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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the point of my life, for the cause of the Catholic Church, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Fons Rivis, X.

Editorials

GETTING SOME PLACE.

One of the facts that was in evidence last week at the convention of the Catholic Press Association is the influence of the Catholic Press in the United States. The Catholic Press has never been anything but a standard of its generation since the first Catholic newspaper was published. But anything human is capable of being more perfect. And Catholic editorial practice in this country is becoming more perfect from year to year. It is now no longer a pioneer, but a veteran of real and forceful influence.

The Catholic newspaper, weekly or monthly, is not a Sunday-school sheet. Nor is it a semi-weekly periodical installment. Unlike many of its secular rivals, it is not a conglomerate of sensational divisions. The Catholic publication is a work of propaganda; but it seeks to promote its propaganda by the presentation of the real truth with any coloring and without any suppression of facts, where principle is involved. It realizes that where it is a matter of the salvation of men, the truth can do no harm.

Catholic papers have often been accused of various faults. But one fault they can not be accused of with consistency is lack of fearlessness. For is it not a subversive press? If any are inclined to doubt this statement, let them read at random almost any Catholic publication in the United States. During the past year for instance, consider the stand upon birth control legislation, upon divorce laws, upon the fight for a just participation in the school taxes for our Catholic schools upon the attack against the apparently subsidized Federal Radio Commission, soon to become defunct, upon the indecent movies and books, and upon almost any public question or movement. These things as presented will soon dispel any rash suspicion that may be harbored against the Catholic publication. It is said that Mr. Will Hays so fears the Catholic Press influence that he has a clipping service of Catholic publications alone for his office. Whether that is so or not, the fact remains that protests come from his office once in a while to Catholic papers that have made attacks upon indecent movies. And we know of one publication whose campaign became very disastrous in one of our largest cities. This is cited only as an instance. Many more might be cited to show that the Catholic newspaper and periodical is a thing to be contended with, and not passed over, either in ignorance or intentionally. If there is one thing in the United States that has made this country conscious of Catholicity, it is the Catholic Press.

Yet there are those Catholics who are surprised to hear that there are any Catholic publications and that they have any real influence. Such Catholics, it would not be astonishing to hear sometime, will be surprised to learn that death is the universal end of all men. So there is no good reason to bother with them. But for the average intelligent and well-informed Catholic, the Catholic newspaper will be a relative necessity. For it gives news that interests him and affects his Catholic life and viewpoint.

If the Catholic press is to be more influential in any way at all, it must have a wider circulation. But, rather than any circulation at all, the Catholic newspaper will face extinction before it will sacrifice truth and justice and fearlessness in presenting the truth.

INJURED BY A PEANUT?

It has always been well-known that peanuts are a very useful vegetable or food. They may be used to satisfy and pacify elephants, and they make a very delicious article for hasty consumption when a monkey or a human being is very hungry. But now the peanut has been elevated to a higher, more esthetic service. It is said by Margaret Sanger to be of great social value to the human race. This service is by way of sex and comparison. For the peanut must be licensed, which is a good thing, because it seems to infer that babies should be licensed. When superfluous, make very good medicine for annoying people. At a circus they serve the purpose of disposing of the "undesired" observers of the show. They are a great asset at some time or other. Otherwise, it is almost impossible to be satisfied, emotional

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produce. The grower may have to limit the space he will allot to the growth of peanuts, but as long as he will live, he will never be able to control the exact number of peanuts whose existence will be started. Nature has something to say about that, and the best he can do to govern the situation, besides limiting his acreage, will be to destroy the excess number of peanuts. Mrs. Sanger speaks of the destruction of crops as if it were the accepted right thing to save our economic ills; but not every one is agreed to this method of giving the nation a supply of food and other economic goods as the best method. It is an experiment. But Mrs. Sanger and everyone else may be very sure that something will grow upon the land thus laid waste, if only weeds. Nature does insist and persist on the growth of life, so obstinately!

As a sample of a birth-control law, Mrs. Sanger presents a worded form allowing married couples of the satisfactory biological, physiological, and, we suppose, psychological qualifications to have one, and only one, child under penalty of the law. It is only fair to ask what would be done to twins and triplets. How would the law work in the case of the mother over in Canada who gave birth to five baby girls this week? Who would be penalized in such a case, the mother or the father or four of the newly born babies?

It is no credit to the newspaper which published Mrs. Sanger's article to sacrifice truth to peanut logic.

THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN

In an interesting analysis of the strikes that have been occurring during the past few months, Mr. Herman Feldman, in May 27th issue of the New York Sunday Times, brings out the fact that fully three-fourths of them are disputes over the right of unions to organize and be recognized. It is no longer a matter of the minimum wage or the number of hours of work.

When the Wagner Bill for Industrial Labor Board was up for a Senate hearing, the Executive Committee of the bishops of the United States sent in an official statement of record that workers have the right to organize and to insist on the collective bargaining. This principle the bishops made clear, is in accord with the labor encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius XI. There is no doubt where the vast majority of Catholic ecclesiastics stand in the matter of present-day labor disputes.

Modern industry tends to the grand style of organization. Very few individuals are powerful enough industrially to own outright all the capital equipment of a particular industry; even if they were, their worldly wisdom would prevent them from doing so. It is not unusual, though, for very few individuals to control a particular industry. And, while there may be many individual plants engaged competitively in a certain industry, as, for example, the automobile industry, it remains a fact that many of them agree in the main outlines of production. Thus among the manufacturers and producers themselves there is organization of a collective nature. The boards of directors certainly are nothing less than the representatives of their respective industries. They are producers who have something to market; but in turn they are consumers of labor. Just why they should not consider the producers of labor as having something to sell in the open market, the same as themselves, is not clear.

If labor is to be sold at a decent market price, then the very act of selling demands that it be sold in the manner of any sales contract. One of the conditions of a contract is the freedom of both sides to make it. When company unions or coercion are urged upon workers there is an attempt to circumvent one of the contracting parties, and this is wrong. In order for the worker to get his just wage he must organize and bargain collectively, just as the stockholders of a big company organize and bargain through their representatives. Certainly, what's fair for one ought to be fair for the other. Laborers have a right to deal through their representatives as through their personal agents, and sometimes this right becomes a duty toward society.

At the bottom of the whole labor disturbance seems to be a denial of the principle of American liberty.

APPARENTLY USELESS EFFORTS

The Disarmament Conference met in Geneva Monday of this week. According to news dispatches it was a rather gloomy affair. It was one of those affairs when nothing is said but everything is felt. The delegates were meeting to discuss a subject in the face of contradictions to support their arguments.

Neither the United States nor Russia is in the League of Nations. It sounded rather strange to hear from Arthur Henderson that the next step towards disarmament must come from either of both of those countries. It is difficult to see how Russia can classify as world peace force in the face of her irreligion and professed Godlessness. There will be no peace without God. And the sooner the armistice nations realize this the sooner will the trends be towards peace and not away from it. A diplomatic agent of Russia said recently in New York at a banquet that Russia's expressions of desire for peace very seriously?

The United States has banned the shipment of arms to Ghu Chaco forces. If the United States and other nations wish to suppress the promoters of war, why can they not ban the private manufacture of arms? There are international laws against narcotics and white slavery and other very treacherous evils; is there any one of them more deadly than the traffic in arms? Who is forcing the people of the world to consider war if not the armament manufacturers who would reap the benefit of the taxes of the armistice nations? They are the tyrants who thrive on nationalism and class hatred, and they are the enemies of the discontented countries, not the citizens of these countries.

Truth was not to be relied upon too literally in diplomacy; if this is so, how can anyone take

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Diocesan Recordings

That Indiana sheriff should go in the movies, writes the new President of the Catholic Press Association in his paper, The South-west Courier. She can catch men but she can't hold them.

The movies are very much in the news these days and now comes the announcement that Rochester's Inter-Faith Good Will Committee will lend a hand in the nation-wide attempt to purify motion picture productions. Throughout the country the "Pledge of the Legion of Decency" recently approved by the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures named by the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Conference is being circulated and signed. The Pledge embodies a protest made "in a spirit of self-respect, and with the conviction that the American public does not demand filthy pictures." The text of the Pledge is:

"I wish to join the Legion of Decency which condemns vile and unwholesome pictures. I unite with all who protest against them as a grave menace to youth, to home life, to country and to religion. I condemn absolutely those degrading motion pictures which, with other degrading agencies, are corrupting public morals and promoting a sex mania in our land. I shall do all that I can to arouse public opinion against the portrayal of vice as a normal condition of affairs, and against depicting criminals of any class as heroes and heroines, presenting their filthy philosophy of life as something acceptable to decent men and women.

"I regret that so many of our daily newspapers seem to have lost all sense of shame in advertising and reviewing those unspeakable productions. Considering these evils, I hereby promise to remain away from all motion pictures except those which do not offend decency and Christian morality. I promise further to secure as many members as possible for the Legion of Decency. I make this protest in a spirit of self-respect, and with the conviction that the American public does not demand filthy pictures."

The Legion of Decency has no dues and holds no meetings. The spirit of the pledge is expected to be kept when the pledge is signed.

Those interested in Catholic Evidence work will be interested to know that Arnold Lunn, recent convert-author in London declares that Catholic Truth Society pamphlets played a part in his conversion. At a recent meeting of the Society in London he said that he first bought the pamphlets to see how intelligent men defended the "fantastic beliefs" of Catholics. He gives the following three reasons for believing the time ripe for a big forward movement on the part of the Church in England:

1. Scepticism has done its work too well with the result that the present-day sceptic is not so cocksure about the universe as his grandfather was; 2. Outside the Church the world is full of dissolution. Our grandfathers erected the cult of reason and looked forward to the day when reason should replace faith. But the psycho-analysts have made people disbelieve in reason; 3. Materialism has failed to deliver the goods of happiness.

An outstanding characteristic of members of the Catholic Press Association with whom we met in Cleveland last week is the spirit of helpfulness and co-operation, one for the other. In this group are prelates, priests of more than average educational capabilities, professional men, doctors and lawyers and just newspapermen. Clerical rank, collegiate attainments, and standing given by experience and achievements are submerged in the common cause of promoting the apostolate of the Catholic Press. Each talks with the other about common problems and their is a spirit existent of trying to make all Catholic publications reach the highest standard possible. With such a force the Church in the United States finds itself with a bulwark of defense. With such men giving their lives to the promotion of Catholic journalism the influence of the Press in this country for all that is worthwhile cannot help but be felt in communities throughout the country. With the spirit shown by these men, the Bishops of the United States may well feel that the personnel of the Catholic Press of the United States is exerting every ounce of energy in furthering the program of Catholic action.

Members of the Holy Name Society outside the city of Elmira will make a pilgrimage to that city of the Southern Tier on Sunday, June 17. With the same Eucharistic feast that will be on the altar at the coming Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires, the men will be making an equally important pilgrimage. Then too they will be furnishing examples of their devotion to and reverence of the Holy Name.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Illustrated text block titled 'CROWNED QUEEN AFTER HER DEATH!' and 'The Blessing of Bells'. It includes a drawing of a woman in a crown and a bell being rung. Text describes the death of Inez de Castro and the blessing of bells in the Abbey of Alobaca, Spain.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Advertisement for the Catholic Evidence Library. It lists various books for sale, including 'The Vatican: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow', 'The Unknown God', and 'The Secret of the Little Flower'. It also provides information about the library's location and rental rates.

CENTRAL VEREIN AND MISSIONS

It is nothing new for the Catholic Central-Verein of America to take Papal encyclicals seriously. The soundest form of Catholic action have long been a habit with this great organization. Consequently the report of the annual convention of the Verein is always an inspiring, though unpretentious record of solid achievement. The missionary life of the Church could not fail to attract the attention and energies of the Central-Verein. In 1916-nearly twenty years ago, when many American Catholics still thought of missions somewhat as we think of stratosphere flights—the Central Bureau began to organize systematic mission support. During the year covered by the latest report a goodly sum was collected for the missions, while many gifts in kind, from medals to medicines, were sent to various foreign fields. The Verein has financed the printing of Catholic books in the vernacular of missions from Esthonia to the Dakotas. It has printed a Sioux prayerbook and the first prayerbook ever published in the language of the Ifugaos, a tribe in the Philippines.

Spiritual Thoughts

In Mary's heart was unending May.—Rev. D. A. Lord, S. J. Our Lady is the peacemaker of the whole world.—St. Ephrem. Ho learned obedience by the things He suffered.—St. Paul. Conscience is our most intimate possession.—Guardini.

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