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Answering The Spanish Question

(The Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire, special writer for the Catholic Courier and an authority on the Spanish question here with presents the first of a series of articles on the background of the present crisis.)

The actual situation in Spain cannot be understood without some knowledge of its causes. The picture is so intelligible without a view of the background.

Some time ago I promised the editors of this journal to write a series of articles that would in the first place correct many of the falsehoods about Spain appearing in the daily press, and secondly, would help give an intelligible view of what has happened since the Republic came in, what is now happening and what may be expected for the future.

Before entering on an explanation of the background of the actual situation in Spain, however, it will be worthwhile to consider the causes of our misinformation about that country.

A witty French writer has said that Europe ends at the Pyrenees. Beyond these mountains in Africa, or at least an unknown country. But in reality the case is worse than that.

Our supposed knowledge of Spain is a knowledge of things that are not. It is not mere blank ignorance. I am referring especially to the world of English speakers. What in that world are the causes of our ignorance of Spain?

Three Causes of Our Ignorance

The causes, I think, can be reduced to three, which may be called: (1) Protestant; (2) Journalistic; and (3) Catholic.

(1) Protestant: Cardinal Newman has written that English literature is in its essence and irreparably or essentially Protestant.

By this he means that it is Protestant in the characteristics of Protestantism in the Golden Age of English literature, when great English classics and models were produced and established a point of view that became a tradition for subsequent writers.

To understand the characteristics of that period it is necessary to take into account the period that immediately preceded it.

Henry VIII had broken with Rome and the Pope's excommunicated Papal Supremacy and set himself up as supreme head of the Church in England.

Controversies between Church and State had been frequent ever since the reign of William the Conqueror. The people generally thought this was just another of them which would be smoothed out in due time as all the others had been.

The heresies of Luther and Calvin had gained little support in England and there only in London. In the same cities of the people remained just what they had been in matters of religion. In their beliefs, practices, traditions, they were still thoroughly and devotedly Catholic.

Boy King Takes Throne

That is now admitted by the most reliable non-Catholic historians who have treated of the period. Henry himself was in these respects Catholic. He went to confession, he heard Mass daily, he had Requiem Masses said for his deceased wife, the mother of his only son who succeeded him. He impartially persecuted and sent to the block Catholics who rejected the Royal Supremacy and dissenters who were introducing the Continental heresies.

When Henry died Cranmer and the little clique led by him took good care to have the boy King brought up as a pious little bigoted Catholic. They saw that a return to Papal obedience would likely cost them their jobs and their heads as Thomas Cromwell had lost both.

For six years both factions worked intensely to prevent a Catholic restoration, for the boy King was a physical weakening doomed to an early death.

Any doubt as to the Catholicism of the mass of the English people at the death of the boy King is dispelled by the fact that Mary II needed to be throne after those six years of intensive plotting and preparation to keep her off it. During those six years she had been virtually a prisoner at the disposal of the governing clique. She was known to be a devout Catholic. She had never consented to the divorce of her mother. She had never willingly accepted the Royal Supremacy of her father.

Start Drive Against Church

They would undoubtedly have encompassed her death, had they not feared the common people with whom she was popular notwithstanding the six years of calumnious propaganda against her.

When the King died they kept his death a secret for several days, and then proclaimed as Queen an unfortunate puppet, still in her minority the daughter of one of the clique and the niece of another. They sent for Mary to do homage to the new Queen.

Mary set out from her prison to go to London, she was acclaimed by the populace. Two weeks later she had at her command an improvised army that struck terror into the hearts of her enemies, led her back to London in triumph and proclaimed her Queen of England.

When Mary died after a reign of five years it was seen that nothing of this kind could be allowed to be repeated. They had now in Elizabeth a Queen whose main purpose was

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THE CATHOLIC PRESS NEEDS A VITAL INTEREST FROM EVERY CATHOLIC

CALL FOR DECENCY PLEDGE RENEWALS

Archbishop Sets Dec. 13 For Action

New Pamphlet Tells How To Judge Morality Of Films

CINCINNATI (NC) The Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, as Chairman of the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures, today sent to the heads of all the dioceses of the country copies of a pledge to be taken on December 13, when the Legion of Decency pledge is to be renewed.

At the same time Archbishop McNicholas also released a pamphlet entitled, "How to Judge the Morality of Motion Pictures." This pamphlet is described as "A popular guide to right standards in motion picture entertainment authorized by the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures for the Legion of Decency."

In discussing the question of moral significance the pamphlet says: "It is generally recognized that entertainment is either helpful or harmful. A clear distinction must therefore be made between (a) entertainment which tends to elevate or to relax men and women physically and mentally tired with the duties and occupations of every day life and (b) entertainment which tends to lower their ideals and moral standards of life."

The right kind of entertainment helps to maintain a normal outlook on life. It may go far in keeping a nation sound in mind and in heart. The wrong sort of entertainment on the other hand tends to lower moral ideals and to give a wholly false conception of life and its responsibilities.

Six instances are given where motion pictures might persuade certain persons to change their convictions about right and wrong. The pamphlet then sums up the moral standards based on the law of God teach that certain acts are sinful and that certain acts are virtuous. Many films however by their insidious and attractive presentation of false standards, induce their patrons to change their life-long convictions and to believe that occasionally at least, certain sins are virtues and certain virtues are sins. All this means moral disaster for when convictions are perverted, conduct invariably undergoes a change for the worse.

The Legion of Decency is the only organization that has taken up the obligation of not subsidizing traditional morality by the presentation of films that are degrading. "When moral evil is portrayed in a film," it says, "it should never be pictured as good, admirable or justifiable. And conversely, moral good should never be presented as evil, foolish or despicable."

Renewal of Pledge

Proceeding the revised pledge of the Legion of Decency there is a six year interval from the original pledge on Motion Pictures and a reminder that the Bishops of the United States, at their annual meeting in 1933 that the pledge be taken.

Betrayed By Passport, Students Face Spanish Firing Squad

Betrayed by means of a marked passport by a Communist who posed as a friend, fourteen young Catholics were facing a firing squad at the hands of the Spanish Government, near Madrid, according to word just received from the headquarters of the Claretian Fathers in Rome.

On Friday, July 24, at 4 p. m. a noisy crowd of heavily armed Communists forced their way into the peaceful living quarters of the college. The leader bluntly informed the Superior of the College, the Very Rev. Stanislaus Sammartin, that he and the other priests, clerical students and the lay Brothers were being ordered to remain there prisoners in their own College.

At the reiterated request of the members of the Community the Superior insisted that the imprisoned Claretians be given passports and be allowed to go to Madrid, where

Vatican Denies Michelangelo Art Will Be Draped

VATICAN CITY (NC) The report that during restoration work now going on and by order of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, walls are to be painted over some nude figures by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel a report which appeared in a Rome newspaper and which has been disseminated abroad by at least one secular news service is declared at the Vatican to be absolutely false.

Professor Bisconti, Director of the Vatican Museums (L'Espresso) declares that in the present restoration work as in previous work of the same kind the only aim is the consolidation of the plaques, backgrounds of the paintings to assure their preservation for centuries to come.

No one much less an art expert as talented as His Holiness Pope Pius XI ever thought of altering even one inch of Michelangelo's paintings, he said.

NAME FR. SCHEID TO DANVILLE; FR. STURMER TO NAPLES

Appointments of the Rev. Edward M. Scheid as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Danville was announced today by the Chancery Office.

Father Scheid, pastor of the Church of St. Januarius in Naples and St. Matthias' Mission, has succeeded to the pastorate left vacant by the recent death of the Rev. Leo T. Hotchkisser.

The Rev. Herbert Sturmer, assistant pastor of St. Michael's Church in Rochester, was appointed as pastor of St. Januarius Church in Naples and the mission in Atlanta.

Appointments of both priests are effective November 15.

Father Scheid was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1918 and served as assistant at Holy Family Church, Rochester, prior to his transfer to Naples.

Father Sturmer was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1925. He has served as assistant at St. Peter and Paul's, Elmira, St. Francis Xavier, Rochester and St. Michael's, Rochester.

PRELATE HONORS LABOR AT DOCK STRIKE DINNER

LONDON (NC) Tom Mann and Ben Tillett, famous labor leaders, sat beside the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Rev. Arthur Hinsley, at a dinner here today in honor of the great dock strike of 1889.

Archbishop Hinsley was invited out of respect for the memory of men who were striking to get 12 cents an hour instead of 10 cents. Archbishop Hinsley claimed to be a working man and the son of a working man. He was cheered when he said: "It is not enough to settle strikes, we must stop their causes. We must remove their causes. We must make our docks fit and proper places for men to live in and to work in."

Oldest Marianist Celebrates Jubilee

DAYTON (NC) The Very Rev. George Meyer, S. M., octogenarian novice-master of the Society of Mary at Mt. St. John, here and former Provincial, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this week.

Msgr. Ryan, Fr. M'Gowan To Talk Here

Economists On Speakers List at Industrial Conference

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan and the Rev. R. A. McGowan, both of Washington are among the distinguished economists coming to Rochester for the meeting of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems here November 30, and December 1.

Plans are well under way in preparation for the two day meeting of the Conference to be held at Columbus Civic Centre by invitation of the Most Rev. Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

Msgr. Ryan is Professor of Ethics and Moral Theology at the Catholic University of America and Father M'Gowan is assistant director of the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington.

Dr. Morrissey On Program Other prominent people who are coming to Rochester because of their interest in the Conference or to participate in the main program or discussions are Dr. Elizabeth Bentley, professor of Economics at the College of Notre Dame, Baltimore Md.; Dr. George Brown, Economist, Seton Hill College, Seton Hill Pa. and J. E. Hagerty, president of the Conference and director of the School of Social Administration of Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio.

A committee of prominent clergy, laymen and women is being organized to look after matters connected with the Conference and it is necessary to insure its success.

Committee Meet First meeting of the general committee, has been called by Archbishop Mooney for Tuesday evening Nov. 17 at 8 o'clock at Columbus Civic Center.

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PEACE CONFERENCE DRAWS 31 COLLEGES

CONVENT STATION - Approximately 100 student and faculty delegates from thirty-one colleges and universities in the Middle Atlantic area gathered for the Student Peace Federation Conference sponsored by the College of St. Elizabeth, here, in co-operation with the Catholic Association for International Peace.

Miss Frances Kernan, of South Orange read a letter sent by Dr. Charles G. Fenwick, president of the Catholic Association for International Peace, Dr. Fenwick called for the formation of a committee to coordinate the work of the Student Peace Federation in the United States.

The conference will hold throughout two days with a program each morning, afternoon and evening. The final and closing session will follow a dinner at one of the main hotels of the city. All other sessions will be held at the Columbus Civic Center.

The conference being regional will attract people from throughout the state and nearby states. It is expected a delegation of considerable number will come from the dioceses of Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Albany all of which are members of the Catholic Association for International Peace.

Why More GROWTH for the Catholic Courier

Because the objective has been set to provide a better newspaper for more people.

Growth Means PROGRESS

BERLIN (NC) - A "World Convention of the Godless" is to meet in Moscow February 9 next, according to reports from the Soviet Russian capital. The "godless" will be in charge of all propaganda in the world.

Some 1,000 delegates from all parts of the world are expected, representing about 46 different countries.

The purpose of the meeting is said to be the establishment of an "Anti-religious World-Wide Propaganda Center," financially supported by all the affiliated national atheistic organizations.

The Bulgarian communist Dimitroff, who became internationally

U.S. DELEGATES TO PEACE CONFERENCE



Charles G. Fenwick (upper photo), professor of Political Science at Bryn Mawr College and president of the Catholic Association for International Peace, and Michael Francis Doyle, of Philadelphia, part vice-president of the Association, who were named members of a committee to represent the United States at the Inter-American Buenos Aires Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, convening in the Argentine Capital on December 1.

PEACE PLEAS RING IN ARMISTICE RITES

Rochester Priest Recalls First Armistice Day On Flanders Front

A Rochester priest who served under the Belgian colors during the World War, this week, recalled the first Armistice Day when death struck down two of his companions but cruised him in the No Man's Land of Flanders Field as the minutes ticked off to that zero hour of 11 a. m.

He is the Rev. Leopold W. Jaurissen, C.S.C.C., assistant pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Pleasant Street.

Father Jaurissen, who enlisted in the Belgian army on January 6, 1918, served with the Red Cross along the Western Front and kept a diary day by day account of his activities.

Here is a translation of the diary entry under date of November 11, 1918:

There has been a long and dreadful night. During the whole night the guns roared.

It is now a few minutes before 10 a. m.

After looking at a pocket watch in the darkness I see that it is now 11 o'clock. I am here without further hesitation.

THE ENEMY VANISHES The enemy is gone. In my opinion the war is over.

Some of our boys give vent to their feelings of joy and happiness and go to the dikes in the direction of the wide canal that flows 200 yards away.

Along the canal the enemy had erected their machine gun emplacements which had withstood the allied offensive since 1916.

Then suddenly the machine guns of the enemy began rattling. The enemy is still in the area.

A COMRADE IS SHOT Somebody calls for a stretcher bearer.

I walk ahead and someone tells me that one of our boys who failed to return is probably wounded near the canal.

I feel that this call might mean death for me. However, I am resigned to the fact that whatever happens will be the will of God.

Confident in His mercy and protection, I go forth and climb to the top of the dike, carrying the flag of the Red Cross.

I am in "No man's land." At this moment, I make an act of contrition.

I raise my flag and wave it. I am not a shot in the answer.

I walk slowly ahead ready to fall to the ground if it misses me—and to return to our own lines.

NO MAN'S LAND SURPRISE Again there is no shooting.

I become calm and walk down to the edge of the canal.

No shot yet.

I scarcely dare to look over the wide sheet of water for fear that

the enemy might mistake me for a spy.

Nevertheless, on the other side I see some troops of German soldiers who have advanced and a dead horse.

I try to find my wounded or dead comrades without success. Suddenly I realize that my "No man's land" is over.

Then I hear a shout from the German lines: "Who's there?"

I look up. On the other side of the canal I see two German soldiers who have advanced in my direction.

It is now a few minutes before 10 a. m.

After looking at a pocket watch in the darkness I see that it is now 11 o'clock. I am here without further hesitation.

Ceremonies Held In City And Nation

Fr. Bruton Says God Bless: Msgr. Ryan Speaks at Arlington

A major role in the celebration of the first Armistice Day in this country was played by the Claretian Fathers in the City of Washington.

From the pulpit of the Cathedral where Fr. Bruton, O. C. S. C., preached the words of the Lord: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Fr. Bruton's sermon was a powerful appeal for peace and understanding between the nations.

At the same time, Msgr. Ryan, O. S. A., spoke at the Arlington National Cemetery, where he presided over the services for the fallen soldiers.

Msgr. Ryan's address was a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the men who gave their lives for their country.

The ceremonies in the City and Nation were a powerful reminder of the cost of peace and the need for understanding between the nations.

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