

The Catholic Courier and Journal

Official Paper of the Diocese of Rochester... Published at 117 Andrews St., every Friday by THE CATHOLIC COURIER AND JOURNAL, Inc.

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Subscription Rates: Payable in Advance... One Year \$7.50... Foreign, one year \$10.00

Editorial Board: Friends of the Diocese, Maurice J. Hannons, Managing Editor... All communications for publication must be signed with the name and address of the writer.

Friday, August 7, 1932.

FRANCE ON THE TOBOGGAN

When we defy God's laws; in other words, when we violate the laws of Nature, there is always one answer to our act—moral decadence and decay. France is giving that answer to the world today.

Curiously enough, one of the men most admired about conditions in France is Gustave Herve, spokesman for the National Socialists. He recently made a fervent plea for France to wake up or face political and national decadence.

Seventy per cent, if not 100, of our falling birth rate, from its very beginning, has been due to the systematic deChristianization of the country by the French Revolution.

Mr. Herve's appeal is founded entirely upon national pride; a patriotic appeal, without one single moral principle to influence, guide or command. It will fail, of course, for it is moral decadence that has brought about this deplorable condition in France.

But France, we argue, is a predominantly Catholic country. Why should France be in this deplorable immoral condition? France is predominantly a Catholic country in name only.

My Daily Prayer

If I can do some good today, If I can serve along life's way, If I can something helpful say, Lord, show me how.

BULLY!

Years ago, when the late President Roosevelt was alive, he was won't to exclaim "Bully!" whenever he saw a large family together. He would shower congratulations upon the parents, and especially upon the mother, and would tell her how proud America should be of her.

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

We were talking the other day with the pastor of a thriving little parish in a beautiful country village in this Diocese. We were talking about the pioneers who founded his church—the priests who rode miles on horseback to say Mass, and the people who walked miles to hear Mass.

This same story might be told, though not so sweepingly, in many places in America. Grandsons and granddaughters of men and women who carried the Cross everywhere in America—you look for them in the fold, and they are gone. They smile pityingly when you speak of the faith of their fathers.

HE LIKES RUSSIA

George Bernard Shaw likes Russia. He has just returned from a tour of that country, during which Stalin pointed out to him the benefic blessings of Communism divorced from the proletariat and from God.

"Stalin is one of the world's outstanding personalities," he said. "The western world has nothing like him. If I were eighteen, I would have stayed in Russia, but I am too old to change my domicile. I hated to leave Russia for Berlin and can't bear to think of having to go back to London."

Our Parochial Schools

Our parochial schools are American in every respect. Their curriculum is American; their teachers are American; their students are American, or on the way to be Americanized; their ideals are American, and utterly opposed to radicalism and Bolshevism; their loyalty is American, and has been proved to the hilt in every crisis of our Nation's history.

WHAT IS SOCIETY?

At the recent convention of the National Circle, Daughters of Isabella, in Boston, His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell delivered an address to the delegates. He warned the women against the virus of self-indulgence in vanity, eating, drinking and amusements, and said it was paganism and worse. He said:

"This virus of self indulgence is not confined to the pagan world. It is infiltrating into the lives of Catholic women. When you are surrounded day in and day out and year in and year out by these pagan ideals it is folly to think that you can escape their influence."

"Some people who are fashionable enjoy the reputation of being leaders of society. Leaders of society! What does that mean? Nothing but a petty prominence in that restricted circle of people who arrogate to themselves a certain very doubtful position in the world of fashion."

"Not so the valiant woman. The valiant Catholic woman dares to stand on Christian principles and defy the silliness of the world, and steadfastly refuses to follow the example of frivolous people whose whole heart and mind are turned to thoughts of what they shall eat and drink, wherewith they shall be clothed, and how they shall amuse themselves."

"As Catholic women you have as your ideal of womanhood, the Blessed Mother of God. Upon that ideal Christian womanhood is founded. The Church provides the most beautiful exemplification of that ideal in the Sisterhoods, with their lives of occupation and prayer, their wonderful heroism and their self-mortification."

THREE COLLEGE EVILS

Automobiles, liquor and co-education are the three evils of American colleges. Dr. Clarence Cook Little, former president of the University of Michigan, declared in a recent address on the "Educational Counseling of College Students" at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Although he admitted he favored the philosophy of education," Dr. Little said that under present conditions it was inadvisable to bring mixed undergraduate students together. "Co-education is not safe at the present time," he said. "It spoils more people than it helps."

Automobiles and liquor, the other partners of the "charming combination," are abused by the students rather than used "wisely," he told the educators. "The average person doesn't know where to go, how fast to go," he continued. "It is the grown-ups that provide the liquor and automobiles, not the boys themselves."

A girl, a car, a quart, and the average college boy is lost, according to Dr. Little. He is right. The combination is a bad one, and it behooves parents to select colleges for their boys where this combination cannot be had. The whole future life, success and happiness of your boy depend in a large measure upon the college you send him to. Act wisely and well in this matter.

THE BLESSED PEACEMAKERS

More than two thousand years ago, in His immortal Sermon on the Mount, our Divine Redeemer said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

Last year sixty countries in the world spent a total of \$4,157,931,958 for armament and arms, according to a report just published by the World Peace Foundation. We have read a lot about the frenzied way the leading nations of Europe are arming. It will surprise a lot of us, therefore, to know that the United States spent more money in preparation for war than any other nation in the world—more than France and Germany put together; more than Great Britain, Belgium, Austria, Bulgaria and Rumania together.

America's total was \$707,425,000. Right behind America, with a Soviet grin, comes Russia, with an expenditure of \$578,942,707. France is third, with a total of \$466,255,000. Then comes Great Britain, with \$465,255,000. Italy, with Mussolini rattling the sword, is fifth on the list with a total of \$248,946,500. Japan is close behind, with \$236,861,500. Why Ghandi wears a nightshirt may be explained by the fact that India spent \$211,587,622 on armament. Germany, long the war lord of Europe, spent \$171,928,040, and Spain spent \$112,583,300. Ireland, famed for its fighters, spent only \$7,080,500. Nicaragua, where revolutions are as thick as mosquito bites, spent only \$272,391. Liberia stands the lowest of all countries, with an expenditure of only \$126,070.

Brazil led all nations in South America, with an expenditure of only \$55,005,920. Argentina is right behind, with \$50,831,291. Mexico spent \$46,335,500.

And so it goes. Nation after nation forgets that "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." One nation is suspicious of another, jealous of another and afraid of another. A good Irish priest, just home from Europe, said: "You meet a lot of pious Christian people going around there with knives up their sleeves."

There would be no wars, and little need for armaments on a vast scale, if nations and peoples, would sit closer to the feet of the Saviour of the world and listen to His instructions on peace and love. Petty jealousy causes personal quarrels; national jealousy causes international wars. The peacemakers, blessed in the sight of God, and dear to the heart of God, are not popular with nations. For armaments mean business; business means fortunes; fortunes mean power, luxury and cheap human glory. Selfishness, merciless towards God, is back of much of our war preparedness and most of our armament. The pity of it is that that one nation, no matter how well intentioned, dare not sit with hands empty of guns, lest the wolves of the world rush in and devour her and her people. And so the war preparedness makes an endless chain, leading not towards God, but towards battlefields soaked with human blood and towards civilization biased and sacred by brutalities. It is not an edifying picture to contemplate.

WHERE BLOOD FLOWS

It is hard for Americans to conceive a condition similar to that which exists in the State of Vera Cruz in Mexico. That a group of eight men, armed to the teeth, should walk into a Church of God, and in the presence of more than one thousand small children deliberately shoot to death one priest, mortally wound another and make desperate efforts to murder the third, passes all human understanding. That this dastardly crime was committed with the apparent connivance and approval of the constituted authorities of the State

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Right in the middle of the business depression and worry over the crime wave, and whether Al. Capone and Bishop Cannon are law-breakers or martyrs to duty, the State of Iowa asks for an appropriation to help fight grasshoppers.

Bishop Cannon is showing faint signs of political intelligence. He says the Democrats "in all probability" will nominate Al. Smith as their candidate for President in 1932. When he admits that Al can be elected, we'll call him an "astute observer of public affairs."

They are circulating the bogus oath of the K. of C. over in England, labeled as a sample of American hate. It's an awful document, but not half as bad as some of the liquor that is being circulated in America over an English label.

A minister in New York packed a lot of ice around his pulpit the other Sunday to help give his congregation a feeling of "coolness" while he preached. If he could only take that with him to the next world, it might be more serviceable for him.

The sweeping charges of the Wickersham Committee that the police forces of the country are general failures, honey-combed with graft, back-broken by politicians, and composed of many incompetent men will not go unchallenged. Frankly, we do not believe the charges. The police forces of every fairly good-sized city have some incompetent men, of course, and some crooks and grafters. But we believe the bulk of the men on the average police force of the average American city are honest, dependable and capable. So are their officials. Politics has always dominated police forces more or less. But politics dominates every other part of every city's government just as fully and more fully than it dominates the police. So there is nothing to get alarmed about over that. And it cannot be changed unless we abolish our form of government. We will agree with the Wickersham Committee that the police forces are "general failures" in one regard. That is the big bolt on the back of the neck of Uncle Sam—the Eighteenth Amendment. The average policeman has a supreme contempt for that law, and a supreme contempt for most of the men who are trying to enforce it. Furthermore, the average policeman likes his beer. He gets it usually from the bootlegger on his beat. This makes him, to a certain extent, a pal of the bootlegger, and from this situation there has developed a dangerous condition of affairs—the linking of individual policemen on a large scale with the men who are the meat and marrow of the "gangsters" of America. If the Wickersham Committee and the American people want to abolish that condition of affairs there is just one way they can do it logically, effectively and completely—abolish the Eighteenth Amendment. This, in a nutshell, covers the situation.

reveals how low the brutality and how bestial the bigotry of the men who are opposed to the Church, its work and its ideals.

Murder under any conditions is a terrible thing. For this God branded Cain. For this human lives are exacted by Governments in retribution. Against this the whole power, force and influence of civilization cry out. But when murder goes into the house of God; when men invade a Church where Christ, the Prince of Peace and the God of Love, rests in the tabernacles, and when they deliberately murder priests who are teaching truth, love, goodness, sacrifice, service and devotion to God to little children—why, that passes all comprehension. Centuries ago, when it was done by sacrilegious swashbucklers who sought to climb to power over the bodies of human beings, it shocked the world, more accustomed then to the cry of battle, to tribal raids and the sounds and alarms of war. But in these days of supposed peace and good-will, of welfare work and human progress, when religion is so badly needed to soothe and soften human souls, it is terrifying to think crimes like this can be committed with so little evidences of public indignation and so little outbursts of shocked resentment.

There is no consolation, of course, in the thought that these conditions cannot last; for no nation can live which countenances them. Meanwhile the priests in Vera Cruz, at the mercy of a murderous bigot, are confronted by a law that limits their number to one for every hundred thousand people in the State. The rulers of the State, apparently, are perfectly willing to reduce them to this number by violence and murder. More than two thousand churches are to be served, and more than a million and a quarter Catholic people. Martyrdom no doubt awaits other priests in this unhappy land, and the fury of religious persecution the people who cling faithfully to the Cross. The priests and people of Vera Cruz need our prayers, and while we pray for them let us watch and pray, vigilantly and ceaselessly, that similar conditions are never permitted to develop in America. It is all right to boast that our Nation is "the land of liberty," but it is a lot better that we stand organized and ready to keep it so now and forever.

When You Make Your Will

Always, in every Diocese, there are churches and institutions which have heavy financial burdens, and whose work is handicapped by these burdens. When you make your will, the best way in the world to help these needy ones is to insert a paragraph something like this in the will:

"I give and bequeath to the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, N. Y., or his successor or successors in office, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used at his or their discretion for the work of the institutions of the Diocese."

If you are interested in some particular church, charity or institution a clause like this may be added: "I am interested particularly in \_\_\_\_\_ Bequests, large or small, are a great blessing to religion, and it is highly edifying to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one or more such bequests."