

# MANY CHANGES IN CANON LAW

Those Affecting American Catholics Announced by Cardinal Farley.

New York, May 17.—At the Sixteenth Triennial Conference of the Synod of the Archdiocese of New York at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the changes in the Canon Law of the church affecting Roman Catholics throughout the United States were officially announced for the first time in this country by Cardinal Farley. They will be similarly announced by the Metropolitan in charge of each See in the United States and become effective on Whit Sunday, May 19.

The Canon Law, as it has been built up in the centuries, had grown into a massive and complicated series of volumes, each couched in the vernacular of its time. Thirteen years ago the Pope decided to have a new code compiled, and he called upon the best minds in the church throughout the world for aid. Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and priests were set to study the old code, each making a record of his interpretations and the reason therefor, and making suggestions for the simplification of the phraseology. All of these were sent to Rome, where the commission in direct charge of the work studied and digested and wrought, and the result is a single volume of five books. The Cardinal proclaimed only such parts of the new law as had direct bearing in the United States. As in civil law, it is up to the communicants of the church to inform themselves as to the laws and obey them, though the church is more lenient in extenuating ignorance of the law than is a State court.

With all of the church's philippics against modernism, the code has been modernized in several respects. These are not related to the vital parts of the creed which remain unchanged from the days of Peter, but rather in respect of the self-denials requested or desired by the church in the matter.

## Inhibition Period Shortened.

The laws have been slightly modified so that now it is permitted for a valid marriage to be contracted in the period between Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany, which falls on Jan. 6. Heretofore marriage was forbidden between the First Sunday of Advent and the Epiphany now the period of inhibition ends at Christmas. This is expected to be an extremely popular change with the young people, whose summer romances bloom in the fall and early winter, as it will enable them to start their married life on the first day of the calendar year, as so many desire.

But in the religious feature of marriage there is no relaxation of the rules, which rather are so tightness that the church will recognize nothing but marriages performed in full compliance with the church rules. In the matter of marriage between persons of blood or affinitive relationship, the law has been relaxed to permit a marriage between persons in the fourth degree, marriage without dispensation being still forbidden within the first three degrees of consanguinity. In the matter of affinity, where the marriage is of those contracted merely by adoption, the rule has been established that the State law governs. If the law of the land in which the couple live permits such marriages, the church will perform them, otherwise, not in fact, throughout the new code there is evident a desire to conform as closely as possible to civil law.

## Breach of Promise.

In the marriage code the church clearly establishes its own "breach of promise" statute. It declares that any promise of marriage is invalid unless made in writing under prescribed formalities. Even when one party to a promise of marriage refuses, without legitimate reason, to keep the promise, no judicial action or suit tending to the fulfillment of the matrimonial contract, is permissible, but merely a petition for reimbursement for any damages that may have been sustained.

Banns remain obligatory. Where not announced from the altar, they must be published in a written notice at the church door, which must be left in place for at least eight days. This period is prescribed so as to necessarily include two Sundays, on which the faithful are obligated to hear mass and therefore have ample opportunity to see the notice. The substitution of the printed notice for the verbal announcement was inaugurated by the Archbishop of Paris because of the length of time it required in the big churches to read all the names, a tedious task to hearers who knew neither of the contracting parties. In mixed marriages the banns are not published except with the Ordinary's permission, and then without mention of the creed of the non-Catholic. When parents do not know of the intended marriage of a couple under twenty-one years of age, or are reasonably opposed to the marriage, the pastor may not proceed before submitting the case to the Ordinary and receiving his permission. Any marriage is forbidden, either before or after the Catholic ceremony.

The age of legitimate consent to marriage has been raised in the case of males to sixteen years and in the case of females to fourteen years. This change will of course affect the Latin countries, where such early marriages have been more or less a custom.

Canon 1070 recognizes the marriage of non-Catholics, whether they be baptized or not. Mixed marriages are not permitted in a church except for very grave reasons and to avoid greater evils. In such case an Ordinary may permit the marriage in a church with some, one of the usual ecclesiastical rites, but never with mass.

## Sacrament of Baptism.

In the Sacrament of Baptism deacons are forbidden to baptize without permission of the Ordinary to the pastor, which permission can be assumed

in extreme cases, though where there is no extremity it can be granted only for a good reason. The new code differentiates between witnesses and sponsors at a baptism. In private baptism two witnesses are desired, and one is required where it is at all possible. A person may be qualified to act as a witness who would not be acceptable as a sponsor. Sponsors, when present, take the places of witnesses.

In the case of adult baptism the applicant, if in good health, and the administering priest should go through the ceremony fasting, and the newly baptized person should immediately assist at mass and receive communion. A change in the law has been made permitting the Ordinary to authorize, for sufficient reason, the baptism of an adult according to the form used in the baptism of infants. Solemn baptism should be administered only in church, but the Ordinary may, in extraordinary cases, permit baptisms in a private house, with all the ceremonies of the ritual.

In solemn baptism two sponsors, one of each sex, are desired; one is essential. A sponsor in baptism should ordinarily be at least fourteen years of age. As to the record of the baptism the code, while not clear, appears to demand that the pastor, whether he personally officiates or not, must write his own record of the ceremony, as in the case of matrimony.

To facilitate the keeping of baptismal records it is ordained that when a

person is baptized in other than his own parish, the pastor of that parish should be immediately notified, as in later life a baptismal record would naturally be sought in the church of the parish in which the infant was born.

Bishops are commanded to see that the sacrament of confirmation is administered in their dioceses at least once in five years. Failure obligates the archbishops to report the neglect to the Holy See.

The special concession granted the United States extending the period for the performance of the "Easter

## LITTLE GIRL KILLED

Quebec, May 17.—Laurette, four-year-old child of R. Bibeau of Shawinigan Falls, fell from the third story window of her home there and was killed on the asphalt pavement below.

## BANK OF ENGLAND

London, May 16.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes:

Total reserves increased £49,000; circulation increased £294,000; bullion increased £242,684; other securities increased £8,112,000; public deposits increased £3,384,000; other deposits increased £3,690,000. Notes reserve increased £80,000; government securities increased £1,445,000.

## YUKON UNIONIST WAS ELECTED

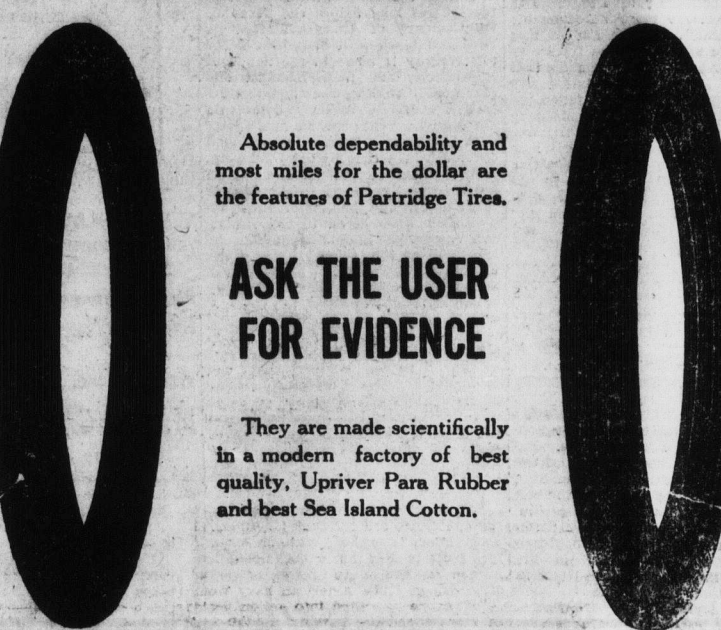
Committee on Privileges and Elections Declares in Favor of Dr. Thompson, who Got Majority of Votes.

Ottawa, May 17.—The committee on privileges and elections this afternoon again dealt with the Yukon election matter which was referred back to the committee yesterday by the House of Commons. The action taken today will undoubtedly result in a declaration by the general returning officer that Dr. Alfred Thompson, who won the election by a majority of 151 is the member elected for the Yukon territory.

The committee on a vote of 14 to 10 on strictly party lines, adopted a motion by Mr. Tweedie, of Calgary, declaring that the votes of soldiers purporting to have been cast are properly application to the respective candidates, and that the special return of the general returning officer be sent back to that official with instructions to him to declare elected a candidate to represent the Yukon.

The committee will make a new report to the House next week.

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31x4—\$31.50 ea.	\$34.50 ea.	35x5—\$58.00 ea.	\$63.50 ea.

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"I suffered from female troubles which caused piercing pains like a knife through my back and side. I finally lost all my strength so I had to go to bed. The doctor advised an operation but I would not listen to it. I thought of what I had read about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and tried it. The first bottle brought great relief and six bottles have entirely cured me. All women who have female trouble of any kind should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

How Mrs. Boyd Avoided an Operation.

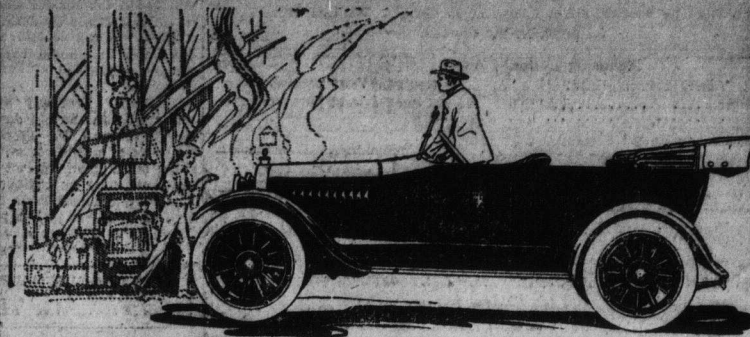
Canton, Ohio.—"I suffered from a female trouble which caused me much suffering, and two doctors decided that I would have to go through an operation before I could get well."

"My mother, who had been helped by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, advised me to try it before submitting to an operation. It relieved me from my troubles so I can do my house work without any difficulty. I advise any woman who is afflicted with female troubles to give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial and it will do as much for them." Mrs. MARY BOYD, 1454 6th St., N. E., Canton, Ohio.

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