary elections just held. They come off from these elections as the real and only victors. The Swiss Parliament is composed of two chambers: the Council of States ("Ständerat") and the National Council ("Nationalrat") which was united from the Federal Assembly. In the latter the Catholics who are represented by the "Catholic Conservative Party" held 60 mandates, composed of 18 seats in the Council of States and 42 in the National Council. Their representatives therefore occupied the second place in the Federal Assembly, which numbers 242 members, their number being exceeded only by the group of the Radical Democrats which numbers 79 deputies. The third place in the Federal Assembly had been taken by the Socialists with 52 mandates, and then followed a number of smaller groups.

In the electoral contest of 1925 the Catholics had suffered a reverse which, however, was not serious, but nevertheless had cost them two mandates.

What was lost then was made up twice over in the recent election. This time the Catholics, who in recent years had taken much pain and care to improve their organizations, re-acquired four seats in the Cantons of Zurich, Wallis, Schwyz, and Basel-Country, and therefore number 46 in the newly elected National Council. All 46 seats and maintained their former position in the Council of States.

No other party recorded a similar increase in votes and seats. This victory gained by the Catholics by the ballot, must be valued all the higher since they had to defend themselves against two fronts: the anti-religious liberalism of the bourgeois, and at the same time against Socialism which in Switzerland resembles with its radicalism the Socialism of Austria and comes forward, more especially in the Cantons of central Switzerland, as the ally of hateful bigotry. The Catholics defeated both of these opponents. The Socialists who had firmly reckoned upon a certain victory, lost both their seats in the Council of States, had to leave in the Canton of Schwyz one mandate in the National Council to the Catholics, and in the new Federal Assembly will occupy only 50 seats.

## Harrisburg Catholic Given Distinguished Service Cross by U.S.

Harrisburg, Penn., Nov. 3.—A feature of the general Armistice Day observance here yesterday was the conferring of the Distinguished Service Cross on George D. Lyselberger, a member of St. Mary's parish, McSherrystown, Pa., for heroism displayed in action in France 10 years ago. Mr. Lyselberger came to Harrisburg at the request of Army officials who wished that the presentation be made with appropriate ceremony.

The citation announcing the honor reads as follows:

"George D. Lyselberger—formerly sergeant, then corporal, Company C, 316th Infantry, 19th Division, American Expeditionary Forces. For extraordinary heroism in action north of Montauban, France, September 28, 1918. Taking command of a platoon that had suffered severe losses from enemy machine-gun fire, he led the platoon around the left flank of an enemy spur trench in which were planted several machine guns, and which was holding up the advance of our troops. He directed a charge upon the enemy crews of the guns, and as a result the enemy gunners abandoned their guns, and those not killed retreated in disorder."

## Detroit's Grid Team Greatest, Says Kipke

East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 19.—This year's University of Detroit eleven is the best football team he has ever seen, Harry Kipke, coach at Michigan State College and one of the great all-American players, declared after his team had suffered a 39 to 0 defeat at the hands of Detroit. "That Detroit team was the best I have ever seen," was his comment. In defeating Fordham Saturday, the University of Detroit eleven registered its fourteenth consecutive victory.

## Has Sung For 85 Years In French Catholic Church

By M. Maasant  
(Paris Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Paris, Nov. 12.—Replying to a question printed in La Croix, a number of parishes have declared that they have singers who have been in service for more than twenty years.

The record seems to be held by a singer of La Garde-Guichard in Lozere. Now 95, he donated his services as sacristan singer from 1841 until 1926, that is to say for 85 years. He is as erect today as he was at twenty and recites his rosary while watching his sheep. He always wears a blue habit and the medal, *Bene Merenti*, conferred upon him by his bishop.

The parish of Chedigny, in the diocese of Tours, boasts two brothers named Damon who have been singing in the church for 79 and 73 years, and their cousin who has given the same service for 73 years.

## Noted Educator Is Found Dead In Bed

(By Special Telegraph to N. C. W. C. News Service)

Huntington, Ind., Nov. 15.—Rev. A. E. Lafontaine, sixty-year-old superintendent of schools and hospitals for the diocese of Fort Wayne, was found dead in bed this morning.

In addition to his labors in the Fort Wayne diocese, Father Lafontaine has been an active member of the National Catholic Educational Association. He served as chairman of the Superintendent's Section of the organization in 1934 and, in 1927, became a member of the Executive Committee of the Parish School Department. Several papers were prepared and delivered by him at meetings of the N. C. E. A., notably at the 1921 session on "The Relative Duties of Pastor and Principal in Local School Administration" and at the Examination of Teachers at the 1921 meeting.

## Sigrid Undset, Catholic, Wins Nobel Prize

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

Stockholm, Sweden, Nov. 14.—Mrs. Sigrid Undset, a Catholic convert, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for 1928, the second woman ever to receive the honor and the third Norwegian author thus to be distinguished.

The monetary value of the prize this year is about \$42,000. This represents a new record due, partly to improved business conditions making the fund investments yield more.

Mrs. Undset became known to the English-speaking world through her novel, *Kristin Lavransdatter*, published in 1920. The book deals with conditions in the fourteenth century and is typical of her ability to portray the mind of the Middle Ages. Many of her outstanding works deal with the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

## Governor Smith Attends Mass

Edgewater, Mass., Nov. 19.—Determined to restore himself physically after his strenuous election campaign, Gov. Alfred E. Smith has settled down to enjoy a real winter vacation and residents along the Gulf have taken him at his word that he wished to be let alone.

Yesterday he drove five miles to his old town of Blford to attend Mass at the Church of the Nativity. He was met at the curb by the Rev. Peter Keenan, who escorted him through the crowd gathered in front of the church and to a front pew. Later, addressing the congregation, Father Keenan said: "I wish to say a word of welcome to a big and good-hearted man who is with us today. This is a man who in defeat has been victorious. Alfred E. Smith has done more for Americanism and Catholicism than any other man in American history. He is broken down by prejudice and intolerance."

## Church Benefits In Bigotry Fight Says U. S. Jurist

Bitter Attack On Catholics' Reaction Against Forces of Intolerance. Judge Manton Asserts

New York, Nov. 19.—A direct declaration of the Catholic layman's point of view with regard to the religious intolerance which characterized the recent presidential campaign was made yesterday by Judge Martin of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in an address inaugurating the public forum sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

"New Year Election Day has passed and its results are known to all," said Judge Manton. "We of the Catholic Church may take a fair balance of the things of religious tolerance. There still ring in our ears the words and phrases of intolerance we heard during the electioneering. We now ask if the country rejected a candidate merely because he was a Catholic. We should, of course, make a true balance. We must consider every element and issue which persuaded the electorate to turn against a Catholic candidate and the party, and then attempt a true estimate of the influence intolerance played in the fight against him."

"But what are the fortunes of any candidate compared with the fortunes of our country, if tolerance has injuriously affected the respect for religion or has dimmed the honor or admiration of men and women for the truths of Catholic teaching?"

"In these environments, and blessed with God's ever-watchful care, is it possible that love and admiration for Him by a Christian people will be even slightly marred by abuse or falsehood as to the teaching and practice of that faith? Remember the church has never had and undoubtedly it always will have, its critics and abusers, but such attacks never succeed when directed against an individual Catholic who knows or understands his Christian doctrine. It succeeds only to the limited extent and for a limited space of time when directed to the degradation of Catholicism or the privileges of civil office holding and honor."

"You will remember that with the martyrdom of the venerable Olaf Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland in 1845, the bloody persecution of Catholics in the British Islands came to an end, and from that day up to the Catholic Emancipation in 1829, the whole force of Protestant intolerance was flowing into a savage and ruthless effort to prevent Catholics from exercising equal civic rights and privileges."

"It was out of this inheritance, as we have seen that came our Colonial legacy of 'no Popery' which barred Catholics in the American colonies from the franchise. The declaration of religious freedom and the principle of non-interference by the state in religious affairs, which became a part of the Federal Constitution of 1787, had an appreciable effect upon Catholic disabilities in Great Britain, and was logically linked with the Act of Emancipation passed by the parliament 42 years later."

"Intolerance Always Hidden. 'Intolerance never shows its face openly. It hides behind a mask or hood or it secretly operates by action or whisper. Intolerant movements can do no harm to the Catholic Church and no good to any other religion. They can ruin the peaceful life in communities. An adequate solution for the elimination of intolerance awaits the earnest action of men. The late campaign for the presidency has taught much to Catholics of the bigotry in this country and the knowledge obtained should be made use of as a measure for action. 'The no Popery' spirit is supported by three classes of Americans—those whose patriotism stops short of the Constitutional provision regarding freedom of religious worship; those whose purpose it is to destroy not only Catholic religion but all religion and all duly constituted government; and those who, despite their accepted motives of higher purposes, are actuated solely by sordid mercenary considerations."

## Lourdes Ceremony of Blessing Sick Is Observed in London

London, Nov. 15.—The individual Blessing of the Sick with the Blessed Sacrament, probably the most important ceremony at Lourdes, was reproduced in the Church of Resurrection here a few days ago.

About 40 blind, crippled and deaf persons came for the blessing. They were under the care of the Handmaids of the Sick, who look after the sick during the English National Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

## Spire of Cleveland Cathedral Ordered Down As Precaution

Cleveland, Nov. 15.—Work of dismantling the cross-crowned spire on St. John's cathedral here, will begin in a day or two.

Erected 50 years ago some years after the completion of the building, the spire has been visible from many sections of the city. The cathedral is in the downtown district.

The demolition of the spire is undertaken as a matter of precaution against its possible collapse and has been urged by the Commissioner of Buildings for the city who recently made an investigation of its condition. His report indicated a greatly weakened state.

The spire will be replaced by a turret in keeping with the Gothic edifice beneath.

In a letter on the subject sent to Bishop Joseph Schrembs, City Manager W. R. Hopkins says: "After one of the recent heavy windstorms, a report was brought to this office that, during the storm, the spire on St. John's Cathedral was observed to sway on an angle so wide as to threaten its immediate collapse. In view of the terrible consequences which would result from a collapse of the spire at any time, we requested the Commissioner of Buildings to make immediately a thorough and complete examination of the spire with a view to determining whether there was in fact any hazard in its present condition."

"Because of the proximity of the cathedral to Lake Erie, the spire is within the immediate sweep of the strong winds from the lake."

A large spotlight will be placed on the cathedral building across from the cathedral and work of dismantling the spire will be carried on from midnight until 5 a. m.

## U.S. Trained Irish Officers Are To Be War College Nucleus

Dublin, Nov. 12.—A military college to train officers for the Irish State Army is to be established at the Curragh, Ireland's principal military training camp, the Minister for War announced in an address made in the Dail last night.

A large number of officers who were trained in the United States, will form the nucleus for the college.

Announcement of the establishment of the training college followed the statement in the Dail of Desmond Fitzgerald that the army had been reduced from 50,000 five years ago to 8,000. There is a reserve now totaling 4,000 officers and enlisted men.

On the same day, Mr. Fitzgerald introduced the final vote for the cost of the army, the vote brought the total for the year to \$9,000,000.

The Dail also passed the final vote to defray the share of the cost of education borne by the State. In proposing the final vote, Professor O'Sullivan, Minister for Education, said no country in Europe places so great a proportion of the cost of education on the State. In Ireland, he said, the State bears virtually the entire primary education.

Professor O'Sullivan added that large sums were spent in bettering the conditions of the teachers, with the result that the profession is attracting better and better types.

## English Anti-Catholic Hecklers Attempt To Pull Down Crucifix

London, Nov. 12.—An organized attempt was made to pull down the crucifix at an open-air meeting of the Catholic Evidence Guild at Leicester last week-end.

The attack which ended with the arrival of the police after an angry scene, followed an attempt to break up a Catholic Evidence Guild meeting at Coalville, a nearby town, a few days ago.

Evidence Guild speakers occupy street platforms in every considerable town in England today. They are trained for the work and they are always careful not to provoke ill feeling, their job being simply to explain Catholic teaching.

A party of bigots invaded Leicester by motor-coach to create the disturbance there last week-end, and an eye-witness recognized some members of the party as those who broke up the Coalville meeting. There were about 16 in the party.

Soon after the meeting began on Sunday evening the wrecking party, which had distributed itself throughout the crowd, commenced to heckle an attempt to prevent the speaker from getting a hearing.

## Editor Upholds Catholic Stand In Last Election

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Replying to a statement by Frank William Starr Myers, who was quoted in the Daily Eagle as describing the religious issue in the recent campaign as "a complete standstill," Patrick F. Scanlan, managing editor of The Tablet, characterized Mr. Myers' quoted statement as "a half-trait and a mis-statement of Catholic participation in the election as to methods adopted by the Church."

Mr. Scanlan's reply was published in today's issue of the Daily Eagle. In it he recalled Professor Myers' statement that "if North Carolina and Virginia voted against Smith because of his religion, Massachusetts and Rhode Island voted for him for the same reasons."

Other States mentioned by Mr. Scanlan noted that Professor Myers conceded that religious prejudice was a determining factor in two Southern States and voted two Northern ones against them, and then asked: "Why did he leave out Oregon, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri and Maryland, and at least three other states?"

Mr. Scanlan continued: "But those familiar with the situation there will be quite slow to indict those States for bigotry. The industrial situation, especially in the textile mills, is frightful and in both States thousands are not only out of work but actually hungry. Telling them of prosperity was hardly effective campaigning. Moreover, both States are widely known to decidedly favor Mr. Curran of the Association of Manufacturers. It is the religious issue which was the determining factor in the election in both States. In any case no one can prove any Catholic vote in Massachusetts or Rhode Island."

Mr. Scanlan concluded: "The Catholic vote, and press there, notwithstanding, is most commendable. As a matter of fact, there are no other two States whose religious fair play rules as it does in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Boston—70 per cent Catholic—had a Protestant Mayor. In the recent primary, for Governor the Democrats ran an outstanding Catholic against General Cole, a Protestant. Cole ran and in no place was he generally greater than in Boston. The vote holds true for Rhode Island; the Catholic people elect Protestant Governors, Mayors and Senators time after time. And the Catholic vote is a major factor in the state. Governor Smith carried Massachusetts by 20,000. Senator Walsh, another Catholic, carried it by 121,000. If there was such a thing as a Catholic vote, Smith would also have won by 121,000. The same holds true for States like Arizona and New Mexico and cities like Chicago, where Catholics represent the largest unit, and where Mr. Hoover won."

Many Supported Hoover. Professor Myers' misstatements overlook the fact that the Catholics of the United States have been voting for Protestants for the Presidency for over 100 years. He seems to overlook the fact that many Catholics—some even wearing papal honors—supported Mr. Hoover, and worked hard for his election. He seems to overlook the fact that no Catholic suspect, denounced, calumniated, misrepresented or befouled any religion in the campaign. He seems to overlook the fact that no Catholic organization engaged in the bitterest Mayors and Senators since the election of bigotry. He, moreover, does not seem to be aware of the thousands of letters, circulars, posters, newspapers and pamphlets of a virulent anti-American and anti-Christian nature, and none of them was written or spread by the Catholic people of the Catholic Church."

Mr. Scanlan's statement is a direct and pointed reply to the misstatements of Mr. Myers. It is a clear and concise statement of the Catholic position in the election. It is a statement that should be read by every Catholic who is interested in the religious issue in the election.

## Pope Pius Will Call Consistory on Dec. 16

Rome, Nov. 20.—Pope Pius XI will hold a consistory of the Roman Curia at about 10 o'clock on Dec. 16.

The consistory will be held in the Sistine Chapel. It is expected that the Pope will discuss the recent election results and the state of the Church in the United States.

## Catholic Education Achievements Cited

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 19.—The Catholic Education Society of St. Paul has issued a report on the achievements of Catholic education in the city during the past year. The report cites the success of the Catholic schools in maintaining high standards of academic excellence and in providing a strong moral and religious foundation for their students.

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