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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pawning of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

"With prudent counsel from men of good judgment and of experience in business affairs, and with the approval of the Diocesan Board of Consultors, we have constituted The Catholic Courier & Journal as the official Catholic newspaper for the Diocese of Rochester. We ask God's blessing on the undertaking, that it may serve to bring to our people timely information on Religious topics, instruction in the doctrines of the Catholic Faith, messages of an official nature from the authorities of the Diocese, and we would urge all to be numbered among its subscribers."

MOST REV. JOHN FRANCIS O'HERN, D.D., Bishop of Rochester. March 15, 1929.

Editorials

TECHNOCRACY RAVEN CROAKS

With bated breath we awaited the momentous utterances of the 6th of Technocracy's Cult, was to ripple the waves with the historical message defined as "the authoritative last word" on this new solution of the world's ills.

Defining man as merely an energy-consuming device, with the only distinction functionally between him and the machine being his ability to produce organic extensions of himself, in the form of additional energy-consuming devices, he proceeded with statistics on the proportional growth of population and machines.

His statistics were interesting but his conclusions vague.

Between tirades against the debt-merchants and the political system Mr. Scott interjected some gloomy portents of future days, that would have done credit to a contestant in a Prixe Pessimist Contest. He tempered the wind to the shorn lamb by telling us he did not predict chaos but only greater total unemployment to reach the figure of twenty million in this country within the next eighteen months.

Postulating his talk on an introductory reference to man "being chased from the jungle by his ape-brother," he delineated the rise of civilization as solely the advance towards more available sources of energy. His climax led to the definition of man as merely an energy-consuming device.

No reference here to the spiritual or social motives of man. No mention of the wonder power of the unseen force of a great idea. No recognition of the power of noble motives and inspired ideals. Man is but an energy-consuming device. What a pity!

Technocracy merely reveals the chaotic state of the world's thinking when left to its own devices with no guiding norm. Appalled by statistics of its own progress along technical lines, amazed by the ruin strewn about it in unemployment it raises a mighty shout that chaos is impending because it has created a Frankenstein about to break loose.

"Not a single political or financial figure has offered a workable plan," says Howard Scott, Technocrat-in-chief. "If the rates of growth of energy-consuming devices continue there is no political system in existence that can cope with it. Technocracy and engineering must develop a method whereby you can measure the rate of growth. Then production and distribution must be placed on a balanced load.

"Technocracy offers social alignment on the basis of functional abilities. Man is an energy-consuming device." In the words of Poe's croaking raven, "Only that and nothing more."

Dangling before a depression-weary people the bait of $25,000 a year income for four hours a day work Scott is piling up menacing fears of the collapse of our present social order, and urging men to follow his will-o'-the-wisp of easy money and no work. Did we perceive in the bait and the warnings a hint of the glorious hopes engendered in the breasts of despoiled Russian peasantry by the Trotzky and later the Stalin of the "good times to come if you follow us" banners.

The present social machine has been generations in the making. It has brought us thus far in our journey to civilization. Let us not be too eager to scrap it but rather let us try to repair it. As John Herbert Van Deventer, editor of "The Iron Age" said in his talk last year "Technocracy is long on promises, strong on predictions and wrong on facts".

Scott is right when he says we need a balance between production and distribution. Let him read the Encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius XI and learn whence that balance must arise. Distribution is the out-of-balance factor—not production.

The right distribution of wealth with the proper reward going to the worker whose brains and brawn create wealth is the only solution for our economic ills. "Concentration of wealth in the hands of the few", with its consequent despotic control of the sources of production is the evil of today. Greed and despoliation of the worker as a result of "man's inhumanity to man" has broken down the functioning of our economic machine.

The purchasing power of the world is latent in the millions of workers. Rob them of that power by depriving them of their inalienable right to a living wage and you raise the claws of Depression upon [illegible] security of the employed and neglect the sanctity of the worker's right and you kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

No substitution of energy certificates for the "price-system" will cure the deeper ills of mankind. Whether it be gold currency, wampum shells or erg-joule-certificates, unless men have them they cannot purchase their needs. Unless they can purchase their needs there is no reason to produce. Unless you have both purchasing and production trade ceases and industry collapses.

Not Technocracy but animocracy—the rule by the soul and spirit of man is needed. Not the Utopia of an all-pay, no-work system but the sound ideals of a living-wage system will be the path from Depression. Not man labelled as an energy-consuming device but man dignified as the creature composed of body and soul and made to the Image and Likeness of God is the correct title for this composite being.

Let us read again our Encyclicals of light and truth and learn the simple lesson that will solve all the complexities about us.—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Then, and then only will the cloud lift and the sun of Justice illuminate the world again on the upward path.

Current Comment

HOPES FOR THE HOLY YEAR

The instructions in the first bull issued by the Pope for the Holy Year are applicable to the celebration in Rome. They are for the guidance of those who, either as residents or pilgrims, are able to visit the great churches in the Eternal City. Later on, according to announcement, additional instructions will be issued for the faithful who will be unable to comply with the prescriptions contained in the first bull.

As clearly explained by the Pope, the primary object of the Holy Year is the glorification of the Redeemer through the celebration, in fitting manner, of the 19th centenary of His death. It is the desire of the Church expressed by its supreme head, that the Holy Year be made the occasion for the elevation of souls toward the Creator. With the assistance of special and extraordinary works, there is to be a world-wide spiritual renewal. It is to be, indeed, a holy year.

A secondary object of the year-long celebration is the betterment of the general condition of mankind. The Holy Father has made it known that a profound solicitude for the nations suffering so grievously from material ills was an important factor in his decision to proclaim the coming Holy Year. While the call to prayer and expiation is directed primarily to individual souls, the secondary intention of material betterment is so important at this time as to enter properly into the thoughts and aspirations of the faithful. —The Providence Visitor.

MEN PAST FORTY-FIVE

The opinion seems to prevail among many industrialists that by the time a workman reaches the age of forty-five he has rendered his best years of service. They seem to forget that average age of the United States Supreme Court Justices is sixty-seven years. They have forgotten that the French artist, Chevruel, produced his finest paintings at the age of 103 and that Titian finished his masterpiece at the advanced age of ninety-eight They don't know that Gladstone made his way to the head of his government for the fourth time at eighty years of age or that Vanderbilt developed the railroads of America after he was seventy. It has slipped their mind that Tom Scott began the study of Hebrew at eighty-six and that Noah Webster began the study of seventeen languages after his fiftieth birthday. They seem to be ignorant of the fact that Dr. Eliot, late president emeritus of Harvard, did some of his best writing after his sixtieth birthday or that two of the greatest English writers of this present day, Hilaire Belloc and Gilbert Chesterton, are both fifty-five. They are not aware of the fact that de Ville, Wohler, Vant Hoff, Charles, Lavoirer, Pasteur and Curie made their greatest accomplishments and contributions to science long after they had passed their forty-fifth birthday. What of our popes and theologians? The last four Popes have easily been the most upstanding men in the entire world and they were all fifty when they were crowned with the tiara. —Pittsburgh Catholic.

Every once in a while we hear of some incident that restores our wavering confidence in this so-called human race. Such as this, for example: A few days ago an immense lumber mill in another state was almost completely destroyed by fire. The mill bore the family name of two high school lads, attending boarding school in Portland. The boys are orphans, and the lumber mill was operated by their uncle. Schoolmates rushed into the boys' room, showing the newspaper account and excitedly asking: "Is this the mill you've been telling us about?" "Why, yes," answered the boys. And as they hurriedly glanced through the story of the conflagration, dismay took hold of them—"Gee, isn't that too bad; all those people thrown out of their jobs—and just before Christmas, too!"

A little while later the Superior of the School met the boys on their way to class and told them he was sorry to hear the bad news. "Yes, Father, it's sure tough for those poor people to be out of work." "But did you two boys lose anything personally? Did you own any stock in the mill?" "Why, yes; we each owned a thousand shares." "And what was the value of each share?" "Oh, a little over a hundred dollars." —Catholic Sentinel, Portland.

"Without denying or weakening the sentiment of national patriotism, we can set forth that wider and higher patriotism which takes in all the peoples of the earth. A large part of our efforts in this field must be specifically, courageously and persistently directed against the spirit of exclusiveness and narrowness which characterizes that perversion of national sentiment now stigmatized as nationalism."—Ethics Committee, C.A.I.P.

"As regards the relations of peoples among themselves, a double stream has issued forth from this one fountainhead on the one hand, economic nationalism or even economic imperialism; on the other, a not less noxious and detestable internationalism or international imperialism in financial affairs, which holds that where a man's fortune is, there is his country."—Pius XI.

If we were to die and be able by a special dispensation to come back again to life, we would spend our whole effort and all that we possess to assist in the great work of soul saving, because then we should know the true value of things as Christ sees them. —The Catholic Mirror.

Diocesan Recordings

As an added feature at the free public lectures being given under the auspices of the Catholics Men's Federation in St. Joseph's Hall, the Executive Committee, following each lecture is presenting a review of pending legislation in the New York State Legislation that is inimical or favorable to Catholic interests. The proposed bills are studied thoroughly by the Executive Committee and at the lecture meetings are presented as being opposed or favored by the Federation. This alertness on the part of the Federation in the past has resulted in stopping the adoption of measures which on their face seem to be worthwhile but when given serious consideration are shown to be diametrically opposed to Catholic principles.

* * *

The Rev. Daniel A Lord, S J National Organizer of the Students' Spiritual Leadership movement in a recent lecture at Notre Dame high school in Cleveland in speaking on Catholic Action said.

"As the Pope's command to receive frequent Communion saved the last generation from losing Catholicity, so the Pope's call to Catholic Action will save the present generation. It is the apostolic mission of the laity to bring Jesus Christ into the lives of others, into home, society, business and the affairs of the nation. Our trouble is that we have too many religious spectators. What we need are actors."

Reports from the meeting held Monday evening by the Rochester Parish Sodality Union indicate that "actors" are in the making in this diocese. All such groups deserve encouragement and support in carrying out the Holy Father's call for Catholic Action.

* * *

There is much food for thought in Sheriff William C Stallknecht's observations in last Sunday's American that "There is no place in industry and there is no place in the streets for boys of today," and that "We must be on the alert for criminal youth, for no particular reason except that youth is unoccupied." In his position, Sheriff Stallknecht has witnessed the growing population in the County Jail of young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four years of age. It is his contention that idleness has led these youthful criminals into the paths that eventually result in their arrest and he urges something be done to correct the situation. Catholic lay organizations not already engaged in this work could find in it an activity well worth the time and effort

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Because of space limitations and the fact that schedules are changed from time to time, it is not thought feasible to run a schedule of Masses in the churches of the diocese in this newspaper. However, we shall be only too glad to get accurate information for our readers regarding time of Masses at the different churches, if they will call Main 1567 or Glenwood 1778

* * *

Benedict Elder, editor of the Louisville Record, diocesan weekly gives this as a prophecy: "The Orient does not practice birth control."

* * *

With a committee on educational questions and one on public affairs just appointed by the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women, problems presenting themselves in the field of education and the field of motion pictures, plays, etc., will be given thorough consideration and action will be taken where deemed necessary.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Catholic Facts But Little Known

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By M. J. MURRAY

Back Through the Years

A Glimpse Through the Files of The Catholic Courier and Journal

August 18, 1892

A successful festival was held at St. John's Church, Clyde.

August 20, 1892

Word was received of the ordination in Rome of the Rev. Andrew B. Meehan, son of Andrew Meehan of Scottsville. The ordination took place on July 25, 1892.

* * *

The alumni of St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls, elected the following officers: President, James Flannigan; Vice President, Miss Bridget Gilmore; Recording Secretary, Miss Mary Galvin; Treasurer, Thomas J. Markey.

* * *

The Young Ladies Sodality and Children of Mary connected with Corpus Christi Church conducted an outing at Russell Grove.

August 27, 1892

Very Rev. Msgr. De Regge sailed for Europe on the SS. Westerland to spend two months in his Belgium home.

* * *

The annual convention of the Supreme Council of the Catholic Relief and Beneficiary Association was held in Auburn.

The children of St. Michael's Sunday School in Lyons presented Father Kavanaugh with a gold and onyx clock on the occasion of his birthday.

September 3, 1892

The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association held the annual New York State Convention in Rochester. John F. Kinney was elected President.

* * *

Sister Mary Clement of the Order of St. Joseph died at Nazareth Convent.

September 10, 1892

Mr. Sebastian Englerth of Caledonia returned to the Seminary at Troy to resume his studies.

* * *

The Polyhymnians chorus of young men, made their first public appearance at Washington Rink.

Opportunity knocks once a week—in The Catholic Courier. Take advantage of this by watching advertisements in this paper, for they mean savings to you.

Many rocks are to be found in the stormy seat of this life, and we shall make shipwreck on them unless we are directed by the safe wind of obedience.

We cannot live better than by seeking to become better.

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Business communications of whatsoever nature should be addressed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc., to the attention of the Business Manager.

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