

### TRAFFIC IN CHURCH ART A SCANDAL

agents are getting possession of Austria to sell them at fabulous prices to gratify the rage for such objects of virtue. Convents are entered, shrines along the highways are despoiled, and churches are desecrated by these thieves in search for vestments, pictures and sacred vessels.

"What do I want with these pretty things?" rejoined an Austrian financier in whose home the correspondent of the N. C. W. C. News Service had remarked some wonderful vestments. "Look here," (pointing to a cope richly em-broidered in white and gold). "This thing," he said, "is to be a piano cover for my wife's drawing room. And this piece," (indicating a red chalice veil on which was wrought in beautiful embroidery the picture of the Blessed Virgin,) "is an exact

"Don't you know that these, having been intended and used for divine service, are sacred in the eyes of Catholics ?" the correspond-"Upon this cope, which ent asked. has served on the altar for many centuries, Miss X. doubtless will put her loose chansons when she ves her next recital. And you will set your ash tray on this red chalice veil when you retire with of getting it. taste

"What would you have? Every one is collecting these things now," was this man's answer.

TRAFFIC IN ECCLESIASTICAL ART

It is a sad truth that this craze for collecting, heretofore limited to stamps, old glass, furniture, clocks, ments for its self-protection, accordminiatures and the like, has come within the last few months to in- brated social worker who has just clude ecclesiastical art. It has be-come the fashion in the homes of the profiteers, among them many Jews, to use ancient carved statues of Franchesi. "In one case I found a saints and even church vessels as society formed for the purpose of ornaments for the drawing room. Enormous prices are offered for paintings and altar carvings from First Communion. In the past this old churches. The art shops of middle class, from whose ranks Vienna and Munich are gorged with the greater part of the famous men church equipment and paint-ings and sculpture which have been thrown upon the market in an amazing profusion. The stocks of its forces to get all possible advanseveral of the larger art shops in Vienna consist exclusively of old church furniture. The equipments of whole chapels are to be found there, and religious paintings by old masters in sufficient number to provide for five large cathedrals, There are sacred vessels from the early Gothic to baroque. It is indeed an affecting sight for any one of pious sentiments to behold here, exposed for sale, magnificent monstrances embossed in silver and gold and but lately the shrines of the Blessed Sacrament. Like other wares, these may be bought by the first comer, be he Jew, Christian or Hottentot

This traffic in ancient ecclesiastical art is one of the most pathetic symptons of the great distress in Middle Europe, especially in Middle Europe, especially in Austria. Many small churches and chapels, heretofore private proper-

centuries, too, it has been the custom of these people to decorate their homes with statues and paint-By Dr. Frederick Funder Vienna.—Chicanery, bribery and robbery are some of the means by which brokers, dealers and their agents are getting possession of the means by STEPS TO STOP VANDALISM

Repeatedly have strong measures been taken by the authorities to put a stop to this sacrilegious vandal-ism, and many priests and superiors of convents have been punished when it was found that they had not taken the proper precautions to safeguard the valuables in their care. In spite of all, the crimes continue. It is believed that drastic laws will have to be passed to require venders and possessors of articles of virtu to prove that they have obtained these in a legal manner. The churches of Austria are real

treasuries of old Catholic art and culture and the religious sense and reverence of the people urges them to save all these sacred objects from profanation. It is very sad when many children are going hungry and when the Christian middle classes of Austria are being ruined; but it is worse when the House of God is no longer safe from the mercenary spirit of a demoralized age, craving for gold and not shrinking from crime as a means

quant jokes. Is that good PRIESTS LEADING MOVEMENT FOR COOPERATION

> Buenos Aires, June 16 .- One of the most notable manifestations in the social life of Europe is the attempt of the so-called "middle ing to Father Franchesi, the cele-

paint-have of the world have sprung, has been practically defenseless. It is now knitting its ranks and organizing tage from cooperation in every possible way. As the small man has been borne down by the big syndicate, so also will the big syndicate be borne down by the forces of cooperation." Father Franchesi declared that he

found the most numerous examples of this type of cooperation in countries that are preponderantly Cath-olic and that in many instances the priests have taken a leading part in the movement.

### SOVIET PILLAGING CHURCHES

Odessa .- Patriarch Tykhon has Odessa.—Patriarch Tykhon has launched an anathema against priests or faithful who abandon the treasures of the Church to the Bolshevists. Unfortunately the Bolsheviki have succeeded in sowing chapels, heretorore private properties, have been abandoned, their ties, have been abandoned, their owners no longer being able to maintain them. Many converts and poor churches, reduced to straits, are selling their treasures, which are more dispensable than food. Austrian law forbids the sale of privide private private properties. Austrian law forbids the sale of privide private private properties. Austrian law forbids the sale of privide private p venerated all the relics rescued from the fire. Foremost among the rescued valuables is the miracuchurch treasures towards the relief lous statue of Ste. Anne, standing as formerly on its Onyx Monolith, at the extremity of the main aisle. ation. The great majority of the The gilt brass shrine with the great relic was also saved and may be clergy appear to have no such confidence in the good intentions of the Soviets in the good intentions of the Soviets in this regard. They are of the opinion that the money realized is not being used for relief of the starving but for the support of the Bolshevist regime. Moreover, they are resisting the confiscations of The pilgrimages will continue as usual, no less numerous and no less splendid. Ste. Anne has lost nothing of her power and goodness. The ruins of the former Shrine the Soviets because these confisca-tions are accompanied by the most and Monastery will be left standing this year only, for the pilgrims and tourists to witness and will be taken devilish desecrations.

TREASURES TAKEN BY BOLSHEVISTS The historic lavra of Kiev has been plundered. The Bolshevists have gathered there 2,417 diamonds, the smallest one weighing 1½carats, the largest 9. In the diocese of Viatka alone, the pillage of the churches has supplied the Soviets with 13,000 kilograms of silver, 60 of gold, and 1,163 gems. In the town of Riazan, the value of the confiscated treasures amount to 700 billion rubles; in the Church of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin in Novgorod to five billions. In the district of Krasania Presna the Bolsheviki sacked 51 churches and collected 830 pud of gold and silver (the Russian pud corresponds to 16.38 kilograms,) an amount accord-ing to the Soviet official organ, that will suffice to nourish for a year 66,000 famished people. The amount

of the robberies perpetrated in the churches of Moscow reaches, if calculated in Russian paper rubles, astronomical ciphers. Down to the end of March, it amounted to 230 billion rubles of silver alone. The Catholic Church, especially in the diocese of Minsk and Kamenetz-Podolsk, has suffered much, and blood has been shed. At Kamenetz-

Podolsk, 18,000 Catholics, mostly Poles, surrounded the churches to prevent their violation. The churches were taken by storm, and several Catholics killed or wounded. In the parish of Gorodecki the red guard struggle with the crowd, killing three people and wounding

fourteen. TOOK PIECE OF TRUE CROSS

At Moscow, the Catholic priests refused to give the keys of their churches and were arrested. At Minsk Litewsky, the Soviet Commissaries called to their aid some Jewish laborers, and assisted by them, pillaged the tomb of Saint Feliciana, the altars, and the statues of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Anthony. The reliquaries were confiscated, among them one with a piece of the True Cross of our Lord. The restrict of the shurph our Lord. The rector of the church, Father Wasilewski, and the vicerector, Father Lisowski, were thrown into jail. In the parish church of Zlotogorsky the ciborium with the consecrated particles was taken from the Tabernacle, and the

body of our Lord scattered on the The ecclesiastical authorities of Minsk have decided to close the churches, and to suspend the sacred offices as a protest against the profanation of churches.

STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

On Sunday, May the 28th, the temporary Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre was opened for service with two pilgrimages, numbering

eously. The new Basilica has a seating capacity of 1,800 (greater than the capacity of 1,800 (greater than the former church) and has five broad aisles and two side galleries. The C. E. Morisette Co., builders, are deserving of great credit for putting up such a building in only thirty-six days. Over five hundred DIED

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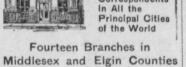
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"TYBURN OF THE NORTH"

MASS AT RUINS OF CATHOLIC LANDMARK

York, England.-Much interest was manifested in Catholic circles this year in connection with the Guild of Ransom's Pilgrimage to York, which is known as Tyburn of the North." A to A temporary altar was erected on the site of the high altar of an ancient Cathochurch ruin where Mass was said daily for more than 400 years in the days when England was Catholic. The history which lies behind this pilgrimage, and especially that recalled by the ruins, is full of Catho-lic interest. In the reign of Rufus Benedictine Abbey was founded here, and its conventual church was rebuilt on a larger scale in the great thirteenth century, so full of in-spiration for Catholic historians In what has been termed "The Great Pillage" under Henry VIII. it was suppressed, and at the present time its ruins are one of the historic monuments of this vicinity.

What was formerly the guest nouse of the establishment is now a museum. The ruins of the church are surrounded by a public garden, which sets off the beauty of the ruins to great advantage. It was arranged that on the day

of the pilgrimage of the Guild of Ransom the Benedictines should again celebrate High Mass at St. Mary's Abbey, in the roofless

Tragic history was made hereabout 1,500 pllgrims. This temporary Shrine is of wooden construction and is 165 feet long by 62 feet wide. Besides the other about s in the days of persecution of the faithful. York was the seat of the "Council of the North" in the days of the Tudors, and was for a altars in the church proper, there are ten others in the side chapels, as in the former Basilica, with an equal number of confessionals. Ten masses may be said simultan-envalu ranked next to Tyburn in the number of its martyrs. York has fortyfive names on its rolls of martyr-



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artistic church equipment. Over and above that, the ecclesiastical authorities are making every effort to prevent it. In spite of this, the ordinaries in some cases here a base of the Soviets in connscating church treasures. They have been moved to this approval by their belief that the Soviets would honestly use the money acquired from the sale of the ordinaries in some cases have permitted certain exceptions to be of populations suffering from starvmade where the necessities were imperative.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES OF COLLECTORS

Thousands of so-called art dealers are now roaming Austria in quest of ecclesiastical art. The most remote and inaccessible village church in the mountains is no longer secure from exploration by greedy traders. Where they cannot obtain what

they want by lawful means, they do not hesitate to resort to illegal practices. On the pretext of having valuable religious paintings or carvings restored for small fees, precious ornaments are taken away, and copies made and substituted for the originals, which are then sold to dealers or collectors.

Only a little while ago there appeared on the market the famous appeared on the market the faillout altar ornament of the church of Lorch, a little village in Upper Lorch being the name of treasures is the best proof of these treasures in the month of March Austria (Lorch being the name of the ancient Roman colony of Lauriacum, where St. Florian suffered martyrdom.) Doubts of the genuineness of the ornament prompted an investigation. It was then found that a band of robbers then found that a band of robbers had broken into the church and stolen the priceless carving. The chief culprit, a dealer, committed suicide when the crime was de-tected. Many traders, quite as unscrupu-ous as this dealer, are carrying on their infamous traffic. The spolia-tion of churches is increasing alarm-

tion of churches is increasing alarmingly, more especially in the Tyrol. Within the last few weeks various objects have been pilfered from seven Tyrolese churches. The miz creants have thus far escaped detec-tion. In the mountainous parts of

down this fall after the pilgrimage SOVIETS PLAN TO EXTIRPATE RELIGION season.

It is quite evident that the religious policy of the Soviets aims to extirpate entirely the Christian SEMINARIES TO GIVE TWO faith from Russian soil. In their eyes there is no difference between Catholicism and Orthodoxy. Both are persecuted, robbed and mas-

Paris, June 30.-Among the reso lutions adopted at the recent con-gress of liturgy and sacred music held in Metz, was one requiring theological seminaries to reserve two hours a week for the study of

two hours a week for the study of Gregorian chant. The congress, which was organized by the Society of Saint Cecilia, which works for the development of Christian music, attracted musi-cians from every part of France. Msgr. Cerretti, Apostolic Nuncio, presided, and the Archbishop of Besancon, the Bishops of Metz, Nancy, St. Die, Luxemburg, and Verdun, and the Abbot of the Bene-dictines of Chervaux were also presdecree stating that all the precious objects in the churches, of whatever dictines of Chervaux were also present.

iconostases, bells, silver picture frames, sacred vessels of gold, sacred The presence of Msgr. Cerretti was the occasion of a remarkable vestments adorned with gold and pearls, and gems glistening on the ikons of the Blessed Virgin. According to the above-mentioned demonstration of respect and sym-pathy on the part of the population. He was officially received at the station upon his arrival by the pretion. In the mountainous parts of Austria the religious spirit of the people has moved them to erect chapels and crosses along the roads and in the passes. For many

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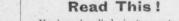
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