Clergy, Fined in School Poll Tax Issue, To Challenge Law

[illegible], B. C.—(NC)—Two Catholic priests and two Protestant clergymen, convicted of refusing to pay a head tax for support of municipal schools, have announced they will appeal their case to higher Canadian courts to test the validity of the Province of British Columbia poll tax act.

The priests are the Revs. G. E. McKinnon, pastor, and Christopher Vermeulen, assistant pastor, of St. Mary's Church, which operates a parochial school. The Protestant ministers are Dr. J. C. Clarke of the Anglican church, and Dr. G. Glover of the United Church.

Father McKinnon received five "final" notices to pay a $20 head tax levied against him for public school support. He not only refused to pay the tax but invited prosecution as a means of settling the constitutional question involved. He was supported in his action by the British Columbia Catholic Education Association, the Salvation Army and the two Protestant clergymen.

THE PRIEST and his fellow defendants took the position that they already were paying a tax for facilities which they are refused. They pointed out that students of their schools are denied bus transportation and medical and dental services, which are given to public school students and for which the defendants are taxed.

Father McKinnon and the other defendants refused to pay the head tax on the ground that they already have been giving direct support to public education. Both Father McKinnon and Father Vermeulen teach in their parish school and even provide and drive a bus for their students.

Hailed into Small Debts Court, the two Catholic priests and two Protestant clergymen were tried before Magistrate E. Anderson. The defense of the two priests was conducted by Attorney E. Zunti. The defense insisted that the tax was a violation of the Canadian Constitution and the Declaration of Human Rights.

DURING THE course of the trial, the four defendants stated that they sooner would go to jail than pay the tax. However when found guilty by Magistrate Anderson, their chance of going to jail was removed. The magistrate fined each $20 and costs, but did not fix an alternative jail sentence.

It has been announced that the conviction will be appealed to the New Westminster County Court as a means of paving the way for a constitutional test of the statute.

Toledo Cathedral Officials Relieved On Gift Of Stone

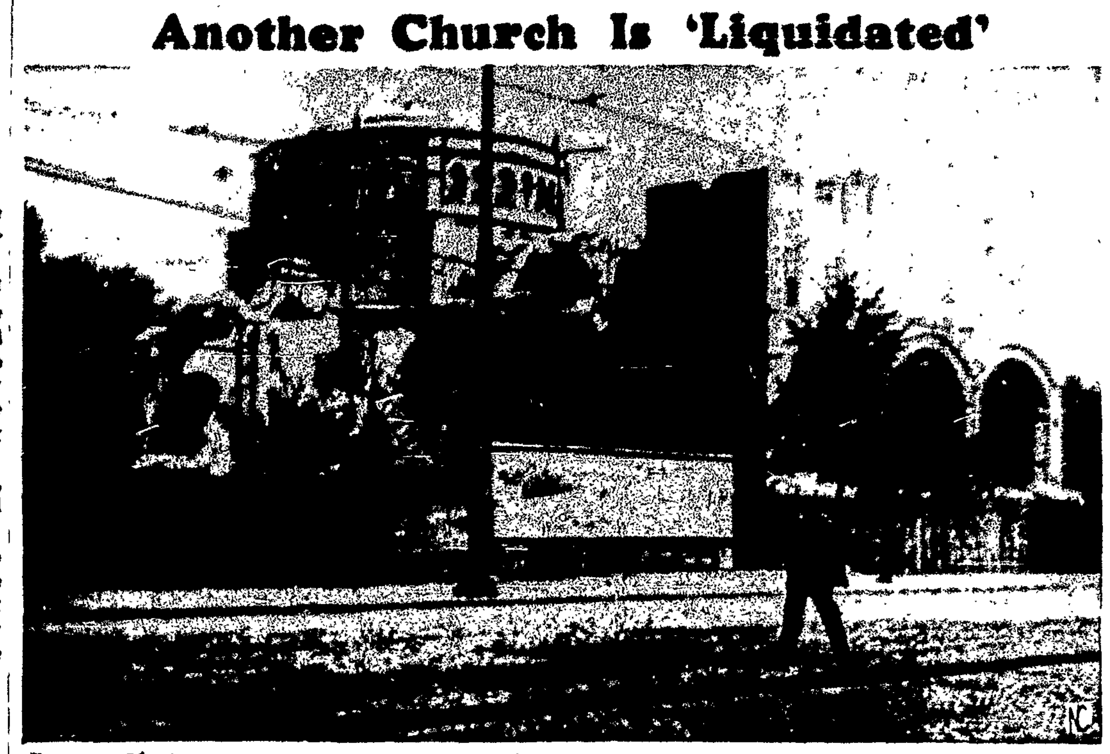
Toledo, O. — (RNS) — A huge burden — about 3,900 pounds, in fact—has rolled off the shoulders of officials of Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral here.

Some time ago the cathedral was notified that a two-ton stone, a gift of the cathedral in Toledo, Spain, was being shipped here. Church officials were in a quandry as to where to place the unusual present. Now they have been informed by the Spanish Embassy in Washington that the original report from Spain was erroneous.

The stone, with all its wrappings, weighs only 100 pounds, embassy officials said.

The "courtesy gift," a symbol of "the mutual affection between Catholics in the two Toledos," will be delivered to the cathedral this month. Embassy officials are expected to attend the unveiling.

Another Church Is 'Liquidated'



Regnum Marianum, Catholic Church in Budapest, Hungary, is shown in the process of being razed to make place for a bronze monument to the glory of Communist Russia's Marshall Josef Stalin, their Godless leader. (NC Photos)

'ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS'

Hospital Works With A.A.

First Religious Institution To Cooperate

St. Louis - (NC) St. Thomas Hospital of Akron, first religious institution to have opened its doors to Alcoholics Anonymous, has hospitalized 4,000 A A patients in the 112 years it has operated in this field, according to an article in Hospital Progress, journal of the Catholic Hospital Association.

"Dr. Bob," one of the co-founders of A.A. was on the staff of the hospital when he broached the idea of admitting alcoholic patients under the aegis of the society, Sister M Ignatia, administrator of St. Thomas Hospital recalls in the article.

"THIS WAS in 1939 just about the time we were trying to pull out of the depression," Sister Ignatia writes. "Hospital beds were at a premium without any prospect of adding to our bed capacity. There was very little enthusiasm around the hospital about admitting people who were imbibing too freely. However prompted by the grace of God we very cautiously admitted one patient with the diagnosis of acute gastritis under the care of Dr. Bob."

That was the beginning. The hospital then set aside a two-bed room and now has an eight-bed A.A. ward.

"We have hospitalized well over 4,000 A.A. patients at St. Thomas," St. Ignatia writes. "They have come to Akron from Alabama, South Carolina, Michigan, Maryland, Texas and many other distant parts. They would not have had to travel so far if their local hospitals made it possible for them to receive the program nearer home."

A[illegible] movement that has swept the nation and reached into other countries. Its New York headquarters [illegible] states, Canada, Latin America and many other countries. Also the A.A. program is one of the most fruitful sources of conversions, a priest told Sister Ignatia.

SISTER IGNATIA describes the workings of the A.A. ward at St. Thomas. It is simply a [illegible] with accommodations [illegible]. At the [illegible] end is a lounge with [illegible] a coffee urn and icebox. An important point, she says, is that the alcoholic patient is helped out of his [illegible] and into hospital [illegible] the first he has the care of understanding friends.

"The advantage for the older patients [illegible] this duty is that [illegible] able to see themselves [illegible] as they were upon [illegible]," she goes on. "Administratively, an economy is effected by thus eliminating the need for hard-to-get employees."

The ward, she says, is almost wholly self-operating, with a [illegible] nurses aide making beds and an A.A. employee doing the heavier cleaning.

"THE cleaning of ash trays, the making of coffee, the coffee urn is in operation 24 hours each day, the washing of cups, all of this is done by the patients themselves," Sister Ignatia writes. "Usually they welcome these small opportunities to busy themselves and thus keep their minds off problems."

The [illegible] of the lounge, she adds, is to provide a place where the patient can chat with A.A. visitors and listen to informal talks. The ice box is kept stocked with food and particularly milk and citrus juices for, Sister Ignatia says, the alcoholic is frequently an undernourished person. The patients are encouraged to eat at will. "The coffee urn and the ice box are the A.A. equivalent for the brass rail and bottles of the drinking days."

Nun-Teacher Lack Called Parents' Fault

New Orleans — (NC) — There is a shortage in Catholic education that has nothing to do with the shortage of building material, teacher certification, federal aid or similar matters, the Very Rev. Henry C. Bezou, superintendent of schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans told the 800 parents and guests who attended the annual luncheon of the Council of Catholic School Cooperative Clubs.

This shortage, he said, is the shortage of teaching priests, Sisters and Brothers.

Msgr. Bezou blamed the shortage of teaching Religious on parental "indifference, if not resistance," to their children's entering the religious life.

Parents expect their children to have religious teachers and some threaten to remove their children from school if lay teachers are substituted, he said, but it is necessary to employ lay teachers. Since 1946, he explained, the number of priests, Sisters and Brothers teaching in New Orleans has increased by only 56 but the enrollment has increased almost 8,000. Over the same period 167 lay teachers have been added.

Bishop Noll Asks 'Christ In Christmas'

Huntington, Ind. — (NC) — Protestants and Catholics alike should be interested in a campaign to put Christ back into Christmas, Bishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne states in an article published in the Fort Wayne edition of Our Sunday Visitor, which he founded and edits.

"I need not tell you," the Bishop writes, "that Christmas has become chiefly a pagan feast in our own country. It is Christ's birthday, but most people observe it without even thinking of Christ. They regard it as a civil holiday on which scattered relatives come together for a reunion and people generally remember their relatives and friends with gifts."

"It is fitting," Bishop Noll said, "that giftgiving should take place on Christmas if the motive is to show God appreciation for His greatest gift to the world, His beloved Son. But," he added, "[gifts] have no relation to Christ's **birthday.**"

Vatican, Yugoslavia Relations Up To Tito, Says Paper

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — Whether questions concerning relations between the Holy See and Yugoslavia can be solved or will remain unsolved does not depend today, nor did it in the past, on the Holy See.

This was the comment of Osservatore Romano on remarks attributed to General Tito during a mass interview with European and American journalists who asked him about his views on future Vatican Yugoslav relations.

ACCORDING TO Osservatore two different versions of Tito's reply have been reported. One appeared in some Italian papers while the other was distributed by the Yugoslav official news agency Tanjug.

The first version quoted Tito as saying "Yugoslavia has no questions pending with the Vatican. But, for its part Yugoslavia hopes that the Vatican will make its contribution to peace by not interfering with internal affairs of the country, because freedom of religion exists in Yugoslavia."

If this should be the correct version, says Osservatore, the answer would be that the Holy See, in accordance with its proper mission, defends Catholicism in its principles and morality wherever in one country or the other Christian liberties are denied or limited. There is no interference in this.

ACCORDING TO the Tanjug version, Tito replied to the question of a French journalist regarding future Vatican Yugoslav relations that [illegible] questions exist between Yugoslavia and the Vatican. Yugoslavia, Tito said, does not want to interfere with internal questions concerning the Vatican but [illegible] steps to normalize relations with the Holy See.

If this second version is the correct one, and considering its source this should be the case, Osservatore offers this comment:

If Yugoslavia has no desire to interfere with Vatican affairs it knows what it must do. Allow Catholics not only to assist at worship and receive the sacraments but also make it possible for them to live a [illegible] faith and to educate their children in a Christian manner without being exposed defenseless to materialistic and atheistic propaganda, to a system of [illegible] anticlericalism [illegible] deny religion and to a [illegible] which no longer contains a thing of a Christian nature.

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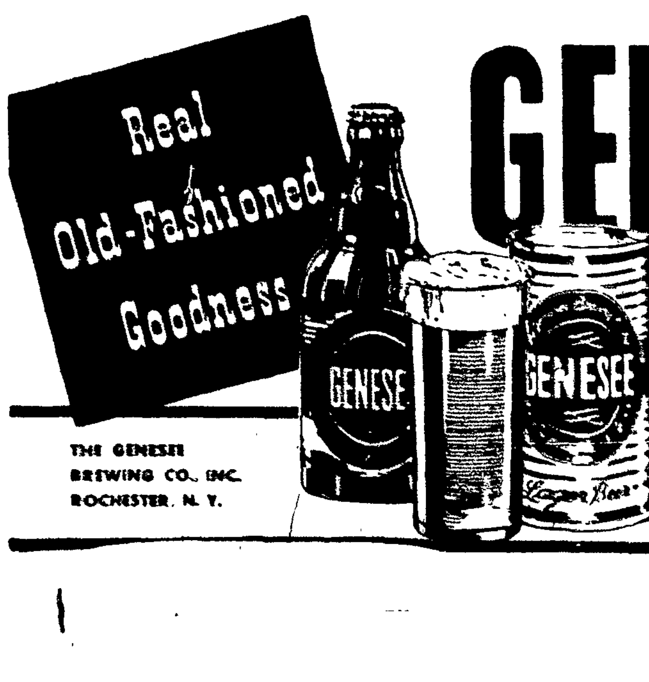

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