

### Closed Shop Ban Proposal Scored

**Union — (RNS)** — Johning with the C. I. O. and A. F. of L. in their stand, the Rev. Thomas E. Sheehy, S. J., of Holy Cross College, public representative of Governor Bradford's committee on labor management relations, condemned legislation to outlaw the closed shop in union contracts.

The bargaining down of wages will result in lower living standards and lower production output because of increased strife between union and non-union members," he told the committee on labor and industries of the Massachusetts legislature.

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### Church Surrender Asked in Croatia

(Continued from Page 1)

Argument for the past year, has been serving as Regent and in the name of the Belgrade University.

Dr. Bakovic also refers to the condemnation of Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac of Zagreb and calls it as "the defeat of the center of the people."

However, taking into consideration the large numbers of Yugoslav Catholics who still reverence their Archbishop, the Communist writer deprecates them as "the remnants of the anti-national center at Zagreb."

The following were the "crimes" of which the seven Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul were found guilty before the "people's court" at Ljubljana, according to the Yugoslav papers:

1. They had their pupils assist at anti-Communist conferences;
2. They urged their pupils to take part in penitential processions;
3. They "confessed" to having instructed their pupils "even after the liberation" to avoid reading anti-religious newspapers;
4. They refused to join "the teachers' union";
5. They continued to instruct children who had been expelled from school by the Communist authorities because their parents were "reactionary."

### Separation of Austrian Church, State Found Beneficial in Many Respects

By DR. FREDERICK STUMPF

**Vienna — (RNS)** — In the course of the last few years the position of the Church in Austria underwent far greater transformation than in the preceding three centuries.

An event which as long as it looked on the horizon as a mere possibility, used to fill Austrian Catholics with decided misgivings, that is the ending of the links uniting Church and State, has now become a reality. But by God's admirable providence, the disruption of this union did not end in disaster but has given birth to a new life.

To realize the full significance of this assertion, it is necessary to look back into the past. According to the Constitution of 1867, Austria has acquired the character of an interdenominational State. Nevertheless, in its legislation and public customs there remained many traces of the former State whose sovereigns were called the Apostolic King of Hungary and the King of Jerusalem in their long list of historic and honorary titles, and who in their decisions and actions considered themselves as protectors of the Church on earth.

From the Pope repeatedly had conferred important privileges, even the right to choose and name Bishops.

As late as the end of the 19th century, the 700 and 800-year-old Abbey and Monasteries of the Benedictines, Cistercians and Canons Regular of St. Augustine in Austria had the right to send their own delegates to the Reich (Landtag). Even in the highest legislative corporation, the Austrian Parliament, it was a prelate who represented his Tyrolean colleagues 50 years ago.

The close union of Church and State brought the Church numerous benefits, but also many disadvantages. The Church, being held in great consideration, was able through its influence to prevent severe damages to religious life.

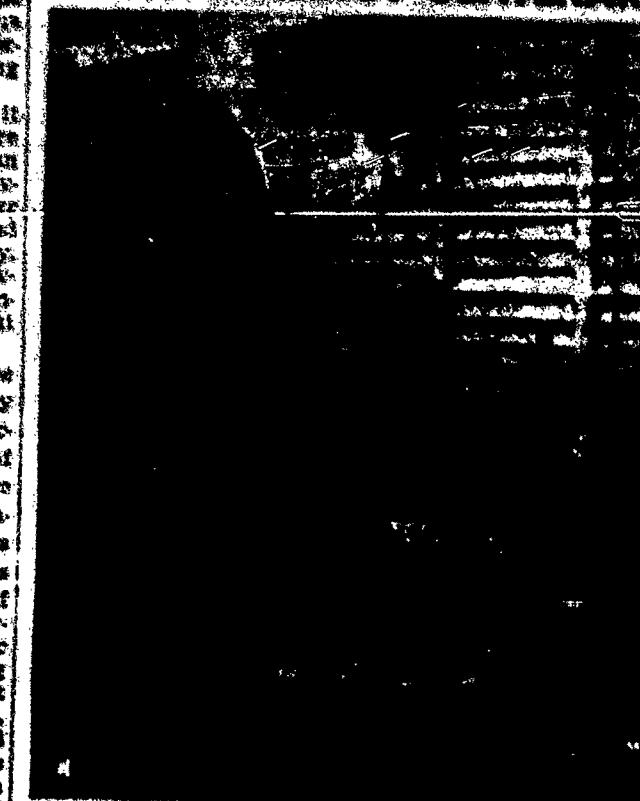
But these favorable aspects were opposed by severe disadvantages. The close relations between Church and State often made the Ministers of the Church appear to be State officials. The State's bureaucracy used to interfere in the ecclesiastical administration. It went so far, it has been claimed, that at the Conclave following the death of Pope Leo XIII, Cardinal Puzyna of Cracow rose in the name of the Emperor of Austria and, out of purely political reasons, protested against the elevation of Cardinal Rampolla to the Papal See.

But there were even more vital consequences. Since the beginning of the Constitutional era in Austria the relations between the Church and the State became ever more frequently an object for violent attacks. The advocates of a complete separation between Church and State joined the avowed enemies of the Church in open hostility. It was held by many, that they would succeed in morally hitting the Church. The clergy was accused of endeavoring to secure full power over the State; for years to come the catchword "clericalism" stood for a serious menace in the eyes of the bourgeoisie alienated from the Church.

This propaganda succeeded in the course of two generations in alienating the majority of industrial workers from the Church to such an extent, that even now the untiring and zealous efforts of the clergy have not been able to break down the barrier erected between the Church and the industrial working classes by the socialist propaganda of anticlericalism and atheism.

Today this barrier has not yet fallen, but several branches have been effected. The experiences gathered during the war have earned valuable recognition on both sides. The Pope's repeated defense of human dignity and freedom, that no terrorism was able to silence; the courageous attitude of the Catholic Bishops against Nazi depredations; the heroic examples set by Catholic priests and faithful in concentration camps and on the scaffold, left a deep impression even in the

### ST. BENEDICT CENTENARY



A Benedictine monk of the Priory of St. Gregory the Great, at Fortinmouth, N. Y., looks out the window of the Priory. The monk is also making a translation from the German text of a famous commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict, which dates back 16 centuries and was commemorated at the Priory, March 20-21. A nationwide campaign is now under way to enlarge the facilities of the Priory and school. (NG Photos)

### Church Lands Given Tenants

**Vienna (RNS)** — Catholic authorities in Austria are planning to allocate portions of church lands to 10,000 small tenants in an effort to meet their social and economic needs, it was disclosed here.

Following a conference of Bishops presided over by Theodore Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, the ranks of the Church's former enemies.

After the cessation of hostilities, the adherents of the three Austrian political parties joined in a common effort, and considering the country's state of distress, were ready to forget their previous strife. There appeared also a serious desire to establish peace in the religious sector.

The accomplished transformation appears most clearly in the relations between the Socialist Party and the handling of school questions, especially regarding religious instruction in the State schools. In the long and weary strife concerning the schools, up to now the Catholics had fought in vain for the recognition of the rights of parents in decisions pertaining to the religious education of their children. This recognition has now been achieved with all its consequences. Through an agreement between the political parties, it has been decided, that:

1. Religious education is to form part of the State's system of instruction.
  2. Parents who wish their children not to attend religious instruction, must make a stipulation to that effect. Children whose names have not been cancelled are obliged to attend religious instruction.
- In Vienna secondary schools only 10 per cent of the pupils

### Shortages Curb Bavaria's Ancient Easter Customs

By MAX HUBBARD

**Munich — (RNS)** — Bavaria once prized itself on having possibly the greatest variety of folk-lore customs with tales and customs of right Church holidays among all Catholic districts of Germany. Many of these customs survived through the years of peace between the world wars.

But now these customs and traditions have gone away with a number of them.

In the past century the faithful used to hurry to their churches on Easter morning as soon as they heard the bells pealing. They would carry what they called "Easter baskets" filled with colored eggs and confections in the shape of Easter bunnies. After Mass breakfast was served in the homes and it was customary that every member of the family partake of the blessed food.

Eggs were as well as the blessing of colored Easter eggs in the gardens so they could be sought by the children was a general practice.

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