Report 2,600 Fires in U. S. Churches in 1943

BOSTON, Mass. — (RNS) — Churches in the United States suffered about 2,600 fires during 1943 with losses amounting to $4,500,000, according to estimates of the National Fire Protection Association here. These figures show a slight decrease over 1942, when 2,800 fires caused an aggregate loss of $5,100,000.

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Avers Conscience of Nation In Keeping of Every Citizen

SCHENECTADY. — (INS) — A plea for faith in law and order as a solution to chaotic modern problems was issued on Monday by Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric Company.

Speaking at the Convocation ceremonies for the October graduation class of Union College, Wilson advocated employment of the "tested instruments of government and law that we have so painfully developed" in solving issues engendered by the war.

"The conscience of the United States," he said, "does not repose under a glass bell on Capitol Hill in Washington. The hard rock of constitutional law is not in a vault in the Supreme Court Building guarded day and night.

"It is in the keeping of the citizens of the United States, every last man of them, in every city, town and farm. It is in the keeping of those millions of Americans overseas who will be coming home to exercise their future peacetime franchise.

Wilson, until recently the executive vice-chairman of the War Production Board, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

'Catholic Revival in Mexico,' Outlined in New C.A.I.P. Pamphlet

WASHINGTON. — (NC) — Publication of a pamphlet, "The Catholic Revival in Mexico," by Richard Pattee, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been announced by the Catholic Association for International Peace.

The introduction outlines Church-State relations from the outset of the Mexican movement for independence in 1810. The report traces the ideas and events which led up to the persecution of 1926 and the more recent developments under Avila Camacho, first Mexican president in a century, the author says, to affirm openly his religious beliefs.

The author emphasizes that the religious controversy, rooted in national origins, is "not dogmatic hatred of the Church" but rather anti-clericalism or secularism, "the desire to prevent religion from having an influence on the public and social life of the country." But despite this, the author states, the Church today remains the only force capable of uniting the people.

Grave uncertainties underlie the apparent tranquility now on the surface of the Mexican situation, the report says, and lists the following factors of increasing significance: the well-organized Mexican army; the waning popularity of the Revolution Party; the power of unions; the influence of the Soviet Embassy and the Communist party.

Resumption of Catholic participation in cultural Mexican life gives hope for an improved future for the Church, the pamphlet says. Catholic schools have sprung up rapidly since relaxation of violent suppression, and seminaries slowly are regaining ground, although no religious community has yet been permitted to teach, the author says.

Francisque Gay in Paris

LONDON — (CIP) — Francisque Gay, owner and editor of the Paris Christian Democratic daily newspaper, "L'Aube", who had been reported in a German concentration camp, has returned to his desk at the Rue Garanciere in Paris where "L'Aube" and the Catholic publishing firm Bloud & Gay, of which he is the director, have their headquarters.

In the four years of the Nazi occupation, Francisque Gay never gave in to the Germans or the Vichy regime, in spite of many arrests and other forms of persecution.

Francisque Gay was the founder and editor of the weekly "La Vie Catholique", a religious non-political newspaper with particular emphasis on Catholic social activities and on international relations. This weekly was amalgamated in 1938 with "Temps Present", the continuation of the weekly "Sept", founded by the Dominican Fathers.

Bloud & Gay was one of the most important Catholic book publishing firms in France. It printed religious, theological and historical books, featuring books by progressive Catholic thinkers like Don Luigi Sturzo, Pierre Archambault, Father Doncoeur, S. J. Bloud & Gay also published music records and films for Catholic organizations.

100,000 MEXICANS HONOR OUR LADY OF ZAPOPAN

MEXICO CITY. — (NC) — More than 100,000 persons accompanied the image of the Virgin of Zapopan when it was returned from the Church of Santa Teresa at Guadalajara to its customary sanctuary at Zapopan.

The Most Rev. Jose Garibi y Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara, with the image, made the journey in a carriage.

The crowd that followed the conveyance represented all social classes and many Indians were in the group, some performing ritualistic dances.

Letters Ascribe 16,568 Cures in 4 Years to Bro. Andre

MONTREAL. — (NC) — Nearly four years have passed since the first steps were taken which may some day lead to the canonization of Brother Andre, founder of the world-famous Shrine of St. Joseph's Oratory. In these four years the Oratory has registered 10,406 letters [illegible] cures obtained through the intercession of St. Joseph and of Brother Andre, and 6,16[illegible] other letters attributing cures to the intercession of Brother Andre.

Dr. Lionel Lamy, recently appointed head of a Medical Board of nine doctors, who will study each reported cure from the viewpoint of science, is a former professor at the University of Montreal. [illegible]

[illegible]

Will Aid Refugees

Mary Louise Breen of Dayton, O., recently employed in the U. S. State Department's foreign service division, will direct refugee welfare work for War Relief Services-N. C. W. C. in Spain. She is a widely known writer, lecturer and traveler. (N.C.W.C.)

Develops Vitamins For Missionaries

CINCINNATI.—(NC)—A vitamin tablet designed to combat disease to which missionaries are subject because of deficiencies in diet has been prepared by the Institutum Divi Thomae, scientific research institute of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, reveals in a letter to his priests.

Calling the preparation the "Mission Vitamin Tablet," Archbishop McNicholas requested pastors to urge their people to help finance its production and shipment to missionaries. The Archbishop emphasized that the Institutum Divi Thomae is not entering upon a business venture but that it is interested solely in helping the missionaries.

"It is extremely important," he wrote, "that we be prepared and organized to send these vitamin tablets at the earliest possible moment."

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