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CATHOLICS ADJOURNED

NEW YORK MEETING WAS IMPORTANT ONE

Churches' Policy and Feeling Regarding Mexico Made Clear.

(From New York World.)

The great conventions of the American Federation of Catholic societies—to be known hereafter as the Catholic Federation of the United States—and the Young Men's Catholic Union closed yesterday.

Perhaps the most important action taken was when the Executive committee of the federation gave women of the organization the right to form a section of their own for social service—a project which had few friends and many opponents among the men at the beginning of the convention.

In final session at the Hotel Vanderbilt, the Young Men's Catholic Union, without a dissenting voice, put itself on record as to Mexico in the following words:

"That inasmuch as the Constitution of the Republic of Mexico was moulded after the Constitution of the United States, and that its fundamental principles are based on the fact that every man is a freeman, and that he shall enjoy the right to worship God as his conscience shall dictate, that in the final solution of Mexico's internal affairs the Government of the United States shall insist (because it will be the most important factor in the reconstruction of Mexico) that the rights of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience shall be preserved and undisturbed."

To further emphasize its non-political character, the Union included the following in the list of resolutions:

"We oppose the election of any candidate for public office who solicits support because of his religious test, to any candidates for public positions."

"We Do Not Attack Wilson." Michael J. Slattery of Philadelphia, president of the union, said to newspaper men:

"We do not attack President Wilson on the Mexican question and we urge nothing for or against Mr. Hughes. All that we ask is that when the right time comes this Government shall see to it that men of all religious faiths be protected in their freedom of worship in Mexico."

Mr. Slattery was re-elected President and Bishop Hayes was selected as spiritual director. The next annual convention will be held in Philadelphia.

The triumph of the women in their fight for separate organization came in the nature of a big surprise. When the battle opened Tuesday some of the influential clergy professed to see in the plan a menace to federation centralization. Only two favored it; the majority seemed indifferent.

Within half an hour after the Executive committee's decision was announced the woman's section of the Federation was well along the road to organization. The Chairman is Mrs. Sara Conboy of New York, Secretary and Treasurer of the Textile Workers' Union, and the Secretary, Miss Catherine Germerhausen of Hot Springs, N. C.

The closing hours of the Federation convention in Cathedral college were marked with brisk action and just a little friction. The friction developed after Col. Patrick Henry Callahan of Louisville, Chairman of the Religious Prejudice committee of the Knights of Columbus, had made a speech, in which he said:

"Much attention has been paid to the fact that there are approximately 18,000,000 Catholics in this country, about one-sixth of the entire population. I have great faith, great confidence, in the other five-sixths, and I want to pay them the compliment of saying that they have been very tolerant."

Calls the Statement "Silly." Joseph T. Brennan of Boston, Vice President of the Federation, sprang to his feet and exclaimed:

"With every respect for the learning of the gentleman, it is nothing short of silly to make such statements in the presence of Catholics."

Gaining recognition by the chair, Mr. Brennan continued:

"The organization which the gentleman represents in the next year will spend \$30,000 for the distribution of literature and the support of public speakers for the sole object of combating the attacks of these persons and organizations whose vicious attacks upon the church and its members have become matters of public scandal, and have resulted in the greatest injury to Catholics. So far as permitting us to enjoy the liberties and freedom of institutions is concerned, I would remind the gentleman that a Catholic loses none of the rights or the duties of citizenship because of his faith."

"Religious prejudice exists to such a great extent that certain political parties have supported candidates for public office because of the promises of those candidates that they would keep out of Government employ persons who professed the Catholic faith."

Mr. Callahan, apologizing for any word of his that might have seemed to reflect upon the fairness of the federation's National Secretary, added:

"But I don't want to withdraw a word that I have said regarding the liberality and fairness of the non-Catholics in America."

Babes in the Audience

Harris Dickson in Collier's Weekly: Women seemed to borrow babies for the purpose of adding to the gaiety of Chautauqua. With mathematical accuracy these squallers were so distributed that no person could get beyond the hearing of three. When a babe be-

gins to wail every woman in the audience thinks of the child rather than of the speaker. Afternoon audiences are mostly women. A speaker is helpless, even if nine-tenths of his hearers are really trying to listen. Let him betray irritation or vent one word derogatory to that babe and everybody sides against him.

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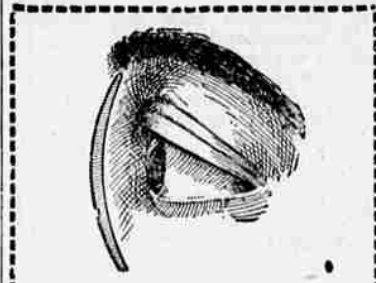
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