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PRIESTS ARE JUST PLAIN GAMBLERS

Warrants Asked for Men Arrested in Catholic Church Fair Raid Refused by Circuit Attorney—Were Operating a Spindle Game on Three to One Limit—Father Spigardi "Saw" the Attorney Before Decision Was Made in the Case

Father Cesar Spigardi, of Our Lady Help of Christians church, St. Louis, Mo., pulled off a fair in his parish for the benefit of the Italian Free School last week and eight men were arrested for operating a gambling device under the approval of Spigardi. The game was a spindle, "chuck-a-luck," with a 10-cent minimum and "the sky the limit." Winnings were paid in cash, too.

The arrests followed a specific warning from the police that the game would not be permitted and the prominent men in Spigardi's parish may face trial for violation of the gaming laws. The circumstances of this case are typical of the defiant attitude of Rome toward established laws which interfere with her questionable methods of separating the gullible public from its hard earned cash.

Father Spigardi's attempt to have his little gambling game "covered up," and quietly ignored by the police is recounted in the St. Louis Republic, December 20, 1915, as follows:

The "chuck-a-luck" wheel ran two hours Saturday night, then was closed by the police upon complaint of a citizen who telephoned Night Chief of Police Gilligan. Father Spigardi yesterday made a personal appeal to Night Chief of Police Gilligan for permission to resume operation of the wheel. He is pastor of the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians and the prime mover in the bazaar.

"I denied his appeal," said the chief last night, "and told Father Spigardi I would not think of rescinding the order." The chief told Father Spigardi it was a gambling device and against the law and he, therefore, would not grant permission for its operation. He referred Father Spigardi to Chief Young.

"I saw Chief Young to-day," Father Spigardi said, "and he told me he would not revoke my order." "Well, that's all there is to it, then," Chief Gilligan replied. "Gambling is gambling, whether it's for the church or for something else."

The police at the fair were instructed to close the game and not reopen. "I explained to the police that the game was purely for the interest of the school fund and was conducted by members of my parish," said Father Spigardi after the arrests. "I understood him to reply that he could not give permission for a violation of law, but that if the game were run quietly and not in the open nothing would be said."

So the table was moved into an ante-room and the game continued "on the quiet" until three officers "nosed in" and pinched the whole layout, men, money, table and all. Then there was something doing. The eight gamblers were taken to the Laclede station and booked "as suspected of gambling." Eight common law bonds for \$800 each were signed by Father Spigardi and the men were released.

Now the question arises, what will be done about it? Circuit Attorney Harvey declined to issue information against the men because he did not believe the evidence would warrant issuance on the charge of setting up a gambling device. In order to do that it would be necessary to show that the game was operated for private profit or that "the house" received a rake-off. And, too, that charge is a felony, punishable by imprisonment for from six months to five years. It would never do, you know, for a circuit attorney who wants to be re-elected to commit such an act. Father Spigardi might retaliate by "shifting the votes" to some other quarter at the next election.

ROME AND THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The Hierarchy Maneuvers for Political Advantage in the Selection of Chicago and St. Louis as Convention Cities—Gilded Hand of the P.p.c. so Well Concealed That the Most Astute Politician Could Hardly Be Expected to See It.

The sending of the Democratic National Convention to St. Louis and the Republican Convention to Chicago is a signal and extraordinary triumph of the Roman Catholic political machine. The hand of the papacy was so perfectly concealed in this master stroke that even members of the national committees who played into that hand were hardly aware of the hidden influence that steered the conventions into those greatest Roman Catholic strongholds in the Middle West.

But Rome is supremely determined to secure a firm grip on the next national administration, and she knew both St. Louis and Chicago are full of militant Catholics who are well disciplined and easily subservient to the adroit leadership of politicians who serve the Roman Catholic power.

It has been apparent here at the national capital for several weeks that the location of these great conventions which will nominate the presidential tickets and make the party platforms was regarded by the cleverest politicians as a matter of overwhelming importance. Advocates of woman suffrage presented to Congress on the first day of the term a petition signed by half a million voters, including seventeen governors and many of the foremost citizens of the nation, asking for the submission of a suffrage amendment to the Constitution.

But the location of the national conventions has deeply absorbed those who figure prominently in national politics, especially those from the great Rome Catholic cities. The convention delegation that came here from St. Louis merrily whispered into the ears of the Democratic committee that the party was in danger of losing Missouri in the election unless the conventions were held in their city. Likewise did the Chicago delegation admonish the Republican committee of the danger of losing Illinois if the convention should not be held in the city of the lakes.

The very absurdity of both these warnings ought to have disclosed the sinister motives back of them. Every politician knows that if the Democratic party carry Missouri without the stimulus of the national convention, that party cannot retain the presidency; and if it takes the national convention to hold Illinois in the Republican column, then the party might as well retire from the field.

The real incentive for holding the conventions in those cities was not to secure the influence of the conventions on the local communities, but to secure the influence of the local communities on the conventions. It was manifestly not necessary to hold the Republican convention in Chicago to save Illinois. But it was of vital importance to make the convention feel the presence of a million Roman Catholics in that great city and a third of a million more in rural parts of the state; and similar conditions obtain in St. Louis.

Rome well understands the power of the local community in shaping the policy of a delegate convention. That power defeated Seward in the Republican convention of 1860 and gave the nomination to Lincoln the idol of Illinois Republicans. Because of the power of local environment, the rural and liquor interests have usually selected Chicago and St. Louis as the convention cities in the last score of years.

In 1892, when Chicago had well begun to acquire an immense Catholic population, Rome depended on that population in her eleventh-hour endeavor to prevent the renomination of President Harrison to his city; but in this instance she was disappointed and had to defeat him at the polls in the general election. She was again disappointed in that city four years later when the meteoric cross-gold speech stumped the Democratic convention to Mr. Bryan. But half a million Catholics have settled in Chicago since those times, and the political atmosphere of that city or St. Louis is a mighty factor in the handling of a national convention.

Prior to the Civil War Democratic national conventions were frequently held in the South. But the colossal tide that has in recent years poured millions of Catholics into our country from southern Europe has flowed almost exclusively into the northern and central states. While the population, especially the city population, of those states has become saturated with this infusion, the inhabitants of the solid South have remained overwhelmingly Protestant.

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Politics and Popery

The American Federation of Catholic Societies is a conglomeration of the various Catholic organizations having for their apparent purposes various propaganda, beneficiary and educational activities. The Federation holds a convention each year at some selected city and each year the pope sends his benediction and blessing to the body, thus giving his approbation to the activities of the Federation.

Therefore, it is a part of the Roman Catholic church, a subsidiary and supporting portion of the whole, acting under instructions from pope, cardinal, archbishop and the lesser lights of Romanism. By a careful perusal of the reports of the various conventions, and the reports and expressions of committees and individuals in attendance, a suspicion arises that the real purpose of the Federation is withheld from public knowledge.

Enough of the undercurrent finds its way to the surface occasionally to convince one of the political nature of the Federation. The Federation is solidly arrayed for battle against what it calls "offensive legislation." We quote here a few excerpts from convention reports which will show the real work of the Federation and its disloyalty to American principles and its hatred of free institutions. These from the Bulletin of American Federation of Catholic Societies, November, 1913:

Kentucky—"The only thing that I can say is that the Kentucky legislature, which tried with the city of Louisville to pass a law or a bill which entitled the public schools of the state of Kentucky to free text books in the schools, was unsuccessful in its attempt, as THE BILL WAS KILLED BY THE CATHOLIC FEDERATION OF Jefferson county and Louisville."—Mr. Bard.

Indiana—"We were successful in KILLING THE FREE SCHOOL BOOK LAW and also the law for the sterilization of criminals, WORKING IN THIS REGARD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE."—Mr. Budenz.

Ohio—"We are so well organized and so INFLUENTIAL today that in a great many counties of Ohio where the juvenile courts are established, when it comes to the investigation of a Catholic boy or girl the matter is immediately reported to the juvenile court committee of the Federation, and they go out and investigate in conjunction with the deputies of the Probate Courts or Juvenile Courts, and it is up to that committee."—They report back to the chairman of the committee who takes it up with the court, and in ninety-nine times out of a hundred that child is sent to a Catholic orphanage and its religion preserved, rather than being sent to a state institution or sectarian institution."—Mr. Stephen T. Malone.

Clark to the Coast

A committee of patriots on the Pacific coast are busy with the preliminary plans for a tentative speaking campaign. Los Angeles, Calif., will be the first stop and Wm. Lloyd Clark has been secured as the speaker. Other communities on the coast desire the services of Clark, a man who knows how to meet all the false claims of the Roman Hierarchy and who for a quarter of a century has been denouncing the American doctrine in all parts of the country, should write immediately to Burke School System, 1200 Broadway, New York, for open dates. Following are some of Mr. Clark's lecture subjects for the coast campaign: "The Invasion of the United States by the Inquisition, My Battle with the Roman Hierarchy, The Invisible Government of the Pope, Our Martyred Presidents, The Pope's Industrial Slave Penitents." The committee desires to keep Mr. Clark on the coast for several months and will be glad to hear promptly from communities desiring his services.

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