

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Editorial Staff

Priests of the Diocese, Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

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Friday, November 13, 1931.

MONSIGNOR BLOOMER

Four score and ten years he lived, walked and worked in this world; three score and three years as a priest of God, nearly all of these in St. Patrick's parish Elmira.

County Tyrone, Ireland, was his birthplace, ninety long years ago. Four years later his mother carried him in her arms over the ganplank of an immigrant ship into America.

Tall, fine-looking, he stood like a Colossus, lived, worked and prayed like an Apostle. His parish, newly-born, and endowed with the Christian heritage of poverty, called for his best energies and finest leadership from the beginning.

Building churches, schools, rectories and convents was not the comparatively easy work sixty years ago it is now. Dioceses were not so well organized, credit not so easy to obtain, contributions like the song of larks, numerous but light.

And so for sixty and more years he lived, worked and wrought in St. Patrick's in Elmira. He towered in the hearts of his people like a church steeple well-beloved.

Aftermath of the Armistice

Fifteen slow years have passed since a shade He slipped from out his human canopy. And marched off to a dark Eternity.

MARY E. WARD, in The New York Times.

loved him; youth found in him a tower of moral and spiritual strength, and age a genial companion who walked among flowers and kept his head among the stars.

But he did not keep his heart encircled completely by his parish. He loved all of Elmira, its people, its progress, its possibilities. He was interested in the city and its growth; interested in everything that meant the betterment and uplift of the community.

Now he sleeps in the soft home sod, enwrapped by the prayers and tears of his people. No more will he walk, work or preach, soothe sad hearts or brush away tears of anguish.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

This is American Education Week, a week set apart by Educational Authorities for the Exploitation of Education throughout the country.

Catholic Action—that subject so dear to the heart of our Holy Father, P. p. Pius XI—was emphasized in programs held in Catholic schools.

Many people hold the belief that great buildings, beautifully constructed, lavishly equipped, highly modern, sanitary and suitable, are the most important factors in education.

Buildings are necessary, of course, but most vital of all is the teacher—a teacher who knows human nature, a teacher who knows the true from the false, a teacher who believes in the immortality of the soul, and who loves religion and God.

Killing Religion

"Who would dare predict a decade ago that, almost overnight, a nation of profoundly religious people would witness the attempt of their government to extinguish religious liberty?"

American Education week: "Are my children attending schools with the right kind of teachers?"

All of us should take a keen interest in our schools, not only this week, but every week of the school year.

EXTREMITY IN BIGOTRY

In the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, this month Governor Tejeda issued an order that it is unlawful for any person to put flowers on the graves of their dead on All Souls' Day.

Extremity in bigotry will help rather than hurt the Church. All sincere Catholics long to pray for their dead.

NO-RELIGIOUS-SSUE

In the city of Detroit, at the recent election, a bitter attack was made on Mayor Frank Murphy, candidate for reelection, because of his Catholic religion.

"As the framer of the first draft of our present City charter, I know that the very warp and woof of that document excludes the idea of partisan politics or religious issues.

"Our public works are neither Republican nor Democratic, Catholic nor Protestant. The Charter contemplates a business-like government under which our affairs will be administered in a business-like manner.

"Our City is a big corporation. The Mayor corresponds to the president of a corporation and the Council to its board of directors.

"We have much in common as churchmen and everything in common as citizens. It would be most deplorable for anything to happen to disturb this very gratifying situation."

Spoken like an American. One who hand you feel like grasping in comradeship and in citizenship. It is pleasant to record that Frank Murphy was re-elected mayor of the great city of Detroit.

SODALITY AND CATHOLIC ACTION

Last Wednesday in the Ball Room of the Columbus Civic Center was held a Sodality Conference. The purpose of this Conference was to arouse a new interest in the Sodality of Mary.

Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., who is the National Organizer of the Sodality of Mary outlined the aims of the parish Sodality.

The work of the Sodality of Our Lady corresponds to the desire of our Holy Father in regard to Catholic Lay Action.

In order to do this, leadership is required. There must be young women of sterling character endowed with a virile faith ready to carry the light of Catholic truth to those who err through ignorance or prejudice.

DR. RYAN SPEAKS OUT

Here in Rochester, when he was presented at the annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Men, and in other places since, the Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., said some severe things about the deplorable lack of action on the part of the Federal Government in the unemployment situation.

"They all seem to assume that their duty will be fully performed if none of the unemployed dies of actual and quick starvation. Our responsible classes seem to give little, or no thought, to the fact that what happens to men's souls in a time of stress is quite as important as what happens to their bodies.

"The proposition that unemployment relief should be provided through private contributions and voluntary agencies is false in theory and inequitable and inadequate in practice."

"And Dr. Ryan," Mr. Bowers adds, "cannot sympathize with the view of the Federal authorities that if private charity passes out enough bread to prevent actual starvation, organized society has done its duty in the present crisis."

It is Dr. Ryan's contention that this great wealthy nation of ours should make an appropriation sufficiently large to put millions of men to work, and that the States should co-operate with the Federal Government by doing similar work.

LACK OF RELIGION

Thirteen hundred Catholic school teachers in public schools in New York City made their annual retreat and held their annual communion breakfast last week.

Speaking at the communion breakfast, Msgr. M. J. Lavelle, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and moderator of the organization, referred to the large percentage of children in this country who receive no organized or adequate religious instruction.

More and more the American people are coming to learn this truth, and to regret, with sad hearts, the fact that they so long were opposed to the Catholic ideals of education in religion.

CURRENT COMMENT

BY RAIL IN SOVIET RUSSIA

The impressions of a foreign journalist, who recently traveled by train through Russia, were, to say the least decidedly piquant. He found the railroad ballasted for about eighty miles beyond Moscow.