

High Schools Suffer Most In Red-Occupied North China

By REV. CHARLES J. MCCARTHY, S. J.
High school administration is emerging as the main point of immediate difficulty between communist authorities and religious bodies which are trying to continue their work in regions north of the Yangtze river occupied by Red armies last fall.

Primary schools, at least in the cities, have experienced little interference. Hospitals and dispensaries are somewhat hampered by dwindling medical supplies and in certain cases by severe taxation. Generally, however, their services to the people are still recognized and valued.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES, and catechism or sermons to individuals or small groups, out of school hours and away from school premises, are in the main tolerated.

One missionary, however, writing from Red territory that he did not say a second Mass on Passion Sunday because he inadvertently broke his fast at the end of his first Mass, explained discreetly: "It is hard to keep your mind free of distractions when unexpected guests are coming about the residence (and commenting on the services). In another city the cathedral is used as the headquarters when communist rallies are held."

DIRECT EFFORTS against religion have mainly been in an attempt to remove religious workers from administrative or otherwise influential posts in mission high schools.

Catholic and Protestant schools are virtually prohibited. Party delegates tell the students that discipline is undemocratic and have tried to "prove" them to disloyalty and antipathy toward their former teachers.

FORBIDDING ANY exercise of religious influence on school premises communist authorities are said to have "suggested" the students prompt to denounce any works or gestures that can be interpreted as religious. They openly ridicule the religious acts of teaching sisters. Local students complain that it is difficult to complete courses in an atmosphere of distrust, uncertainty and fear.

In literature courses a biography of Mao Tse-tung, No. 1 Chinese Communist, and anecdotes about him, take up most of the time. The former history textbooks have been banned, and a committee approved course is obligatory. A course in civics in which communist tactics are taught and the communist victory is given as the final result of the struggle has been imposed even on mission schools.

Teachers may not mention religion, but a communist delegate, addressing one student body, said: "You have freedom to practice religion, freedom to be irreligious, and freedom to attack religion."

Study Clubs Make Progress in Japan
Tokyo (CIP)—Katholics in the members of the Kyoto Federation of Catholic students have organized study clubs with almost one thousand members who meet three and four times a month to discuss religious and social questions from a Catholic viewpoint. The Federation has 400 members in four universities and six preparatory and high schools.

The Kyoto students have also organized a series of lectures by prominent speakers which are attended by 400 to 500 Catholic and non-Catholic students.

'There Is No God' Morning Greeting In Red Classroom

London (CIP)—The picture of school children greet their teacher every morning with the chant "There is no God," to which the teacher replies, "Indeed there is no God, and there has never been one," was described in a letter recently received from Burma. The letter appeared in the reliable weekly, "East Europe," published here by Lady Judith Listowel. It tells of the "a-tendency" taken by the Chinese war in Burma, "which equally affect victims and their members . . . (so that) it is impossible to tell who is or is not a . . ."

The letter is published without signature to protect its writer, who states that he and his wife have been forced to seek refuge with their former chauffeur after they had lost their home and personal property to the Communists' grip.

Mass Bequests Charitable Trusts, Ohio Judge Rules

Cleveland, Ohio (NC)—Bequests for Masses for the dead are charitable trusts and, as such, are valid in Ohio, Probate Judge Nelson J. Brewer ruled in the case of a \$85,000 legacy which Antonio Di-Fronzo left for Requiem Masses to be said for the repose of the souls of himself and my beloved wife, Maria. He died June 8, 1947.

HAD THE COURT ruled otherwise, all such funds held in trust for the offering of Requiem Masses in Ohio Catholic churches, might have been claimed by next of kin, legal circles say.

Attorneys representing heirs in Italy contended the legacy was not a charitable trust because, they said, it benefited only the souls of Mr. and Mrs. Di-Fronzo, and the money should go to the next of kin and heirs-at-law.

JUDGE BREWER, a non-Catholic, answered: "The whole Church profits by every Mass. The prayers of the Mass include all of the faithful, and priests offer Requiem Masses with a secondary intention that the fruits of the Mass be applied to other souls."

Counsel for the heirs also made a point of the fact that Mr. Di-Fronzo had named no beneficiary who could enforce the terms of his will. Judge Brewer said the court could correct the omission and directed that the money left under the will be paid to St. Theresa Church, which Mr. Di-Fronzo and his wife had attended.

Radio Station Bans Slur on Easter Story

Lawrence, Mass. (RNS)—Universalist Church representatives are planning an appeal to the Federal Communications Commission on the action of Station WLAW here in banning one of their ministers from broadcasting because his script was not "in the public interest."

Situation officials said a talk planned by the Rev. Kenneth L. Patton, minister of the Charles Street Universalist church, Boston, was entitled "Jesus Risen?" and questioned the belief that Christ's body rose after His death.

Bandits Plunder Leper Hospital And Beat Nuns

Canton, China (NC)—Numerous offers to help have been received from Chinese as well as foreign friends of the Canadian Sisters conducting one of the world's largest leper hospitals at Shekiung, 25 miles east of here, following an attack on the hospital by an armed band which stole the institution's funds and brutally beat some of the nuns.

Banditry is regarded rather lightly in this area because of the hard times, but this attack on the nuns and lepers has aroused widespread indignation. A police guard has now been given to the leper settlement.

THIS ACTION was taken as news arrived here that Catholic missions at Wangmu, Tayen, Cheshu and Liukatu in Wweichow province, South China, also were victims of terrorist bands.

In the attack on the leper hospital, about 80 bandits, armed with rifles and iron bars, smashed open the front gate. When Marie-Cecile, was shown in complying with demands for the hospital funds, she and 15 other nuns on the staff were beaten with rifle butts and the iron bars.

The bandits seized the crucifixes which the nuns carried, and took from their fingers the simple gold ring that each Sister wears to signify her dedication to God. Searching the hospital rooms, they dragged Sister Raphael, a 73-year-old invalid, from her bed and clubbed her when she said she had no money. Sister Raphael has served the Shekiung lepers since the settlement was founded in 1913.

THE BANDITS stole approximately \$4,000, the running expense for the feeding and care of 400 lepers.

It is believed that two lepers, dismissed from the hospital last December after they persisted in advances repugnant to two young women employees, instigated the attack. The bandits knew the plans of the buildings, and made straight for the Mother Superior's office after forcing the outer gate.

The nuns at the hospital are Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, with headquarters at Notre Dame des Neiges, Montreal. Three of them, Sisters Raphael, Mary Bernadette, and more than 30 years' service to the lepers at Shekiung.

Ex-Army Chaplain Becomes Missioner

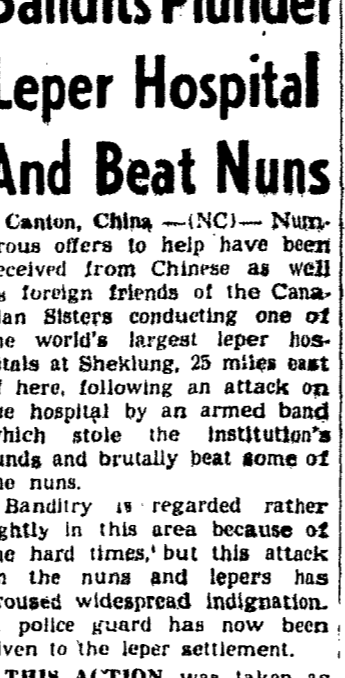
Tokyo (CIP)—A priest who served 18 months on duty with the American Occupation Forces in Japan in 1945 and 1946 returned April 9 to join the Benedictine missionaries in the Meguro sector of Tokyo. The priest, Father Alajos Michels, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, studied Japanese for the past six months at the University of California in Berkeley.

Indian Minister Hits Birth Control Plan

New Delhi, India (NC)—The Indian Minister of Finance, John Mathal, condemned artificial birth control as a means for the economic stabilization of the country.

Mr. Mathal, member of a Syrian Christian family, stated in a speech in the Dominion parliament here, that the intelligent use of science to speed up production of food-stuffs will go a long way toward solving the problem of economic scarcity in the land. Increased population will in the long run be only a source of strength to the nation, he said, and questioned the belief that birth control which is based on self-control, he added.

A GIFT FROM THE BONZE



A Buddhist Bonze of the Teramachi Shrine in Nara, Japan started the custom six years ago of presenting the Conventual Franciscan Fathers with palms for their Palm Sunday services. Father Cosmas Korb, OFM, Conv., of Syracuse, N. Y., is shown receiving this year's supply from the Bonze's wife. (NC Photos)

Msgr. Varga Denies Church Blocked Land Reform Move

Brooklyn (NC)—Hungarian government charges that His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty opposed the communist-dominated government because the Church was against land reform were answered with a denial here by Msgr. Bela Varga, former Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly.

Speaking of Cardinal Mindszenty, Msgr. Varga said that "from the time when he was a simple parish priest, we knew him as a man of firm convictions, and no violent swinging of the political pendulum could force him to deviate an inch from his principles. When the Nazis invaded eastern Europe and began their fanatical persecution of the Jews, Cardinal Mindszenty fought Hitler's fanaticism with such determination that he was arrested and only the sudden collapse of Nazi domination saved his life."

ADDRESSING STUDENTS and faculty members of St. John's College, Monsignor Varga, who is now chairman of the Hungarian National Committee in this country, pointed out that the idea of land reform in Hungary originated with a Bishop who voluntarily parceled out the land of his diocese among the peasants.

Furthermore, he said, the largest single party in the national assembly when land reform was carried out was the Smallholders Party, which numbered seven priests among its deputies.

Father Joins Trappist Son

The Hague (CIP)—His eldest son and the Abbot of the Trappist monastery at Zundert were on hand to welcome the father of fifteen children as he entered the Abbey as a monk.

Mr. Bastiaansen, aged 67, is a native of the village of Rijbergen. He decided to join his son as a Trappist when he felt his family duties were completed after the wedding of his youngest daughter. He was escorted by the Burgomaster of Rijbergen, who said he considered it an honor to drive Mr. Bastiaansen from his home town to the gates of the monastery.

Labor Party MP Becomes Catholic

London (NC)—A Labor party member of the House of Commons, Maj. William Thomas Wells, has been received into the Church bringing the number of Catholics in the present British lower house of parliament up to 22.

Of these 14 are members of the Labor party, six are Conservatives and the two others are Irish Nationalists from Northern Ireland.

Major Wells, a lawyer, has been the member for Walsall, Staffordshire, since 1945. He is married, his wife being a Catholic daughter of the late Robert Noble, whom Pope Pius XII created a Knight Commander of St. Gregory.

'White Collar' DP Arab Plight Told

By BR. ANTHONY BRUYA, O.F.M.
Amman, Transjordan (NC)—Among the three-quarters of a million Arab refugees (a hundred thousand Christians among them) in exile from their Holy Land, there is one class of DP's about whom little is known, and almost nothing written. This is the professional and "white collar" group, whose plight is no less difficult than that of the humbler refugee.

Galilee Arabs Driven From Their Homes

By Bro. Anthony Bruya
Amman, Transjordan (NC)—Further evidence that the flight and expulsion of Arabs from their Palestine homeland has not yet come to an end, was furnished here with the arrival of 60 refugees, 40 of them Christians, who, after having undergone severe hardships, found temporary refuge in the Catholic parish school. Twenty of the exiled are small children.

They said that on Passion Sunday they had been driven from their native village of Mughar in Galilee by Israeli and Druse soldiers. Early in the morning, they said, the men of the village were ordered to the yard of the school, where they were kept for seven hours.

Then they received instructions to gather their families and a few belongings. All were loaded on two open trucks and driven to the vicinity of Jenin, whence they walked to the village of Selim and eventually made their way to Amman.

The men assert that six of them were beaten with rifles and one was bound and kicked. They declare that the following towns in Galilee have now been completely occupied by Jews after the Arab population was expelled: Kefranan, Faradiah, Bassa, Metula, Sephoris and Tiberias. The homes of Arabs are being systematically demolished, their report says.

These people do not seek nor expect charity. They ask only to be allowed to earn enough to tide over the crisis through which they are passing—enough to enable their savings to be stretched out until they are more allowed to return to their former homes, or, if these have been destroyed, to their old lives in former surroundings.

TALKING WITH these professional class refugees, I found that the conversation inevitably came around to the subject of the most frequently asked question: "When do you think that we Arabs can go back and live again as we did before we were sent away?" "Will our property be given back by the Jews?" "When do you think we can go back, if at all?"

One's regret is that any attempt at encouragement in reply seems so inadequate. If the cold, calloused attitude toward their return to their homes, as reflected in the utterances and articles of certain spokesmen and journalists here and abroad, is any indication of the true state of mind toward them, then one has every reason to fear that even the most meager hope he might hold out to these banished people would be only too optimistic.

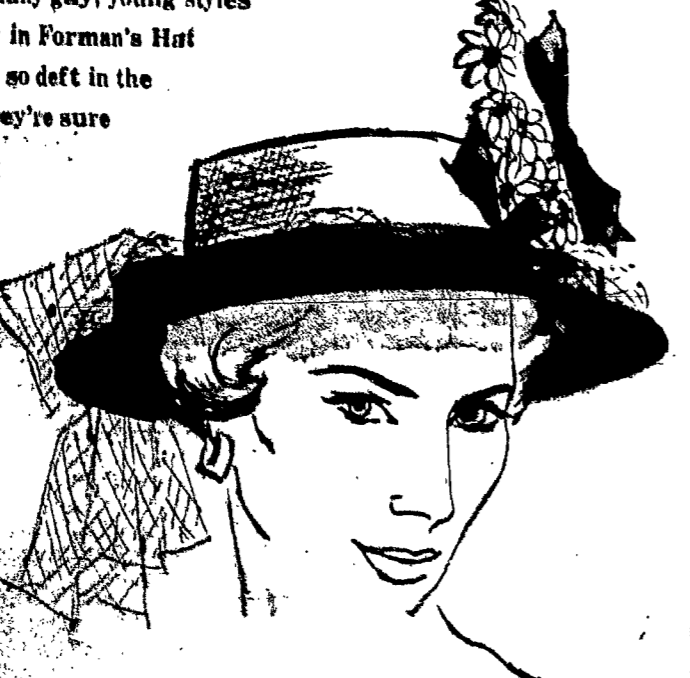
French War Officer Ordained in U. S.

Grand Coteau, La. (NC)—A liaison officer between the American and the French armies in World War II was ordained here by Bishop Jules B. Jeannard of Lafayette in the chapel of St. Charles College. He is Rev. Marcel Sigrist, a native of France. Part of his education was received in France, Switzerland and North Africa.

After the war he came to the United States and enrolled at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, for the Diocese of Lafayette, where the population is predominantly of French descent.

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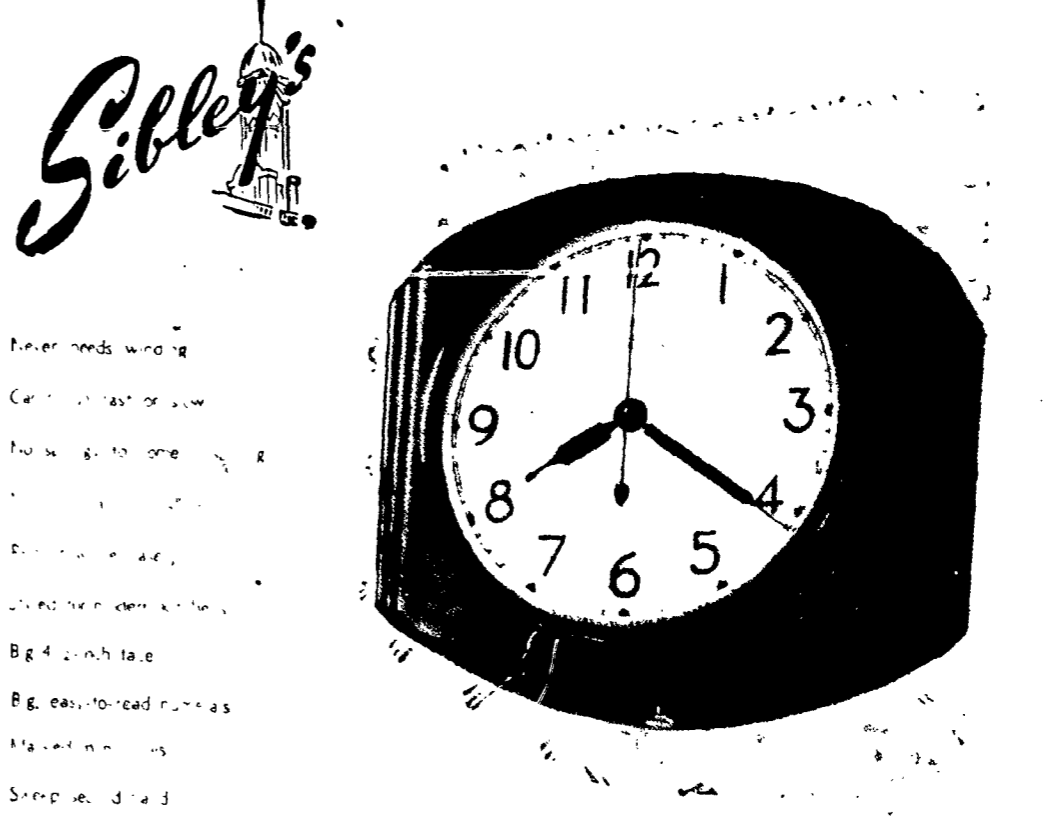
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