

Maritime Power Of Nation Wanes, Dr. Walsh Warns

American Merchant Marine Being Permitted To Lapse To That Of Second Rate Country, Georgetown U. Vice-President Declares

Washington, March 5.—A letter in which the merchant marine of the United States was shown to have lapsed into that of a second or third rate institution and that American maritime strength was revealed to be far below that of any of the principal world powers was written to the Washington Post by the Rev. Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, vice-president of Georgetown University. The letter, published today in the issue of the paper given over chiefly to an account of the inauguration of President Hoover, was prominently displayed on the editorial page of the Post.

Citing figures to show the great advances in ship building made by other nations, Dr. Walsh asked what was holding back the American people. His letter follows:

"The university with which I have the honor to be associated determined ten years back to introduce into the curriculum of its School of Foreign Service a fully developed course of instruction dealing with our merchant marine and the influence of sea power on national security and on national prosperity.

"As a public educator I consider it a bounden duty to sound a warning and enter vigorous protests against the delusive and ruinous policy of ever again permitting our merchant marine to lapse into a second or third rate institution.

Outright By Every Nation
"History is a lamp that furnishes copious light to guide the feet of those attentive to its warnings. If the commercial history of nations teaches us anything, is it not that no

nation has remained a first-class economic power which failed to develop and foster a dependable merchant marine?

"I have before me a very striking report showing what other nations are doing in this field. I find that in spite of the heavy economic handicaps under which they have all been laboring since the armistice they have during the period 1922 to 1928, inclusive, added to their merchant fleets in ocean-going vessels of 2,000 gross tons and over, 1,556 ships aggregating 8,819,134 gross tons, while during the same period additions of similar vessels to the merchant fleet of the United States numbered 39 ships of 378,788 gross tons! Therefore, out of a total of 1,595 merchant vessels of 10,197,922 gross tons—of ships of 2,000 gross tons and over—the United States has built, in numbers, less than 2 1/2 per cent of the total and in tonnage about 3 1/2 per cent. Among the increases in foreign merchant fleets Great Britain is credited with a total of 1,020 vessels of 6,386,550 tons; Germany, 244 vessels of 1,571,892 tons; France, 118 vessels of 704,533 tons; Italy, 93 vessels of 750,027 tons, and Japan, 81 vessels of 406,122 tons. Thus it will be seen that during the last seven years the United States has been outbuilt in merchant vessels 26 to 1 by Great Britain, 6 to 1 by Germany, 3 to 1 by France, nearly 2 1/2 to 1 by Italy and 2 to 1 by Japan.

"Further, at the present time, January, 1929, there are under construction by the same countries a total of 301 vessel of 2,099,267 gross tons, of which the United States is building 6 totaling 59,000 tons, or in numbers, less than 2 per cent of the

(Continued on page Twenty-three)

Converts League Booklet Is Issued

New York, March 14.—Copies of an attractive booklet outlining the aims and purposes of the National Converts' League of the Catholic Daughters of America, have been distributed to the supreme officers. The book is being circulated to the grand regents of 1,200 subordinate courts of the order.

An aggressive campaign is being waged by the Catholic Daughters of America of this state against the passage of the Remer Bill, a birth measure, introduced in the New York Legislature.

Catholic Priests Active In Liberia

Monrovia, Africa, March 14.—The appointment of Bishop Ogo, Prefect Apostolic of Liberia, as official representative of the Pope in the Republic, has established closer relations between the government authorities of that country and the Catholic missionaries at work there.

The President of Liberia is friendly to the Catholic Church. His attitude, he says, represents that of the entire population. Every day, he says, he receives numerous letters from all sections of the Republic praising the splendid work of the Catholic missionaries. "I admire your priests," he told Bishop Ogo, "they are men of few words, and of action."

Liberia is under the protection of the United States, and is the only republic in the continent of Africa. It is the size of the State of Ohio, with 1,500,000 inhabitants. The Catholic priests in Liberia are missionaries from the Irish Province of the African Society of Lyons.

Catholic Named For University

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden,
(Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).

Louvain, Belgium, March 12.—There is rejoicing in the Catholic University of Holland because of the appointment of Dr. Henry J. Weve to the chair of ophthalmology at the State University of Utrecht.

Dr. Weve is the first Catholic ever chosen in Holland to teach a clinical branch at a faculty of medicine of a Dutch State University and is one of only thirteen Catholics, teaching in the state schools of higher education in Holland.

Dr. Weve is forty-one years of age. He is the Vice President of the Holland-Ophthalmic Society and a member of the German Ophthalmic Society. He has been a frequent speaker at medical congresses and is a prolific writer.

Latin Patriarch Visits Convents

By Dr. Alexander Mombelli,
(Jerusalem Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).

Jerusalem, March 12.—Mgr. Luigi Barlassina, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has just finished, on behalf of Cardinal Bertram, Archbishop of Breslau, German, Protector of the Congregation, a canonical visit to the seventeen convents of the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo in their Oriental Province which consists of Palestine, Egypt and the Lebanon.

These Sisters, recruited above all in Germany and among native young women have already devoted for some fifty years in these lands of the Near East in their silent but fruitful missionary activities of teaching and giving assistance to the sick poor.

NEW VICARIATES IN CHINA

Rome, March 14.—The Province of Anhwei in China, which heretofore has been a single apostolic vicariate, has been divided into three vicariates and entrusted to the Jesuits. Two go to Spanish and one to Italian branches of the order.

OZANAM'S MEMORY HONORED

Quebec, March 12.—The City Council of Quebec has decided to give the name of Frederic Ozanam to the square in front of the chapel and patronage of the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul. The action was suggested by Commander Magalen, president general of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada. He also plans to erect a statue of Ozanam in the Place Ozanam.

BASILICA TO BE REDDED

Rome, March 12.—The Bishop of

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