

## The President And The League

By THE REV. OWEN B. MCGUIRE, D.D.

Just after finishing the article for this week I have seen in the *New York Times*' report of a speech by Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. (grandson of the late Senator Lodge) from which I extract this passage: "Is this neutrality? . . . Do we want to remain true to our ideal and keep out of such fights as may arise, or do we want to pass moral judgments thus silencing ourselves with one side or the other and inevitably becoming involved?" That sums up pretty accurately all that I had to say of the President's address on foreign affairs.

O. B. M.

Last week we saw what the League of Nations was in its origin and what it was intended to be—a compromise of the conflicting interests of the Great Powers, an instrument of the authority to check the normal rights and aspirations of those who have been rendered impotent . . . (an instrument of this Five-Power Treaty, it is in reality dominated by Great Britain, alone, who "subordinates all interests to her own" that is evident; but to show how far it has come to be, it will be nice to sketch briefly the history of the League since its birth, and the later and present status of what is called the British Empire. However, I think it better first to explain what the "matters" of knowledge of which is essential for an understanding of the actual situation—as it is also essential to understand the utter independence of the attitude taken up by President Roosevelt. In his address to Congress on January 3.

Let us take that last first. The President says that the present situation has in it "many of the elements that lead to the tragedy of a general war." And why? This tragedy, if it comes, will be due to our cause and to one alone: Britain's determination to retain and strengthen her supremacy in the Mediterranean. I have not seen the expression of opinion from one independent journalist or writer of my kind who has not given that explanation. In fact, it has been acknowledged by several English statesmen—politicians, writers, or various kinds, and by their propagandists in this country—I will share that in due time and place. For the present we can take it for granted. The conflict which may lead to the tragedy of a general war is a conflict between Italy and Britain; and the reason for that is that the English saw clearly enough that Italy would not be inclined to attack the British fleet in the Middle Sea, they were still convinced that the growing power of Italy would be a menace to their supremacy there in the future and that the present afforded a good opportunity to end the menace.

### Treat At Friends

Now, we are not at war with either Italy or the British Empire. In the parlance of diplomacy they are both "friendly nations." Italy has its official representatives diplomatic and consular in this country; and we have ours in Italy. We treat them as "friends" and they are treating us as "friends." As for the conflict that has arisen between these two to us "friendly" powers, we are neutral. The President says we are neutral and that we must remain neutral. But what has the President done in his address to Congress? Simply

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## CATHOLIC COURIER

The person has leaked out. The British Admiralty had told the Government that if war in the Middle Sea came immediately and before the assistance of other Powers was available and ready, Italy might be able to inflict invaluable damage on the British fleet. But the British government had announced to the *Mediterranean Association* on Dec. 8 that the two powers had pronounced Italy the guilty party. He has not mentioned Italy by name, but it is easy to supply the name. Indeed, he has invited us to supply it by suggesting that we can see whom the shoe fits. The Laval-House agreement was published the Admiralty believed that now Britain could take the risk of war. But if the Laval-House agreement had been brought to Geneva backed by the governments there can be no doubt that it would have gone through.

It must bear the primary and definite responsibility of jeopardizing world peace". The Italian people are dominated by the twin spirit of autocracy and aggression. They follow blindly and fervently the lead of those who seek to impose their will on the world. Ignoring the protests of the independent small nation".

It must be confessed that the Catholics of Belgium were not the most prompt to heed the new call of Catholic Action. Many Catholic institutions were in full swing when Catholic Action was first talked of and, it was feared that time these associations have had a commanding rôle and that the principles of Catholic Action, selected St. Francis as the heavenly protector and the model-giant of this latter crusade.

It must be confessed that the young women's teaching of the young men and women who are frequenting Communism in the Belgian Cradle have been interested also in apologetics. Either

the young men and women

when the Belgian Hierarchy fell in

Youth Groups Linked

Canon Brochier is considered the founder of Catholic Action in Belgium. In 1913, under the guidance of Cardinal Mercier, this zealous priest succeeded in gathering

in another way until he became a conqueror as liberators. It is now almost the anti-Slave State in

Europe. The numerous customs

are unspeakable. For minor offences, such as stealing a loaf of bread, young boys have their hands cut off or are punished in another way until he became a

zealous in the CATHOLIC COURIER. Only the other day this

was done and photographed in the presence of the "Emperor". The neutrality and customs of these "territories" who are just brigands, was illustrated when the chief

of the bandits outlaws up to

that time and under sentence

of death for rebellion. The Emperor a month ago went to Adis

Africa to offer their service to the King of Kings".

We were born

in war we live in war and we will die in war (great cheering). That is their sole business.

They know no other. And they

will live in war and die in war"

even if Britain succeeds in pre-

venting their independence

Ethiopia is not a nation. It badly

needs a guardian, and I believe

sincerely that she will find one

sooner than one is likely to find

anywhere else.

It is speaking for you and me

and for every citizen of the

United States we are all sup-

posed to be united behind him when

he deals officially with international

affairs. There is among us room

for divergence of opinion on the

Anglo-Italian conflict. There is in

fact much divergence. But when the

President of the United States sits

in judgment on that conflict and declares Italy "primarily and definitely" guilty, he is doing a great disservice to the whole nation.

He is acting contrary to the

principles of justice which have

come to be recognized as a part

of every other country in the

world.

In all this the question whether

the President's judgment is right

or wrong just or unjust does not

arise. If we agreed with his view

we would do justly.

But what has the President done

in his address to Congress? Simply

## Catholic Action In Many Lands

Belgium

By REV. ANTHONY COPPENS

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Parent-Teachers Group  
Will Meet February 3

The February meeting of the Sacred Heart Parent-Teachers Association will be held in the Seminar Hall Flower City Park on Monday Feb. 3, at 8 p.m.

Principal speaker will be Dr. Rev. Msgr. George V. Burns. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke.

Mr. Howard Kamm is general chairman.

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