

Britain's Population Dip Blamed on Birth Control

London — (NC) — Great Britain, with great demands for manpower on all sides, faces a serious decline in its population in the very near future.

The Royal Commission of Population, after 18 months of investigation into the causes and possible remedies, states that it has found evidence amply confirming that the immediate cause is the widespread practice of

birth control.

Discussing the motives for this practice and measures necessary to encourage families large enough to maintain the population, the Commission noted three broad inferences.

First, what determined the size of a family was, increasingly, the ideals and sentiments of men and women, their sense of responsibility to themselves and the community, and their hopes and fears for the future — "all very variable things." This suggested that a community could, if it would, make whatever adjustments were needed to ensure its survival and vigor.

Second, for a long time the economic and social pressures had been in favor of the very small family and the Commission was examining closely ways and means to reduce these pressures and to encourage parenthood.

Third, measures that might be taken to influence the trend of population were likely to affect many branches of government, as well as many aspects of social life, and a close watch on their operation would be needed.

The Commission found that in 1870 married women had on an average five children; 60 years later the average had dropped to two.

Between 1900-1908 the average number of children born in Great Britain was 1,064,000 but in the decade 1930-1939 this average had dropped to 701,000. In 1919 Britain had approximately 18,000,000 persons under 20 years of age; in 1939 there were only 14,000,000 and it is certain, the commission stated, that, possible immigration apart, this drop would continue. If the average size of the family remained at two it was inevitable that, eventually, deaths per year would exceed births.

For the Catholics of Britain, though they regard a serious decline in the birthrate as gravely as their compatriots, the problem is not of direct concern. The practicing Catholic minority here, while not making much progress in the way of conversions, continues to increase normally, compared with the rest of the country, owing to the larger families.

Good Neighbor Policy Seen as Needing Church

Mexico City — (NC) — The liberty of the Catholic Church is the fundamental requisite for a real and permanent Good Neighbor Policy, the Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie, said in an address given in Spanish at the International Marian Congress, which was held here in connection with the golden jubilee celebration of the Pontifical coronation of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"The union of all the republics in this American Continent," the Bishop said, "will achieve its perfection and ultimate aim if it is illumined and strengthened by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The Bishop cited statistics to show that of 272,172,931 inhabitants of all American countries 143,000,000 or more than 52 per cent, are members of the Catholic Church.

"For that reason," he said, "it is evident that the realization of a moral union among the American countries is dependent entirely upon the work and efforts of our Catholic leaders, such as the Bishops, the teachers, the writers and the indefatigable workers of the Catholic Action group."

All these forces are needed, he emphasized, to establish a sound and lasting Good Neighbor Policy, which suffers "positive injury" whenever governments are limited by "positive limitations and restrictions" upon the activities of Catholic clergy and laity.

The Good Neighbor Policy, as promulgated by President Roosevelt in 1933, "must not be taken as a commercial and political union but as a moral union as well," the Bishop explained.

A policy which is based on expediency "penetrates the culture of the people," he stated, and "leaves the makers of any country ignorant of its history and traditions, its education and its religion." All the countries of South America, Central America, of Canada and the West Indies possess traditions and customs which are "the very life of the people."

Nations Education Charges Criticized

Washington — (NC) — The United States, by a United Nations resolution, has been charged with the responsibility of educating the peoples of the world. The resolution, adopted by the Economic and Social Council, states that the United States should "take the lead in the development of a world-wide system of education."

The resolution also states that the United States should "encourage the development of a world-wide system of education, which should be based on the principles of democracy and the rights of man."

Silence Broken By Cistercians

Monks Applaud Visit Of Irish President

Dublin — (NC) — New history was made and old monastic traditions were broken when the President of Ireland, Sean T. O'Kelly, with Mrs. O'Kelly, paid a State visit to the Cistercian Abbey of Mount St. Joseph's at Roscrea.

The visit was unique in that it was the first time that a President of Ireland had visited an Irish monastery and that a woman had been by right of Canon Law admitted within the Papal enclosure of the monastery.

On this occasion, because of the exception of the law in favor of the wife of the "highest ruler in the land and her lady attendants," Mrs. O'Kelly, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Mulcahy, and her niece, were welcomed within the interior of the monastery.

A procession including the Presidential party took place to the abbey church. A Te Deum was intoned by the community, the members of which then entered the chapter room, where the Lord Abbot, the President and the party, on their arrival at the abbey church, were received by the traditional Cistercian

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