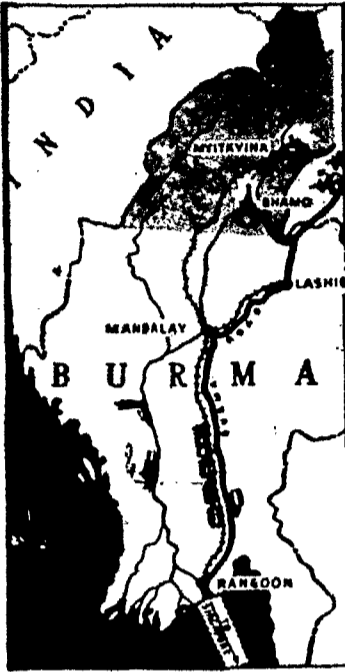


Indecent Reading Matter Bill Squashed After NCWC Protests

WASHINGTON (NC)—Bills in Congress looking to the extension of federal legislation against the transportation of indecent reading matter died in committee last week. The measures in question had been protested shortly after introduction by the Rt. Rev. Meagr. Michael J. Ready, General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, on the ground that while providing for the addition of further bans on transportation of obscene and lascivious reading matter, they did not include the carrying of contraceptive literature under the amplified prohibitions.

WITH U. S. MISSIONARIES IN BURMA



East of the Burma Road, but having its headquarters on a spur of the Road, is Bhamo Prefecture staffed by missionaries of St. Columban in Upper Burma. In one of the principal towns, Myitkyina (pop. 8,000), north-eastern terminus of the railroad from Rangoon, Rev. Lawrence D. McMahon (above) of Chicago, is pastor. The American headquarters of St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society is at St. Columban, Nebr. Photos courtesy of "Far East"

Warns Population Can Go Down Despite '41 Birthrate

WASHINGTON (NC)—The fact that the number of births for 1941, as reported by the Bureau of the Census, is the second largest recorded in the history of the United States is not to be taken to mean that this country has escaped the threat of a rapidly dwindling population. The Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O. S. B. Director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, warned here today. The census report stated there were approximately 2,500,000 births in the United States last year, this total being previously exceeded only once in 1921, when 2,600,000 births were recorded. Dr. Schmiedeler was asked if this were encouraging from a population viewpoint. He said the report was neither "startling nor encouraging, when one recalls that the population of 1941, which gave us 2,500,000 children, was 133,000,000, while that of 1921 which gave us 100,000 more children was only approximately 160,000,000, or 27,000,000 less."

In response to a request for an explanation of the upturn, Dr. Schmiedeler cited factors which the Bureau of the Census itself gave out. These included the large number of children born after the first World War now old enough to have children of their own; the defense "boom" and desire on the part of some to avoid the draft by having children. However, he added, population experts disagree as to whether the upturn will continue many of them believing that growth will stop and "a slow recession set in." Besides, he stressed there have been upward swings of population figures before in the country, which proved to be only temporary. Asked regarding possible future population prospects for the country, Dr. Schmiedeler noted the following points: "A protracted war usually means a rather decided dip in the birth rate. "Even before the outbreak of the present war, some people spoke of a 'birth strike,' on the ground 'this is not a fit world to bring a child into.' Prospects having hardly improved since. Centering on Rural People. "The birth-controller's efforts in large measure upon rural people—the people who have been the main contributors to our population in the past. Furthermore, agricultural mechanization seems almost universally followed by a drop in the birth rate in the mechanized territory. "The present rush of women into industry will likely hurt the birth rate. "It's easy to start a torrent but not easy to stop it. So long as we remain human beings it will always remain easier to teach 'Thou shalt' than 'Thou shalt not,' insofar as the moral law is concerned. Dr. Schmiedeler went on to say that many of "the saner elements among the American people" are beginning to see this, and to realize the results of the birth-controller's activities the past few years.

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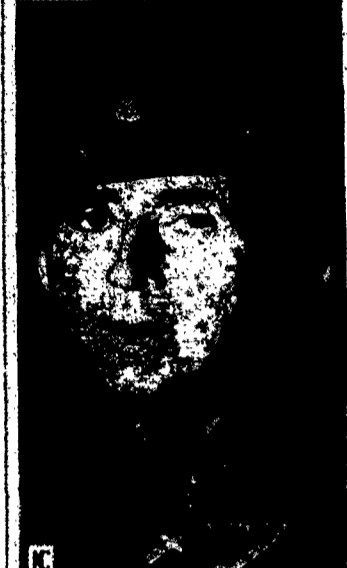
Chemical Honor

Princeton, N. J. Dr. Hugh Stott Taylor, chairman of the department of chemistry at Princeton University and a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, has been awarded the Longstaff Medal of the Chemical Society of London. It was learned here today.

Observer Reports Nation Concentrating On Efforts To Crush Axis Powers

WASHINGTON (NC)—One of the striking effects of the war is the rapidity with which the history of yesterday, it is easily explained: Just at the moment Washington's only objective is to crush the axis powers and restore democracy as a political system throughout the world. Nothing else matters much. There is some desultory discussion about the dangers of inflation, the lowering of the standard of living and the danger of the spread of Communism, Nazism and Fascism among despairing peoples but it does not excite much interest. There is only one thing to be done—to win the war. All other questions are pushed into the background.

Trains Chaplains



Chaplain William D. Cleary, U. S. A., of Brooklyn, who has been appointed to organize and direct the Army's School for Chaplains, at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. A native of Ireland, he served overseas as a Chaplain with the U. S. Army in World War I. Before his appointment as Commandant of the new Chaplains' School Father Cleary was Chief Chaplain of the Armored Troops at Fort Knox, Ky. Signal Corps photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Miss Bresette Named To Advisory Board

WASHINGTON (NC)—Miss Linna E. Bresette, Field Secretary of the Department of Social Action, National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been appointed a member of the General Advisory Committee on Protection of Young Workers established by the Department of Labor. The appointment, made by Secretary of Labor Perkins, is for a term of two years.

New USO-NCCS Club For Women Opened

CENTER LINE, Mich. A government-built USO Club for war industry workers and their families here, under the sponsorship of the Women's Division of the National Catholic Community Service, has been dedicated with the Most Rev. Stephen S. Wozniak, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, officiating at the Benediction. "The high morale of the soldiers and sailors," Bishop Wozniak said, "must be supported by high morale among the people, especially among the soldiers in overalls, the defense workers."

LEAFLETS ANSWER QUERIES ASKED BY NON-CATHOLICS

BALTIMORE — Leaflets which have as their aim the answering of questions commonly asked by non-Catholics are being distributed monthly by the Baltimore Catholic Scholastic Legion of Decency. The material in the leaflets is taken from leaflets written by the Rev. Richard Felix, O.S.B. of Conception, Mo., and published by the Defenders of the Faith, an organization of which Father Felix is Director.

FOR VICTORY: BUY BONDS

NEW YORK (NC) — Addressing leading clergymen and laymen of the city at a luncheon of the St. Vincent's Hospital Building Fund drive, the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, drew a sharp contrast between the charity and mercy with which the sick are treated in this country and the Nazi practice, denounced publicly last summer by Bishop August Count von Galen of Munster, of killing off those they consider "unproductive."

On the program with Archbishop Spellman were former Governor of New York Alfred E. Smith, Chairman of the Building Fund, and Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, of New York. Mr. Smith announced that \$502,000 of the drive's \$750,000 goal had been received. Archbishop Spellman then revealed that just before he went to the luncheon a donor who desired to remain anonymous had pledged \$50,000, bringing the total to date to \$552,000. "If one admits to principles that unproductive men may be killed," Archbishop Spellman said, "then woe to all invalids; woe to the sick! In St. Vincent's Hospital and in America it is recognized that life comes from God. It is recognized that in serving the sick one is serving Christ. "By your work in this campaign," he told the volunteer workers attending the report luncheon, "you have become part of the patience, kindness and mercy that are daily shown at St. Vincent's."

Congress does not display much concern over the subversive activities of the Communists, as it once did. The heroic stand of Russia is everywhere acclaimed. Stalin is mentioned as one of the most capable leaders of the present day and Ambassador Litvinov, who negotiated the agreement by which the United States recognized the Soviet Government, is a popular figure in diplomatic circles. The Washington attitude is stated with reasonable accuracy by Representative Voorhis, of California, a member of the Dies Committee which investigated subversive activities, the reports of which were the subject of much comment, favorable and otherwise. He said: "Americans would be blind, indeed, if they did not regard with thankfulness and admiration the courageous defense of Russian soil by Russian armies against the attack of Hitler's legions. Nothing helps America any more than defeats of Hitler's armies by the Russians, just as nothing could help Russia more than any American victory over Japan. But just as we will not seek to interfere with the people of Russia in their affairs of government, so we have every right to insist that no one acting for any foreign system of government shall seek to interfere with ours, be he Nazi, Fascist or Communist."

There is a disposition not only to put out of mind the contrasts between Communism and democracy but even to hope that Stalin and his associates may have had a change of heart and have abandoned the idea of a world revolution to devote all of their energies to driving the enemy out of Russia. Russia, at least is fighting on the democratic side. This naturally gives rise to the possibility that the present Russian Government may have decided to fight with and for democracy, rather than against it, and that some way may be found of reconciling the differences between the aims of these allies. The obvious inconsistencies between the Communist and democratic viewpoints regarding political freedom and individual rights remain, although they are overlooked in this time of stress. Stalin's Red Army Day speeches regarded in some quarters as holding out some hope in this respect. He stressed the point that Russia is not fighting the German people but the German war lords who have brought on the world cataclysm. This is consistent with Communist ideology, and is in direct contrast with Nazi philosophy. If it can be called that, Communism professedly draws no distinction between peoples. It speaks in terms of humanity, not of nations or races. Nazism, on the contrary, is, above all, both nationalistic and racial. There is no possibility whatever that it can be reconciled with democratic ideals. The two are essentially antagonistic.

Fr. Temple Speaks At Good Counsel College

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y. — As the first of a series of speakers during the Lenten season at the College of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Rev. Thomas F. Temple, S. J., of St. Mary's Church, Katonah, N. Y., addressed the entire student body. Father Temple stressed the vital importance of daily Mass and prayer now more than ever before. He pointed out that every American should be most willing to forfeit every type of luxury until universal peace has been attained. Hear, O Lord, my justice; attend to My supplication.—Psalm, 115.