

him to safety, struggling on and on over rough, stony ground, even after a bit of shell struck him and his blood began to flow over the arm and hand of the man whom he was trying to save.

"Big Pierre" was brought to Paris—St. Gaetan's. His wounds were serious and he suffered intensely, but for a time the surgeons thought that he would live. Blood poisoning set in, and the end came quickly. But not too quickly. When he found that he was going to die he sent for Father Beaumont and told him all this, adding, "Father, for three weeks I've lain here with nothing to do, but to suffer and to think, and think, and think; and— and I can't tell you how cruel I was to that priest, but he saved me in preference to the boy beside me, and at the risk of his own life; and I've come to believe that there is something in it—the faith, I mean, that makes a man like that. Will you baptize me? And if Father Perboire is alive and you ever have an opportunity, will you please tell him that I beg his pardon and that I died a Catholic?"

Madame Perboire was silent; so was her son. His hand was still before his face, and she saw that it shook a little. Minute after minute passed and the silence was unbroken. At length Madame Perboire went to the railing and looked down at the flowers nodding sleepily in the sun, looked at them, but saw nothing. After a few seconds, thinking that at last she could trust herself to speak quietly, she went close to Father Perboire's chair. "Jean, dear, you won't grieve any more?" she pleaded, her whole heart in every word.

He raised a radiant face. "No, mother, I can't grieve after this. I am thankful, thankful!" Then, after a moment, he whispered: "And you?" "I am very happy, Jean. It is hard to see you blind—but how good God has been to you—and to me!"—Florence Gilmore in the Ave Maria.

THE PROBLEM OF THE MOVIES

Edward F. Garsche, S. J., in America

That multitude of good citizens who daily pass the moving picture palaces in our cities, and bestow a passing glance, it may be, on the glaring lithographed posters, have little notion of the immense moral problem which these same movie theaters are bringing to their door. The problem of the movies, both in its negative and positive aspect, the growing need of adequate censorship and the almost equal need of wise encouragement and direction, so that this powerful instrument for good or evil may be hindered from harming our young folk and turned into a means of profit and instruction for them, never dawns upon their consciousness as they pass the theaters. Yet for all our indifference moving pictures have come to exercise a startling influence and unless we arouse good and industrial people to a sense of the need of supervision over this vast industry, we shall be guilty of sinful remissness.

It may seem a rash thing to say, but there has perhaps been no invention since that of the printing press which has brought with it such deep and wide-spread possibilities for harm or good as has the invention of moving pictures. Of late more than ever before we have become alive to the importance of amusement. In recent years the increase in commercialized entertainment has made it necessary to exercise a vigilance over public recreation which was unequalled for some generations back. The circumstance that so many of our people are nowadays in a nomadic state, wandering from place to place, with little home life and few recreations except those that they find in public places, and that so many others seek their entertainment and recreation anywhere but at home, has caused an immense increase in the number of commercial enterprises which seek profit by furnishing amusement. And now, of all forms of the trade of amusing, the movies have taken incomparably the foremost position. The greatest of all businesses that was ever built up for the entertainment of the people is the business of making and showing moving pictures. When we read that \$600,000,000 are at present invested in the manufacture and distribution of these pictures, that the daily attendance at the movie theaters in the United States alone is from twelve to fifteen million (an estimate which, we are told, the theater tax in Washington is bearing out), that there are in this country between sixteen and seventeen thousand moving picture theaters and that every week more than fifty new five-reel features, as they are called, besides a number of shorter films, are released in this country, that great hosts of actors and actresses, whole cities full of scenery with armies of supernumeraries and legions of attendants are occupied each day in turning out new tens of thousands of feet of film, the imagination becomes rather dazzled at the magnitude of the figures. But when we consider the influence of this vast machinery of amusement on the body of the people a sense of the seriousness of the problem grows. Thus it is estimated that 85% of the actual revenue of movie theaters in small towns and 70% of their income comes from towns under 10,000.

These figures are eloquent. They mean that our vast rural population, no less than the dwellers in the great cities, are being drawn into the charmed circle of the movies, and are becoming slaves of the flickering screen. Day by day the most impressionable part of our population, the children and the dwellers in rural districts, are drinking in the lessons of the films. More powerful, as some observers have assured us, than the schools and the press, is the influence of the movies in many country places. The men copy their manners, the women their clothes, from the movies. It is quite remarkable, too, how the educated and the cultured are gradually being drawn by the lure. Not long ago we were speaking to a venerable pastor in one of our large cities and the conversation fell upon the movies.

"Well, really," said he, "for a long time I had no use for them at all, until I thought it might be well for me to go and see some of the movies so as to make myself personally familiar with their influence and character. I went two or three times without feeling any interest at all, and wondered what people could see in them. Then, gradually, the attraction grew upon me until now I enjoy them immensely."

This is typical, and it becomes significant in view of the fact that a comparison of the number of patrons of the movies to those, for example, of the stage, shows that there are only about 1,500 theatres in the entire country with a daily attendance of less than 1,000,000, whereas the movies are shown in 17,000 theatres before 12,000,000 patrons every day. And what influence has this omnipresent amusement upon the minds and character of the people? Its power for good or evil must be extremely great, especially on the minds of children. The pity is, that with so great a potency for good, the influence of the film is being so largely used for evil.

We are all familiar with the protests and expressions of disapproval so frequently heard from teachers concerning the influence of the movies on their pupils. The children become restless, impatient of solid pursuits; their imaginations are filled with sensational and agitating images; they cannot apply themselves to anything that is not exciting and full of vivid interest. One of the members of the Chicago City staff of censors has gone to great pains to investigate the effect of the screen on delinquent children. He described to the present writer how he followed up many cases, which had come to his attention in the juvenile court, of boys or girls who on being asked why they had become delinquent, gave as the reason for their fault some episode they had seen in the movies, and had tried to imitate. In each instance he carefully noted down the name and character of the moving picture which they blamed for their fall and the particular episode which suggested their misdemeanor. He then went to great trouble to verify the statement of the delinquent child that the mischief was suggested by a picture. During a year and a half of investigation he came upon no less than 200 instances where the picture when seen was found actually to convey the suggestion blamed by the child as having led it into crime.

On one occasion, on the west side of Chicago, there was an epidemic of attempted and actual burglaries. Children broke into stores and entered homes with all the audacity and method of professional burglars. Two of the children were suggested by a picture. During a year and a half of investigation he came upon no less than 200 instances where the picture when seen was found actually to convey the suggestion blamed by the child as having led it into crime.

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which some producers of moving pictures are corrupting the imaginations of the nation. It is difficult to convey, in decent words the character of many of the films which are being manufactured wholesale and shown indiscriminately to some eighty-nine per cent. of the population of our country. Only about eleven per cent. of the people is protected by adequate censorship from this flood of filthiness. The press, bad as it is, is quite outdone in frank indecency and systematic exploitation of vile subjects by the films, as the reports of the censorship boards describe them. Even the theater, brazen as it has become from all accounts, would never dare the wholesale nudities, the manifold coarseness and the wholesale elucidation of sex problems, nasty situations and degraded themes which these same boards of censorship have to point out and protest against, with weary iteration, week after week in the movies that the nation's children are viewing night after night in too many of our 17,000 theaters. Clearly we have a duty as Catholics and as citizens to take a hand in this business. But first let us form a clear notion of the situation and discuss what is already being done to remedy it sensibly. Experience has happily shown that it is very possible to control effectively this abuse of the movies. The experience of boards of censorship now accessible opens up a practical and universal means of dealing with this problem which we shall discuss in future articles. Taking it all in all this is one of the most important of the present day subjects which call for Catholic action.

What angered him, what seemed to him useless and incredible cruelty was that by the German high command all machines by which these people had earned their living in time of peace were destroyed. What a feeling of happiness must amid all his sorrow have filled his breast to know he had saved his little church. This thought is well expressed in the words of Florence Gilmore in her lines—"The Old Church":

But, ah, more blessed—ah, more sacred sweet, This little church, against whose walls have beat, The winds of years, the rain, the snow, the sleet; For it hath known the Lord, in Love's own way, More years than Nazareth, and day by day Hath seen the Blood shed once on Calvary's clay.

HOLY CATTS AND KITTEN CATTS

There are cats and Catts, and one at least of the latter is worse than the former. He is the person-Governor of Florida, and a merry night he is having; not so the unfortunate State however. The particular Catts in question has a kitten Catts who, according to his father, was once a captain in our Army and now is simply one of the Catts, and nothing else. Of course there was a reason for his downfall or resignation. What this was, few appear to know. Maybe his molars broke, or his feet may have curved at the sound of a cannon's boom. Anyhow there must have been a cause for the captain's exit from the Army. And just as surely his father mistated that cause.

It was Labor Day in Florida and the older Catts, he that is Governor of the State, nursed his wrath and bided his time till thousands of workmen had gathered on the sward. Then he uprose in the might of husky limbs, all enraged before the flower of Floridian manhood, threw open the family closet and snatched a skeleton that had been a captain. "Pity the poor old man," as he turned to his audience and shouted: He (his son) was a captain in the Army, and was wounded out of the Army by Cardinal Gibbons and others."

That was the signal for a mighty storm between Cattsites and anti-Cattsites. And it is significant of the whole row that the first letter in defense of the Governor is dated "Florida Hospital for the Insane," Chattahoochee. Still the row went on, until a gentle editor, bless his tribe, informed Cardinal Gibbons of the charge. That dear old man, now half a century a Bishop, and with longer years of sweetness and light to his credit, wrote gently, as is his wont, as follows:

Union Mills, Md., Sept. 20, 1918. Mr. Richard H. Edmonds, Editor and General Manager, Manufacturers Record, Baltimore, Md. My Dear Sir: I have just received your most polite favor of the 18th inst., for which I greatly thank you, and also the clipping you enclosed from the Manufacturers Record in which a statement is reproduced attributed to Governor Catts of Florida wherein in speaking of his son, he said: "He was a captain in the army, and was wounded out of the army by Cardinal Gibbons and others."

I can assure you, my dear sir, that I can hardly express my amazement at the "recklessness of such language. I never knew the Governor had a son. I never even knew he was ever married and never in all my life did I ever write a line against any officer, soldier or sailor in the American army or navy. To me it is utterly incomprehensible how men can talk so wildly. I am exceedingly thankful to you, dear Mr. Edmonds, for calling my attention to Mr. Catts' wild statement. With sentiments of profound respect, I remain, Faithfully yours in Christ, J. CARDINAL GIBBONS.

And what will Holy Catts do now? Continue, as before, to make night merry and Florida a nightmare. The leopard does not change its spots, nor Catts his mew.—America.

What angered him, what seemed to him useless and incredible cruelty was that by the German high command all machines by which these people had earned their living in time of peace were destroyed. What a feeling of happiness must amid all his sorrow have filled his breast to know he had saved his little church. This thought is well expressed in the words of Florence Gilmore in her lines—"The Old Church":

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CHRIST IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The central fact of the Catholic religion is that Christ abides with us. He is really present on our altars, in our tabernacles, in our hearts. He is indeed Emmanuel—God with us.

The presence of Christ is the strength of the Catholic Church. It is the mysterious force that is felt, even by strangers, within our churches. It gives us the peace, the courage, the confidence, the security that develop the calm assurance that our Church will come safe out of every trial and will last until time shall be no more.

Christ is in the Mass and in the Eucharist. He still loves to be with the children of men. He promised to remain among us until the end of the world and He is here.—Catholic Columbian.

REGRETS CLOSING OF CHURCHES

Cardinal Gibbons deploras the notion taken by the Health Bureaus in closing the churches during the present epidemic of influenza. He believes that the opening of churches for brief morning services would tend to allay the existing alarm and be the means of strengthening the people in the present time of trial. The Cardinal says: "While I sympathize with the Board of Health in the work they have to do, and while I believe they are trying to do their best, yet I think it would be a much-needed relief to our church-going population if they could be allowed to attend brief morning services."

It is office buildings, factories, department stores, banks, etc., often having low ceilings and small windows, are open for many hours daily, it seems unreasonable that worshippers are forbidden to assemble in our churches for half an hour or so at a time, especially as churches nearly always have very high ceilings and great windows, capable of affording excellent ventilation.

"Besides, I am told that a number of calls upon our physicians are simply the result of nervousness, or the consequence of alarm. This might be considerably allayed by the reassurance of religion, and discreet words from our priests given the people in church. "I regret that the medical authorities thought proper to close the churches absolutely, whilst, as I say, the stores are filled with customers, the markets are surrounded, and the cars crowded. I think there is much less danger of spreading the disease in the churches than in other places I have mentioned. Moreover, I am persuaded that closing the churches is calculated to increase alarm, whereas attendance at church has a tranquilizing, soothing effect, and is calculated to strengthen the minds and souls of our people and turn their thoughts to God, the source of all strength. "I do not minimize at all the great responsibility devolving upon our Health Department, in the present juncture, and I would be very sorry to interfere in the least degree with its work, but I do not think the opening of the churches for brief periods of worship would interfere."

influences that have not been dealt with on the other side of the Atlantic with the same firmness that has been shown on this side. Mr. Barnes urged, and in this his position was endorsed by Bishop Keating, that the utmost consideration should be given to what may be very soon the most urgent problem with which the Knights of Columbus will have to deal. The visitors were assured by the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee that every effort would be made to conform to their wishes, as the determination of the National Catholic War Council is that the Knights of Columbus shall labor for the spiritual and physical welfare of the American soldier wherever he may be.—St. Paul Bulletin.

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SENT TO SIBERIA The Government Consigns Cowan's Cocoa—Cheerful News for Our Men Toronto, Oct.—A plentiful supply of Cowan's delicious and nourishing Cocoa is assured the Canadian troops that are going to Siberia. Tons of this splendid food were recently purchased by the Canadian Government, and are now en route to a certain port on the Pacific Coast. Thus, while our soldiers engage the enemy, Cowan's Cocoa will do its share by fighting the cold and protecting our troops from the severest attacks of the Siberian Winter. Those who remain in Canada should enlist the services of Cowan's Cocoa as a "Home Guard." See that the children are provided with all they require. It makes them robust and protects them from epidemics.

OFFICIAL PROSPECTUS The proceeds of this Loan will be used for War purposes only, and will be spent wholly in Canada

Victory Loan 1918 \$300,000,000. 5 1/2% Gold Bonds

Issue Price: 100 and Accrued Interest Income Return 5 1/2% per Annum

Conversion Privileges Bonds of this issue will, in the event of future issues of like maturity, or longer, made by the Government, during the remaining period of the War, other than issues made abroad, be accepted at 100 and accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscription to such issues.

Form of Bond and Delivery Subscribers must indicate on their application the form of bond and the denominations required, and the securities so indicated will be delivered by the bank upon payment of the subscription in full.

Behind the Gun the Man - Behind the Man the Dollar Make Your Dollars Fight the Hun