

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, April 24, 1931.

AGAINST BEAUTY CONTESTS

The League of Nations Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, in session now at Geneva, Switzerland, has had brought before it the proposition to recommend to all governments that they forbid beauty contests.

Beauty contests are no more helpful to civilization than tree-sitting contests, or egg-eating contests, and are much more harmful. They are a grievous danger to morality, and they have brought unnumbered and life-long misery to many a poor girl who was induced to enter them.

The Bishop of Galveston, Texas, some time ago, sent a personal letter to every contestant who had entered a beauty contest to be held in that city, and pleaded with each one to withdraw. His action was commended the world over, and it helped arouse a strong feeling of moral indignation against such contests.

CATHOLICS IN AMERICA

The official Catholic Directory, just published, tells us there were 20,091,593 Catholics in the United States in 1930. This is 18,891 more than in 1929 (but it is 21,165 less than in 1928).

The trend of the times is away from religion, and away from God; away from authority, and away from obedience to authority. It would be foolishly boastful to say our Church has not been affected by this trend.

There is consolation in the thought, however, that our Church is meeting this emergency with colors flying and ranks unbroken. The Catholic priesthood increased nearly one thousand in number last year.

The Rosary

Not on the lute, or harp of many strings Shall all men praise the Master of all songs. Our life is brief, one path, and art is long; And skilled must be the laureates of kings.

Church and to God. The time for doing our best work in stopping the leaks in our membership, like eternity, is ever present. That time is now. Good example, good works, sincere devotion, watchfulness over our loved ones, solicitude for the spiritual welfare of our friends and neighbors, and a hearty co-operation with every work undertaken by our Bishop and our pastors—these will help immeasurably.

POWER OF DIVINE GUIDANCE

"Going to college will be a wonderful thing for Bryan, though I am not qualified to advise him about an education of that kind. I can only teach him the difference between right and wrong, and tell him about the power of Divine Guidance."

This statement was made by Mrs. H. A. Untiedt, mother of Bryan Untiedt, the thirteen-year-old schoolboy hero who saved the lives of fifteen school children some weeks ago when the bus in which they were riding became stalled in a blizzard on the plains of Colorado.

Bryan has been offered a four-year free college course by Washington College, at Chestertown, Md., when he completes his high school course, and it was this offer which led his mother to make the above statement.

Fortunate, indeed, is a boy who has a mother like that, and fortunate will that boy be if he keeps, all through life, an understanding of the difference between right and wrong, and an appreciation of the power of Divine Guidance.

Bryan Untiedt is a hero chiefly because he has a mother who has a simple and sublime faith in God, and who has imparted to her boy the spirit of that faith. It is a pity that so many other American mothers of this kind, and so many other American boys of Bryan's type, live lives of starved spirituality, drifting gradually away from God instead of closer and closer to Him.

RELIGION BY CORRESPONDENCE

We have correspondence courses in almost everything. Why not in religion? Why not, indeed? If the course is a good one, with the right brain and the right pen behind it, much good surely can be done in fields where personal contact is well-nigh impossible.

Such a course has been established already. The material has been prepared by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Victor Day, V.G., of Helena, Montana, under the auspices of the N. C. W. C. Rural Life Bureau. We who walk or ride to Church on paved streets or highways, amid pleasant scenes and delightful surroundings, have little idea of the difficulties encountered in some parts of our country in providing religious services and religious education for the people.

Conditions are much worse in some of the Southern States. For instance, the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, provided over by Bishop Walsh, beloved in Rochester, covers the entire State, and has about two score priests to look after the spiritual welfare of Catholics in more than thirty thousand square miles of territory.

Theodore Roosevelt Said --

"No social reform is worth discussing unless there are children in sufficient numbers to make the home and the school worth perpetuating... Of all foolish people, the most foolish are the half-baked educated people who advocate a profoundly immoral attitude towards life in the name of 'reform' through 'birth control'..."

form, and are available at reasonable prices. In addition to a First Communion Course of thirteen lessons, there is a complete course based upon the Baltimore Catechism, in three parts.

In the beginning of the course, the book of instructions, together with the first set of questions, is sent to the student. The child studies the lesson, fills in the answers to the questions, and returns his paper for correction.

There is a vast amount of clerical work involved in mailing out questions, correcting returned papers, keeping records, and caring for personal correspondence. In some places, superannuated Sisters have performed these tasks, rejoicing in this splendid opportunity for further service.

Experience with religious correspondence courses has led to the following well-established conclusions: that many children in the sparsely settled and in the outlying districts can be effectively reached only by correspondence; that priests who are responsible for the souls of these children often find it difficult if not impossible to care for their religious education, and welcome a means by which they may be instructed in their religion; that parents, often poorly instructed themselves, are eager to make use of this opportunity to teach the children; and finally, that the children themselves, when reasonably encouraged, are faithful in following the series of lessons to completion.

WORLD WAR NEUTRALITY

There was a time, during the progress of the World War, before America became involved in that dreadful conflict, when this country was far more inclined towards hostility with Great Britain than with Germany, and had far more reason for the same.

A sound American thrashing is administered to the Hon. Walter Hines Page, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, in Mr. Lansing's article, because of Mr. Page's violent prejudice in favor of Great Britain, even to the extent of glaring neglect of his duties and of subordinating American rights and liberties to Great Britain. It is broadly intimated in this article that if the Lusitania had not been sunk by Germany, and if Germany had not decided to engage in ruthless submarine warfare, that America might have declared war upon Great Britain because of her many and glaring violations of America's rights, all of them with the tacit approval of Mr. Page.

The title of Mr. Lansing's article is "The Difficulties of Neutrality." He tells of the dramatic resignation of the late William Jennings Bryan, when the latter refused to sign the note of protest to the German government over the sinking of the Lusitania, on the ground that it might involve the United States in war.

Mr. Page's prejudice in favor of Great Britain had embarrassed the Administration and caused Mr. Wilson many anxious hours. "Unfortunately, Mr. Walter Hines Page was not thoroughly British in his point of view, and seemed to have no like conception of the difficulties of neutrality."

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

We are not going to have such a dry summer this year as last. "Factual Surveys," the official newspaper of the Federal Prohibition Bureau, has been discontinued because Congress failed to appropriate any more of the taxpayers' money to keep it alive and kicking.

You have to be some dog to get a column obituary in the leading dailies of the country. Igloo did that. He was Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd's dog, had gone with him to the North and South poles, and numbered among his admirers such men as Calvin Coolidge, President Hoover and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh.

Kings have their troubles, like the rest of us. Take Babe Ruth, for instance—King of the Swat. He made a deal with a gentleman of the Hebraic race several months ago whereby the latter named his haberdashery shop the "Babe Ruth." Induced by appropriate emoluments, the glib Babe attended the opening of the shop, and sold neckties, shirts and socks to beneficent admirers.

Fifteen paid death notices were published in The New York Times the other day for Joseph L. Blumenthal by his friends, and more than three thousand persons attended his funeral at the Temple Emanuel, New York City, on Sunday.

Mr. Lansing's article makes mighty interesting reading these days. It will be a distinct shock to lukewarm Americans to be told by one who knew the real inside that America was much more enraged at Great Britain than at Germany prior to the year and a half after the sinking of the Lusitania, even with other submarine outrages added to the long score against Germany.

CURRENT COMMENT

MORE FACTS

It costs in excess of one hundred and fifty dollars a year for each child in the public schools of this State. In addition the public school buildings represent an investment of approximately three hundred sixty-three dollars for each child enrolled. These figures are based on the report of the State Education Department for 1929.

There are approximately three hundred sixty thousand children in the parochial schools of this State. Here are the figures from the official Catholic Directory of 1930: Brooklyn, 114,907; New York, 105,059; Buffalo, 54,975; Rochester, 29,483; Albany, 27,624; Syracuse, 20,245; Ogdensburg, 7,390 amounting to a grand total of 359,633.

Prohibition will be a dominant issue in the next national campaign. Any Democrat nominated for the presidency in opposition to the wishes of former Governor Alfred E. Smith will be defeated.

The above statements were made by Arthur Brisbane, editor of the Hearst newspapers, on the occasion of his recent visit to Rochester. Mr. Brisbane travels the country over, is one of the best-posted men in America, and one of the ablest editors.

Possibly some time in the future the grave injustice of this double taxation of Catholics will prompt the fair-minded citizenry of this State to remedy the situation. The Catholics of other lands notably England, Canada and Holland are not subjected to any such disability. In fact in almost every other country the state contributes to the support of schools in which religion is taught.—The Evangelist, Albany, N. Y.