Protestants, Catholics Vie In Efforts To Convert Japan's **82 Million To Christian Faith**

TOKYO. - (P) - Several hundred missionaries are trying to convert the \$2,000,000 Japanese to Christianity. Fewer than 400,000 have openly accepted Christianity so far, church figres indicate, but missionaries regard Japan as a promising field.

There is rivalry to win converts, since an outstanding Japanese brought into one fold or another brightens the prospects for getting

Both Catholics and Protestants have regained their prewar strength, according to latest available figures.

Membership in the Roman Cath-claimed an aggregate membership



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Membership and open adherence to Christianity dropped seriously during the war because, according to Japanese, "Christianity was as unpopular as pacifism" under the war lords.

But by virtue of stepped-up missionary activity after the war lords.

But by variue of stepped-up mis-sionary activity after the war. Christianity gained back its losses and in some cases exceeded its old membership. In 1949 the Catholics claimed membership of more than 138,388 and the Protestants claimed 201,321.

Although the main religion in Japan is a combination of the native primitive Shinto religion with Buddhism, Christianity is not new to its people. St. Francis Xavier introduced Christianity to the Japanese in 1549 and during the regime of one early emperor it was forced on the people as a state religion as a means of defeating the Buddhists.

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Buddhism Still Dominant

The Buddhists, nevertheless, have held the greatest sway over the people of this island empire. Most of the population belongs to one of the 12 organized Buddhist sects, all of which contain some of the old Shinto beliefs, the most outstanding Shinto belief to survive the centuries is that the emperor is descended from the sun Goddess. Each of Japan's 124 emperors is believed to have descended directly from the first soverign, who was the sun Goddess grandson.

The modern Christian movement followed Commodore Perry's visit to Japan in 1833.

Greatest importance is attached by the missionsries to converting.

important personages to Christia nity. In Japan this gives added prestige to the church and helps to influence others to join.

CHICAGO, March 30.—

to influence others to join.

Catholic churches in Japan to day total 465. There 3,104 priests. brothers and nuns, 1,974 of whom are Japanese.

Protestant churches total 2,231 with a total clergy of 2,976.

Resistance To Russia

Wins Tito Huge Vote

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 30.—(4?)—The independent Consmon munist regime of Premier Marshail Tito was supported in its fight against the Russian-led Cominform by 93.2 per cent of the Yugoslav voters in Sunday's general election, it was officially announced today.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjub reported that 9, 99,113 of the 8,746,000 was constant to the constant of the con

DIXON, III., March 30. — (A) — Burglars reaped a grim harvest when they looted Harvey L. Bass-hardt's parked automobile.

Teen-Age Eugene Youths Arraigned For Mishap

EUGENE, March 29. — (AP) —
The two teen age boys accused by a coroner's jury of negligent homicide last week in an accident on river road were arraigned Monday and Tuesday in district court. They are involved in the deaths of two young sisters, Mariene Joyce and Bonnie Myers in an auto accident March 19.

Robert Lee Richardson, 16, was arraigned Monday on the strength of the coroner's jury verdict, and Andrew Hoiland, age 16, driver of the second car said by the jury to be involved, was in court Tuesday. Both boys were remaned to circuit court.

Their case will be considered by the special grand jury which has been called to meet April 3. If the grand jury indicts them on, any charge, their case will go through the courts like any other. EUGENE, March 29. - (49)

DUAL ROLE CLASH

ENDICOTT, N. Y., Marca 39.

(P)—Frank Skobern is village building inspector. He's also president of the Endicott Boys' club, and the situation can be confusing.

As head of the Boys' club, he endorsed plans to build an addition to the clubhouse.

As building inspector, he rejected the plans on the ground they violated zoning regulations.

Now, as Boys' club president, he's asking the village zoning board to reverse the ruling he made as building inspector.





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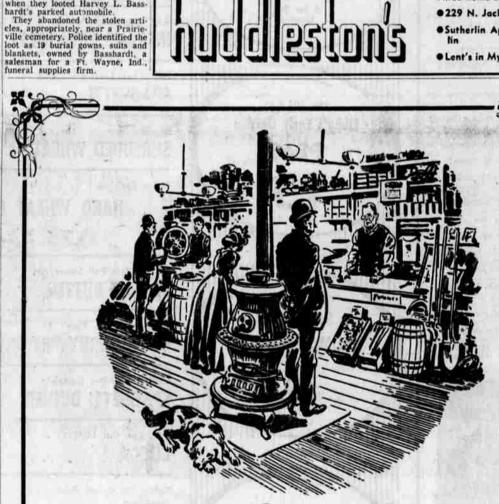
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and well being.



