

THE NEW SUMMER SCHOOL.

CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHAUTAUQUA.

The New President, Rev. Dr. Conaty, Tells What Has Been Done and Will Be Done.

Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Conaty, who was recently elected president of the Catholic Summer School at Plattsburg, N. Y., in conversation with a Spy reporter, yesterday, gave a graphic and interesting description of what the school has done and will do in the future. Although he is already a very busy man, Rev. Dr. Conaty manifests a lively interest in this last undertaking, and under his skillful direction the school bids fair to prosper.

The school has been attended by several of Worcester's prominent Catholics during the past two terms, and for their benefit and that of others who are interested, the statement of the school's condition as given by Rev. Dr. Conaty is published. He said that in spite of the attractions of the World's Fair, the difficulties arising from the great financial distress and the disadvantages of a new location, the second term, just closed, has been wonderfully successful, showing how deep-rooted is the feeling in favor of the school.

The attendance was as good at New London and the office receipts were better. Over 700 pupils registered during the session. They came from all parts of the country. Some from Virginia, South Carolina and Alabama in the south and some from Chicago and even as far West as Seattle in Washington. Pennsylvania, New York and New England contributed the largest numbers. Boston sent more than 50 students. A noteworthy feature of this year's session was the large number of men who attended, representing the professions of law and medicine and teaching, as well as the various ranks of business life. Nearly one half of those who made the full course were pupils of the New London session of 1892, thus showing marked loyalty to the school.

The idea of this, as of all summer schools, is to give an opportunity to those who wish to attend special courses of study in science, literature, history, philosophy and art as developed by the lectures of eminent men and women. It is a practical application of the university extension which is now engaging the attention of all seekers for higher education. It enables busy men and women who cannot attend advanced classes in a university course to reach in a certain way the same end by attending three summer courses. It cannot be expected to take the place of the university, but it can circulate something of the university life in the world about it. It can give a taste for home study upon some of the important subjects that occupy men's minds, and stimulate an interest in the intellectual movements of the age. The idea itself is not a novel one. Chautauqua, with all its marvelous successes, has only repeated what Oxford and Cambridge and Paris did in the middle ages, when their free schools gave to the children of the poor something of the riches of learning dispensed by the teachers, who attracted to them the minds of the world. The Catholic church, which gave inspiration to the schoolmen in the days of the universities of old, gives us our inspiration, and under her protection our movement has begun and is fostered.

The school, while primarily intended for Catholics, opens its doors to any one seeking for the knowledge which it presents. Among our regular attendants at Plattsburg were many non-Catholic men and business circles. A notable and a most interested visitor was a Jewish rabbi from Montreal, who, in an interview for the New York Sun, has given his impressions of the school.

Our work is a vast one, but it has the sympathy of all who love learning, and it has reasons to be proud of the earnest co-operation which it has found on all sides. New London last year was an experiment, which Plattsburg this year lifts into a reality. To some it has seemed strange that we should locate permanently at Plattsburg, which is so far from New England. It is well to realize that the school is for the entire country as a mother school of its kind. In time local assemblies will no doubt be developed and then it will be nearer home.

The summer school has made its permanent abode at Plattsburg and reasons

of sentiment as well as practical business have led to the selection. It intends to build its halls of learning by the banks of our great historic Lake Champlain, upon land that has been made sacred by all that appeals to the patriotic and the religious in our nature. Within sight of our school the decisive battles on land and sea for our national liberties were fought, and to the Catholic the memories of Catholic explorers and holy missionaries of faith hallow all that section of our country. To the student of history a great field is opened, while science may coax its votaries into excursions to learn the beauties of geology and botany which the Adirondacks present.

It is interesting to know that this superb location is largely due to the generous foresight of a community of non-Catholics, anxious to have a school with such possibilities located near their prosperous village. Thanks to the generosity of the citizens of Plattsburg, headed by Hon. Smith M. Weed, and aided by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, we are the fortunate possessors of 450 acres of land, a free gift in fee simple to the school. It cost the donors \$37,500, which was paid by them to the owner of the farm, a Mr. Armstrong. Besides the land, it contains recently erected farm buildings, taxed for \$13,000, which are occupied at present by a farmer who pays the school a rental of \$900.

This property did not cost the Summer School a single penny, and the only condition imposed is that the corporation spend at least \$30,000 in three years in improvements on the land, which is simply a test of good faith on the part of the school. The land fronts on the lake for nearly half a mile and has a sandy beach, which will offer splendid facilities for bathing. There is a strip of wooded land 80 acres in area, forming a part of the romantic bluff which, rising 150 feet from the lake, gives a place to one of the finest summer hotels on this continent, the Hotel Champlain, the resting place of the thousands who make a yearly pilgrimage to the Adirondacks. Before us is Lake Champlain, in all the beauty of its many historic islands, with the Green Mountains beyond, while behind us rise the far-famed and health-giving Adirondacks, with Marcy and White Face near the clouds, in the distance. The whole scene is a picture never to be forgotten. Truly, all who have visited our permanent site unite in saying that it is an ideal spot for a summer school.

We hold our charter under the laws of the State of New York, having received from the regents of the University of New York an absolute charter Feb 9, 1893, by virtue of which our school is classified within the system of public instruction devoted to university extension, thus sharing in all educational advantages granted to schools in the great empire state.

We have had surveys made of our land, and have offered cottage sites for sale, and before we left Plattsburg options had been taken by nineteen different persons. These lots contain from 9,000 to 15,000 square feet and are sold subject to long term leases, and to such conditions as will protect the school in its purposes and the cottagers in their exclusiveness. By the sale of land we hope to obtain money enough to erect an auditorium for the next session of the school.

We are governed by a board of trustees, 25 in number, who annually elect a board of officers consisting of president, two vice-presidents, a secretary and treasurer. Under the New York state laws we elect an executive committee of seven, who, with the president ex-officio, have control of all matters connected with the school, subject of course to the approval of the board. The president annually appoints a board of studies, which has control of the educational work and has charge of the summer sessions. The board of trustees has as members such business men as Hon. John D. Crimmins, Major John Byrne of New York city, Hon. Thomas B. Fitzpatrick of Boston, James M. Mertens, Esq., of Syracuse, and Hon. John B. Riley, now consul general at Ottawa, and the practical experience of such men is invaluable to us. In the legal profession we have as representatives William J. Moran, Esq., of New York, and William R. Claxton, Esq., of Philadelphia, while as clergymen we have Rev. J. F. Loughlin, D. D., of Philadelphia; Rev. P. A. Halpine, S. J.; Rev. Thomas McMillan, C. S. P.; Rev. Joseph H. McMahon, of New York; Rev. John F. Mullany, Syracuse; Rev. Walter Gough, Philadelphia; Rev. E. P. Siegfried, of Overbrook Semin-

ary, Pennsylvania; Rev. M. M. Sheedy, Pittsburg; our treasurer, Rev. Thos. P. Joynt, New London, Conn. The lay educational element is represented by Warren E. Mosher, LL. D., of Ohio; Geo. Parsons Lathrop, LL. D., New London; Prof. John H. Haaren, principal of one of Brooklyn's prominent schools; Prof. Geo. E. Hardy, school principal of New York and president of the State Teachers' Association; Prof. John P. Brophy, president of St. Louis College, New York city.

Our school has sustained a very severe loss in the death of the eminent Christian Brother known as Brother Azarias, who died just after fulfilling his engagements at the school in a course of lectures on educational epochs. He was one of the prime movers in the enterprise, and by his genius has done much to make our school worthy of the name. In his death the trustees have sustained a personal loss.

It should also be known that Plattsburg generously provided the school this year with all the conveniences necessary for the session, inasmuch as it had no buildings of its own. Hon. Smith M. Weed gave the use of his new opera house, where the lectures were given, and the high and normal schools were also placed at our disposal for our special studies and lectures. It is pleasant to know that the citizens of Plattsburg, who regardless of religious opinions, opened their homes to our students, have expressed themselves as highly pleased with the visitors and anxious to meet them again. We hope to show them that our school will be a pride to Plattsburg, and that their generosity will be rewarded a hundred-fold.

As president, I feel the sense of responsibility which has been thrust upon me, but knowing my associates and feeling deeply their confidence, my purpose will be to develop the school according to their best ideals, so that our country and our church may be proud of the Catholic Summer School.—The Worcester Daily Star.

During a Thunderstorm.

In answer to this question the editor of the Electric Age says: "The question is rather broad and indefinite. Generally speaking, however, the safest place during a thunderstorm is an arid dry and non-metallic surroundings. In a room, for instance, get as far away as possible from open windows and metal pipes or machinery. The interior of a room is as safe a place as any. The old idea of getting into a feather bed is a very good one. It is a good protective expedient because feathers are insulators. Any substance that is dry, but of a non-metallic nature, is a good insulator, as compared with the substance wet; therefore, keep in dry surroundings. All metals are good conductors of electricity, and lightning always seeks such substances in its path to the ground. Therefore, get as far away as possible from metals."

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RELIGIOUS NEWS.

It is said that the next bishop of Nashville will be chosen from the Dominican Order.

The eleventh Italian Catholic Congress will be held at Naples on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th of October next.

The Spanish Dominicans sent last month eighteen priests to their missions in the South of China, Tonkin and the Philippines.

Archbishop Redwood of Wellington, New Zealand, who has been invited to attend the Catholic Congress at Chicago has arrived there.

The Credente Cattolica of Lugano announces that the Council of State has decided to restore to the Catholics the Church of Confignon.

A Convent of Mercy has just been founded in West Newfoundland by Bishop Howley from the Convent of Mercy, Providence, R. I.

Rev. L. Cassidy, O. S. F., has been awarded a medal by the Royal Humane Society for saving T. Reilly from drowning in the Liffey at Dublin.

Rt. Rev. James A. Healy, D. D., Bishop of Portland, Me., has been seriously ill of late, but latest advices indicate a decided improvement in his condition.

Mgr. Merry de Val, Private Chamberlain to His Holiness, and son of the Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See, has been selected at the tutor of the King of Spain.

Reports from Molokai state that Fathers Conrardy and Wendlin are in good health, notwithstanding reports to the contrary. It is also said that leprosy is on the decrease.

Very Rev. T. Bouquillon, D. D., professor of moral theology and dean of the divinity faculty, at the Catholic University of America, at Washington, D. C., had an audience with the Pope on August 3rd.

Cardinal Moran, who was in Ireland at latest accounts, was quietly resting at Moate, county, Westmeath, with a relative. He was suffering from lung trouble. His Eminence will shortly return to Australia.

Rev. Dr. O'Mahoney, of All Hallows College, Dublin, has been appointed a member of the Advisory Council on religious congresses in connection with the Parliament of Religions to be held at Chicago during September.

Brother Elzear has been transferred from St. Louis to Manhattan College, New York. Brother Elzear will become president of Manhattan College, and Brother Anthony, now president of that institution, will go to St. Louis.

A number of church robberies have been committed in different parts of Mexico. The last is reported from the city of Ira Purato, where two cathedrals were entered on the night of Aug. 12 and several thousand dollars' worth of ornaments taken.

The Church has received a most wealthy Bohemian lady into its active service—namely, the Princess Marie-Aloise Schwarzenberg, who has taken the veil. At the same time the Catholic Church has received into its bosom as a monk Prince Maximilian Saxe.

Rev. J. G. White, the A. P. A. lecturer, spoke at Fort Madison, Ia., Sunday Aug. 13. He failed to prove to a stronger attraction than the laying of the corner stone of the Catholic church, however, and spoke to the bare walls. He has not effected any serious harm to the Catholics in that locality.

The Bishop of Zion, domestic prelate to the royal household, has been summoned from Madrid to San Sebastian to dedicate the new church of the royal palace and make arrangements for the confirmation of the young king, Alfonso XIII. The ceremony will take place in the Jesuit church, Loyola.

The French Government has commissioned Father Sauton, a Benedictine, to devote a year's study to all the existing leper colonies in Scandinavia, Asia Minor and Egypt. The information thus gathered is to be submitted to Mr. Pasteur for his consideration of the best means of preventing the spread of the disease.

Sister Rose Lynch, of the Dominican convent, Galveston, Texas, died recently in the 86th year of her age and the sixty-second of religious life. For many years she was superioress of the Dominican Sisters in Ohio, and was widely known throughout the United States for her zeal for the higher education of girls.