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## Body of Father Damien "Leper Apostle" Buried in Belgian Homeland

LOUVAIN, Belgium, May 11—Father Damien, Belgium's famous "leper apostle" who spent most of his life on the leper island of Molokai, Hawaiian Islands, was buried in a crypt here last night after lying in state at the Holy Heart Chapel.

Thousands filed past his coffin and prayed. A monument is being erected to his memory.

The body of the priest was brought to Belgium for belated recognition of his work. He died in his voluntary exile among the lepers February 10, 1889, and the body was exhumed for the trip to his homeland.

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THIS SPRING'S LOW  
PRICES ARE A GOLDEN  
OPPORTUNITY!

MATERIAL AND LABOR  
WILL COST MORE  
NEXT YEAR!

## MATHEMATICAL MILLENNIUM

British Manager of Manufacturers Life Would  
Calculate Entire Insurance Valuation in  
About Fifteen Minutes

If reports in British and foreign insurance papers are to be taken at face value, a mild sensation in insurance and actuarial circles has followed recently to the Institute of Actuaries in Great Britain by E. William Phillips, general manager for Great Britain of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Phillips' aim, as stated simply in the introduction to his paper, is, "to persuade the whole civilized world to abandon decimal numerations and to use octonary numerations in tens and count in eights instead."

**Aid To Business and Science**  
Being a business man as well as a mathematician and a mechanical genius, Mr. Phillips admits at once that it seems unlikely that the whole civilized world will be persuaded to complete this change during the next twelve months, "having previously declined a similar invitation."

He urges therefore that a more immediate aim is the adoption of octonary numeration for scientific and business purposes for the great mass of figures recorded and manipulated for the benefit only of the scientific and business man. He suggests that the few final results required for presentation to the layman be then transformed into the decimal scale of notation by means of conversion tables or otherwise.

**Lightning Rapidity**  
As far as results are concerned, the speed with which mathematical calculations can be made by the Phillips' system is nothing short of breath-taking.

Thus Mr. Phillips submits to the Institute of Actuaries that if his equipment is provided with all the necessary material on the morning of January 1st, the whole of an insurance valuation would be completed within fifteen minutes or so.

"Indeed," he says, "when will still be time to complete the valuation over again on eight or nine other bases before he goes out to lunch and yet have ready the figures necessary for the annual general meeting in the afternoon."

**Phillips' System Easy**  
What is octonary numeration and the final scale of notation about which Mr. Phillips talks so glibly?

It's easy, once you understand and get your mind out of the deep rut of thinking in terms of units of tens.

And getting acclimatized to thinking in a scale of eight—a scale where the only numerals are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, where after reaching 8 you start into a new column of digits at the left of the first—is the first step.

Thus the two numbers—89 and 38 when expressed in terms of the scale of eight become 131 and 46 respectively. Is that right? Better check to make sure.

And when you are sure of that—try putting these same numbers into scale of notation 2, Mr. Phillips says the transformation can be done on sight and is 1,011,001 and 100,110 respectively. What about it?

Assuming you agree with Mr. Phillips you can then pass to his next argument which is:

"These last two numbers can be multiplied together by anyone who knows that one times one is one and can count, and could therefore be dealt with by a child before he had learnt his multiplication tables. The multiplication can also be effected by a machine, virtually with the speed of light—in fact by using a light ray".

Obviously, while this system of notation is easy to use and to calculate with, it is impracticable in everyday use because of the exasperation and danger of error which would result from having page after page filled with nothing but zeros and ones.

**Three Achievements**  
To achieve this mathematical millennium, Mr. Phillips has delved into three specific realms of knowledge.

In the first place, he claims to have discovered for the first time that in the realm of arithmetic the scale of eight (properly called octonary notation) can be converted into the scale of two (binary notation) on sight.

"Any clerk," says Mr. Phillips, "can master the conversion in two minutes, for he has only to commit a very small simple table to memory."

Having made this discovery, Mr. Phillips visualizes the work of calculation for scientific and business purposes to have been tremendously simplified because of the extreme simplicity of calculation by the scale of two which needs but two symbols for expression—namely, one and zero—as compared with ten symbols in the decimal system, which we now use.

**Invents New Machine**  
Carrying his plan one step farther, Mr. Phillips has then devised a mechanical instrument which would not

only achieve extraordinary speed for calculations in this new scale of notation, but which would also operate without requiring human attention when once get in operation.

Such a machine is described in detail in his paper and, it is claimed, "would total over a thousand amounts per minute"—besides doing the most complicated arithmetical calculations with equal rapidity.

**Adds Light-Ray**  
But Mr. Phillips does not stop there. He claims that by substituting in this mechanical machine a selenium photo-electric cell (commonly called the electric eye or light-ray machine) that "on a conservative estimate such a machine might deal with five to ten products every second or between 15,000 to 40,000 products per hour, providing a printed, punched or photographed record in the binary scale of notation of every product and if required, every cumulative total."

**Historical Argument**  
Among other arguments in support of his invention, Mr. Phillips submits that there is plenty of historical precedent for using other than decimal system of calculation. (Even at the present time, of course, the British people use this system in their weights and measures and financial transactions as for example, the counting of pence by the dozen, shillings by the score, pounds (avoirdupois) in groups of fourteen, and, indeed, in favor of the scale of eight notations it is noted that already there are eight drams in a fluid ounce, eight gills in a quart, eight pints in a gallon, eight gallons in a bushel, eight stone in a hundred-weight and eight furlongs in a mile).

Mr. Phillips also points out that the binary scale of notation is merely a reversion to the Ahmes' method of multiplication believed to have existed since 3,000 B. C.—thus going back through 5,000 years of human history.

The octonary numerations he believes to have been used 1,500 years ago by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers. In addition he would incorporate the symbol for zero and "the consequent convenience of positional value" developed by the Maya about 2,000 years ago and to bring these all together by what he describes as "a more recent and far less wonderful invention, the selenium photo-electric cell".

The scale of eight, says Mr. Phillips, will facilitate the keeping of records, the use of zero symbols makes for convenience, and the light ray machine they are suggested as aids is essentially that of 5,000 years ago.

**STOCKS OF FOREIGN CORN**  
Stocks of foreign corn in Canada on May 1 included the following, with 1935 figures in brackets: United States 488 (4,484,604) bushels; Argentine 74,051 (65,367), South African \$25,437 (2,876,211).

## NEW HOUSING ACT WILL INCREASE OUR PROSPERITY IN DOM.

Just What Fifty Million Dollars Will Mean—  
Labour and Building Supplies—Busy Factories

J. Noble, head of the Building Trades Unions, Toronto, discussing the new Housing Act, gives some interesting information and figures.

Very few people know anything about the provisions of this bill," he said. "A small number know the money is there but have no idea about how to go about getting it. They don't know anything about the easy repayment plan or the interest rates, I am convinced that once they do know—once the picture is placed before them—we in Canada will see a tremendous upswing. We, in the building trades, are looking for the biggest spring and summer we have had for some years."

Just what does this fifty million dollars mean in the way of increased prosperity? Mr. Noble says: "Let's take the fifty million dollars in terms of \$5,000 homes. It's quickly apparent that ten thousand of these homes could be built for the fifty million dollars. And when you consider that each \$5,000 home has about 175 days of work in the building trades alone

you gain some idea of how many men would be put to work and how much increased prosperity this huge payroll would give."

But Mr. Noble speaks of the building trades alone. There's another end to the labour picture. Building supplies cannot be manufactured without a large percentage of their cost being for labour. And busy labour means busy factories. Busy factories, in turn, mean an end to the depression conditions which have faced the building supply houses for so many years.

This is the reason the Housing Act is regarded as a fifty million dollar plum waiting only intelligent effort to be picked. That it actually is, is shown by the following comparison of buildings erected with general employment which is back now to about the same level as 1926 despite the fact that building permits are down more than seventy points. Undoubtedly if building could be brought to the 1926 level, general employment would equal, if not surpass, the high of 1929.

## SOCIALISTS ARE ALWAYS HOSTILE TO DEVALUATION

PARIS, France, May 11—Leon Blum who is expected to form a new government as leader of the Socialist party, in a declaration to policy yesterday subordinated the question of devaluation of the franc to "the graver difficulties of unemployment and misery."

Blum, whose speech was eagerly awaited by traders in a nervous Bourse, declared Socialists are "always hostile to devaluation", but stressed that "these financial difficulties are less grave" than the social welfare of the nation.

Leon Blum, leader of the Socialist party last night, announced he would accept the premiership and would actively lead the Leftist Popular Front, expected to govern France after June 1.

The announcement was made before the national council of the Socialist party, which had just approved a resolution calling on all workers, proletarian groups and Left parties to support the new regime.

Fearing possible defections by Radical Socialists, Socialists and Communists when the Popular Front takes power, the national council's resolution appealed to all groups to keep faith with the coalition and collaborate in the forthcoming Left cabinet. If any group fails to co-operate, the Socialists indicated they would assume full responsibility of government themselves.

## TRANS-U.S. TRAINS WILL BE SPEEDED

CHICAGO, Illinois, May 11—Whittling at time, railroads of the United States plan to narrow the continent by more than a full day soon.

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