

Press Progress

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the official publication for Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John.

Editorially its field was different from that of the Catholic Journal, which later became the Catholic Journal and Courier, but the trend was toward diocesan owned and operated newspapers, the editing of the local news for a paper published in Buffalo — a different diocese — became increasingly difficult.

When the Most Rev. John Francis O'Horn became the third Bishop of Rochester, he indicated a desire for the diocese to have an officially designated Catholic newspaper.

Miss Ryan, who bravely tried to carry on the editorial duties to which her father gave long, devoted service, offered the Catholic Journal for sale.

The late Maurice F. Sammons, who had been a newspaper man in Utica and a Past District Deputy and Past Grand Knight of that city, who had come to Rochester as secretary of the Knights of Columbus, was interested in a new company formed to buy it.

The purchase was made, the name of the paper changed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, and Mr. Sammons became editor and publisher in March, 1929.

Although designated as the official newspaper of the diocese, it was independently owned and operated — the same newspaper which had served the people faithfully since its beginning in 1889.

Some advantages came from the official designation. First hand news from the Chancery appeared in the official diocesan newspaper first.

Starting with an enlarged Consecration edition, it made a commendable effort to serve its readers with news and editorials. But the clouds of depression were gathering.

Simultaneously, Mr. Sammons was the victim of an unfortunate accident which incapacitated him and caused the affairs of the paper to suffer. He was confined to St. Mary's Hospital.

For many months, in the throes of pain and suffering, Mr. Sammons managed and edited this newspaper from his hospital bed — an example of courageous fidelity to duty which has seldom been duplicated in the annals of Catholic journalism.

The paper lacked the valuable foreign and national news service which has since been acquired; it did not have special correspondents throughout the diocese. Nevertheless, hard work was done in assembling the news from limited sources available, and interpreting it from the Catholic viewpoint.

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TIME IN ITS FLIGHT . . . 1891

Phineas T. Barnum, master showman and advertiser, dies at Bridgeport, Conn. . . McKinley elected governor of Ohio, largely on his stand on the free silver issue. . . Thomas A. Edison applies for patent on first motion picture camera. . . First Empire State Express on the New York Central does New York to Buffalo in eight hours, forty-two minutes. . . U. S. almost goes to war with Chile.

At least one newspaper or periodical published in 7,152 different cities and towns. . . Narrow columns in newspapers fast falling into disuse, owing to employment of electrotypes by advertisers.

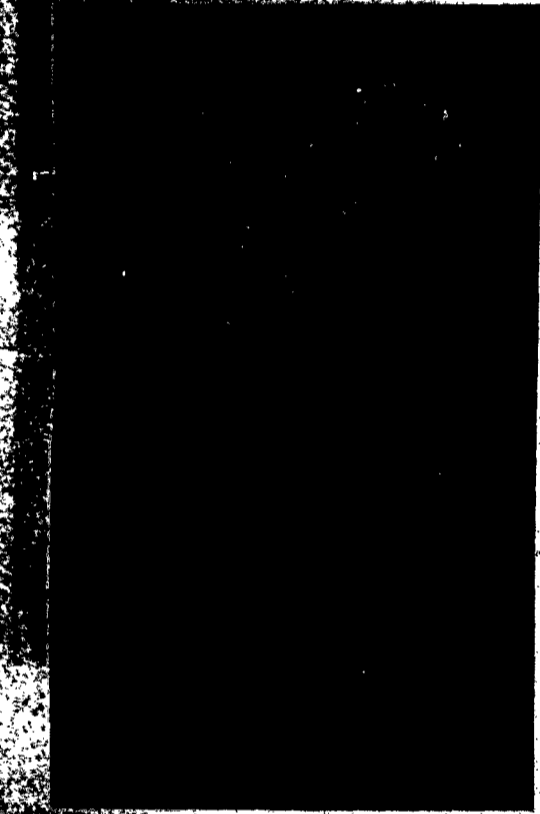
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