

HOLLAND CONGRESS

SPEAKER VISUALIZES NATION UNITED IN ANCIENT FAITH

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden (Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

Holland's history calls to Dutch Protestants to return to the Catholic fold. Father Brouwer, editor of the eighty-year-old Amsterdam daily De Tyd, declared in his address at the third National Catholic Congress of Holland which has just closed at The Hague.

Designated Catholic Day, the Congress stretched into three days and was in effect a review of the remarkable history and modern progress of Catholicism in Holland.

"History calls!" Father Brouwer exclaimed in his ardent plea for a return to the Faith of Saints Willibrord and Servatius.

"It calls not for our spiritual downfall, but for life in the possession of the fullness of truth, of truth that shall free you also and bring us all together into the one national Christian temple."

"One of your leaders once pleaded magnanimously before the tribunal of public opinion that you restore to their original destination—Catholic worship—the ancient Catholic churches which now stand like gigantic mortuaries of Protestantism in the center of municipal cemeteries of a dead-out Evangelical life. The Catholicity of these temples is expressed in their architecture, in their statuary, in their emblems. None but Catholic worship can be at home within their precincts."

VISUALIZES ONE FAITH IN LAND

"Still, more than our ancient temples of stone and mortar, do we long to win you back. No, we entertain no desire to enter into your churches except upon the day upon which we shall tread on together as one fold under one shepherd, professing one Faith in a unified nation."

Presided over by Baron Van Wynbergen, noted Catholic Party leader in the Dutch Parliament, the Congress was participated in by the bishops of the country; by the three Catholic members of the Ministry which resigned during its sessions; by three of the four Catholic Ministers of the newly-chosen Cabinet, and by leaders of the religious, political and social workers of the land.

The fundamental subject of the Congress was: "The signification of Catholicism in the Cultural Life of the Netherlands." The topic was developed in four general assemblies by six of the leading Catholic orators of the land, and in meetings of the eleven sections of the Congress by men of talent each well versed in that aspect of the subject he treated.

CHURCH AS EUROPE'S CIVILIZER

At the first general assembly the Dominican, Father Molkenboer, professor at the University of Nijmegen, spoke of Catholicism as the chief factor in the civilization of Europe.

"To turn away," said he, "with one-sided and puffed-up conceit, from the old Mother Church as from an aid to our youth which now compromises us, is quite easy. Easy, too, it is to echo the sentiments of the blustering about all sorts of futurist songs. But the question continues to arise: what would have been our fate, what would have been Europe's fate, had not the Church watched and prayed at the cradle of its weaning peoples, had she not nursed with her tenderness its latent fiery energies?"

The second orator, Father Brune of Maastricht, discussed the topic: "We Hollanders owe our Christianity to the Roman Catholic Church, and that Christianity is Roman Catholic Christianity."

The coming of St. Willibrord, Apostle of the Northwestern Netherlands, who was reared in the Faith in England but confirmed in it and ordained to the Catholic priesthood in the Abbey of Rathmelsigi, Ireland, was recounted. Through this great saint brought the torch of religion to Holland in 691, his first step was to survey the conditions of the country, and his second to journey to Rome, Father Brune reminded.

"Not chance led Willibrord to preface his missionary endeavors

with a visit to Rome," he said. "No, to the Roman Benedictine monk it was simply self-evident that only through the Pope's authority could and should a new people be added to the unity of the Church."

CHUCHOW!

Perhaps it is premature to write about our new territory in China until our missionaries actually arrive in the field, but many of our readers are clamoring for information, so we feel that something must be said in this September issue about the spot which soon, it is hoped, will be well known in Canada.

Chuchow is the largest Prefecture in the Province of Chekiang. There are eighteen provinces in China Proper, and Chekiang is central in location and on the coast, possesses a temperate climate, and is of easy access from Shanghai, the important and well-known shipping port. The province is familiar to many of the faithful of Canada, for it was here that Father Fraser labored for many years and where his friends sent many, many alms. In fact, Father Fraser's former parish of Taichowfu is next to our Prefecture of Chuchow.

The new district contains ten cities and numerous towns and villages, all of which are still sunk in idolatry, and who now look to us for their salvation.

This promised land is beckoning to the priests and students of China Mission Seminary with a stirring appeal, and they count the days to the time when it will be their happy lot to set sail on the broad Pacific en route for Chuchow, where several million souls await their coming.

FEED YOUR CHILDREN UPON GHOST CEREALS

—if you will, but a farmer would laugh at you if you told him to feed them to his live stock, for he would know that live stock will soon die if fed upon them exclusively. Yet your children have not half the resistance of horses and cows. Then why feed them foods that will kill horses and cows?

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YOUNG GIRL, WHAT IS YOUR CALLING?

"To know our calling, to accept it nobly, that is the truly godly and noble life."

Undoubtedly there are many vocations to the missionary life lost because too many young women either fail to see their calling or have not the courage to accept and follow it.

Many a modern Catholic girl fails to know her vocation because she does not see life in its right perspective. The background of eternity is hidden in her life by the rising mist of pleasures and worldly excitement. Many years go by before this mist lifts and life is seen in all its reality. It is then often too late to follow the vision which perhaps had played for a time on the horizon of an unblemished youth. The opportunity has gone, never to return. In the mist the ship has failed to make port.

But too often the trouble lies in the want of courage and self-sacrifice to accept her calling. She sees it clearly, yet a worldly fear keeps her from taking the decisive step. The hardships and privations of the mission field appear to her greater and more numerous than they are in reality. She only sees the cross, and forgets the great consolations, the peace of mind that accompany it.

Young girl, weigh well this important question... "What is your calling?" For many, we are sure, it is the call of the Home-Mission Field, where the ripening harvest of souls awaits them. Would this be your calling? Come then and help us to gather in that harvest.

SISTERS OF SERVICE, 2 Wellesley Place, Toronto. Correspondence Invited.

IRISH FISHERIES

Father White of Roundstone has espoused the cause of Ireland's fisheries in a determined manner. He was recently elected president of the Irish National Fishermen's Association.

At the Dublin Mansion House he called attention to the rapid shrinkage of the Irish fishing trade. "Our first industry," he said, "is

agriculture, and fishing is a close second. Millions could be made out of it. It is the duty of those in power to see that coastal fishing is developed, and not in a small way."

Recalling the work that priests had done in the last three years in organizing the fishermen, he declared:

"The fishermen's association is now strong enough to go to the Government and put up a scheme that would be suitable for all Ireland, and I want to see a committee appointed for that purpose."

Father E. McSwaney, well-known Arklow curate who was the first to

form the Irish fishermen into a body to safeguard their own interests, referred to the Irish fishery industry as something which they had to re-build from the foundations, "because fishing in Ireland is practically dead."

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DIED RYAN.—At her home in Almonte, Ont., on Saturday, August 15, Mrs. William Ryan, aged eighty-five years. May her soul rest in peace.

O'CONNELL.—At Dublin, Ont., on July 8th, 1926, Mr. Bernard O'Connell, in his eighty-eighth year. May his soul rest in peace.

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