

A Look at Labor

Two Idle Piers

By A. C. Tuohy

This is a story of how a trade union should not operate. It is not a nice tale. Rather it is an example of an arrogant, if not a corrupt, union leadership, presently in control of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association.

The story has nothing to do with the rank and file dock workers. They have the sympathy of all students of the waterfront. But their union leaders are a different group of people.

"The Labor Leader," an ACTU publication, provides us with some exclusive details on the way in which these union leaders operate. The story is worth repeating.

NEW YORK IS the largest port city in the world. Most foreign-bound ships leave New York, and most American-bound ships dock at the New York piers. For some time, however, a number of New York piers have been idle. Several shipping companies have begun to take their business elsewhere, to Hoboken, to Philadelphia, to Boston, and to points north and south.

Two of the best and most modern piers in the New York harbor have been vacant for some time. They became vacant because the Alcoa Steamship Company moved elsewhere. When they became vacant, the Grace Line expressed an interest in moving downtown, but suddenly changed its mind. Why did the Grace Line refuse to take over these two piers?

The latest issue of "Labor Leader" gives three reasons.

1. The Grace Line wanted to

bring its own clerks and checkers from the uptown piers. All of these men are members of the union, and some of them have worked for Grace over twenty years. But the top officials of the International, Joe Ryan and Teddy Gleason, insisted on putting their own men on these new jobs.

"The Labor Leader" notes parenthetically, "It is through control of the clerks and the checkers that the waterfront mobs have been able to get away with wholesale robbery on the docks."

2. The Grace Line wanted to be able to shift gangs from one pier to another as the occasion demanded. Although the local unions involved had no objection to this practice, the International officials would not allow it.

3. Ryan and Gleason wanted to dictate the choice of the company's pier superintendent, the \$20,000 a year executive who would have top authority on the two piers.

It is not surprising that the Grace Line refused these terms. The two piers still remain idle and New York City is deprived of a rental that comes to around \$400,000 a year.

THE RECENT expose of the crime and corruption on the New York waterfront by the N. Y. Sun ought to have taught Joe Ryan a lesson. The I.L.A. will have no reputation left if it keeps up its discredited practices.

There is developing within the union a growing opposition to Joe Ryan and the present leadership of the I.L.A. Twice within three years the rank and file have repudiated their leadership. Ryan and his clique still control the I.L.A. but a few more years of arrogance may spell the end of his twenty-year reign.

For the good of the union and the public this opposition should continue to grow. For too long the I.L.A. has been run in dictatorial fashion. A little opposition to Ryan will be a breath of fresh air in the otherwise stuffy union halls. Ryan won't like it, of course, but the welfare of employer, public, and worker alike is at stake.

Book on Church Planning Published

Milwaukee (NC) — Planning a church edifice, the architect should be guided by a strict regard for structural utility in conformity with ecclesiastical and civil legislation and should not try to copy a "style". Peter F. Anson contends in a new book, "Churches: Their Planning and Furnishing," published by the Bruce Publishing Company here.

"The trouble with so many churches erected during the last century," the author states, "is that architects have been far more concerned with the superficial beauty than with the nature of the building"

Agnus Blessing



In the Consistorial Hall of the Apostolic Palace, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, using a centuries-old ceremony, blesses the Agnus Dei sacraments, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The small wax disks are impressed on one side with the figure of a lamb and the coat-of-arms of the Pope. The reverse side bore images of recently canonized saints, including St. Francis Gabriel, (Inset). (NC Photos.)

Shortage of Sisters Reported in Germany

Stuttgart (NC) — Owing to the Nazi rule preventing girls from entering convents a grave shortage of Sisters begins to manifest itself, says Bishop Johannes Baptist Sproll of Rottenburg in a message to the clergy urging that every possible means be employed to fill the needs. Many of the old Sisters have lost their health and cannot cope with the heavy duties incumbent upon them.

Courier-Journal Bookshelf

Book of Genesis

By REV. LOUIS HARTMAN, C.S.S.R.

A few months ago the first part of a project of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, a new Book of Genesis, was issued. This event marks an important step in American Catholic scholarship: It is the first time that an English translation of Genesis made directly from the original Hebrew text has ever been published by Catholics.

Almost every verse of this new Genesis differs more or less from the Genesis of the Douay. A few samples may be of interest. The "paradise of pleasure" of the Douay becomes "the garden of Eden" in the new version. This is in keeping with the principle that proper names in Hebrew should not be translated.

SO ALSO WE NOW have, "Cain dwelt in the land of Nod," instead of, "Cain dwelt as a fugitive on earth." The Douay gave Joseph "a coat of divers colours." In the new version he wears "a long tunic." Msgr. Ronald Knox, strange to say, in a recent translation in England, dresses him in "a coat that was all embroidery."

When Esau was born, we read in the Douay that, "he was hairy like a skin"; Knox paraphrases this into, "he was hairy all over as if he had worn a coat of skin"; in the new CBA version it is simply, "his whole body was like a hairy garment."

After God had appeared to Agar, she said, according to the Douay, "Verily here have I seen the hinder parts of him that seeth me"; Knox has her say, "There was one who looked on me here, and I saw him as he left me"; the CBA version quotes her as saying, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after my vision?"

IT IS ESPECIALLY in the difficult poetic portions of the Old Testament that the Douay is hopelessly obscure. In the poetic "Blessings of Jacob" the Douay misses the meaning of the Hebrew when it renders, "Joseph is a growing son, a growing son and comely to behold; the daughters run to and fro upon the wall." Knox still makes him an Adonis: "Joseph grows upward, upward still, fair to view; see how the maidens pass to and fro on the city walls." The interpretation of the CBA version is quite different.

BISHOP EDWIN V. O'HARA of Kansas City has just received a letter from the Vatican in which the Holy Father highly commends the work of the members of the Catholic Biblical Association of America and extends to them his Apostolic Blessing and encouragement.

About ten years ago, as Chairman of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Bishop O'Hara requested the Catholic Biblical Association of America to prepare a revision of the Douay New Testament.

This Confraternity Edition of the New Testament was first published in 1911 and met with such great popularity that the Bishop later on asked the same Catholic Biblical Association to prepare a similar revision of the Douay Old Testament.

However, after quite some labor had been

expended on this project it was decided, on advice received from Rome, to change the plan. Instead of revising the Douay Version, Bishop O'Hara and the editors of the work thought it would be much better to follow the lead of the Holy See which has recently issued a new official Latin Psalter made directly from the original texts. Hence they decided to work on a new English translation of the Bible made directly from the original language of the inspired authors.

THE DOUAY VERSION of the Bible is only a translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible, and therefore a translation of a translation. In some of its Books, notably the Psalms, the Latin Vulgate itself is merely a translation of the old Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Hence in these Books the Douay Version is several steps removed from the original. The result is that in many cases its sense is rather different from that intended by the first inspired writer, and often its language is very obscure or quite unintelligible.

This venerable old Version will always retain its honored place among English-speaking Catholics as a relic from the days when our ancestors fought so valiantly to preserve the faith of their fathers. But work a little for practical reading and study, the Douay Version is now decidedly antiquated and has lost much of its former usefulness.

The norm of the Catholic Biblical Association of America in making its new translation was thus expressed by Bishop O'Hara: "The supreme goal to be sought in rendering the word of God into the vernacular is rigorous fidelity to the meaning of the original, expressed in simple and intelligible language."

THERE ARE TWO extremes, therefore, that this new Version strives to avoid: first, such a slavish adherence to the original that the result would hardly be idiomatic English — the fault of most of the older translations of the Bible; and second, such freedom in rendering the original into English that the result would be almost an independent work and not really a translation of the inspired word of God.

This second fault is found to a certain degree in the otherwise excellent translation of the Bible in English by Monsignor Knox. It is to be noted also that the Knox Bible is made from the Latin Vulgate, as the Douay was, not from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts of the Sacred Scriptures.

THE PRINCIPAL text that is used by the American Scripture scholars is the current Hebrew Bible known as the Massoretic Text. But this text itself is not a perfect reproduction of the original manuscripts as they were written by the inspired authors. During the many centuries from the time of Moses to the invention of printing, the Bible was copied by hand, and naturally the copyists often failed to hand down correctly the original texts.

To a large extent these errors can be corrected by the use of the ancient translations, principally in Greek, Syriac and Latin, which were made between the third century B. C. and the fifth century A. D. Hence, the title-page of the new work reads: "The Holy Bible, Translated from the Original Languages with Critical Use of All the Ancient Sources."

France's Christmas Honors 'Little Jesus' Not Santa

Paris — (RNS) — Christmas in France is the feast of "the Little Jesus" rather than of Santa Claus. It is a feast whose religious significance is kept uppermost even in the industrial areas where religious traditions are often forgotten.

Only the children put out their shoes in front of the hearth in innocent faith that Le Petit Jesus will fill them during the night. But the Christmas watch, Midnight Mass and the dinner in the early hours of Christmas are, festivities in which all the family join.

EACH PROVINCE has Christmas traditions of its own. In Alsace, the decorated pine tree is a symbol of the star which led the Three Kings to Bethlehem. In Provence, the younger members of the family have the task of building a crib, which is given a place of honor in the home.

At Les Baux in Provence the Christmas ceremony follows a tradition centuries old. Shepherds and shepherdesses dressed in regional costumes carry candles as they climb the hill to the tiny square-roofed church hewn out of the rock of which it is part. Before them a horned ram draws a tiny cart made of sculptured olive wood and decorated with small candles. In the cart lies the littlest and whitest lamb of the flocks.

Knights To Aid College Centers

Dubuque — (NC) — The Knights of Columbus of Iowa have inaugurated a program of financial assistance to the Catholic Student Centers at the State University at Iowa City, the State Agricultural College at Ames, and the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls.

A report issued by the Iowa State K. of C. Council, explained the reasons for the interest as follows: "We read quite a bit these days about some of our famous converts in this country. At each of our three Student Centers in Iowa we have potentially great converts each year."

At ONE OF the Centers, the city editors of two of the local newspapers have finished their instructions and have been admitted into the Catholic Church. Every convert at these institutions will affect the thinking of many hundreds of persons as they go into their field of work as the teachers in public schools and leaders in fields of business and the professions.

"This is real mission work right here in Iowa for Iowans. Not one of these three Centers has an endorsement. They must depend upon the Catholic laymen and the Catholic organizations of the State of Iowa to carry on their work. Knights of Columbus throughout the state of Iowa have responded 100% if the dollar per member program for the Centers."

Aid for Mothers
Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — Two chemical compounds capable of neutralizing dangerous antibodies in the blood, which may cause stillbirths and miscarriages in pregnancy, and jaundice and other blood diseases in newborn infants, have been isolated by a group of scientists

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Catholic Libraries Back Overseas Book Collection

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic Library Association's project of collecting books for Catholic schools and libraries in war-devastated lands is a 20th century response to the cultural help that Europe gave to American Catholics in the 18th and 19th centuries.

This idea was expressed here by Eugene P. Wilging, Catholic University of America librarian, and one of the leaders in the library association's book collection campaign. He also declared that the project fits in with the Catholic Book week slogan for 1949, "Read Wisely — Share Truth."

CATHOLIC Library Association units have been asked to round up books for shipment overseas from the duplicates on their own shelves, from the various Catholic student bodies, from parish and diocesan study and book clubs, and from book stores. Dates of collection have been set: Jan. 10, March 1 and June 10, 1949. Catholic Book Week is from Feb. 20 to 26, 1949.

Honor War Dead

New York — (NC) — Four hundred members and guests of the New York City Notre Dame Alumni Club attended Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in connection with the nationwide alumni program honoring 334 Notre Dame men killed in World War II.

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