

St. Dunstan's Red and White

Subscription, 75 cents a year..... Payable in advance

VOL. XXIX.

APRIL, 1938

NO. 2

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Editorial

Easter

Easter is the greatest feast in the Liturgical Calendar. His Holiness Pope Leo I, in an attempt to impress christian people with the splendor of this event, did not hesitate in saying that Christmas is celebrated only in preparation for Easter. Not only is the Resurrection our great proof of Christ's Divinity, but it is also a pledge that we too may one day rise to share in His glory. It is God's approval and sanction of the Redemption, and constitutes the strongest foundation of human hope.

Adding to the spiritual joy of this season is the fact that in our Island province Easter is symbolic of spring.

Nature, at first startled by the triumph of Divinity, quickly imbibes the spirit of Resurrection. The dull garb of winter is cast off and in its place the festal robes of spring appear everywhere. Budding plants and flowers are coaxed along to greater beauty by warm sunlight, while above, the air is filled with the sweet melodies of feathered songsters. Nature abounds in the things which please the eye and delight the ear.

In this the season of new life, fresh hopes and manifold joys we wish all a very happy Easter.

The Catholic Press

Although February, recently designated as "Catholic Press Month," has come and gone with its attendant exhortations and resolutions, even April is not too early, nor too late, for a "follow-up." The importance of such work during the whole year cannot be overemphasized as a progressive and intelligent press is the primary bulwark of Catholicism and its first line of defense.

More than ever before is this true when we are surrounded and highly influenced by a secular press which, despite its greatness and despite its freedom, is slowly but surely degenerating. Abusing their privileges in many ways a large number of these members of the Fourth Estate have sinned against Truth through bias, either in deliberate misrepresentation or suppression, or through their appeals to wider circulation made through sensationalism and "yellow journalism." Bias is found particularly in the reporting of many world events—the War in Spain, for example. In this case it is ridiculously evident that many newspapers can see only what they want to see, and, in the way that they want to see it. Sensational news, the mainstay of the tabloids, is given far too much prominence, as is all the ugly business of immorality, (note the space given to divorces, suicides and murders) which is exploited and placed before the public in glaring headlines. On the whole, Truth is taking a terrific beating from our secular press to-day.

Catholics who are well-versed in the teachings of their church, to whom was given through divine appointment the guardianship of Truth, should soon sicken of the moronic fare which is being served them and raise their voices in united and vigorous protest. They have the principles

and teachings of the Redeemer, preserved, cherished and passed down to them just as He passed them to His church nineteen centuries ago. The written word has always been of great importance in the maintenance and spread of such, and is vitally so, especially when principles are disregarded and cast aside as they are by present-day writers. We should, then, take the lead in condemning such publications and in patronizing our own press.

Catholic students in particular, many of whom are potential writers, (if they would make the effort that they should make) and who have been imbued with true Catholic philosophy and ethics, can wield the pen to great advantage amid present-day chaos. And, after all, is it not on them that the burden of carrying the Faith will rest within a few years. At present few of such can complain of "writer's cramp." It is a fact though, that many potential Catholic writers seek to avoid these obligations laid upon them by the gift of certain talents. In this case, the cramp seems to have moved from the wrist to the head as the most general reason given for their inaction is—that subjects are so scarce. A mere casting about will show many really important topics in the fields of Spain, Germany, Mexico, Communism, Social Justice, Divorce, Birth Control, Education and the hundreds of other problems confronting Catholics to-day. To-morrow they may be even greater.

Furthermore, the influence of good Catholic newspapers, periodicals, and books (and there are many), should not be a matter of casual irregular attention but such reading should form a definite part of the Catholic's daily reading program. Through this medium many souls are helped along the path of Truth. By giving our generous support to the Catholic Press we will be doing our part in a work dear to the heart of our illustrious Pontiff who says: "Anything which you will do for the good press, I will consider having been done for me personally. The good press is very close to my heart and I expect much, very much from it."

Short Courses for Fishermen

So successful was the agricultural course given at St. Dunstan's College last summer that on the suggestion of Dr. Murphy, rector of the institution, two courses for fishermen were this year sponsored by the Dominion-Provincial Youth Unemployment Grant. The first, be-

ginning January 17, was given to thirty "toilers of the deep," and on February 7, twenty-three new men arrived at the college for the second. Space does not permit a list of the professors and their subject matter, yet a few high lights of the program would be in order.

One of the most important subjects on the curriculum consisted of debates and general discussions conducted under the critical eye of Dr. Murphy. The students, convinced of the importance of this branch of learning, entered into the discussions with rare interest and enthusiasm.

The Hon. B. W. LePage and Hon. J. P. McIntyre of the Provincial Government willingly gave their time to lectures, while Mr. W. R. Shaw, acting for Hon. W. H. Dennis, capably looked after the official details of the course. From across the Straits came Prof. Smith of St. Andrew's Biological Station, N. B., Dr. Hess, of the Fisheries Experimental Station at Halifax, and Mr. George Earle of the Dominion Fisheries Department, Yarmouth. These gentlemen contributed in no small way to the success of the movement.

Mr. Chester McCarthy of Tignish was quite at home in the role of professor, while carefully explaining The Fishermen's Union as a working scheme, and the essentials for co-operative success.

Included in the curriculum were lectures on First Aid by Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan. The fishermen were shown how to give temporary treatment for various accidents. Special emphasis was given to cases of apparent drowning.

Getting into familiar harness again was the Rev. M. E. Francis, former Head of the Commercial Department at St. Dunstan's. Explanations of proper procedure in business dealings were given by Fr. Francis and were greatly appreciated by the fishermen. The principles of Co-operatives and Credit Unions were outlined by Dr. Croteau.

A glance at the above list of professors and their lectures might give the reader the impression that all work was done in the classroom. This was not so. The carpentry shop at the college was fitted out by Fr. McQuaid for "men at work" and amply stocked with fish. Clad in their overalls the fishermen went through the routine work of preparing fish for market, mending nets, rigging gear—in short, doing everything but catching the fish.

Taken all in all the courses were huge successes. To both professors and students alike is due the credit. The instructors, with keen insight of the needs and problems of their pupils, presented a well thought-out program of useful working principles. The fishermen, on their part, showed a lively interest in all the subjects, and few there were, who at the end of the day's classes could not report a "good catch." We feel sure that if more of these short courses were given the lot of our Island fishermen would be greatly boosted.

"The play's the thing"

Drama is a composite art—in fact, it is a synthesis of nearly all the other arts—including for example: music, dancing, elocution, literature, history and architecture. The play has to be seen as well as heard. Hence its production entails careful synchronization of the abilities and efforts of the actors, directors, stage-hands and of all those in any way connected with it. All this means tedious work yet for centuries the play has remained one of the most popular forms of entertainment. To-day the professional stage seems to be in decline but the amateur stage is enjoying a marked ascendancy which is duly merited from its many practical and cultural advantages.

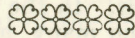
For young people in schools and colleges dramatic work is invaluable, chiefly because it gives them a chance for self-expression. The influence which acting has upon the development of personality is clearly seen in the conquering of shyness and backwardness by the student of the drama. Educationalists have realized that the student's work was formerly too preoccupied with the training of the intellect and gave no opportunity for expression; they have also discovered the enormous importance of spoken English, and that the speaking of dialogue is far better than reading aloud or recitation. In addition, through the medium of the drama the important cultural attainments of poise, manner and good diction are inculcated naturally and unconsciously.

The importance of the drama as a community activity is recognized to the fullest extent by those who are directing the great movement of adult learning which is rapidly taking hold in Canada. Prof. E. A. Corbett, Director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and a primary organizer of the Dominion Drama Festival says:

"Those who direct adult learning in this country could do no better work than to urge the establishment of community theatres which would offer the most varied opportunities for artistic, intellectual and social development to the great mass of our population who are eager to add color and character to their lives."

The Catholic stage, not so long ago merely a dream, is fast becoming a reality. It is quite reasonable to expect such would be a success since we have the full truth and beauty, and these are the first requirements of the theatre. Catholic play-wrights are paralleling this advance with creations of exceptional quality. Two of their well-known works: "Within These Walls" and "Journey's End," were proposed by the students during the past two years. The religious play is steadily increasing in popularity.

During the past year this important training has been neglected at our college, partly through the lethargy of some of the students, and partly, through lack of interest and direction from the faculty. It is to be hoped that when the students return next fall organization will take place early and a definite program decided on—and followed. Many students would then reap the singular benefits which participation in dramatics can give to them.



We may outrun
By violent swiftness that which we run at,
And lose by over-running.

Norfolk—Henry VIII.

"Physical exercises do not contribute simply to the health of the body. They have a reaction also on the intellectual and moral life. Whilst affording relaxation to the mind, they strengthen at the same time the power of will by teaching it to fight against inclinations to laziness, and they lessen the incentive to passion.—*Cardinal Mercier.*"

