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New U.S. Envoy Known in Area

Fr. Disset Sends Congratulations

Appointment of Myron Taylor as personal representative of the President to the Vatican is being welcomed in this diocesan area particularly in Lyons, N. Y., birthplace of Mr. Taylor.

Among the first to send congratulations was the Rev. Andrew T. Disset, administrator of St. Anne's Church, Cornell and former pastor of St. Michael's Church in Lyons.

Father Disset assured the distinguished American citizen of the prayers of his many Catholic friends in the diocese in recognition for his many lifetimes of Catholicism and that he may succeed in his efforts for peace in union with the efforts of the Holy Father, the Pope.

Donor of Famed Statue

It was while Father Disset was pastor at Lyons that Mr. Taylor presented a beautiful Annunciation Madonna statue, regularly 500 years old, which was blessed by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney on May 27, 1928 in St. Michael's Church. Mr. Taylor had the statue brought from a monastery in Florence, Italy.

Mr. Taylor, who is an Episcopalian, will be no stranger to Rome and the Vatican. He is a trustee of the American Academy in Rome, and maintains as one of his residences the Villa Scitaccia in Florence, Italy.

Born in Lyons, Jan. 18, 1874, he received the Bachelor of Laws degree from Cornell University in 1904 and launched upon a career which has included directorships with the United States Steel Corporation, the First National Bank of New York, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Named a member of the executive committee of the President's National Business Survey Conference in 1937, Mr. Taylor's services in public office has since made his name known throughout much of the world.

Former Relations Recalled

The appointment of a representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See serves to recall the period when formal diplomatic relations existed between the United States and the former Papal States.

June 17, 1877, John E. Sartori, a native of Rome, was commissioned the first Consul to represent the United States in the Papal domain. It is of interest to note that the next Consul, Felix Cicognani, bore the same name as the present Apostolic Delegate to the United States. All subsequent Consuls from this country were granted unusual privileges and favors and were received at all formal functions on full diplomatic footing with diplomatic representatives of other nations.

An American Mission to the Papal States was established in 1880. The Administration of President Polk, Jacob L. Marlin, secretary of the American Legation at Paris, was appointed chargé d'affaires to the Holy See.

Marlin arrived in Rome early in August, 1881, and was received by His Holiness Pope Pius IX on August 19. He died less than a year later and was succeeded by Lewis Cass, Jr., who remained until 1883 and who, in 1884 was raised to the rank of Minister General.

Case was succeeded, in July, 1884, by John P. Stockton. In April, 1885, Stockton asked for his recall and Rufus King was appointed to succeed him. Mr. King accepted an appointment as a Brigadier General in the Union Army in the Civil War and Alexander W. Randall was appointed to fill the vacancy at Rome. Randall was succeeded, in August, 1887, by Richard M. Blatchford, who resigned in October, 1887, when Mr. King again was appointed, serving until 1887, when the American Mission to Rome came to an official end.

Pope, President Urge Peace

(Continued from Page 1)

and judicial bodies be formed to aid in carrying out of treaties and, if necessary, revising them.

(4) That the needs and just demands of nations, peoples and ethnic minorities be met.

(5) Observance of true Christian principles by statesmen and peoples.

In his message, which was an appeal for justice based on Divine morality, the Holy Father sounded a note of the Christmas season by declaring that the world, to achieve just and lasting peace, must return to Bethlehem.

Condemned by His Holiness were:

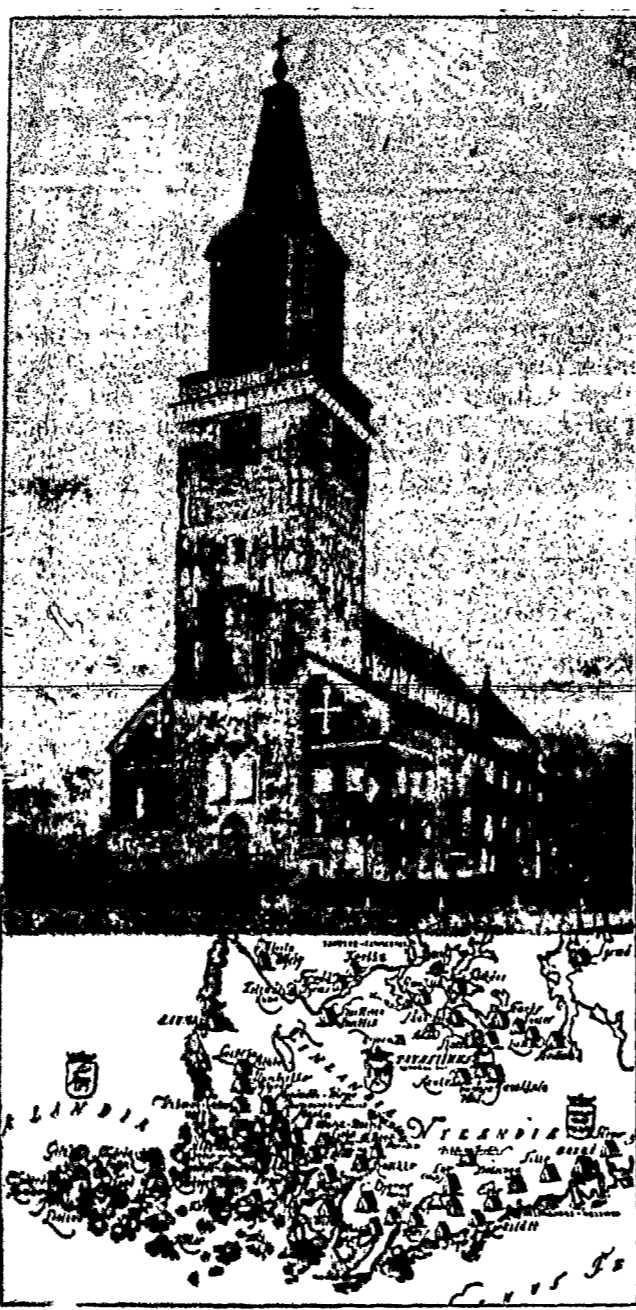
Planned aggression against a "small, laborious and peaceful people" on the pretext that there exist in them a threat which "neither exists, nor is desired, nor is possible."

The committing of atrocities and the use of means of destruction against non-combatants, the aged, women and children, and refugees. Disregard for human dignity, life and liberty.

Enthusiasm and methodical anti-Christian and even atheistic propaganda, mostly among young people.

The message from President Roosevelt, telling of his desire to

IN PATH OF CHRISTIANITY'S FOE



From Turku (sometimes called Abo, its Swedish name), former capital of Finland and scene of a raid by the Soviet invaders, comes this picture of the only cathedral in the country. Although at present in the hands of the Lathenas, the Cathedral was begun by Bishop Thomas who came from England, in the 13th century. The Vicar of Finland numbers only nine priests. Map shows southwestern Finland dotted with stone churches, built in Catholic days and still standing. (N.C.W.C.)

Catholic Revival in Finland Stymied As Invasion Threatens

(By N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Finland's valiant and, to date, successful resistance to the aggression of Soviet Russia may, in certain senses, be reduced to a struggle against godless and irreligious forces as much as against the modern imperialism of a giant power seeking to absorb lesser nations of the Old World.

For although a Protestant nation, which lost the Catholic faith in a previous onslaught on its traditions and culture—the so-called Lutheran Reformation—Finland has a history, culture and spirit that is Christian and an early life and background that was Catholic.

Aside from the danger that Russian control of Finland will spell the end of Christian culture in that small nation, Catholics regard the Russian attack, whether successful in the end or not, as an unfortunate barrier to a continuation of the Catholic resurgence in Finland, a resurgence that has been making solid advances in more recent times.

Catholic Population Small

Recent figures, prima facie, would seem hardly to indicate a Catholic revival, since there are only about 2,000 Catholics out of a total population of 3,700,000. Most of the Finns are Lutherans, with some 65,000 Russian Orthodox. However, following the World War the Catholic population of Finland was only about 500 or 600. Most of these were former soldiers in the Russian army and their families. The increase in the Catholic population to 2,000 has been largely to natural gains and conversions.

Actually, many historians agree that the Catholic Church had much to do with the fact that Finland was included in the unity of early Western culture and that this culture took root there. Certain Finnish historians today give full appreciation to the Church's contribution to Finnish civilization.

Domestic figures importantly in the Middle Ages, Finland was a suffragan diocese of the Upsala See. The Bishop of Abo was the spiritual and temporal leader and under such men as Magnus II religion and culture advanced gloriously. The Dominicans figured largely in the Catholic heyday in Finland, there being two Dominican establishments—at Abo and Viborg in the country.

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His Christmas Message which could not have been more welcome to us, because it is a powerful contribution for the achievement of a just and durable peace and the alleviation of the sufferings of war. We expressed to President Roosevelt felicitations and our heartfelt gratitude.

His Christmas message to His Holiness Pope Pius XII "brought very great joy to the heart of the Holy Father." President Roosevelt was advised in a letter of acknowledgment made public by the White House Tuesday.

The letter conveys the Pope's blessings upon the President of the United States and the whole American Nation.

The document reveals the Pope's "profound gratitude for the choice of the Hon. Myron Taylor as the representative of the President of the United States of America, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary," and states that he "will be cordially received in a manner befitting the highly important mission entrusted to him."

LONDON.—Some Catholic societies are protesting against new legislation which recognizes the "unmarried wives" of soldiers and pensions to them. Catholic papers are also objecting to the principle. A woman with whom a soldier has lived for six months is to rank as his wife for these payments.

Denying Just War Seen Error Upheld by Church Avers Prelate

By GEORGE BARNARD

LONDON.—(NC)—Answering the pacifist objection to the war in Europe the Bishop of Menevia, the Most Rev. Michael McGrath, says in his latest pastoral letter that to maintain that there can be no such things as a just war "is one of those modern errors which follow on some of the maxims of the Reformation."

"It is the teaching of the Catholic Church," he says, "that there can be a just war, a teaching confirmed many times over in Holy Writ. 'War... we know from experience, is a dire and dreadful evil, a physical evil, and therefore permitted by God for our good. It is not, as such, a moral evil, though it originates from an evil.'"

In fairness to the pacifists, the Bishop says, it must be remembered that "their difficulties are largely caused by the complex nature of the beginnings of most modern wars. A train of sufferings, those entail, the inability to trace a certain necessary principle in the actions of the combatants, as well as the disappearance of some of the necessary conditions of a just war, as the conflict wears on and the spirit of hatred makes itself more and more felt."

Right of Self-Defense "Yet it remains true that there can be such a thing as a just war. Indeed such a war is one which takes place only when every honest effort to find a just and satisfactory settlement has failed, and when the essential conditions of a just war are present."

"It is impossible to deny to the state the performance of that very act which nature allows every man in certain circumstances, the act of self-defense against an unjust aggressor."

"The conditions which justify war are that not private individuals but the supreme authority declare the war, that the cause be just, that the methods used be in accordance with natural and international law, and that the intention be merely to defend himself. The death of the attacker is not principally intended. Should this death ensue it is merely permitted, not sought."

"With the State, it uses certain instruments, soldiers, to defend the just rights of its people which are unjustly attacked. The efforts of these instruments are deliberately used to put the enemy's instruments beyond the possibility of injuring the people. When these hostile instruments are, as the saying is, horns de combat, they are if still living placed in hospital, which shows that the real intention was not to kill them as such but to defend the right. Soldiers fight not in a private but in a public capacity."

Justifiable War "It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that there can be a just war, a teaching confirmed many times over in Holy Writ. There is not a single text in the scriptures which contradicts this teaching. On the contrary, certain wars are single out for praise. It may be seen that on some occasions God actually commanded His people to make war and gave them a special assistance."

"In the last analysis war is seen to result from human wickedness and criminal folly. It springs from greed, revenge, ambition or lust of power from what right reason, apart altogether from the teaching of Holy Faith, most thoroughly condemns."

"Thus it is seen that moral evil lies at the root of all war. Not that the nation which wages it in self-defense and observes the conditions set forth above is doing an immoral act. Far from that, its act of self-defense is most thoroughly justified and good and may even be heroic. The unjust aggressor, however, is immoral and emphatically to be condemned."

Bishop McGrath goes on to show that in attacking the law of justice the aggressor is attacking God Almighty Who made the law.

DEATH, ELECTION OF POPES AMONG BEST '39 STORIES

NEW YORK.—The story of the death of Pope Pius XI and the election of Pope Pius XII is listed among the "12 Best Stories" of the year as the result of a poll taken by the United Press of more than 1,000 editors of papers that agency serves.

The stories are to be dramatized in a program over the network of the Columbia Broadcasting System on Dec. 30.

Polish Church Grab By Russians Told

BRUSSELS.—Father Van den Bosch, Belgian Redemptorist who has just arrived here from East Poland, says that all religious houses have been suppressed in the area seized by Soviet Russia.

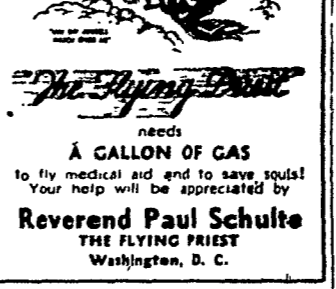
Lwow, he said, local Soviets were constituted immediately and all property was seized. Each farmer then was allotted 14 acres. A priest is tolerated in each parish, but he is permitted to have no assistant.

SCORES RECOGNITION OF 'UNMARRIED WIVES'

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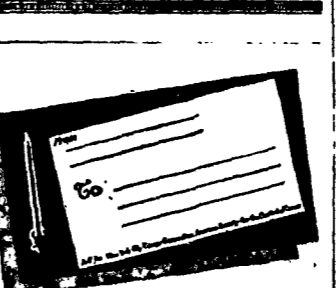
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