

CONVERTS POPE PIUS INTO REAL BASEBALL FAN

Vatican Believes Game Will Benefit Physique of Italian Youth.

READS ENGLISH PAPERS

Pontiff Donates Site in View of St. Peter's So He May Watch Sport.

BY EDWARD L. HEARN,
European Commissioner of Knights of Columbus.

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ROME, May 29.—Pope XI will go down in history as the Young Man's Pope—for he has made it known that one of his prime concerns is the welfare of the youth of his native land.

As European commissioner of the Knights of Columbus, it has been my privilege to have the longest private audience accorded so far by his holiness to a layman.

His holiness received me cordially. He is a tall, athletically built man, and he speaks English with very little accent, for an Italian. He reads it freely, too, often perusing English newspapers.

"I am glad to see you," he said, shaking my hand. "As the representative of the Knights of Columbus you are welcome to the Holy See. I salute you, too, as a knight commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great."

The pope seated myself and my secretary comfortably.

I drew out of my pocket papers on which the report had been carefully prepared. The pope smiled at their bulk and, with a gesture, indicated that I proceed. He heard me patiently, occasionally nodding with the English equivalent of the Italian "bravo" or "good."

"When I reached the part of the report in which was stressed the importance of athletics as a medium of benefit for the Italian youth his face beamed.

"That is the thing for the boys!" he declared. "They must have games especially fitted for the climate of Italy."

Pope Pius XI is famous, among his human qualifications, for a fondness for strenuous exercise. That explains his enthusiasm for the part of the K. of C. program calling for the introduction of baseball.

"I had not gone far in explaining its merits as a health-builder and mental stimulant to youth when his holiness arose suddenly from his chair and beckoned me to the large window of his study.

He pointed out beyond the screen over the dome of St. Peter's to a large plot of sandy turf.

"The Knights of Columbus shall have that site for their field," he declared, "so that I can see for myself from my study window what progress they are making here in the heart of Rome."

It was the first time in history that such an offer had been made by any pope. I was amazed, but his holiness had evidently determined on this gift of papal land long before I saw him, for he reached into his drawer and drew out a large map.

"This map will be sent to you," he said. "It will show you clearly where this site is, and what its possibilities are for adaptability to the program of welfare work the Knights of Columbus undertake."

Headquarters in Rome.

I then explained to his holiness that the K. of C. had already taken up Roman headquarters at 25 Via Mazzini, in the midst of the city and readily accessible to tourists. I informed his holiness that in this headquarters the K. of C. had made arrangements to assist the comfort of the scores of Canadian and English visitors who would visit Rome for the great Eucharistic Congress during the last week of May.

"That is achievement," said the pope. "I am delighted."

He then dwelt upon the appropriateness of the Knights of Columbus returning to Italy, after their war welfare work in that country for service men.

"It is very fitting that you undertake this task," he said, "for it is no less important than any other kind of relief work."

Italy in Hard Straits.

"Italy is still struggling from the economic disadvantages entailed by the war; and in coming to us with your strength you are bestowing upon us an unequalled blessing."

"Please," he asked me, before I quit the papal presence, "convey to the supreme knights of the Knights of Columbus, and to every individual knight and their families, my fervent blessing. Their achievements have aroused my admiration. I have for some years watched their progress as an organization devoted to practical, patriotic works."

"I trust their example in Italy will be as effective as it is meritorious."

PREDICTS STRIKE

VOTE OF RAIL MEN

Detroit, May 29.—Belief that a strike vote would be ordered by the executive council of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railwayshop Laborers, was expressed today by E. E. Grabel, grand president of the organization as the council went into session to consider the wage reduction ordered yesterday by the United States railroad labor board.

Six Firemen Killed When S. S. Welsh Prince Rammed

PORTLAND, Oregon, May 29.—Six firemen, asleep in the forecastle of the tugboat, S. S. Welsh Prince, were killed and three injured late last night, when, according to meagre reports here, that vessel was rammed by the freighter Iowan in the Columbia River, off Astoria, Washington. The Welsh Prince sank within 20 minutes, and the Iowan was sinking slowly according to last reports.

BEGIN SEARCH FOR MYSTERY WOMAN

Police Seeking Woman Who Offered \$500 to Have Murder Committed.

White Plains, N.Y., May 29.—Active search began today for a mysterious woman said to have offered \$500 to a youth in a New York restaurant to commit a murder in the Ward home in New Rochelle. This search and efforts on the part of the police to locate "Boss" reputed leader of the blackmail ring that squeezed \$30,000 from Walter S. Ward, according to Ward's story, before he shot and killed Clarence Peters, mark the last developments in the most sensational criminal case in West Chester County in 25 years.

A check-up by New York police bears out the story told them by a waiter in a Broadway restaurant and transmitted to the police here, that a pretty young woman, dressed in black, had taken him to New Rochelle, pointed out the Ward house, and promised him \$500 if he would enter the house with her and shoot the person she pointed out to him. He refused on the pretext that he was not prepared, and promised to meet her on Saturday night. He went with his story to the police, who watched for the woman, but she failed to appear. Other employees in the place where the waiter works corroborated his story that the woman had eaten in the place several times, and had an appointment with him.

The search for Peters began after William J. Fallon, representing the Peters family, failed to produce the man now out on a suspended sentence, following his conviction in another blackmail case.

CHURCH OPENS 9-DAY SESSION

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daries, and this will come up Monday evening.

Expect Fifty Changes.

One proposed change which must be dealt with by the stationing committee, is that recommending elimination of Kinross circuit, by dividing it between Williams and Thamesford circuits. It is also expected that the stationing committee will make fifty changes in the district, in allocating pastors to new circuits.

At the same hour that this body meets Monday night the statistical committee will gather at Centennial church to prepare a conference report for the year.

Rev. J. W. Hibbert of Kingsville, elected president of London Conference last year, will preside during the nine days. Rev. I. W. J. Kirkpatrick of Ripley, conference secretary, is expected to arrive in London Monday afternoon.

While it is expected that the conference agenda will be concluded in nine days, as outlined by the program, Rev. A. E. M. Thomson, pastor of Centennial Church, points out that the General Methodist Conference of Canada meets at Toronto next September for legislation, and memorials to be presented to that session by the London Conference may entail extra meetings next week in order to prepare them.

The Lay Association of the conference will open Wednesday afternoon in charge of President William Heaman. The chief speaker of the conference is Rev. George Elliott, D. D., New York, editor of the Methodist Review, regarded as one of the most brilliant men in the church.

His first address here will be delivered at devotional exercises, which open the ministerial sessions in Centennial Church, Wednesday morning.

GRANT INDEMNITY FOR SINGLE EYE

B. of R. T. Decides To Pay Permanent Disability For Loss by Members.

Toronto, May 28.—An important and far-reaching step was taken by the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, in session here yesterday, when for the first time in the history of the brotherhood it was decided to pay total and permanent disability for the loss by one of the members of the organization of a single eye.

Hitherto total disability has only been paid in the case of the loss of a hand above the wrist, the loss of a foot above the ankle, or the permanent loss of both eyes.

It was learned that the recommendation of a special committee, suggesting the formation of a permanent appeal board, which came before the convention on Friday, will not definitely be decided until a much later date in the sessions. It will probably be embodied in a report and then ratified.

Tomorrow the question of tuberculosis members of the brotherhood will be dealt with, and the session promises to be an interesting one.

VALUE OF ONE EYE.

The value of eyesight has been recognized to the extent that insurance companies now pay full indemnity for loss of a single eye. Take care of your eyes now. See an optometrist who is an expert at his profession. For "Glasses That Satisfy," see E. Steele, 210 Dundas street.

ILDERTON MAN AGAIN ELECTED

J. N. Aitken Continues President of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies.

Delegates of Middlesex Organizations Conclude Sessions At County Buildings.

J. N. Aitken, of Ilderton, president of the Lobo Fire Insurance Company, was re-elected president of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Companies of Middlesex for the ensuing year, when that organization met in the county buildings here Saturday afternoon. There were about 25 representatives of the various companies of the county present.

Other officers elected were Edgar Silcox, of Sheddin, to be first vice-president; E. R. Sutherland, of Mount Brydges, second vice-president and T. G. Turnbull, of Komoka, secretary-treasurer. The session opened at 10 a.m., and business was concluded late in the afternoon.

The program included several interesting addresses delivered by the delegates present, on important fire insurance subjects, after which a discussion was held. During the day a question drawer was instituted, members passing in queries, which were answered by other delegates.

Harmony was the keynote of the meetings, all representatives striving for a common goal, to attain the best efficiency in fire insurance for their companies and policy holders.

Risks Discussed.

"Classification of Risks and Rates," was the subject of an address delivered Saturday afternoon by E. W. Sutherland, of Mount Brydges. He pointed out that in cases where insured buildings on a farm are far apart the fire loss hazard is decreased. Factors tending to increase the danger of fire are use of gas engines, shafting, machinery and windmills in close proximity to barns.

The speaker reminded that many farm buildings in the district are of steel construction, or possess metal roofs, which attributes reduce the fire losses. Figures quoted showed that there were 5,862 barn fires in Ontario in 1921.

"A barn is a more hazardous risk than a dwelling," said Mr. Sutherland. "Many are asking for reduced insurance rates on modern dwellings, but I do not think that they should be reduced."

Proposes Changes.

By concluding by outlining several proposed changes in rates where the decrease in fire hazard by the policyholder warranted more favorable terms in his favor, Mr. Sutherland recommended that stock be insured separately from other barn contents, urging that no changes be adopted by any one company, unless other organizations did so.

Robert Douglas, of Ilderton, read a paper on "Live Stock Insurance," and J. C. Dance, of Kingsville, also spoke.

The session was concluded by R. S. Nicol delivering an address on "Adjustment and Payment of Losses," which was followed by a lively discussion. Another interesting feature of the afternoon was an address by G. B. Webster, of St. Marys.

LONDON PAYS 68 CTS. FOR PLAYGROUNDS

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could be struck at one dollar per home.

Any citizen with children, after a talk with them on the fun enjoyed at city playgrounds, will declare that such a tax is money well spent. The main argument against expanding the playgrounds movement, to give every child in the city an opportunity to enjoy supervised recreation, is that it will boost the tax rate.

Any proposed factor in boosting the tax rate is vigorously opposed by citizens of London, or any other center on the continent. But strange to say, despite all this opposition and election promises of municipal candidates, the tax rate seems to climb just the same every year. If it is bound to soar as it has been, why not get something tangible out of it and urge more expenditure on behalf of the children? That is one method where money spent will bring its results directly home to each family.

Such a proposal does not mean to run wild in an orgy of extravagance and do the children more harm than good. It simply means a slightly larger playgrounds budget, in keeping with the size and good name of London, thereby bringing about sound improvements which have been contemplated and left at that because of lack of funds.

Divide City Into Centers.

The improvements would include a new playground opened at Aberdeen public school grounds. The city has been divided into centers, according to the number of children residing in each district, and that showing the greatest congestion is in the vicinity of Richmond and Simcoe streets.

Realizing this fact the officials responsible have so manipulated funds this year that they have been enabled to announce that a new recreation center will be opened this year at Simcoe street public school grounds, which will serve this congested area. Having eliminated this evil the officials have turned their attention to the second greatest area of congestion on a basis of child population and it was found to be within a half mile radius of Aberdeen public school.

But funds are limited, and nothing is contemplated here this year, with the result that the kiddies must hike to a distant playground, stay at home, or play on the street this summer. On the eastern limits of the city the children are in a similar position, as are also those residing in southwest London, or on the extreme north.

Right in the center of the city, in that area bounded by Richmond,

End Eucharistic Congress At Rome With Song By Massed Choirs

ROME, May 29.—The Eucharistic Congress, which has been in progress here since Wednesday last, was solemnly closed today with a te deum sung by the massed choirs of the Vatican.

The atmosphere was tense with feeling at this crowning ceremonial of the impressive world gathering of Catholics in the holy city. When Pope Pius entered St. Peter's an emotional wave seemed to sweep over the vast throng. The pontiff himself appeared profoundly moved as he lifted his hand to impart the blessing and cries of "Long live the pope!" "Viva Pius!" echoed throughout the edifice.

Ridout, Dundas and Oxford streets, there is no playground, but luckily, from a child welfare point of view, much of this area is occupied by the business district, and the younger element without playgrounds is not large.

Officials have cast longing eyes on property near the Saunby mill, ideal for playgrounds purposes, but up to date no headway in obtaining it has been announced.

Male Boys To Court.

Police court proceedings with boys of the city who will insist on playing baseball in the street as the principals, are also a fair but undesirable indication of the need of more and better equipped playgrounds here.

This spring, boys from Lorne avenue, residing in that eastern area mentioned above, were halted into court on this charge, as were a group from Woodman avenue, which is also in East London.

Magistrate A. H. M. Grayden, mindful of the days when he was a boy, and a "commons" about every two blocks eliminated the necessity of playing ball in the street, usually talks to the culprits as a parent, and dismisses them. He realizes the need of better playgrounds, but like many other good citizens, cannot solve the difficulty alone.

General Manager E. V. Buchanan, of the public utilities commission, who is responsible for playgrounds administration in London, admits that the city "is not covered as it ought to be" by recreation centers. Aid, F. R. Watkinson recently complained that there is need of a playground in the vicinity of Rathmine and Rathgar streets, off the Hamilton road, which is densely populated with children.

Mr. Buchanan includes this district in that area of the eastern limits in need of a playground, but while admitting the need, is of the opinion that Aberdeen school district is in greater need.

Stresses Need for Action.

It is pointed out that action on city playgrounds should be undertaken this year if the maximum benefit is to be gained. The importance of immediate action is stressed because during the past few years following the war there has been a plethora of uplift work, and striking presence of paternalism manifested throughout the Dominion. Now the reaction period is setting in, and philanthropic work and its allied undertakings.

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takings throughout the community are falling off.

To strike while the iron is hot is to accomplish more for London's children along the line of recreation centers.

As a suggestion to bring this about every mother or father paying taxes in London, and naturally interested in the children of the community, should be urged to convey to their respective ward representatives on the city council their sentiments in favor of better playgrounds and bathing camps, and for additional playgrounds.

Then, knowing that they have the majority of the people behind them, these public men will vote in favor of any reasonable additions to the city playgrounds program, or the expenditure involved. Parents who have not yet seen with their own eyes just what their \$20,000 each year for recreation centers is paying for, are advised to visit these centers some afternoon this summer and look around.

It is the tendency of the average citizen to read pleas for the children's playgrounds with interest and say: "Yes, that is right; we need more playgrounds and equipment, and there is a lot of information there that I did not know."

Matter Is Forgotten.

Next day the matter is forgotten, and only recalled to mind by a news clipping stating that somebody's boy has been drowned in the Thames, or the fellow-employee at the warehouse lost his son, who was run down by an auto while holding a ball in the street.

It is up to every father and mother to give the boys and girls a chance. If every father and mother in London realized that more and better playgrounds are along these lines, and clamored for them, as they should, the improvements at present held up for lack of money would soon be instituted, and such articles as the above would not be necessary.

TO KEEP OUT OF JAIL, DON'T TAKE THINGS SERIOUSLY.

Dickens says there is something good in all weathers; if it doesn't happen to be "good for my work to-day," it's good for some other man's today, and will come around for me tomorrow. Perfect diamonds never change, are always valuable, and sold by John A. Nash, My Jeweler, 182 Dundas street, "Where You Will Eventually Buy."

BLAKE DELAYED NEAR MARSEILLES

MARSEILLES, May 28.—Major W. T. Blake was compelled to make a forced landing at Borely Park, just outside Marseilles this evening while on a flight from Lyons to Turin, Italy.

The machine struck on rough ground, damaging the running gear and smashing the propeller. It is being towed to the Miramis aviation field for repairs and the flight probably will be delayed for several days. Neither Major Blake nor his companions Broome and McMillan were injured.

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