

A Look at Labor 'Molding' Public Opinion

By A. C. Tuohy

The fact that the trade union movement is now firmly woven into the fabric of American society cannot be attributed to the support that it has received from American newspapers and the "molders" of public opinion.

American trade unions grew out of the need of the American people. This need was sufficiently pressing to cause American workers to ignore the prejudices that had been inculcated by their newspapers against trade unionism.

American newspapers merely made the work of union organizers more difficult. Perhaps an example will demonstrate this fact.

MORE THAN six and a half years ago the Associated Press released a story to its member newspapers based on an article appearing in the Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal.

This story, issued January 21, 1943 (right in the middle of the war), charged that "sick Guadalcanal marines were forced to unload their own supplies when the National Maritime Union crew of a merchant ship refused to work on Sunday because of union regulations." The story was alleged to have come from a high "official" source in Washington who was left anonymous.

The story was carried in a number of newspapers including the New York Evening Journal and the Chicago Tribune. Appropriate headlines were devised to put the "story" across. Some of the more interesting ran as follows:

"Ship 'Strike' Ires Guadalcanal Fighters"; "Order Probe of CIO Scandal in Guadalcanal"; "Marines Unfold in CIO 'Holiday'"; "Labor Codding Blamed for CIO Ship Scandal"; "House Inquiry Begun into CIO Pacific Scandal."

THE REPORTED story immediately brought on a wave of investigations, starting with the Navy and ending with Congressional committee. All the investigators branded the story as a falsehood. It was discovered that the incident never took place at all. It was further discovered

Balancing The Books

Saint of the Indians

By JOHN S. KENNEDY

While reading Father Francis X. Talbot's new work about St. Jean de Brebeuf, Saint Among the Hurons, one is reminded of Cardinal Minzenty by the harrowing pages detailing the tortures to which Brebeuf was subjected by the Iroquois.

The bestial cruelty of the savages is matched, and in subtlety surpassed, by the totalitarian states of the twentieth century. Thus does mankind progress; thus, too, are the witnesses to Christ sturdily treated in every age, region, and state of civilization.

BREBEUF WAS a Norman born in 1593 into a family of landowners and farmers. At 24, this tall, well built, keen young man entered the Society of Jesus. Because of illness, he was ordained a priest and thereafter served in the Jesuit college at Rouen. Brebeuf volunteered for the missions which it was rumored the French Jesuits would soon undertake in the New World. He was accepted and in June, 1623, sailed up the St. Lawrence and arrived at Quebec after a voyage of 52 days.

It was to the Hurons, living in the untamed and beautiful country along Lake Huron, that Brebeuf was assigned. A first attempt to reach his post was frustrated, but he attached himself to an Algonquin family for a winter in order to learn their language and customs.

Their life was nomadic, their ways altogether strange and faring for one just arrived from France. But Brebeuf, with the missionary's ardor and intrepidity, zestfully plunged into this alien existence.

Hence he was somewhat seasoned in the courses of savages when, in the following year, he was accepted by the Hurons. He went a thousand perilous miles into the interior, down rivers, over portages, carrying his few possessions, eating the fat from

Better Books in Brief

Interpreting the Sunday Mass by William R. Bonnell, O.P. (133 pages, \$2.25) Liturgy in clear, concise language for the average reader. The structure and spirit underlying the Sunday Masses.

Burnt Out Increase by Rev. M. Raymond, O.C.S.O. (437 pages, \$3.50) Historical novel delineating the establishment of the Trappists at Gethsemani, Ky., a century ago, and revealing why so many men from all walks of life offer themselves as increase to be burnt out in the service of God.

Preface to the Bible by Gerard Rooney, C.P. (171 pages, \$2.00) Theology and scientific criticism reduced to the non-technical language of the average man.

You and Thousands Like You by Owen Farnes Dudley, C.S.B. (104 pages, \$3.00) In this "open letter to the man and woman of today," Father Dudley analyzes the present "cloud of fear."

delicate native food, braving the dangers of a raw and lonely land, beginning a work which would occupy him until his death 23 years later and would all but perish with his perishing.

FROM THE START the work was beset with difficulties. The Hurons regarded the tall, black-robed newcomer with smoldering suspicion.

Communicating with them was a problem, for Brebeuf had to learn their language by listening, and he found it lacking in terms for spiritual and abstract ideas.

Moreover, the superstition, sexual promiscuity, and blood lust of the Indians put twining obstacles in the way of silence and enduring conversation. Brebeuf, incidentally, was convinced that some of the medicine men were true sorcerers with access to the devil.

But Brebeuf persisted. The reviling did not deter him, nor did the filth and the brutality. He loved these people in some respects admirable, and thrust after their salvation. Gradually he won their respect; one by one, he received converts.

Epidemics broke out among the Hurons, first a severe influenza, then murderous smallpox. Medicine men attributed the suffering and numerous deaths to the evil magic of Brebeuf. The stricken, crazed Indians were only too ready to credit the

charge, and henceforward Brebeuf had to labor under the crippling disability of their dread and resentment.

STILL THE GAUNT Norman pushed ahead. When he came among the Hurons, the name Christ was unknown to them; when he departed for heaven he had seen some seven thousand baptized, and not a few marvels of heroic fidelity and extraordinary holiness.

He died at the hands of the Iroquois who, bent on the extermination of the Hurons, gave the latter no respite. It was in 1649, three hundred years ago, that at the age of 56, the Iroquois put Brebeuf through hours of excruciating torture and finally dispatched him.

In his youth he had vowed to work ceaselessly for Christ and never to take a rest or think that he had done enough. Again and again he had, in his prayer, begged to be allowed to suffer for Christ, to die for Him. His vow was kept, his petition granted.

Father Talbot has told Brebeuf's story in masterly fashion. By dint of prodigious research, he has assembled a wealth of facts which he has discriminatingly sifted and worked together in an account marked by fluency and liveliness. Brebeuf lives in these pages.

Saints Among the Hurons, by Francis X. Talbot, S.J. 261 pages, \$3.75.

'Music Therapy'

Catholic Printing Plant Seized

WARSAW (RNS)—Poland's largest Roman Catholic printing establishment has been seized by Soviet authorities under an international nationalization law enacted in January, 1948. It was disclosed here.

The establishment was in the Neopoklarski monastery of the Franciscan Order, located about 25 miles from Warsaw.

Polish-owned plants were seized in Warsaw, including the one in the Neopoklarski monastery. The plants were reported to have been placed under government control.

Typical of scenes in Catholic hospitals of the United States, something music for the sick is played through the hospital call system from the Hammond organ in the chapel of St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, Conn. Rev. Austin R. Hammers (above), choir director, plays organ program five times weekly. At long ago as the 18th century, state players were used in St. Spirit Hospital, Rome, for the same purpose.

Negro History Book Lauds Work Of Church in U.S.

New York (RNS)—The Catholic Church has shown an increasing appeal for the American Negro during the past few decades. E. Franklin Frazier, professor of sociology at Howard University, Washington, D.C., states in a new, 787-page book, The Negro in the United States, published by the Macmillan Company here.

In attracting the colored population the Catholic Church has had to overcome both external and internal obstacles, the author says.

Because most of the Negro population is concentrated in the South where there "has been much prejudice against the Catholic Church," he states, "the Church has had to overcome the obstacle of prejudice. Moreover, he adds, 'The Negro has become accustomed to a type of church service which is opposed to the restraint characteristic of the worship in the Catholic Church.'

THE CHURCH has won the friendship of the colored mainly because it has undertaken to provide recreational and educational facilities for Negro youth in cities, Dr. Frazier says, and through its defense of the Negro's right to "full participation in American culture."

He mentions especially the recommendations made at a seminar on Negro problems sponsored by the National Catholic Welfare Conference in July, 1944, which called for a permanent Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission, non-segregated unions including Negroes, opposed segregation in housing and strongly defended the civil rights of the Negro.

Children's Books Chosen for July

New York (RNS)—The July selections of the Catholic Children's Book Club have been announced. They are: Picture Book Group (ages 6 to 8): "Lorraine," by Barbara Briggs, a book about a little black boy; "The Little Black Boy," by Langston Hughes; "The Little Black Boy," by Langston Hughes; "The Little Black Boy," by Langston Hughes; "The Little Black Boy," by Langston Hughes.

Catholic Shell Put in Library

WATERLOO, N. Y. (RNS)—A "Catholic Bookshelf" of 50 volumes has been set up in the public library of this town of 4,000 near Syracuse, thanks to an idea conceived by Charles F. Carr when he was asked to take part in the library drive.

Catholic Writer Takes Socialist Prize in Vienna

Vienna (RNS)—The city of Vienna's Prize of Honor for Scholarly Achievements has been conferred upon Dr. Friedrich Heer, the author and Catholic editor.

Vienna. It must be remembered, is under a predominantly Socialist administration. Dr. Heer is an avowed Catholic, standing in the forefront of the young Catholic intellectuals, to whom the whole body of Austrian Catholics are looking with great hopes.

A member of the editorial staff of the leading Catholic weekly, Die Furche (The Furrow), he is respected as an erudite historian and philosopher.

THE HONOR conferred upon a Catholic writer by the Socialist city administration shows, according to observers here, that the Catholic press has succeeded in breaching the wall which, until ten years ago, isolated the Austrian Catholics from other social groups and prevented any explanation or understanding. There was no bridge leading from one camp to the other, and no room for friendly agreements, however much this would have been called for by common interests.

It can not be claimed, as yet, that the work of Austria's Catholic publicists and authors has brought about a complete change of intellectual feeling.

Czech War Hero Will Drive Bus For Catholic School

Waynesville, N. C. (RNS)—From lieutenant colonel in the Air Force with 16 citations from 4 governments to driver of a school bus, is the saga of Victor Kadane who arrived here last week with a party of 100 DP's sponsored by the Catholic War Relief Service's Resettlement Division, NCWC.

THE 34-YEAR old veteran of many air battles did not come as a displaced person, but entered the country as a mechanic on an immigration visa. He was sponsored by the Rev. Ambrose Rohrbacher pastor of St. John's Church, who also gave him the job of driver of St. John's school bus.

Kadane was a lieutenant in the Czech Air Force when the Nazis entered Czechoslovakia in 1939, when he fled the country and joined the French Foreign Legion as a sergeant. Five months later he was sent to France to help organize a new Czech army in exile, saw action in the battle of France, then 5 years as major in the Royal Air Force and finally as major in the Allied Intelligence and U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany.

ASKED ABOUT present conditions in Czechoslovakia, Lt. Col. Kadane confirmed recent news about the persecution of Catholic clergy and laity by the communist regime and said that 220 priests have disappeared without trace.

He met his wife, a Czech sculptress, during the war and they were married in 1946. They have a six-month-old daughter, born in London.

Josephite Superior Observes Jubilee

Baltimore (RNS)—The Very Rev. Thomas P. McNamara, S.S.J., Superior General of the Josephite Fathers, commemorated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, June 12, at St. Plus Church, here.

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