

A PATRIOTIC ADDRESS.

Delivered by Supreme President W. J. H. Traynor Before the A. P. A. Convention.

A Thoughtful and Exhaustive Resume of the Work and Progress of the Order.

To the officers and other friends of the Supreme Council of the American Protective Association of the World, greeting.

Friends: It is with a deep sense of the honor and responsibility placed upon me by this honorable body more than a year ago that I received upon my shoulders the mantle of my illustrious predecessor, the noble and devoted founder of the order, and it is with more than ordinary gratitude and satisfaction that I now appear before you to render an account of my stewardship; gratitude towards the officers of the body for the generous and kindly support rendered me in the pursuit of my duties, and satisfaction that through our united efforts, I am able to present to you a report worthy of the grand and patriotic body we are called here to represent.

While it must be conceded that the cause has prospered beyond all expectations during the past year, it is due to the severity of the times and general business depression that we are not able to report to you a report more in keeping with our desires and aspirations, yet, when we point to many cities, and even states, redeemed, or in course of redemption from the enemies of mankind, we cannot but feel a glow of personal pride for our share in these glorious results, and that the American Protective Association has not lived in vain.

Although, immediately upon my assumption of my supreme duties, I continued the active and aggressive work of my predecessor, such work was necessarily restricted by the lack of funds in the supreme treasury, and although my own personal resources were called into requisition, these were all too slender to carry on the propaganda as aggressively as the times and best interests of the order demanded.

A brief resume of my personal work during the past year, condensed, in order that I may the better devote more particular attention to the pressing necessities of the organization, will be in order at this point, and I therefore insert it.

On April 10, 1893, I met with the committee on constitution, at Chicago, remaining in session for three days, the result being the constitution as at present before us.

April 13. In company with the supreme vice-president, Adam Fawcett; secretary, C. T. Beatty, and secretary of state, O. B. Jackman; I organized the State Council of Indiana.

April 14. Owing to certain misunderstandings which had arisen in Missouri, we were called to St. Louis to adjust matters.

April 15. A majority of the officers of the State Council of Missouri having resigned, I appointed Rev. John D. Vincil as supreme deputy and organizer, the choice. I am pleased to say, being a most fortunate one.

April 27. In accordance with the instructions of this honorable body given at its last session, I met the representatives of the subordinate councils of Nebraska at Columbus, in that state, and organized a new State Council.

June 1. Met with Mrs. Blanche E. E. Reynolds, and other officers of the W. A. P. A., with the object of bringing about union and restoring harmony between the two bodies, a result I am pleased to state, which has since been obtained. For this, both orders owe the Past Supreme President of the W. A. P. A., Mrs. Blanche E. E. Reynolds, their everlasting gratitude.

July 19. Organized a strong and enthusiastic State Council at Pittsburg, Pa.

July 21. Organized State Council of New York, at Syracuse, the delegation being one of the finest I have met.

July 25. Organized State Council of Kentucky, at Louisville, which to-day is one of the most active in the United States.

August 19. Owing to differences of opinion which had arisen in Council No. 1, of Denver, Col., I was called to that place, and with the kind assistance of friends devoted to the cause, succeeded in restoring harmony.

August 23. Organized a State Council at Denver, Col., composed of some of the best and most loyal men of the state.

From August 23 to December 24, my time was exclusively occupied in the work of the order in Utah and California. In the latter state, theretofore, the organization had been a stranger. I would state here, in parenthesis, that there is no state in the union where loyalty to the republic labors under such terrible disadvantages as in California, where everything, from street-cleaner to governor, is dominated by pope and priest.

Thanks to the noble assistance afforded me by a few devoted patriots of the west, I was enabled to organize fifteen subordinate councils, and at San Francisco, on December 12, organized

the state council of California, whose subsequent work has been such that the order has spread throughout the state, and bids fair, within another year to remove from every office within the gift of the people of that state every disloyal and corrupt official.

December 30. Instituted Council 3 at Oregon City, state of Oregon.

January 1, 1894. Organized state council of Oregon, at Portland, where the order now flourishes like a green bay tree.

February 12. Instituted state council of Washington, at Seattle, where it is now a power and bids fair to sweep out of the state every vestige of corruption.

March 7. Instituted state council of Montana, at Centerville. Among the members of this body may be counted the most loyal, patriotic and best informed citizens in the state. The results are that Montana is rapidly becoming one of the most formidable strongholds of the order in the west.

April 4. Instituted state council of Wyoming, at Cheyenne.

The intervals between the dates before mentioned I have occupied in sowing the good seed in the new territory, in organizing subordinate councils, or, where the order previously existed, in reviving old or expiring ones.

Thus, since July 21, of last year, I have been engaged unremittingly and continuously, to the exclusion of all other business, in doing the work of the order, nor have I once returned to Detroit during the interim. In almost every state through which I have passed, I have instituted one or more W. A. P. A. councils, which are now prospering as grandly as are their brethren of the A. P. A.

I found the west in general, and the Pacific coast in particular, in a pitiable condition of Romanized iniquity and corruption, and although there are many thousands of loyal Americans who welcome as a savior of the nation the A. P. A., their greater fear of the priest deters them openly allying themselves with us. Yet I found brave and loyal men in plenty, who welcomed me as the herald of a true American dispensation; men to whom country and patriotism are more than personal interest or selfish considerations, who gave time and labor to assist me in my work.

Although we have tasted in its bitterness the gall of Romish persecution, in the middle and eastern states, we know nothing of the deadly and murderous unity with which the members of the order are pursued in the states on the Pacific slope. All the tortures of the inquisition modernized, are brought into play by the priests, corrupt politicians, and a subsidized press to ruin and intimidate.

The councils are watched from all sides by the police and county officers; to escape observation and recognition is impossible. As a consequence, the merchant is boycotted, the mechanic and laborer are deprived of their means of existence, and the public official ousted from office, the moment their names are enrolled upon the black list. Justice is simply a farce when a Protestant is one of the contending litigants, and public officers unblushingly conspire with thieves and felons to trample under foot the law of the land. The priest is sole, supreme master of the situation.

Yet, in the face of all deterrents, the council chambers are nightly thronged, many of them more than a thousand strong, with brave, loyal men, willing to sacrifice interests and life itself to rescue the country from the grip of unscrupulous men who at present control it.

These men have thrown party and party politics to the four winds. They are not content with negative measures, nor a milk and water policy. They demand a strong, earnest, aggressive policy, such as shall supplicate respect; they are active, earnest fighters, and have already given us largely of their ability and daring.

In many states where one year ago the order was unheard of, it numbers tens of thousands, and in several cities where Romish corruption has ruled supreme heretofore, within a month of the institution of a council of the A. P. A., has torn the scepter of power from the priest and corrupt politician, and transferred it to the hands of honest and loyal men, and the next elections will prove, beyond a doubt, that the west, though laboring under untold disadvantages, is in no whit inferior to the East.

It would seem as though all legislation is now conducted solely for the benefit of the Romish church, for, while we have much to complain of in regard to untaxed ecclesiastical property, in the Pacific states, the priests not only have their convents, monasteries, churches and hospitals exempted from taxation under the law, but possess many thousands of acres of real estate, valued at many millions of dollars, in which they carry on a lively traffic as real estate dealers.

The press there, as in the east, is almost entirely in the hands of the Roman hierarchy, and a just presentation of the principles or arguments of our order, is impossible to obtain.

Looking, as we do, from states where Romanism is, comparatively speaking, upon its best behavior, it is difficult for the eastern mind to conceive the disadvantages under which our friends

of the west labor, but I have been over the battle ground, and I must confess that the prospects were anything but inviting there a year ago.

New York state, in apparently as hopeless condition as the Pacific slope a few months ago, has now awakened from its apathy, and the slogan of reform is heard in all of its principal cities, not excepting New York, the nest of Romanism, corruption and rebellion. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Brooklyn, Troy and many other places have partially redeemed themselves, and within the year will have cast off the bands entirely.

Although we may as individuals as well as an order feel proud of our progress during the past year, which has been stupendous, existing—as there does today—more than twice as many councils in the United States as at the close of the last supreme meeting, it is but just to take into consideration the financial panic, and many labor complications, which have served to distract the public mind from the real issue. The dollars drawn by willing hands, for initiation fees to our order, were in a large number of cases drawn from otherwise empty pockets, for money on the western coast is almost impossible to obtain for any other purpose save those of actual existence.

The order, too, has been financially crippled a greater part of the year. Where at least \$80,000 should have been expended to extend the order and explain its principles to the world, to circulate patriotic literature and to introduce into other English-speaking nations of the world, scarcely anything has been done in these directions for lack of funds. We cannot allow another year to go by with so much unaccomplished. If we would strike the Roman monster, we must attack it all points at once, leaving it no place of refuge to retire for recuperation. While it is yet too early to turn our attention to those nations which do not speak the English language, we should certainly lose no time in turning our attention to Great Britain, Australasia, and India, where Romanism is becoming even more aggressive and powerful than it is in the United States.

Let me impress upon you, my friends, that these are allies whom we cannot afford to despise, and whose moral support and perhaps active assistance we shall need before long. Let us also remember that the sowing of the seed is not expensive nor laborious; we shall find millions of cultivators who will gladly share with us the fruits. This done, the Teutons, Huns and Italians of Europe need our helping hand, and all peoples far advanced enough in civilization to comprehend our principles.

We must not forget that we are not merely the American Protective Association, but also the Protective Association of the World. Although, as a matter of justice and necessity, it is to the United States that we owe our first devotion and attention, yet the fact must not be lost sight of that the perpetual defeat of the enemy of freedom can never be effected in any one country alone. So long as there remains a sanctuary—a refuge to which he may fly—so long will our institutions be in danger.

I am pleased to note that the labors of the supreme judiciary board have not been heavy during the past year, but few appeals from lower tribunals having been presented or adjudicated.

For many reasons—the lack of necessary funds being foremost—the labors of the executive board have also been light, although—given the sinews of war—there were many and varied fields of usefulness which they might have cultivated with profit, to the glory of the order, and the propagation of the principles of true loyalty. These are fields which, I trust, their successors will be enabled to devote their attention to, being properly equipped therefor.

It needs no words of mine to impress upon the members of this council the gravity of the crisis upon which we have happened, nor that upon the wisdom of your deliberations rests the future of this great republic; your interests and lives and the freedom and happiness of those nearest and dearest to us all.

Poised upon the pinnacle of a great national calamity, menaced by the Roman hierarchy from one quarter, pressed from another by a soulless plutocracy, whose highest aim is to convert our fair republic into a plutocratic despotism; besieged by the mad devil of anarchy from yet another, surrounded by the ever-rising waves of Europe's stagnant overflow; while the pale, gaunt wolf of famine and pauperism licks her greedy fangs even at the very thresholds of our halls of legislation, we should be unworthy of the grand and patriotic body which we have the honor to represent, and false to the obligations of patriotism and devotion which we have taken, if we were to leave this chamber until we have carefully examined the dangers which menace our beloved country, and provided, so far as lies within our power, remedial measures.

While it is true that the great, underlying principle of our organization is active and unceasing hostility to ecclesiastical and alien aggression upon the body politic, it is none the less true and equally as important that the broad range of our constitution includes

within itself antagonism to everything which is directly a danger to the nation, or a menace to its institutions. Let me repeat, then, that we are living in a time of great public danger; at a time when the people have lost confidence in their parties, and political leaders who have repeatedly sold them out and betrayed them. With millions of idle men crying for work or clamoring for food daily beneath their windows; with the savage and unlettered hordes from Europe waving the bloody torch of treason and anarchy in their faces, the American people, as a whole, with minds inflamed by the dangers of the hour, cry out for change, although but few know what change they really want or need.

The public mind is running in dangerous channels, from which it would appear that either the will or the ability of our corrupt legislators is unable to divert them. If we would avert a revolution to which the war of the rebellion was mere child's play, it is this body, here and now, which must take up the issues of the day, devise remedies and force the enactment of them upon the legislature; otherwise, we as an order shall have lived in vain, and be swept away as in inferior issue in the flood of revolution.

I know whereof I speak; I have had my finger upon the public pulse for a year past, from land's end to land's end. I know that a large portion of our people execrate a large number of our law-makers, and have ceased to respect the law, which, in many cases and under various conditions has become a mere plaything in the hands of rascals, as witness the comparative immunity from punishment which such wretches as Prendergast and Coughlin enjoy at the present moment, and the laws providing for the restriction of pauper immigration which, owing to the venality of our officials in connivance with Romish priests utterly fail to restrict.

We must, therefore—and I respectfully submit the subject to your most earnest attention—immediately tackle the question of the importation of foreigners as the prime source of national disaster, for in doing so we strike a fatal blow at the power of the priests, bind the hands of aggressive monopoly in the future, and, by shutting out from competition with American labor the pauper labor of Europe, apply a healing remedy to the labor question, which at present threatens to overwhelm the nation.

Although this is probably the prime cause of existing dangerous national conditions, it is by no means the only cause, and others almost as vital must receive careful attention and adjustment before the country can recover its healthy tone. Next to claim or attention, but really first in national importance, is the educational question. I am fully aware that many wholesome and patriotic re-

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