

AL SMITH VS. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

JOHN F. CUNNEEN, Chicago, Ill.

In 1884 the archbishops and bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States assembled in the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore and adopted a constitution, called Decrees of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, for the guidance of the church in the United States.

Decree No. 263 reads:

We admonish Catholics engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors to consider seriously how many and how great are the dangers and the occasions of sin which their business, although not in itself illicit, is surrounded. Let them, if possible, choose some more honorable way of making a living. And if they find it impossible to quit it, then let them strive with all their might to remove the occasions of sin from themselves and from others. Let them not sell drink either to minors or to those who, they foresee, will go to excess. Let them keep their saloons closed on the Lord's Day. Let them at no time permit on their premises blasphemy, or obscene language. But if, through their action or with their co-operation, religion is dishonored and men are led to ruin, let them remember that there is an Avenger in heaven, who will certainly demand of them a terrible retribution.

From the Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, assembled in the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, 1884:

We call upon them (pastors) to induce all of their flocks that may be engaged in the sale of liquors to abandon as soon as they can the dangerous traffic, and to embrace a more becoming way of making a living.

It is from the priests of the church that we especially hope for assistance in this work; for upon them has God imposed the duty of imparting the Word of Life, and of propagating sound morality among the people. Let them never cease to cry out boldly against drunkenness, and whatsoever leads to it.

Al Smith as a member of the New York Legislature between the years 1907 and 1915 had nine chances to vote against the saloon, but he voted nine times in favor of the saloon. He voted against giving the voters a chance to vote against the saloon.

The Catholic Church does not tell its members how to vote, but the Catholic who voted against giving the people a chance to vote against the saloon was false to the spirit of his church.

NOT IN ACCORD WITH HIS CHURCH

Upon the question of keeping the saloon closed upon Sunday, the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore had no "if" or loophole. The explicit command of the church was to keep the saloons closed on the Lord's Day. No Catholic in the United States, be he a saloonkeeper, a member of the Legislature, a voter only at the polls, or a law enforcement official, could take any part in keeping the saloon open on Sunday without defying the express command of the church. What did Al Smith do? As a member of the New York Legislature he voted on numerous occasions for bills that legalized the selling of liquor on Sunday. In this petition Al Smith was anti-Catholic.

In New York State they had the Raines law. It permitted one saloon to each 500 of the population, but in addition hotels could have bars and sell liquor the same as saloons, provided they had the required number of rooms called for by the Raines law. In a village of 2,000 population four saloons would be permitted, but in some villages there would be as many as 16 hotels with bars selling liquor, although in a town of that size there could be patronage of transients to support only one good hotel. The result was, in a very large number of instances, that these so-called "hotels" became houses of prostitution. Three times Al Smith as a legislator had a chance to vote on legislation to break up the partnership between these saloons, which amounted to a practical co-partnership in the crime of prostitution. Once Al Smith ducked and was not recorded. Two other times he voted against the bills designed to stiffen up the enforcement features of the old Raines law. As speaker, he secured the passage

of the law which saved the license for saloonkeepers convicted of violation.

"HE THAT WILL NOT HEAR THE CHURCH"

"He that will not hear the church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican." (Matt. 17-18). The church called upon those engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquor to get out of the business and seek a more honorable way of making a living. Al Smith worked and voted to keep men engaged in the sale of liquor. The advocates of the liquor traffic champion him as the man to overthrow prohibition. "Wet" Catholics denounce those opposing Al Smith as bigots and as opposing him because he is a Catholic.

The enemies of the Catholic Church, in order to defame her, in order to get people of the country to look down on her, in order to injure her and destroy her usefulness in the land, can think of nothing more effective, more damaging, more destructive, than to brand her an ally of the liquor traffic. They keep on repeating "Rum and Romanism." If the liquor traffic was good, if it were clean and honorable, if it was beneficial to humanity, if it was soul saving, then it would be glorious for the Catholic Church to be named along with it.

That the liquor traffic is bad, dishonorable, destructive to humanity and soul destroying is proven by "wet" Catholics. There is nobody who can show up the liquor traffic in all of its hideousness more so than the "wet" Catholic. When the enemies of the Catholic Church link "Rum and Romanism" "wet" Catholics fly into a rage. They denounce them as vilifiers, slanderers and calumniators.

That is positive proof that the "wet" Catholic deep down in his heart loathes the liquor traffic. He knows well that it is a disgrace for Holy Church to be linked up with this damnable institution. Yet, strange to say, the "wet" Catholic who flies into a rage because public enemies of the church link rum and Romanism, does the same thing himself. Talk about hypocrites! Where in all the wide world can you get a hypocrite to equal the "wet" Catholic? He joins with the enemies of his church in trying to get people to believe the lie that the Catholic Church

and the liquor traffic are allies, and then he denounces the open enemies of the church for doing what he is doing himself.

PROTESTANT BENEDICT ARNOLD

The Protestant prohibitionists who would put a "wet" Catholic advocate of the liquor traffic into the White House if they could, because they think it would mean some would benefit, are Benedict Arnolds to their country. The bootleggers and their allies are now in rebellion against the government. Policemen in uniform are shot down by bootleggers, and wet jurymen acquit the murderers. Election of a man known as a voter for the liquor traffic all his life will encourage the rebels to continue the war and hoist the black flag in place of the Stars and Stripes on the Capitol at Washington.

CANON HENRY FRAZER

Bishop Recognizes Social Service and Temperance Work in Liverpool of Rev. Henry Frazer

In recognition of his service in social and temperance work in Liverpool, Rev. Henry Frazer, for 21 years vicar of St. Peter's parish, has been named by the Bishop of the diocese a canon of the new cathedral at Liverpool, according to information received by Rev. E. J. Richardson of the World League Against Alcoholism.

"I hope prohibition is making good over there and that the results will soon be such as will convince a skeptical world," Canon Frazer writes.

As a clergyman in the Church of England for many years Canon Frazer's work lay in a very difficult section of the city, mainly among the working classes, where he saw much of the ravages of drink. He fearlessly took the side of sobriety and righteousness, and both from the pulpit and the public platform in his own city and elsewhere made most intelligent and vigorous attacks on the liquor trade.

Also, he went before the Bench of Justice and protested against the granting of licenses, thereby helping to reduce the number of saloon permits. He always seized every opportunity to check or destroy the beverage liquor traffic. He was highly esteemed by many officials of the city government, including the Lord Mayor, who presented him recently with a book of remembrance.

LEAGUE HATED BY WETS

Bishop Cannon of M. E. Church, South, Addresses N. Y. Conference M. E. Ch.; Commends League

In the closing part of his address at the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at New Rochelle on the evening of April 13, Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, spoke the following words in commendation of the Anti-Saloon League.

"As you doubtless know, I am not and never have been a paid official of the Anti-Saloon League, but I have been a member of the executive committee of the Anti-Saloon League for over 25 years, longer than any other one man. I know that it was the worst hated, most slandered organization in the country, and that it is so because it has been the agency of the church the most efficient opponent of the liquor traffic, and with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the most potent factor in securing national prohibition.

"Our enemies have openly declared their purpose to put the League out of business by destroying the confidence of the church in its leadership. Can the slandering of the enemy be permitted to weaken the effective fighting power of those who have led us on to victory and who must now repulse the new attacks of the slaves of appetite and covetousness? I trow not. The Anti-Saloon League may have made mistakes in the many campaigns which it has led in the conflict against the common enemy of mankind, but its aim is single and its efforts are for the betterment of the social order."

HIGHER-UPS CAUGHT IN NET

Federal Grand Jury in Buffalo Brings in Many Indictments in Conspiracy Cases

The federal grand jury at Buffalo has returned indictments against 35 persons, including a group of dry agents, charged with the violation of the prohibition law. Two of the more prominent persons against whom indictments were brought are Roscoe C. Harper, former prohibition administrator in the Buffalo district, and Leo A. Regan, former assistant administrator. These two are indicted on a charge of conspiracy to violate the law in connection with the alleged diversion of alcohol from the Illinois Alcohol Company of Buffalo.

More than 160 witnesses were heard by the grand jury, and its action has created a great deal of interest in western New York. Both Harper and Regan resigned from the service on June 30, 1927. At that time Harper gave as the reason for his resignation his belief that he was disqualified under the newly created Civil Service requirement.

DR. MELLE ANSWERS BRUCE

"I am sure that United States Senator Bruce, of Maryland, did not represent the typical American courtesy any more than he represented the American passion for truthfulness when he wantonly assailed an interview given by me to the press, referring to that interview as 'bunk' and 'if not possibly mendacious as well as utterly misleading,'" said Dr. Otto Melle, President of the Methodist Episcopal Theological Seminary at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, who is in America as a delegate to the Methodist Episcopal General Conference.

"My assertions that I had not seen a person who appeared to have been drinking and that I had not been offered a glass of beer or wine during this present trip to America, was not based upon a brief visit to this country. I spent four months in the United States travelling from New York to San Francisco and Los Angeles, living in hotels and private homes, taking part in banquets and all kinds of social gatherings, visiting the dining rooms, spending half a day in Coney Island, etc., and I observed how the people were drinking your delicious orangeade and other refreshing drinks, but have never seen a saloon nor anyone drinking intoxicating drinks, and I myself have not been offered a glass of beer or wine."

ON THE POLITICAL GRIDIRON

