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Friday, January 29, 1932

THE REV. JOSEPH SCHMIDT, C. S. S. R.

Thirty-eight years a priest of God, member of the great Redemptorist Order; teacher, missionary, pastor; zealous and devoted at all times in the work of God, and hopeful that many other years of fruitful labor might be his lot—then, suddenly, an accident in the church he loved; a bad fall, the tender ministrations of the Sisters of Charity in St. Mary's Hospital, apparent improvement and, swiftly, the deep night of death.

Father Schmidt had been in Rochester only two years. He came here from Baltimore, city of his birth, and in St. Joseph's Church he found heart-warming welcome, co-operation and support. His kindly, courteous manner; his deep and sincere interest in his people and in their welfare, temporal and spiritual; his love for children, and his concern for the right development of their habits and characters; his pride in the work and accomplishments of the Catholic Mens' Federation, coupled with strong desire to aid in this work; his unassuming manner, his deep piety and devotion, and, above all, his true priestly character—these won the hearts of all people of St. Joseph's Church, and won for Father Schmidt the love and respect of everybody with whom he was associated.

Now, after thirty-eight years of tireless labor in the vineyard of Christ, he sleeps with the elect of God. The good he did, the souls he comforted, the hearts he blessed and gladdened, the homes he helped make happy, the lives he guided aright, all who knew and loved him—by these he will be remembered. Prayers and tears encompass him, and the sweet incense of Faith burns fragrantly for him in many hearts and homes. May he rest happily with God for all Eternity, even as he served God happily for all Time.

BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON

Frequent attempts to control all education from a Federal Bureau in Washington have emphasized the tendency of the Government to dominate not only the educational activities of the country, but also many other matters that definitely belong to the individual states.

There can be no question that the centralization of power in the government at Washington has been going on to an extraordinary degree during the last twenty years, said Hon. James W. Wadsworth of Geneva, former U. S. Senator, in a recent address.

When we look at it we may make up our minds that even Theodore Roosevelt would turn over in his grave could he see what we see today. The multiplication of commissions, boards, and bureaus at Washington since Roosevelt laid down the Presidency has been simply immense.

If America is to continue a land of democracy it will have to guard jealously the rights of the States, and put an end to the inclination of grasping politicians to centralize all power and all authority in Washington. We are not yet ready for such a thing, and our legislators of Arizona, South Carolina and other states shall help shape the policies of our New York State.

Christmas Candles

What lovely things the candles are—A gleam with mellow light, Shedding a glow upon the snow, Out in the purple night.

What holy things the candles are, Each slender, soaring rod, Talking to me and teaching me Of goodness and of God.

What magic things the candles are—Within their glow I see Sweet Mary and the new-born Christ In far-off Galilee!

—Kate Loftus Welch.

TEXAS CONDEMNS DIVORCE

The Senate of Texas, in a resolution adopted in a recent extraordinary session of that body, deprecates the increase of divorce and of juvenile delinquency in that State, and calls upon parents and clergy throughout the State to become leaders of a movement to restore and safeguard the ideals of family life and the sanctity of the home.

It is heartening to see a State like Texas take a stand in this matter. In too many American states there is a tendency to speed up divorces and make them easier to obtain. There is a tendency to look lightly upon moral virtues, and to accept the free and easy methods of modern life.

PROHIBITION AND HEALTH

In a recent issue of The Commonwealth Dr. Frederick Damrau, a New York City physician, discusses the effects of prohibition upon the health of the American people, in an article entitled "America Wet."

In New York state more people in proportion to the population are dying of alcoholism than at any time in the last twenty years, with the exception of 1916. Statistics furnished by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce prove that over six times as many people died from alcoholism in 1928 as in 1920, the first year of national prohibition.

In 1929 ten times more people died of alcoholism in New York City than in 1920. Arrests for intoxication have increased. Speakeasies are everywhere. The hip flask has taken the place of the corner saloon.

Alcohol used in excess is one of the leading causes of insanity. The advent of prohibition caused a prompt drop in the number of cases of alcoholic insanity. But there came a gradual change in this condition, until now alcoholic insanity cases are more than four times as numerous as in 1920, and are greater than in any of the years immediately preceding prohibition, with the single exception of the war-time year of 1917.

Quebec, with government controlled liquor has an alcoholic death rate only slightly higher than the state of Kansas, which for years has had the lowest death rate from this cause in the United States. Three times as many people die from alcoholism in New York State as in the province of Quebec, and there is far less abuse of liquor in the province than in most sections of the United States.

Cirrhosis, or hardening of the liver, is due to steady "tippling" rather than to periodical sprees, Dr. Damrau says. New York State has more than twice as many deaths from this cause as the province of Quebec in proportion to population. For every three persons who die of cirrhosis of the liver in Quebec, seven die in Kansas, the most temperate state in the Union; nine in Indiana, and ten in New York.

The death rate due to alcoholism in the United States in 1929 was nearly six times that of 1920, the first year of national prohibition. It was highest in Maryland, Nebraska, Delaware, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Duties of Catholics in Aiding Peace

So long as international order is not realized, and so long as solid guarantees are not established to protect his country against an armed force, the Catholic must esteem it necessary to maintain an army sufficient to protect his country against an always possible attack; he himself in case of danger should fulfill his military duty courageously, heroically, even unto death if necessary.

THIS BILL SHOULD PASS

A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature making it illegal for any public school official to ask, or endeavor to find out, the religion of any applicant for the position of teacher. This bill will come up for vote of the Legislators in the near future. It should be passed, should be signed by the Governor, then enforced without fear or favor.

In most public schools of New York State applicants for positions of teachers are asked, "What is your religion?" The application blanks of most agencies that help teachers find positions contain the same question.

The barring of any teacher because of her religion is a violation of existing laws. Any trustee, commissioner, principal or Board of Education refusing to employ a teacher because of her religion is subject to removal from office, and all public moneys may be withheld from the school under control of such officials.

WORSE THAN COMMUNISTS

At a national meeting of the Anti-Saloon League in Washington the other day the directors of that body adopted a resolution extolling Bishop James Cannon, Jr., to the skies and declaring that "only his resolution and sacrifice stand between thousands of independent voters and social ostracism, financial ruin, serious physical harm."

Worse than Communists are these people, and more dangerous than anarchists to the peace and good will of America. Waving the flag of respectability, exploiting themselves as the one perfect organization of America, rallying many sincere Christians to their cause, they make charges against their fellow-citizens that are not only contemptibly cowardly, but viciously false.

There is a deep-seated motive, of course, in exploiting this clerical mountebank at the present time. Indicted on the charge of violating the laws of the land, Bishop Cannon must soon face a jury of his peers in Federal court. Ever since his indictment his friends have been exploiting him as a martyr, and he has joined in this work with generous gusto.

IRELAND HITS SON OF THE SOD

Ireland has banned Frank Harris' life of Bernard Shaw. Harris, dead now, wrote what has been called an iconoclastic life of the great English humorist, though Shaw is as Irish as the Blarney Stone, whether he likes it or weeps over it.

We take it that the humorist, who saw so much beauty and glory in Russia not long ago, will wax wrathful with the Irish. He will get more advertising out of his banned life—we, almost said damned life—than tooth paste gets over the radio in America. He will say things that will never be engraved upon the monument of

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 desirable to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one or more such bequests."

Brian Borou, or preserved in the Halls of Tara, to say nothing about DeValera's daily paper.

It is likely that a certain group of literary Americans will join Bernard Shaw in weeping over his banned life. This will not get a rise out of the tail of Ireland's coat, however. For Ireland is determined that indecent, unhealthy, indigestible literature, whether about B. Shaw or B. Control, shall have no circulation in that land.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Finland, which has just repealed its prohibition law, has, according to the supplement to the Catholic Encyclopedia, 3,289,432 Protestants, nearly all of them Lutherans, and about 1,000 Catholics. The Anti-Saloon League can't blame Finland's wet feet on the Pope.

We regret that premature baldness made it unnecessary to cultivate the friendship of many barbers. Too late in life, almost, we have learned our loss. Listen to this from T. V. O'Connor, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, explaining to a Congressional Committee why his board gave away eight thousand dollars worth of liquor on board ships sold by the Government in 1929 to the Paul W. Chapman Company: "Eight thousand dollars worth of liquor isn't much for medical supplies. An ordinary barber would have that much liquor." Gentlemen, with an abundance of hair, please take notice.

Temperance workers can learn a good lesson from the life of Julius Rosenwald, one of the founders and chief owners of Sears, Roebuck & Co. When the company opened its big new plant in Chicago in 1906, saloons surrounded the building on all sides. Mr. Rosenwald, always an advocate of temperance, but having no legal recourse against the dram shops, called a mass meeting of the workers and elicited a pledge that none would enter a saloon within eight blocks of the establishment. Within eighteen months the nearest saloon stood eight blocks from the main entrance of the mail order house. The barroom remained on the edge of the "restricted" zone until prohibition came.

Next Monday the emergency relief campaign of the Rochester Community Chest for \$150,000 will be brought to a close. The family-caring, children's and health agencies of the city will not have needed funds for their work unless this campaign is a success. The Chest workers are straining every muscle to win the treasured goal. A heart-warming appeal issued prior to the opening of the campaign on Monday this week by the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, closes with this stirring sentence: "My fellow citizens, no matter what your race or color or creed, rise to the occasion, give till it hurts, help your fellow citizens who are in dire need and save the Chest for the future by placing these relief agencies in a position where they may not find themselves empty handed at the pleading of the unemployed, the poor, the widow and the orphan."

Vice President Curtis sent word to Father Cox of Pittsburgh that he had no authority to permit him to speak from the steps of the Capitol when he reached Washington with his army of unemployed men recently. Nor would he be allowed to present his petition for help on the floor of Congress, said the V. P. But Father Cox spoke from the Capitol steps, presented his petition on the floor of Congress, and on top of that was received by President Hoover. The V. P. is called "Egg-Front Charley" in a recently published book, "The Merry-Go Round at Washington." He may know something about politics, and soft-boiled eggs that dribble, but he wasn't a good judge of human nature when he told Father Cox he couldn't do certain things in Washington. A man who fights for the poor and feeds them every day in the year isn't going to let any ordinary Vice President tell him he can't do things.

Many of our Catholic papers were exercised over the fact that Dr. Marie Stopes, birth control advocate, wrongly quoted Father St. John, S.J., of England, as approving her book, "Married Love," advocating her birth-control views. Father St. John, when located in England, said he had written a letter to Dr. Stopes in New York commending a certain section of her book which had nothing to do with birth control, the main topic treated. He said it was a grave injustice to him to advertise him as having approved the whole book. We decline to get exercised over Father St. John's dilemma. Praising the good points of the devil, and expecting his bad points to be ignored is rather precarious business for anyone. Father St. John has no just complaint if the dirt of Dr. Stopes book became bound up with his letter. He should have known better.