

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Editorial Staff: Friends of the Diocese, Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

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Friday, February 12, 1932

FINLAND AND LIQUOR

A most enlightening article on "Finland and Liquor," written by L. Astrom, Minister of Finland to the United States, was published recently in The New York Times.

One hundred years ago the people of Finland consumed more alcohol per capita than any other nation in the world. The cause was bad, as they always are when alcohol is used to excess.

In 1872, the so-called "Gutenberg system" was introduced, eliminating private profit from the sale of liquor. Under this system certain companies were given exclusive rights in certain districts.

The passing of the Prohibition law was a fatal movement. Everybody felt the law would cover the situation. Education work for temperance was generally terminated.

Convictions for intoxication averaged in pre-prohibition years 1911-13, 15,111, while in 1929 the average was 78,757. Convictions increased in the cities from an average of 14,061 in 1911-13 to 50,207 in 1929.

The general violation of the prohibition law encouraged the people in contempt for the law and in hypocrisy, creating an atmosphere in which the moral development of the youth was retarded.

Ransomed

Those sacred Feet that oft did hie To do our Lady's will, We now behold their crimson steps On Calvary's rugged hill.

Those sacred Hands that oft were raised To still the sufferer's need, We see them stretched upon the cross, And, pierced with nails, they bleed.

The thorn-crowned Head bends low in pain, Would that my heart could know Some place of rest, some solace meet, To ease its bitter woe.

Like Magdalen's repentant soul, O Love-flushed Heart Divine, O'erwhelmed with sorrow, grief, and shame, Make Thine this heart of mine.

Take Thou my hands and guide me, Lord; Teach me the worth of pain; By love redeemed, O Love Divine, Let me in love remain.

—By Sister M. Alleis, S. C. N.

avored the outright repeal of the Prohibition law. Finland, therefore, after experimenting twelve years with legislative Prohibition, is right back where it was at the commencement of this experiment—a sadder and wiser nation.

CATHOLIC ACTION WITH A PUNCH

The Nation magazine, published in New York City, recently carried a feature article of fifteen pages devoted to the advocacy of birth control.

Your over-zealous, hysterical advocacy of this harlot-like practice shocks me, and makes your weekly paper unwelcome in my home.

If all of our people would act in similar manner in dealing with magazines and newspapers that champion indecent and un-Christian movements they would quickly put an end to the magazines and the movements.

CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS

Interesting information is contained in a new Catholic Press Directory, soon to be published by the Catholic Press Association.

The combined circulation of these publications is given as 7,308,456. There are nine daily papers, only one of them in English; one published three times a week; three, twice a week; one hundred and thirteen weekly; six, semi-monthly; one hundred and thirty-one, monthly; thirteen, bi-monthly; thirty-one, quarterly; two, annually; one, bi-annually.

There are 21,887,606 Catholics in the United States at the present time, according to the advance sheets of the new directory. This shows a gain of 2,642,397 Catholics during the last ten years, for at the end of 1921 the estimated number of Catholics in this country was 19,245,209.

Many Catholic families take several Catholic publications, many others take none. Yet it is heartening to know there are more than seven million subscribers to such publications.

The growth of Catholic publications in America has been tedious and slow. The pathway is strewn with financial wrecks, and it is marked by sacrifice, suffering and sorrow.

Profanity--A Vice Mean and Low

The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, a vice heretofore little known in an American army, is growing into fashion.

PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT

People talk disarmament, then clamor for preparedness for war. Nations talk disarmament, then build more battleships, fighting planes and long-range guns.

General O'Ryan, in making the above statement, vigorously denounced war and those who favor maintenance of heavy armaments.

General O'Ryan predicted that war would be eradicated eventually, and that it is only a matter of time for "intelligent, organized and unemotional action" to renounce it forever.

Neither diplomats nor experts," he concluded, "can or will organize the world for peace; nor will they bring about any effective limitation of world armament.

What General O'Ryan says is of importance. The weight of public opinion can put an end to all evils, even war.

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THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

The Disarmament Conference, with delegates from sixty nations in all parts of the world, met in Geneva last week. It is the hope of men and women who are championing peace and opposing war that this conference may help safeguard the peace of the world.

Nations preach peace, talk peace and promise peace. Yet there are 4,600,000 men actually under arms throughout the world, exclusive of some 2,000,000 in China.

CATHOLIC CHARITY ACTS

The National Conference of Catholic Charities has just published the results of a survey made of the work of affiliated societies throughout the United States.

Those conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a volunteer group, which reported both in 1929 and 1930 made expenditures totaling \$1,200,000 in 1929, and increased these to about \$1,550,000 in 1930.

No figures are included here, of course, for parish charitable work, which totals many millions of dollars.

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.

"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 or 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Requests, 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."

ing nations. There are more than four thousand warships patrolling the seas. The nations of the world are spending \$4,000,000,000 annually in war preparations, as compared with \$2,500,000 in the last year before the World War that was to end all wars.

Every follower of the Prince of Peace will look not to the armament record of his or her nation, but will look with hopeful eyes towards the Christian principles and ideals of the Creator of mankind.

THE RIGHT KIND OF INFLUENCE

The right kind of influence is an important thing in every person's life. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, emphasizes this in a striking way in a recent interview. He says:

"As I look back on my life now, in addition to some of my instructors I can also feel the effect that four great figures had upon my entire career. While in Europe as a young student I had the honor of introductions to Gladstone, Bismarck, Cardinal Newman and Pope Leo XIII.

Good friends, good books, good plays, comrades who raise us up instead of dragging us down, fidelity to religion and to God—these are some of the influences that help make our lives rich and fruitful and that give us "outstanding standards of excellence by which to measure thought and action."

CATHOLIC CHARITY ACTS

The National Conference of Catholic Charities has just published the results of a survey made of the work of affiliated societies throughout the United States. The survey, though not a complete one, shows that in forty-five cities, for the ten months between December, 1930, and September, 1931, a total of \$1,952,273.24 was expended by Catholic diocesan charities.

Those conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a volunteer group, which reported both in 1929 and 1930 made expenditures totaling \$1,200,000 in 1929, and increased these to about \$1,550,000 in 1930.

No figures are included here, of course, for parish charitable work, which totals many millions of dollars. Practically every parish in America has done charitable work of worth-while nature among its poor and needy.

for this work, because it is always done quietly, in a neighborly way, and without records of any kind. Long centuries ago Catholics learned from St. Paul that of Faith, Hope and Charity, the greatest of these is Charity.

KNUCKLING DOWN TO BIGOTRY

It is amazing and distressing to find some of the best newspapers of America knuckling down to bigotry when they discuss the availability of Alfred E. Smith as a candidate again for the Presidency.

Something else, however, will come back if he is nominated for the Presidency. It is a revival of those religious prejudices which so distressed thoughtful men in 1928. Must those forbidden yet furious passions be roused again?

Here is a great newspaper—one of the greatest in the world—humbly asking the American people not to nominate Alfred E. Smith because there will be a revival of those religious prejudices which so distressed thoughtful men in 1928.

Surely the New York Times does not mean the Catholic people of America will revive those religious prejudices which so distressed thoughtful men in 1928. For in the thousands of Catholic pulpits that are as beacon lights of Faith the whole land over the name of Alfred E. Smith was not mentioned once in 1928.

Let it be understood, distinctly, that the Catholic people of America are not clamoring now, and never have clamored, for the nomination of a Catholic for the Presidency because of his religion.

But we do resent—and we have a right to resent—this pitiful, this contemptible, this insulting, this un-American and un-Christian cry: "Turn down Al Smith because he is a Catholic, lest there be a revival of religious bigotry if he is nominated."

Ogden L. Mills is the new Secretary of the United States Treasury. We know how many mills make a cent, how many cents make a dime, etc. But how many Mills will it take to make the U. S. Treasury helpful to the rest of the country?