

The Catholic Courier and Journal

Official Paper of the Diocese of Rochester... THE CATHOLIC COURIER AND JOURNAL, Inc.

Courier Established 1928... Journal Established 1889... Subscription to the N. C. W. C. News Service

SUBSCRIPTION RATES... One Year \$2.50... Foreign, one year 3.00

Make all checks payable to Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc. Advertising Rates gladly furnished

Editorial Staff: Priests of the Diocese, Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

All communications for publication must be signed in the name and address of the writer, and must be in the Courier office by Tuesday preceding the date of publication.

Friday, March 20, 1931

10,000 CHURCHLESS VILLAGES

There are ten thousand villages in America without a church of any kind; thirty thousand villages without a resident pastor of any church, and 18,400,000 children under twelve years of age who are receiving no religious instruction whatever.

HONESTY IN BANKS

The State Bank of Binghamton, now insolvent and with serious loss to depositors, had for its president a man whom the Grand Jury of the county called a "notorious bootlegger."

NOT POLITICS

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has just announced that it will not accept applications for membership from banks which are not members of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Friendship

When we have journeyed the pathway through And dark comes down on our way, Take me into the night with you, For death is the door of day.

The Chancery office of the Archdiocese of New York and extended an invitation to the Catholic Church to join the Federation in its action.

"The business of the Catholic Church is saving souls and not meddling in politics. If there is any corruption, the government of the State has provided machinery to correct it."

This terse statement might well be emblazoned over the pulpit of every Church in America. It need not be placed above the pulpits of Catholic churches, because that statement covers without variation or equivocation the attitude of every Catholic Church in America; of every Catholic Church in the world, for that matter.

"The business of the Catholic Church is saving souls and not meddling in politics!" What a splendid declaration of policy to the American people—the policy of Jesus Christ—"Render, therefore, to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

It would be well for America if all churches followed that policy and gave their zeal, their energy and their efforts to the great task of trying to keep some little spark of faith in God alive in the souls of the millions who have fallen away from all religion in America.

Not long ago a delegation of ministers called upon a priest, the pastor of a church in a thriving little village in Central New York. They invited him to join them in a movement to supervise the public dance halls in the county.

This attitude does not mean that the Church, its priests and its people are not interested in good government, and in clean and honest government. The Church is interested, and its priests and people are vitally interested.

FOCH GIVES THANKS IN CHURCH

In the daily papers of Wednesday this week, General John Pershing tells, in his story of the World War, of conditions after the newly-organized American Army had won its first great victory, that of St. Mihiel.

"Marshal Foch and I went to St. Mihiel a few days later, accompanied by General Weygand and my aide, Colonel Boyd, and as we walked around we found the people generally going about their business as though nothing had happened.

The Same Irish Blood

There are Ulster men among you, too. Whether you come from Ulster or Munster, from Munster or Connaught, whatever be your creed in religion or politics, you are of the same Irish blood as our fellows, even if in the past we fought on different sides at the Battle of the Boyne or the more recent wars.

ROBERT EMMETT, WOLFE TONE, LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD, HENRY GRATTAN, JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, THOMAS DAVIS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER STAUUNCH CHAMPIONS OF IRISH LIBERTY AND FREEDOM WERE PROTESTANTS

No wonder the French soldiers lovingly called their commander "The Grey Man of Christ." What a marvelous contrast he was to Clemenceau, Viviani and other Frenchmen who had sought to wipe the name of God off the coins of France, and to drive it from the schools of France.

AN APOSTLE OF THE FAR NORTH

Two short weeks ago the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Emile Grouard, O.M.I., for more than seventy years a missionary worker among the Indians and Eskimos of the far North, passed to his eternal reward at the great age of ninety-one years.

Twenty-nine years after his ordination, he was consecrated Bishop at St. Boniface by Monsignor Tache, who had ordained him to the priesthood, and was made Vicar-Apostolic of the Athabasca-Mackenzie regions.

CURRENT COMMENT

THE DRY REGIME

Perhaps you heard Father Charles Coughlin Sunday night over the radio. He spoke of the slaughter, the destruction of the American child and youth during this regime of the "noble experiment" supposedly carried out for the protection of the American home.

Father Coughlin showed that prohibition, despite the 50 million dollars spent for its enforcement, despite the loss of 483 millions in revenue, has brought about an increase in liquor consumption, an increase in criminality, an increase of one particular disease, and is directly responsible for the racketeer business.

He cited figures and facts for this terrible indictment. He pointed out that under this hypocritical law three times as much 12 per cent alcohol is produced and consumed (70 million gallons) annually in this prohibition country than before we had the dry law.

He showed why the bootlegger and racketeer is in the business, that he is able to squeeze out of a \$3,000 tank car of alcohol \$400,000, that the business pays so well that there are two million dollars left for bribery alone in Chicago in one week.

The speaker showed that prohibition is responsible for the worst wave of criminality in history; a jail population in 1910 of 68,000, in 1930 with 96,000, that the inmates of these jails are mostly between the ages of 16 and 25, the bloom of America's youth, that there were 79,000 arrests for drunkenness in the model city of Washington, D. C., in the past five years.

Father Coughlin, after having shown by citations from public and government records and statistics that he was talking facts, proclaimed the dry law unenforceable and hypocritical and that it should be either corrected or repealed, "because as it stands today it is no good."

He called attention to the fact that this address will be printed in 100,000 copies and is obtainable by using the following address: Father Charles Coughlin, Woodward ave., on 12 Mile Road, Detroit, Mich. Catholic Daily Tribune, Dubuque, Ia.

THE INCREASE IN CRIME

"Faced with a steady increase in the number of crimes, and the cold brutality of crimes, we believe there has been a basic misconception of the means for improvement. We have seen the Federal Government, the State Governments in all parts of the country, and the local governments of the great metropolitan cities institute investigations that have revealed that the members of society's very organizations for the prevention of crime, the police, the judiciary, and executive officers of the government, big and little, were aiding and countenancing crime, and taking a lion's share of the spoils.

"Editorial writers on the subject seem to combine in a chorus with two refrains; first, a demand that the executive heads of government, the Mayors, the Governors, the President, do something to stop crime, and, second, that public consciousness awake. As regards the latter, we can only say that this demand makes us tired. There is probably not one man, woman or child who is not aware of the ascendancy of lurid criminality in our midst, and this awareness, in many cases, a sort of amused sporting interest, extends back over a decade.

"Needless to say, this sort of thing has been seen to transcend political differences. The contrast, or lack of it, between New York democracy and Chicago republicanism is a handy instance of what we mean. The party in power, of course, is the target for the party out of power. The familiar political slogan, 'throw the rascals out' is no assurance that if the exhortation were followed fewer rascals would climb into power. These are not vain aspersions on the fair name of our citizenry; they are notorious facts.

"It is not public consciousness that is at fault; it is public conscience. It is a truth of democratic government that it cannot rise intellectually or morally above the

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

A number of Congressmen have come out in favor of sterilization for mental defectives. We suggest these Congressmen be included among the defectives, for they have qualified completely.

Jack Dempsey's father is still in the ring—the matrimonial one. He was married the other day for the third time—aged seventy-three, while his new bride is thirty-seven.

It is silly for reformers to shout that the New York City government is completely corrupted. Two men and a boy were arrested on St. Patrick's Day for selling shamrocks in the subway without a permit. Which shows that the city is on its toes.

Compensative are the mutations of Time. They used to be hanging men and women for the wearing of the green in Ireland. On St. Patrick's Day this year, in the chief churches of every city and village in the Free State, sermons were preached in Irish, and the Rosary was recited in Irish. In two Protestant churches in Dublin—St. Patrick's Cathedral (stolen from the Catholics long ago) and St. Andrew's, the sermons were in Irish, illustrating the fine spirit of unity and nationality in the country. Faugh a ballagh!

Beauty is only skin deep. "Miss St. Louis," one of America's peerless beauties at an Atlantic City contest several years ago, shot and killed her husband in Nice, France, the other evening. Jealousy led to the tragedy. Many a man has learned to his sorrow that common sense and love of home are far preferable to beauty in marriage. Beauty contests bring notoriety to the participants, but seldom happiness, and the romances they start usually end in tragedies. "The wife who feels she has to carry a gun for protection has a tragic existence, and the husband who dies by that gun is an eloquent sermon against the public exploitation of a girl's beauty.

Abraham Lincoln knew how to say things clearly and to the point. Early in 1865 some Union soldiers raided the property of the Sisters of Charity near Bardstown, Ky., and carried away considerable food. Senator L. W. Powell of Kentucky complained to President Lincoln, and the latter immediately sent the Sisters a card with the following emphatic order in his own handwriting:

"Let no deprecation be committed upon the property or possession of the 'Sisters of Charity' at Nazareth Academy, near Bardstown, Ky. Jan. 17, 1865.

"A. Lincoln."

This order is still in the possession of the Sisters of Charity, and they are very proud of it.

A great congregation of friends and acquaintances attended the solemn and beautiful services in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday morning this week, when four priests of Rochester were elevated to the dignity of Monsignors, and five Catholic laymen received into the historic order of the Knights of St. Gregory. It was an occasion that will long be remembered by all who were present. The beautiful and impressive service, the stirring and inspiring sermons, the appealing music, the solemn conferring of the honors, the American flags, palms and flowers, the Pontifical Mass, the reverent piety of the people—all these gave joy to the hearts, not only of the men honored, but to the hearts of the people in attendance. There is something about a Catholic service that lifts it above and beyond the commonplace world; something sublime, appealing, moving, unforgettable.

Policemen, usually hard-boiled on the surface, have mighty kind hearts inside. "Bang!" went a policeman's automatic in Elizabeth, N. J., the other day. A snarling collie dog, howled, spun around, fell upon the pavement and bit at his flank. The patrolman advanced cautiously with his gun. The next shot was going to be perfect. But just as he was about to pull the trigger a small boy ran out in front of him, threw himself on top of the dog, and raised his voice, making a deaf of the howling. "Please, Mister policeman, please, please," he pleaded. "If you shoot Boots, you'll have to shoot me first." A dialogue ensued. Boots had bitten a boy. Maybe the boy needed a bite. The crowd joined the boy in pleading. The policeman put away his gun, and helped the boy take the dog to an animal hospital. "He'll be home in a few days," said the doctor. "Thank you, Mister policeman," said the boy, smiling through his tears. "Woof!" said the dog, and everybody was happy.

general average of its citizens. If crime and corruption exist in government, they exist among the citizenry. There is no magic in the passage of laws that alters this.

"This does not mean to say we should be fatalists. We do believe something can be done. The effective agent, however, is not the State, not in the multiplication of laws and officers. It is in religion, in a faith in an ultimate and divine justice which will, through fear on the lowest plane and love on the highest, tempt men to be virtuous in theory and practice, in the face of real immediate temptation to be otherwise."—"The Commonweal," New York City, N. Y.