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

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PHILANTHROPIC AMERICA

There is a disposition on the part of some people to say: "This is a heck of a country."

Well, it is—a heck of a good country. And especially so when we consider its charities. The John Price Jones Corporation, fund-raising consultants of New York City, recently made public a record kept by the company of all private charities in the United States during the past year; that is, all private charities—gifts, etc., that were published in newspapers of the country. The grand total is \$1,500,000,000. This does not include the immensely large sum of money given privately, and without publicity of any kind, for the support of religious, welfare and other institutions; nor does it include the immense amount of charity quietly done throughout the country by many hospitals, asylums, homes for the aged, and by fraternal and religious organizations. In New York City alone, it is estimated that a total of \$40,000,000 was given without publicity last year to various charities, or for charitable work.

The consultants give details of the public charities in five cities, New York, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore. When we read about vice or graft corruptions in certain big cities we are wont to forget the better side, the more beautiful and appealing side of life in these cities—their charities. The publicly announced philanthropies of New York City, for instance, reached the amazing total of \$266,615,018 last year—more than three times that of the combined philanthropies of the four other cities mentioned above. Chicago had a total of \$84,688,071; Washington, \$5,404,424; Philadelphia, \$31,884,668; Baltimore, \$5,694,829—a grand total of \$344,355,000 for the year.

It is interesting to note that the bulk of New York City's philanthropies came from bequests for charitable purposes, a total of \$185,255,178 for the year. Protestant, Jew and Catholic in New York City seem to be educated in a high degree to that beautiful and inspiring custom, and that wonderful Christian custom, of making generous gifts to charities in their wills, whether their estates be large or small. It is edifying to read the wills of even servant girls in New York, for many of them contain little bequests to this charity or to that charity. The wills of the wealthy in New York, with very rare exceptions, teem with charitable bequests. The city stands at the forefront of America in its charities, and undoubtedly at the forefront of the world.

The comparison is striking when we note that in Chicago only \$12,184,000 was bequeathed for philanthropic work last year; in Washington, only \$848,141; in Philadelphia, \$15,856,449, and in Baltimore, \$1,332,500. When we criticize political or other conditions in New York City, let us remember, too, that New York is a glorious example to the world in its charities and its philanthropies.

Charitable and philanthropic bequests could be increased wonderfully throughout America if we had widespread campaigns of education and of propaganda towards this end. It is a pity that so many wills, breathing and bequeathing the love and the kindness of numberless excellent Christian men and women, make no mention of the name of God, and make no provisions for the work of the consecrated servants of God—those who conduct asylums, hospitals, educational institutions, homes for the aged and the poor. But in spite of our delinquency in these matters, it is good to record that America is amazingly charitable and philanthropic, and that its heart beats in kindly Christian sympathy for the poor, the needy and the afflicted—beats in ways that surely merit the love and the blessing of God.

A barely perceptible earthquake shock was felt in Belfast, North Ireland, last week—the first in three centuries. Probable cause: Albigensian society helping an Albigensian lodge to adjourn for the evening.

Father O'Flynn

Of priests we can offer a charmin' variety Far renowned for larin' and piety; Still, I'd advance ye widout impropriety, Father O'Flynn as the flower of them all.

Here's a health to you, Father O'Flynn, Slahte, and slahte, and slahte agin; Powerfulest preacher, and Thidderest teacher, and Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.

Don't talk of your Provost and Fellows of Trinity, Famous forever at Greek and Latinity, Fat' and the Divin and all at Divinity—Father O'Flynn'd make hares of them all!

Come, I venture to give you my word, Niver the likes of his logic was heard, Down from mythology Into theology, Truth: and conchology if he'd the call.

Och! Father O'Flynn, you've the wonderf'ul way wid you, All the ould sinners are wishful to pray wid you,

All the young childer are wild for to play wid you, You've such a way wid you, Father O'Flynn!

Still, for all you've so gentle a soul, Gad, you've your flock in the grandest control, Checkin' the crazy ones, Coaxin' on aisy ones, Liftin' the lazy ones on wid the stick.

And though quite avoidin' all foolish frivolity, Still, at all seasons of innocent jollity, Where was the playboy could claim an equality.

At comically, Father, wid you? Once the Bishop looked grave at your jest, Till this remark set him off wid the rest.

Ye have variety All to the Bity? Canst the clergy be fishmen, too?

Alfred Percival Graves, author of many beautiful Irish ballads, who died in England on December 27, 1931, at the age of eighty-five years.

RESENTMENT AGAINST CRIME

There are certain outstanding crimes in America that arouse quick public resentment—brutal murders, criminal assaults, maltreatment of the aged or of children, etc. And, we might add, parking near hydrants. But it has long been evident that the public conscience has been dulled in its attitude towards crime in general. There is a cold indifference towards the widespread increase of crime in America; a thoughtless shrug of the shoulders when we are told that America has the worst crime record of any nation in the world. Solicitous men and women have given much thought to this subject, and are frankly worried about the future of the country. Various opinions have been advanced as to the cause of this condition. The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Reiser, pastor of the Broadway Temple Methodist-Episcopal Church, New York City, for instance, had this to say in a recent sermon:

"Some wonder why graft trails uncovered by the Seabury investigation arouse no resentment. Possibly the authorities and the masses are dulled by the consciousness of sustaining or permitting wholesale graft in the illicit liquor business. Possibly juries discharge the Diamonds and Coils because conscious of creating them by condoning the business that fosters them. "Lawlessness when defended breeds other crimes. It did so in the days of Jesse James whose train robberies were condoned because they took their pelf from hated corporations. Seven heads of boys' secondary schools recently declared that their efforts to lift the ideals of boys were rendered at least partially futile by the drinking, ridicule or neglect of religion and the wild antics of adults at home."

All of which takes us back to the seat of the trouble and the heart of the subject—man-made laws are never effective unless backed by the interest and conscience of the people. Love of God, reverence for God, respect for and obedience to the commandments of God—these are vital for a nation that wishes its subjects to be decent and law-abiding. The man who sneers at religion need not be shocked if he is blackjacked at night or robbed at high noon. He is merely getting what he champions—the natural effects of irreligion. And the nation which passes laws that do not meet with the respect and approval of its people need not be surprised if it meets with the natural effects of its bad judgment—resentment and rebellion on the part of its subjects. Just laws and sensible laws are prime essentials in promoting respect for law and in obtaining obedience thereof. Back this up with respect for religion, and the crime problem of any nation is solved. There is no mystery about it, and no problem to it at all.

WORLD RELIGIOUS STATISTICS

A Dutch Catholic monthly, Het Schild, published in Brussels, recently made public a carefully compiled religious census of the world. This gives the total population of the world as 1,850,174,384. The total number of Catholics in the world—leading all religions—is given as \$51,839,665, or nineteen per cent. of all the people. Confucians are second in number—304,027,114, or 16.4 per cent.

The totals of other religions and their percentage of the grand total are given as follows: Mohammedans, 233,997,594, or 13.8 per cent.; Hindus, 224,008,819, or 21.1 per cent.; Buddhists, 199,461,632, or 10.8 per cent.; Protestants, 164,683,026, or 8.9

A Missioner's Grave

From Gerihum he came, with his young African chiefs, to add grace and solemnity to the blessing of the mission church. The Bishop was there, and a thousand other folks. That day was great; Our Lady smiled, and the chiefs supplied hospitality to all. But ere the evening sun had set, sorrow cast a deep shadow over those rejoicing hearts. The young Father, weakened by previous fevers, fell ill, and the best efforts of confreres could not save him. They buried him in the shade of the church, whose blessing he came to grace, and Our Lady still smiles on his lonely grave from her pedestal above the high altar. That plain, black cross, o'er that lone priest's grave, speaks treasures to thinking hearts. It speaks of the sacrifice, greatest of all, made by that chosen soul. And if we kneel, in a prayerful mood, at the foot of that lone priest's grave, we shall learn the lesson of leaving all—even self—for Jesus Christ—From "The Catholic Missions."

per cent.; Orthodox, 131,460,822, or 7.1 per cent.; pagans, 122,289,817, or 6.6 per cent.; without religion, 76,598,195, or 4.1 per cent.; Shintoists, 16,644,437, or 0.9 per cent.; Jews, 15,731,475, or 0.9 per cent.; unknown, 4,481,733, or 0.2 per cent.

The purification also presents figures on the religious population by continents as follows: Europe: Catholics, 42.9 per cent.; Orthodox, 25.3; Protestants, 24.3; Jews, 2.3; Mohammedans, 1.8; without religion, 2.2; unknown, 0.6.

The Americas: Catholics, 53.1 per cent without religion, 27.8; Protestants, 15.1; Jews, 1.8; pagans, 1; Orthodox, 0.4; unknown, 0.4; Mohammedans, 0.1.

Australia: Catholics, 22 per cent.; Protestants, 62.4; pagans, 11.2; Orthodox, 4.1; unknown, 0.2; Mohammedans, 0.1.

Africa: Catholics, 3.8 per cent.; pagans, 51.2; Mohammedans, 37.1; Protestants, 3.5; Orthodox, 3.4; unknown, 0.6; Jews, Buddhists, 0.1.

Asia: Catholics, 1.7 per cent.; Confucians, 30.5; Hindus, 22.5; Buddhists, 20; Mohammedans, 17.9; pagans, 4.6; Shintoists, 1.7; Protestants, 0.5; Orthodox, 0.5; unknown, 0.1.

These figures tell us that eighty-one per cent. of the total population of the world are not members of the Church established by Jesus Christ. They tell us, too, that outside of darkest Africa, the Americans have more people without religion than any other continent in the world. They give us a striking picture of the great field everywhere in the world for Catholic Action, for Catholic missionary work, and the spread of Catholic truth. Will we meet this situation, or sit with folded hands and watch our Catholic population dwindle and die in the face of paganism and irreligion?

\$300,000,000 SAVED

The Catholic schools of America saved the taxpayers this amount of money last year. The figures are deducted from a report just issued by the Office of Education of the United States Department of the Interior. The report says the total expenditure for education in the United States last year was \$3,200,000,000. This estimate includes expenditures covering elementary, secondary and higher institutions of learning, whether public or parochial. The Office of Education also estimates that the total enrollment for all schools last year was 29,365,608. Of these, students in public elementary schools were 21,211,325; public high schools, 1,153,815; and institutions of higher learning, including Catholic colleges and universities, 1,059,468.

The total registration in Catholic schools last year was approximately 2,662,000 students, about one eleventh of the total in the country. Inasmuch as all Catholic schools are maintained without expense to the public, it is right to assume that one-eleventh of the total educational expense, approximately \$300,000,000 has been saved to taxpayers by these schools. A careful check-up, we believe, would show a much larger amount saved. But let it go at three hundred millions—that is something for which we at least deserve the thanks and gratitude of the back-bent taxpayer.

It might be well to mention that Catholics are not maintaining their own schools with any thought in mind of saving money for taxpayers. The schools are conducted for a higher and nobler purpose, a purpose explained in one word—religion. Catholic people are just as proud of our splendid public school system as any other

class of citizens. Catholics are members of school boards all over the land, and are helpful and interested champions of education. But our Church believes that religion and morality should be taught hand-in-hand with education, that an education without religion and morality is not only incomplete, but often harmful to the youth of America. Hence, we maintain our own schools, not in a spirit of antagonism to public schools, but in a spirit of fine and noble love for God and country, that we may give our children an education that will improve not only their minds, but their souls, that will benefit them not only for time, but for Eternity.

MORE THAN BILLION PAGANS

Speaking at the annual Mission Sunday services in St. Patrick's Cathedral Sunday afternoon, the Rev. James M. Gillis said: "There are 1,275,000,000 heathens and pagans in the world who never have heard the name of Jesus Christ, and who never have been blessed by His gospel." Urging more interest in these heathens and pagans, he also said: "We must get away from the superstition that God favors the whites. There are no blacks nor yellows nor whites before God. We are not supposed to be a privileged people."

There is an amazing field to cover in the mission world. Only in recent years have Catholics of America taken a worthwhile interest in this work. American missionaries are to be found now in every land on the globe. But not as numerous as they should be. Priests, Sisters, medical workers, catechists, are wanted everywhere. Countries strongly Catholic at one time have been lost in large part from the Faith because of lack of priests. The Philippines is a striking example of this. Proselyting missionaries have made terrible inroads upon the faith of these people, and hundreds of once beautiful Catholic churches are decaying or have fallen to ruin, because there are no priests to care for them, to preach the Gospel of Christ, to keep the Faith of Christ alive in the hearts of the people. It is good to have men like Father Gillis point out the need of mission work—the great fields, untilled, awaiting the workers of Christ.

A WORD OF PROTEST

Under the above heading, in the Motion Picture Review Bulletin issued by the General Federation of Women's Clubs for January, the following paragraph appears: "We are sorry so many cheap and vulgar short subjects have been on the screen the past month, as they lower the tone of any program. We contend that the screen is not the place for off-color vaudeville, nor are the stupidities that are offered for comedies enjoyable. We are making no other comment on them, nor are we including them among the many really fine short subjects of this month."

In addition to the above the Bulletin says: "All signs in this New Year, so far as we can read them, point toward quality in pictures rather than quantity. We have watched the change taking place during the past months, and it is clear that with a high level of quality once reached, it will not be easy to return to a lower one."

"Motion pictures have been made in the past for the masses, and will continue to be made for them. A discriminating attitude on the part of the public-at-large, a careful selection of the best pictures, a word of appreciation for the stories that satisfy, and a steady refusal to register a box-office vote for the inane, stupid or

objectionable in screen, entertainment will serve to keep the standard high.

"Pictures with an unhealthy under-world or sex emphasis continue to be made and we, who ask only that our entertainment be wholesome, continue to register our protest against them. We feel that a producer in making them has taken a backward step that reflects in an unfortunate way on the industry."

The Federation of Women's Clubs has done splendid work in fighting objectionable films. The fight will be in vain unless all people interested in good pictures will co-operate with the Federation. There is only one way to kill bad pictures—make them unprofitable at the box office. Boycott them, and let theater managers know in a determined way that you will not tolerate them. If we do this we will make the work of the Federation of Women's Clubs fruitful in cleaning up the stage. Filth on the stage means filth in human souls. That we do not want, and that we should fight to prevent.

NEW YORK CITY ACTS

Fourteen hundred newsdealers in New York City have been notified by the License Commissioner that their licenses will be revoked and criminal action started against them unless they discontinue at once the sale of all obscene publications. The Interboro News Company, controlling hundreds of stands, immediately announced that it had withdrawn from sale three magazines notorious for their obscenity.

Back of this action is a committee of citizens made up of prominent Protestants, Jews and Catholics, and with former U. S. District Attorney Charles H. Tuttle as chairman. District Attorney Cram and Police Commissioner Mulrooney are pledged to hearty co-operation in this matter, and an assistant district attorney has been assigned to prosecute any newsdealers who may be arrested.

Of late there has been a flood of suggestive or obscene publications placed on sale in America. Books, magazines, pamphlets, etc., are included in the list. Vigorous action is necessary, and it is good to have the supposedly wicked metropolis set an example to the rest of the country in getting rid of these evil publications. May the rest of the land do likewise.

FINLAND DIVORCES UNCLE SAM

Finland, nestling amid the snows of the North, has divorced Uncle Sam. Left us cold, sitting alone among empty memories and bottles of the past. For Finland, of all nations in the world, was the only one that walked with us on the dry, narrow path of legislated prohibition. Now she has left us. We hold hands no more, nor walk together in the soft and soothing moonlight. Our Uncle, witless and childless, is as pathetic, but not as poetic, as the last rose of summer.

The figures tell a one-sided story: total ballots, 771,487, of which 337,418 were cast by women. The existing, and long-tried prohibition law in Finland, was favored by 217,208 voters, or twenty-eight per cent. of the total; for modification of the law, 10,947 ballots were cast, or one and four-tenths per cent. of the total; while for repeal, 546,332 ballots were cast, or seventy and six-tenths of the total. The total number of women voting for repeal was 226,820, or 67.2 per cent. of the total women's vote.

Finland, be it known, had the same problem as America in dealing with prohibition—bootleggers, rum runners, enforcement at the muzzle of guns, tragic deaths, bribery, graft, hypocrisy and supreme contempt for the law, to say nothing about bulging jails, crowded courts and noody-nabby twaddle about the blessings of the law. Dry orators in America have had poetic arms entwined around Finland's waist for years. Now they will twine no more, for she has left us alone, sitting with contraband hootch by our side while we wave the flag of prohibition in the face of the scowling Statue of Liberty. We await, with bated breath, for Bishop Cannon, Dr. Clarence Stew Wilson and F. Scott McBride to consign Finland to perdition. For she cannot remain in Christian company and laugh ironically at our Uncle Sam while she pulls corks and inserts bungs in legal barrels, foaming in imitation of an angry sea.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Cardinal O'Connell of Boston paid his respects to radio crooners the other day. He said a man "who sings low-down interpretations of love, whining and crying—well, he just isn't a man." A lot of people will agree heartily with the Cardinal. A crooner gives your soul the feeling that it is covered with flap-jack syrup.

Ex-Governor and Mrs. Alfred E. Smith were sponsors for ninety-four children at a confirmation service in St. Ann's Church, New York City, last week. Cardinal Hayes presided at the service, after which he blessed twenty-six new memorial windows in the church. One of the windows was dedicated to Mother Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity in America, and another to St. Joan of Arc in memory of all human beings of all nations who lost their lives in the World War.

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."