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MEXICO TO HOUSECLEAN

Mexico is preparing to houseclean. She is out with a legal broom after the movies. A proposed amendment to the new civil code has been submitted to the revising committee on laws. The amendment prohibits the exhibition of all films entirely in foreign languages, those featuring salaciousness, particularly feminine nudity, those that ridicule Mexico or any other government or people, those that ridicule any religious cult, and those that degrade Mexican customs.

The amendment provides penalties of six months to six years in prison and a fine of 100 pesos (\$50). Opinion is general that the amendment will pass.

This paper not long ago published a digest of the new rules and regulations promulgated by "Czar" Hayes for the movies. Nearly all of the big producers of films in America signed these rules, agreed that they were necessary and announced the beginning of a newer and better life in the movie world. The whole thing, as far as we can make out, was pure bunk. Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, and now Mexico, have found it necessary to ban American films because of their dirt. Right here in Rochester a few days ago an alleged comedy, "Half-Shot at Sunrise" had an undressing scene between an American soldier and a French vamp that should have ended with the owner of the theater being whole-shot at sunset. It was just plain dirt, encompassed by cheap comedy.

Mexico has made a lot of mistakes in the past. But when Mexico sets out to ban American films, because of their salaciousness and feminine nudity, she is showing evidences of moving in the right way, and with the proper ideals of life and of action.

AT ADDIS ABABA

At Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday, the 336th sovereign of this most ancient African monarchy was crowned—Ras Tafari, hereafter to be known as Emperor Haile Selassie. Thirteen nations were represented at the coronation. The Vatican State, youngest of all, was represented by the Right Reverend Andrew Jarousseau, O.M. Cap., Vicar Apostolic of the Galla.

Forty-nine years ago Bishop Jarousseau landed at Zaila, British Somaliland, and rode on the back of a camel for twenty-six days, until he reached Harar, an Ethiopian city under Moslem rule. All these long years since he has lived, labored, suffered and worked in Ethiopia—for his Church and for God. He loves the people of this ancient land. He understands them. He believes that in time they will come back to the true Church, for to-day they are closer to the Catholic Church than to any other in the world.

And so at Addis Ababa, where four wild lions were chained to the four corner posts of the platform upon which the throne of Emperor Haile Selassie rested—symbols of the Conquering Lion of Judah—this frail little old man, with gray beard, shaggy brows, weather-worn face—this unflinching champion of the Cross—presented the congratulations and good wishes of Pope Pius XI to a descendant of King David, a blood-son of Solomon, wearing now the most ancient crown in the world. For Ethiopia, it is believed, was founded in the ninety-seventh year after the creation of the world, 5,500 years, according to the Ethiopian calendar, before the birth of Christ.

Haile Selassie has a warm place in his heart for the Catholic Church. He is a progressive monarch, and his dream is to make his nation a progressive one. His eyes are on America. Like Lincoln, he abolished slavery, and he is bringing Americans into his kingdom to help him promote the progress and prosperity of his land. He and his people are of the same Church, child of an age-old heresy, and sharing in fond memories of the same Church. The new emperor is expected to arrive in Addis Ababa Saturday afternoon.

Submission

"Sweet flowers that decked the smiling
vales,
Were you not sad when summer fled,
And winter's snowy mounds were laid
Upon your erstwhile grassy bed?"

"Tis true, we missed the sunny days,
But then 'twas God that bade them
die,
And so we calmly fell asleep,
And never stopped to question why."

"Dear birds, whose music filled the woods,
Whose nests were built on leafy trees,
Are you not sad that branches bare
Now bend beneath the wintry breeze?"

We deeply miss our verdant home,
But as to softer climes we fly,
We know God's wisdom ruleth all,
And never stop to question why."

Dear stricken souls, do not repine,
If all your choicest blessings live,
And other lives drink draughts of joy,
That never will be poured for thee."

But meekly bend, although above
The grave where Hope's fair blossoms
lie,
For peace abides with him who bears,
And strikes to still the question
"Why?"
—Fidels.

the day before his coronation, he and his queen entered the sanctuary of St. George's Church at Addis Ababa and spent the entire night in prayer, receiving Communion Sunday morning from the hands of the Coptic prelate. There are some forty thousand Catholics in Ethiopia, and Bishop Jarousseau and his co-workers have fond hopes that this number will be increased with marvelous rapidity under the reign of Haile Selassie.

FRUITLESS MATRIMONY

For every six couples married in America, one will be divorced, according to statistics just issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce. There were 1,282,559 couples married in this country last year, and 201,475 divorced, about sixteen and one-third per cent. of the total marriages.

Marriages last year recorded one of the largest yearly increases, numerically and in percentage, exceeding the preceding year's total by 50,062, or 4.2 per cent. There had been a decrease the preceding year of 1.5 by comparison with 1927. The divorces, although showing an increase of 2.8 per cent. over 1928, did not keep up with the growth in marriages.

Delaware had the lowest figure on marriages, only 5.2 per 1,000. Georgia had the lowest proportion of divorces to marriages, one being granted only to each 13.3 new unions. Numerically Texas led in divorces, with 18,386. New York reported the most marriages with 121,535.

With divorces passing the two-hundred thousand mark in America, it is high time some serious and definite action were taken by the non-Catholic churches of America to check this terrible evil. There is something wrong with the spiritual life of a nation that has an appalling record of fruitless marriages, unhappy unions, discord and disintegration of the matrimonial bond. The Catholic Church follows without deviation the teaching of Jesus Christ—What God hath joined, let no man put asunder. Consequently there are no divorces in our Church. This does not prevent us, however, from having a feeling of deep concern over the way so many marriages in America are heading yearly for perdition.

FAITH DISINTEGRATING

Bishop Charles Fiske, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Central New York, says he finds Faith throughout Protestantism disintegrating. He made this statement before an Episcopal Church club in Syracuse a few evenings ago.

"Among the so-called intelligentsia, literary people, artists and other classes," said the Bishop, "I have found a complete throwing off of the faith of our fathers."

This attitude, he warned, is partly responsible for changing morals.

"I am very fearful that throughout Protestantism in this country," he stated, "there is appearing a serious disintegration of faith. I cannot help but believe that this is so."

Bishop Fiske also launched a broadside at the colleges. He said:

"In colleges and universities there is a type of philosophy rampant which is breaking down the faith of those without serious religious training in youth. We must turn from the philosophy of the world which bids us ask: 'What are we made for?'"

It takes courage for a churchman like Bishop Fiske to make statements of this kind—to tell the truth about conditions as he finds them. But Bishop Fiske has courage and plenty of it. He demonstrated that some time ago when he made a vigorous attack upon the Volstead law, its hypocrisy, its inanity, its viciousness and its evils. A flood of abusive letters, many of them from ministers, came to him.

We have happy recollections of the day on which Bishop Fiske was consecrated Coadjutor Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York a number of years ago. He came from Baltimore, and one of the most prized messages he received on that day was a telegram of congratulation, good wishes and a hearty "God bless you," from the great Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, then alive.

Armistice Day--November 11th

MOST GLORIOUS DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

On this day, especially, we honor the
UNKNOWN DEAD

Let the Catholic poet, Theodore O'Hara, express our thought in those wondrous words of his, in the Arlington cemetery, the UNKNOWN'S final resting place—

"On fame's eternal camping-ground,
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead."

May the soul of THE UNKNOWN, of his comrades, and of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

LACK OF CHURCH INTEREST

There is an old adage which says: "Chickens Come Home to Roost." They always do. And when a church in America openly violates the traditional separation of Church and State in this country; when it enters the field of politics, making itself a common nuisance in the political arena of America, its chickens are bound to come home to roost. The chickens in this case are discord, lack of interest, loss of faith, loss of prestige, and of the respect and confidence of its members and friends.

Illustrating this: At the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the village of Albion this week speakers both from the floor and the platform deplored the decrease in membership of the district as shown by last year's figures; sharply criticized a lack of interest in, and pledged for greater enthusiasm toward missionary work, and lamented the seemingly wide rift between the elders and the young people of the churches.

American people, no matter what their religious affiliations, do not and will not take their politics from a pulpit. The only people who will, are those inclined towards fanaticism. They are open-minded and fair-minded, and they are not attempting to force their own views on any subject down the throats of other people. The alarming growth of irreligion in America is a terrifying example of the results of the constant drifting of the Protestant churches of America from religious into social and political fields. Blaming the youth of America for lack of interest in their churches will not solve their troubles. The answer to their dilemma is in the churches and their tactics, and nowhere else. All of them have cause to do some very serious thinking.

ALABAMA'S BIG WIND GONE

Alabama's big wind has blown over the mountains and mingled with the ghosts of the dead in the sea—Tom Hefflin, U. S. Senator from that State for thirty-four years, was defeated on election day. Two to one the vote was, and better.

The population of Alabama, census 1930, is 2,615,297. Two per cent. of that population is Roman Catholic. Yet this megalomaniac mouthpiece of dying bigotry has been telling the people of his State and of the Nation for years of the menace of the Pope. "Rum, Raskob and Romanism" was his battle cry in the recent election. Rum he might have found in the private apartments of his own son, for police have corralled that young man on various occasions when intoxicated; Raskob would have been very welcome in Hefflin's Alabama bed if he had contributed to the campaign fund of the noisy one, and the Pope had no more to do with the Alabama election, now or in the past, than Haile Selassie, newly-crowned king of Ethiopia.

Thirty-four years a towering figure in the U. S. Senate, his big voice booming for hours at a time; thirty-four years preaching the doctrine of hate and of animosity, of bigotry and of lies, and now he is shunted into the discard in a State ninety-eight per cent. Protestant. What beat him? His voice, his lies, his bigotry, his political sliminess, and the slowly aroused anger of decent voters. The American spirit of fair play beat him.

It is a tragic and pitiful thing that any state should keep a man of his type in the U. S. Senate, or even in the office of town constable, for thirty-four years. He is hostile to all that is truly American. He is dangerous to all that is decent and upright in citizenship and in patriotism. A splendid orator, he drew great crowds—crowds that laughed at his violent attacks on the Church and on the Pope. Yet his methods often carried some touch of conviction. For instance, speaking in Philadelphia some time ago, he went among the audience and urged a number of uniformed sailors to take seats on the stage. Then, dramatically, he announced that his life had been threatened by emissaries of the Pope, that he had appealed to the Secretary of the Navy, and that this Cabinet official had sent him a bodyguard of brave sailors to protect him from assassination. The "bodyguard" was on the stage, in uniform, and what could the poor audience do but applaud the hero?

And so it went, all through his career, ranting and raving against the Pope, the Church and its children; waving the flag of bigotry; shouting the battle cry of hate; building the fences of discord; linking arms and oratory with the detestable Klan—for pay, of course—and sowing seeds of dissension and disunion among people who should at all times have been trustful and kindly friends and neighbors,

loyal champions of a flag well worth dying for every day in the year.

His own people, in stage parlance, gave him the "hook". That is, to their credit. May his like never again fasten their poison clutch upon the public life of any State in this beloved country of ours. America is not a land of hate; it should be a land of love. It is not a land of discord; it should be a land of harmony. It is not a land of bigotry, for the blood of our fathers wrote freedom of religion into our Constitution and our hearts, and it should blaze, like a beacon light, in the souls of all our people now and in the future.

TWO FINE HOSPITALS

The cities of Elmira and Auburn celebrated two historic events in the past few days—the laying of the cornerstone of the new nine-story annex and Nurses' Home to St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, and of the cornerstone of the fine new Mercy Hospital in Auburn. Bishop O'Hern officiated at both of these events—officiated and told assembled thousands of the great charitable and hospital work of the Catholic Church from the dawn of Christianity to the present time. All who heard him were inspired; inspired, too, by his promises that the Catholic hospitals in Elmira and Auburn will work in splendid harmony with other hospitals and other welfare agencies at all times.

Great good will come to the people of these cities and of the surrounding communities because of these new hospital buildings. The doors of both hospitals will be open at all times to all people, without question of color, race or creed. The chief thought will be: What best can we do to help this sick or needy afflicted person? Love of God will predominate in these institutions, as well as love and solicitude for humanity. Happy, indeed, will be the people of Elmira and of Auburn when these buildings are completed, and stand with opened doors, ready to receive the sick and the afflicted in the name of God, and for the love of God, at all times.

THE L. C. B. A. ANNIVERSARY

The fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association was celebrated in Rochester this week. This organization, which provides fraternal insurance for Catholic women at reasonable rates, has had remarkable growth and influence throughout America. Its affairs have been well managed. Its work has been successful. Its heart, warmed by the sunlight of Christianity, has been attuned to the sorrows and troubles of the good women who make up its membership, as well as to their joys and gladness.

The L. C. B. A. has many millions of dollars invested in Catholic Church property—the only one hundred per cent. investment in the country, a Masonic banker told the writer years ago. The Association has been helpful to many churches, as well as to many individuals. It is a good society, brightened by social as well as business features, and blessed by a sterling spirit of Catholicity, evidenced in all its work.

Rochester is favored by having one of the Supreme Trustees of the Association here—Mrs. Cora McParlin, indefatigable as a leader, tireless as a worker, and inspiring in her enthusiasm for the society she loves. The anniversary celebration brought here a number of the other Supreme officers, and all of them took away with them happy memories of the splendid hospitality of the L. C. B. A. women of Rochester. May the future years bring continued success to this splendid organization, its leaders and its members.

ARMISTICE DAY

Eleven years ago, on the eleventh day of November, the prayers of many millions of people were answered—Peace came to a war-torn world. The slaughter of human lives was ended; the maiming of human bodies was stopped. Out of the trenches, black with dirt, came the soldiers. There were no more shells shrieking overhead; no more devastating explosions that tore earth, its dwellings and inhabitants asunder, wrecking, maiming, killing. The bugles blew, not a call to arms, but to rest, quietness, peace, home and the blessings of home. In Flanders Fields, where poppies grow, no more white crosses were to be placed, row on row. Mothers in America, in Canada, in Australia, in England, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria, and elsewhere—mothers the world over were to devoted children of a common country and

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

A lot of business men are talking about giving relief to the unemployed—and a lot of those who are doing the most talking are laying off help in their plants.

In the good old days nearly all Catholic people laid in a supply of Holy Water for the Winter. How many of us ever think of having Holy Water in the house these days?

A seventeen-year-old seminarian, Paul Leduc of Montreal, won second prize in the fifth international oratorical contest, held in Washington recently. Edmund Guillon of Washington, representing the United States, won first prize. Leduc is a student in St. Theresa's Seminary, Montreal. He represented Canada in the contest. Other nations represented were England, Germany, France, Mexico and Ireland.

The Rev. Dr. S. R. Meyer-Oakes, preaching in the Fourth Unitarian Church in New York recently, advocated that liquor be sold only in the churches. He's all wrong. Why tempt all these dry preachers by leaving booze with them? And, anyway, so many churches have gone into politics that it would be unjust to ask them to handle the liquor of the country, too.

Dr. John G. Coyle of New York City will be the principal speaker Sunday at the fifteenth annual convention of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, held in Columbus, Ga. Thousands of people in Rochester and vicinity have heard Dr. Coyle at various times in the past. He is a splendid orator, and likewise a splendid Catholic citizen. We almost envy the Catholic Laymen of Georgia the fine treat that is in store for them—eloquent, inspiring, soul-stirring, and with beautiful thoughts enveloping his facts.

After the Battle: Senator Thomas Walsh of Montana has been re-elected. Senator Tom Hefflin of Alabama is beaten two to one. Ruth Hanna McCormick of Illinois is defeated by "Jim Ham" Lewis, he of the fancy vests of long ago. Illinois, Rhode Island and Massachusetts voted violently in favor of repeal of the eighteenth amendment. Franklin D. Roosevelt got the greatest majority ever given to a candidate for Governor of New York State. "Goody" Carroll of Syracuse, who tried to carry a dry banner in the face of the big wind, got about six per cent. of the total popular vote. Dwight Morrow was elected U. S. Senator in New Jersey, even after "Clint" Howard of Rochester tried to brain him with the U. S. Constitution. Political ministers must feel that they have been mustered out of the army of the Lord. Summing up the whole thing: Hoover prosperity has backfired.

In far-off Borneo is a humble Sister, Mother Helen, member of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. She recently completed forty-five years of service in that field. On her anniversary day came a letter from His Eminence Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State, to the Prefect Apostolic of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edmund Dunn, telling him that the Holy Father wishes Mother Helen to "receive from him a word of praise and congratulation," and saying:

"Under the circumstances he (Pope Pius XI) cannot help remembering the praise bestowed by the Apostle upon those pious women who had worked with him for the good of the Gospel, and addressing them now to Mother Helen and her companions, he trusts that the Divine Rewards will crown the noble work performed for the triumph of the Gospel and confirms these sentiments by sending her his Apostolic Blessing."

Kings, emperors, princes and the great of the world waiting to see the Pope, and a great multitude of duties clamoring for his attention, yet he found time to have his Secretary of State write a letter that would make glad the heart of this noble Sister in far-off Borneo.

have their sons who were yet alive come home. The Armistice meant that.

But there were many thousands; yes, many millions who would never come home. Their great fight had been fought, and ended. The bugles would blow for them no more. The pathways of blood and death they had followed were ended in fields of flowers, cared for by loving hands; watered by tears and blessed by prayers. On farre's eternal camping ground their silent tents were spread, and their names, commonplace before, had been written among the immortals. But their waiting arms were not to receive their comrades from the ranks, for Armistice day had come, breathing love, not hate; life, not death.

And now, eleven years after, men and women the world over will celebrate the anniversary of this blessed day. They will thank God for it, and they will pray, many of them pathetically and brokenly, for all who died beneath the flags of their native lands. Sorrow brings us closer to God, and Armistice Day brings us, arm in arm with our beloved soldier dead, suppliants to His feet. For to Him, not to the world, we look always for lasting Peace, for comfort and the sweet consolation of companionship with One "of whom all paternity in heaven and earth is named."