

# FIGHTING PARSON HAS WON OUT IN A RADICAL PROGRAM

(By Associated Press.)  
 Chanute, Kan., Dec. 9.—The fighting instinct which won for the Rev. Carl A. Blackman, the newly elected national chaplain of the American Legion, the title of the "Fighting Parson of the Thirty-Fifth" during the world war, has stood him well in the world since he came back to his peace vocation as pastor of the First Christian church here. Enlightened and gained in his war service created new ideas as to the scope of religious activities. The new planks he inserted in the church's platform created considerable opposition. But far from the "fighting parson" has won.

"We have never had dancing in the church," he said. "The main reason being that we have no suitable room for it. I do not favor the use of the sanctuary in the church for any purpose other than worship, but believe the church could well have a dancing floor in a building adjacent to the church, or in the same building; also billiard tables, social and card rooms if they seemed to be required to meet the social needs."

Mr. Blackman's church has a motion picture machine, for use in connection with services. Indications are that his policy is popular. On this point, Mr. Blackman said: "Our church has outgrown its present plant. A lot has been purchased and a new building is contemplated. The church usually is crowded Sunday evenings, about three-fourths of the audience being young people. Frequently many are turned away before the service starts, so crowded is the auditorium."

The career of the Rev. Mr. Blackman has been diversified. He was born in Kendallville, Ind., Oct. 2, 1882, on a farm and received a common school education. He studied steam and machine designing in Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.; followed engineering and electrical work including firing a locomotive; assistant engineer on a steam yacht in New York harbor; chief engineer of an interurban power house in northern Indiana and worked in an

automobile factory at Kokomo, Ind. These activities overlapped some with farming and going to college where he earned his own way.

While attending the University of Kansas he helped pay expenses by evangelistic singing, preaching, running a traction engine in the wheat fields, private boxing lessons and selling automobiles.

In 1914 he became pastor of the Chanute church and has held this position since, with exception of two years spent in military service.

Mr. Blackman was commissioned first lieutenant and chaplain and was mustered into federal service August 5, 1917. He saw a year's service overseas.

After the armistice was signed, Mr. Blackman challenged any chaplain in the A. E. F. to a boxing bout under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. The challenge was accepted by Chaplain Rexrood of the 91st division. All arrangements were made but the bout was stopped by the "G. H. Q." It was overseas that he gained the title of "The Fighting Parson" because of his activities as boxer and boxing referee.

"I have refereed perhaps two hundred bouts since I returned from France," he said. "I have a class in boxing for high school boys, meeting once a week."

Due to the opposition within his church to his policy on amusements, Mr. Blackman once each year has submitted his resignation. Last spring it was rejected for the third time and a raise in salary was voted him. This he declined to accept, however, stating that he made money in addition to his salary by refereeing boxing bouts. His new duties as national chaplain will not interfere with his pastorate.

**PERRY PERKING UP.**  
 (By Associated Press.)  
 Perry, Dec. 10.—Perry soon will have \$75,000 more to spend for an extension of street paving as the result of the overwhelming vote in favor of a bond issue for that amount in an election held Tuesday. Paving being done with the proceeds of a bond issue for \$125,000 a few months ago is about completed.

**Dr. J. E. Thornton**  
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## Breezy Gossid From "Gotham"

New York, Dec. 9.—It is a wonder more people are not blind! The opticians have invented a machine known as the retinoscope, to be used in correcting optical ills, which refracts the strain in fib telling. You may be able to tell a lie and keep a straight face but you can't do it and maintain normal vision. The time would not seem far off when this apparatus is installed in every court room and the jury will no longer be dependent upon the honor of the witness. With the tiny beam of the instrument playing upon the eye an erroneous statement of fact will cause a tell-tale shadow of refraction to flit across the eye which is registered in the machine and qualifies you for a member of the Ananias Club, if you have not been too careful of the facts. The vision is weakened and impaired by this disarrangement of the mental faculties in the frequent telling of untruth, and again I say it is a wonder more people are not carrying tin cups.

the other side and is particularly well suited to Miss Ulrich's type of work. The cast and production would seem to follow the Belasco standard.

Dr. Edward N. Levy, formerly veterinary to the animals in the Central Park Zoo, is now in the fish business. Not dried herring, but the shimmering little finsters which pursue an endless journey in small glass bowls. He has made a psychological study of the effect of gold fish on the human, and sees something of importance in the unusual tendency of a normal person to concentrate interest in the perfectly useless antics of fish within a globe. It seems that the tendency is more pronounced in sick persons and convalescents, as well as the aged and very young, and he therefore recommends that hospitals equip themselves with a larger stock

of gold fish. "Have you an aquarium in your home" is the newest slogan hereabouts.

The subway always offers interest for me. I saw a stout gentleman going over his complete sartorial make-up the other day. Nor was he content with this. He became tonsorial as well. Perhaps it was his fine red mustache which he carefully and gravely combed, or the diamond horseshoe which he arranged to advantage in his cravat. Anyway, he was all set for exhibition when we arrived at the last stop. Not to be outdone, the conductor proved himself a quick change artist by unscrewing his beautiful brass buttons at the same time he called out, "Last stop!" and in the twinkling of an eye was ready for the street in a neat, but not gaudy, blue serge suit.

**TELEPHONES IN EVERGLADES**  
 West Palm Beach, Dec. 9.—Construction of the telephone line in the Upper Glades district is progressing rapidly and poles to carry the wires have been distributed along the entire route. The line when completed,

will run from the county seat to Gladecest, thence to the Hillsboro lock, where it will fork. One branch will run to the East Beach settlements and the other to South Bay and Okeelanta.

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<b>FLASHLIGHTS</b>	<b>ROLLER SKATES</b>	South Bend Malleable Rangel for wood coal; also combination wood and gas.
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