

The Catholic Record

Published Weekly at 424 and 426 Richmond Street, Toronto, Ontario. Price of Subscription—\$2.00 per annum.

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PUBLISHER: THOMAS COFFEY, Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey & Sons, 424 and 426 Richmond Street, Toronto, Ontario.

AGENTS: Messrs. Luke King, P. J. Neven, E. G. Broderick and Miss Sarah Hanley are fully authorized to receive subscriptions and transact all other business for THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

AGENTS: Agent for Newfoundland, Mr. James Power of St. John's. Rates of Advertising—Ten cents per line each insertion, scale measurement.

AGENTS: Approved and recommended by the Archbishops of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa and St. Boniface, the Bishops of London, Hamilton, Peterborough and Oshawa, N. Y., and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

AGENTS: Correspondence intended for publication, as well as that having reference to business, should be directed to the proprietor and must reach London not later than Monday morning.

AGENTS: Letters of Recommendation, Apostolic Delegation, Ottawa, June 18th, 1906. To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

AGENTS: My Dear Sir—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability, and above all that it is imbued with a strong Catholic spirit.

AGENTS: Following these lines it has done a great deal of good for the welfare of religion and country, and it will do more and more, as its wholesome influence reaches more Catholic homes.

AGENTS: I therefore, earnestly recommend it to Catholic families. With my blessing on your work, and best wishes for its continued success.

AGENTS: UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, Ottawa, Canada, March 7th, 1906. To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

AGENTS: Dear Sir—For some time past I have read your estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

AGENTS: Its matter and form are both good; and a truly Catholic spirit pervades the whole. Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend it to the faithful.

AGENTS: BELIEFING you and wishing you success, Believe me to remain, Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ, D. FALCONER, Arch. of Ottawa, Apost. Deleg.

AGENTS: LONDON, SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 1906. THE FRENCH CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

AGENTS: It is sure that the Bishops of France have agreed upon a uniform procedure based upon what the Pope has directed to be done in case some priests and laymen participate in the election of cultural associations in the various parishes, but it is not sure what that procedure will be, and many of the statements which have been made in reference thereto have evidently no foundation in fact.

AGENTS: Neither the Pope nor the Bishops desire to come into open conflict with the State, and we may presume that if certain associations can be formed which can be worked in harmony with the full exercise of Episcopal authority, they may be tolerated. In fact the Holy Father himself made this statement in his letter to the Bishops, but as such a condition can not be fulfilled without large concessions from the State, it is difficult to conceive what form such concessions may take, as there are not at present any diplomatic relations existing between the Pope and the Government. Something may be done, however, to restore these relations before the law will take effect in December. It is certain that the Holy Father will not accede to any arrangement which will destroy or weaken the authority of the Bishops in their dioceses, as is intended by the Government in its present honor.

AGENTS: Many of the assertions which have been made on this matter have been wild, and far from the truth. Thus it was reported by cablegrams that the Pope is about to issue a bull against priests and other Catholics who presume to participate in any way in the formation of a League of French Catholics which is now being organized with the object of forming cultural associations to take possession of Church property for the purpose of administering it under and in accordance with the law separating Church and State.

AGENTS: We are told by a later telegram from Paris that this statement has no foundation in fact. Other statements come to us that a number of cultural associations have already been established, some of these having appointed excommunicated or suspended priests to take charge of the parishes. This may possibly have been done in a few instances, the details of which have not reached us, but certainly, if this be done at all, true Catholics will give no countenance to such intruded priests, but will go to whatever hall or house may be selected for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by priests in communion with and properly submissive to their Bishops and the Pope. True Catholics will not go to schismatic or heretical churches on any mandate of the Government, even though it were a Government professing to be Catholic. Still less will they do so under command of the Atheists who now rule the country.

AGENTS: December will certainly be a critical

month for the Church in France, but even though the priests and their congregations are compelled to take refuge in barns or caves, they will cling to the one Church which Christ established, and which has for its supreme head the successor of St. Peter, who rules the Church by Christ's appointment. There may be schisms and heresies, and the worldly-minded and the proud may follow such, but Christ's promise will be fulfilled that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His Church, but that He will remain with her until the consummation of the world.

AGENTS: There have been more critical times in the nineteen centuries of the Church's existence even than the present, and the Church has emerged from them victorious and triumphant, and we are fully satisfied that the issue of the present struggle will be a repetition of what has been in the past, that Christ will bring back most of his errant sheep to His fold, that there may be at last one fold and one Shepherd.

AGENTS: THE ENGLISH EDUCATION BILLS. The Bishops of England have united in sending to the House of Lords a letter which was read in all the Catholic churches and chapels a couple of Sundays ago, asking that the Government and the House of Commons amend the Education Bill which is now before that House. This pastoral letter asserts that this Bill perpetuates and extends many inequalities which already existed in part ever since the Education Act of 1870 became law, and the conditions imposed by the new law will be more oppressive on Catholics than any they have suffered for a very long period.

AGENTS: Three things are asked for: Catholic schools for Catholic children, Catholic teachers, and effective Catholic oversight of all that pertains to religious teaching and influence.

AGENTS: Under the law as it stands already, public aid is refused to one half of the Catholic schools, though rates have been levied on Catholics, part of which will be devoted to a religious teaching alien from and opposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

AGENTS: They point out that existing Catholic schools will be starved to death by the action of the Liberal Government, in defiance of all the principles to which it owes its appellation.

AGENTS: "We are told," the Bishops continue "that we must trust to the goodwill and fairness of the local authorities. Such assurances are unworthy of being called serious legislation. They add: "Our public appeal now lies to the House of Lords, and we call upon members of that House to prevent the injustice which is contemplated, and to see that fair treatment is meted out to all parents alike without violating the religious convictions of any."

AGENTS: It is now seen that the Nonconformists, who are the chief supporters of the recent laws passed by the House of Commons, are satisfied to have that kind of religion taught in the schools which suits them, which is secularism pure and simple, while they will not allow Catholics or Anglicans to have schools in which their children will be taught in accordance with their religious convictions.

AGENTS: It cannot be supposed that this glaring injustice will last long.

AGENTS: THE POPE'S HEALTH. It will be interesting to our readers to learn that whereas on the one hand we have quite recently been told in the Mail and Empire's special despatches from Rome, that the Holy Father Pope Pius has been losing his activity of late, having become inert, and that, contrary to the advice of his physicians, he has become a confirmed wine-bibber, who will not be controlled by wiser heads, the most recent authentic accounts by the associated press reporters state that the contrary to all this is the truth. A despatch dated 13th October says: "The Pope, who is in perfect health, received many people in private audience to-day, including Archbishop Mazzella of Rossano, Italy, also the following Bishops from Canada: viz., Bishops E. Grouard, Apostolic Vicar of Athabaska, Joseph A. Archambault of Joliette, and E. J. Legal of St. Albert.

AGENTS: With Mgr. Grouard the Pope had a long conference on matters concerning the Church in Canada, and especially in the newly settled provinces and territories of the Canadian Northwest.

AGENTS: He also received many Canadian pilgrims who were introduced by the Bishop of Joliette.

AGENTS: The Holy Father, too, performed the usual duties which devolve upon him in his daily occupations.

AGENTS: We had occasion to state when the special despatch concerning the Holy Father's "inertia and wine-bibbing" appeared in the columns of the Mail, that no credit was due to it. We are, therefore, happy to be able to contradict it now on incontrovertible authority.

AGENTS: We do not mean to deny that the

Pope's advanced age enfeebles him from time to time, especially when he undergoes heavy labors, but this does not justify calumniators in making false statements in regard to him. With them "the wish is father to the thought."

AGENTS: It will be seen by the above statement that the Holy Father takes special interest in the state of the Church in Canada; nevertheless he is interested in the matters which concern the Church in all parts of the world, as is shown by the reports of his reception of Bishops, priests, and laymen from the most distant countries every day.

AGENTS: THE CHURCH UNION QUESTION. The Western Congregational Association held its regular meeting in Watford on October 9th, at which about thirty churches were represented. This was considered to be a good turnout of delegates, as the Congregationalists are not a numerous body in Canada, and there are many large districts in which there are few or no churches belonging to that body. Nevertheless, as this is one of the three bodies which are expected to unite at an early date to form but one denomination in Canada, it will be of considerable interest to learn the conditions of union which will be acceptable to them when the union takes place. This is shown by the resolution passed at this meeting, and which is identical with that of the Congregational Union of Canada, and setting forth that the united Church must have "a simple creed, which will be experimental and devotional rather than theological."

AGENTS: This theological means that the creed of the new church shall demand from its members a belief in the fewest possible dogmas of religion, an end which can be attained only by throwing to the fishes all the distinctive doctrines of the sects forming the union.

AGENTS: But it cannot be denied that distinctive doctrines were taught by Christ in the sermon on the mount, in the institution of the sacraments, and the explanation of the parables of which he made use in order to teach us the way of salvation.

AGENTS: Thus when the Pharisees and Herodians made up a party to entrap our Lord by asking Him doctrinal questions which they supposed would puzzle Him to answer, as they were of opinion that whatever answer He might give would either alienate the affections of the people from Him, or lead to His arrest by the Roman authorities as a disturber, He did not hesitate to tell what should be done.

AGENTS: His questioners asked Him: "Master, we know that Thou art a true speaker, and teachest the way of God in truth; neither carest Thou for any man. . . . Tell us, therefore, is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?"

AGENTS: "But Jesus calling for a current coin asked: whose image and inscription is this? They say to Him, Caesar's. Then He said to them: 'Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.'" (St. Matt. xxii. 16-21.)

AGENTS: There was no hiding away of moral teaching here. He told them plainly what was to be done, and, further, He declares that to His Apostles the Holy Ghost will give a full knowledge of all truth, as He Himself had done already. (St. John xiv. 16-20; xv. 26-27; xvi. 13.)

AGENTS: The nature of the case shows that the truths of which our Blessed Lord speaks here are those which affect the way of salvation, and these are the same truths which are to be taught by His Apostles to all mankind; for "all power is given to me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them, etc. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." (St. Matt. xxviii. 18-20.)

AGENTS: There is no provision here for a multitude of denominations or sects, nor even for a union of sects on the simplest possible creed platform, such as that for which the Congregational union cries out so loudly. The unity which our Blessed Lord requires is that unity which comes down from the Apostles, and includes that Apostolic succession in the ministry which is specially repudiated by the three denominations proposing to become one. It is repudiated because they know well that they do not and cannot have it. Therefore, they argue, it is not needed.

AGENTS: A unity of doctrine is also needed; and this is to be attained, not by ceasing to teach "the faith once delivered to the Saints," but by showing that this faith has been taught constantly in the Church from the time when Christ committed to His Apostles the duty to teach it to all nations, and made St. Peter His chief apostle whose faith should not fail, but who should confirm the brethren therein, no matter how fearfully Satan by his wiles should endeavor to weaken it: for on St. Peter depended chiefly the duty to feed the lambs and sheep of Christ's flock. (St. Luk. xxii. 31; St. John xxi. 15-17.)

AGENTS: It is thoroughly understood, especially

by the Presbyterians, that to bring about the proposed union they must abandon the doctrines of predestination and infant reprobation; and they are prepared for this, for the reason that, within the growing up of the present generation, the Presbyterians have ceased to believe these doctrines, and the Congregationalists have done the same. Hence, though a good deal has been said of the sacrifices made by Presbyterians for the sake of union, the actual sacrifice made is wonderfully small, but the course which is being followed can give neither an Apostolic ministry to the united Church, nor can the mutilation of doctrines as effected by the union committee transform three Churches which reject the creeds they have hitherto believed into the one Church of Christ which should have taught Christ's true doctrine in the past and present, as well as in the future time.

AGENTS: METHODIST FRENCH EVANGELIZATION. At the Methodist Home Mission, which held its sessions recently at Toronto, the question of French Evangelization in Quebec was discussed, and the facts brought out that the French-Canadian mission work, which has been going on for many years, has been a complete failure. The opinion was generally expressed that, considering the large amount of money given every year toward evangelization purposes, the results were poor. In fact the Board was generally of the opinion that the aid to French missions in that province should be spent to better advantage and thus more tangible results secured. It was explained by the French Mission Secretary that a large number every year affiliate themselves from the Roman Catholic Church and become Methodists, but that these persons do not become Protestants by conviction. They become Protestants in order to escape paying the tithes which are collectible from Catholics, and make poor Protestants. The opinion was expressed freely that the money given by the Home Missions Board to provide for such converts would be much better spent if it were devoted to foreign missions or the missions of the Canadian North-West.

AGENTS: We have been accustomed to see annual glowing reports of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist missions to the French-Canadians, and they were nearly always highly-colored to represent that the Catholic faith is dying out in the Province of Quebec. The Canadian decennial census has proved the contrary of all this; but it is only by representing the great strides which Protestantism of various forms is making among the people of that province that cash for their evangelization purposes can be drawn from the pockets of the adherents of the various sects in Ontario and the other Protestant provinces of the Dominion. The decennial censuses of past years have shown a decline in the ratio of increase of Protestant population of Quebec for several decades past; and even down to the present moment a discussion is going on in the columns of the Montreal Daily Witness in regard to the "decline of Protestantism in the Province." The actual decline is conceded by the disputants on both sides, but the causes of that decline are discussed in a very sprightly manner.

AGENTS: Some years ago it was maintained in some Ontario journals that this decline was occasioned by an insidious and persistent conspiracy which had for its leaders the curés of the province, who so managed matters that the Protestants were harassed into selling their farms to the growing up French-Canadian young men, who then settled upon the newly acquired property, put the Protestants out and obliged them to settle elsewhere.

AGENTS: We remember well many articles which appeared in our columns at that time disproving the assertions of these journals, and showing that it was the desire of the Protestants themselves to seek their fortunes elsewhere, which influenced them by degrees to go westward, after selling their farms in Quebec, which tended to Catholicize many townships, and even some counties which many years before were English and Protestant have become French and Catholic.

AGENTS: In the present discussion in the Montreal Witness, it is fully admitted by all the disputants that the Protestant settlements which are found here and there throughout the province are everywhere well treated by their Catholic neighbors, and that the causes of the decline are not such as have been put forth in the past by some Ontario journals for political effect.

AGENTS: Many Protestants have left Quebec because they prefer Protestant surroundings: others, because the Protestants of the locality have become so few that they are unable, even with the aid given by the government to all schools, to support special Protestant schools in their locality. Some have left because they believe that their prospects of be-

coming wealthy are greater in the West, and for other causes. We must add here that we have good reason to believe that a considerable part of the decline has arisen from the fact that, though great efforts were made by some politicians to create a high wall of separation between the Catholics and Protestants in Quebec, those who attempted to create dissensions between the two classes, Catholics and Protestants, were found out to be demagogues who over-reached themselves, and the result was that their motives were found out to have originated in self-interest. Thus, instead of political hatred arising out of the situation, the Protestant minority itself, on discovering the illusion set before them, gradually amalgamated with their French Canadian neighbors and often became even more French than the French Canadians themselves, and finally disappeared by being absorbed into the French and Catholic population around them.

AGENTS: This, as well as the other causes mentioned above, have been assigned by some of the writers in the discussion going on in the Montreal Witness.

AGENTS: Here we must add that all this was attested in the most direct way by the Protestant members of Parliament from Quebec, who so fully admitted these causes, that, with the exception of one member, all the Protestant members of Quebec, Conservative as well as Liberal, who are in Parliament, voted for the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bill of the North-West Provinces, because, as they said, they had themselves received from the Catholic majority of their own province the fullest justice and most liberal treatment possible in regard to education. Gratitude alone should bring them to do for Catholics in the North-West what a Catholic majority had done for them.

AGENTS: STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE. It is well known to our readers that year after year remarkable cures of all manner of diseases have been effected at shrines of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other Saints in many parts of the world. Among the more notable of these places of special devotion may be mentioned the holy places in Jerusalem which were sanctified by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, and which were the scenes where some of the principal mysteries of the Christian religion took place. One of these is the sacred staircase which led to the hall where Pilate pronounced the decree which condemned our Blessed Lord to death. This memento of Christ was brought to Rome, where it is still, and is visited daily by hundreds of visitors who ascend it on their knees, and come down by another way after prostrating themselves in adoration of God, who for us became Man, and suffered on the cross. At Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity of Jesus is still visited by thousands of pious pilgrims, and in Jerusalem the Way of the Cross is constantly visited in like manner and Christ is adored devoutly by multitudes on the very spot where He was crucified.

AGENTS: Among the shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin are the Basilicas and Churches of Loretto, Lourdes, Montmartre in Paris, and Mary the Guardian of Marseille.

AGENTS: Notable among these shrines are also St. James of Compostella in Spain and St. Mary's Church of Guadalupe, Mexico.

AGENTS: The well attested miracles which have been vouchsafed by Almighty God at these places are an undeniable testimony to the truth of the Catholic Church, which has always held that sacred relics are to be venerated, as their veneration has the seal of God, who on these occasions makes manifest their sanctity.

AGENTS: There are several well known shrines in America, but the best known in North America is that of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, near Quebec. Not a year passes in which there is lacking much evidence that God wishes his saints to be honored by His faithful people.

AGENTS: On one day of this year, August 6th, five thousand visitors were at this shrine when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered up. Among them was a party of fifty American tourists, who should rather be called pilgrims, and this multitude were eye-witnesses of a great miracle performed in the Basilica.

AGENTS: A cripple was just finishing a novena, or devotion of nine days. To end this devotion he walked up the middle aisle of the church on crutches. He knelt for a while in prayer before the altar, and in a few minutes got up, and, being completely cured, he walked away, leaving his crutches behind him. The party of fifty Americans were among those who witnessed this fact, and we are told that many of the women especially were affected to tears at having witnessed so positive a proof of the power of the prayers of God's saints, and especially of Ste. Anne.

AGENTS: We have not learned whether there was any medical inspection in this case, but the facts cannot be doubted, as

they were witnessed by thousands, and they were only one example of what occurs frequently at this renowned shrine.

AGENTS: INFIDELITY'S WAR ON CHRISTIANITY. A despatch from Paris states that the members of the French Government at a cabinet meeting held recently, took up the question of the application of the Separation Law.

AGENTS: It now appears that the bold front which has been put on by the Government is but a mask, and a glimpse of what is behind the mask was recently given when M. Clemenceau announced that the Government will enforce the law, but will at the same time make provision that there shall be no martyrs on the occasion.

AGENTS: Are we to conclude that the Government is in a quandary? The despatch adds that strong differences of opinion have arisen between members of the Government in regard to the enforcement of the Law which is calculated to cause general resistance throughout the country.

AGENTS: A few weeks ago one of the Bishops told his people in a pastoral letter that the whole body of Bishops and priests throughout France are ready and willing to suffer hunger and persecution even to death for God and the Faith of Christ.

AGENTS: These are departments where the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bill of the North-West Provinces, because, as they said, they had themselves received from the Catholic majority of their own province the fullest justice and most liberal treatment possible in regard to education. Gratitude alone should bring them to do for Catholics in the North-West what a Catholic majority had done for them.

AGENTS: One department is not a reliable indication of what may happen, but the Basces Alpes represent a spirit of determination which is undoubtedly stalking through the country, and which may prove indomitable. These men of Brittany have told Clemenceau in a public pronouncement of principles: "We are not dead. If you attempt to unite the Jacobins of '93, if you attempt to close the churches, proscribe our priests, or prevent the exercise of our holy religion, we will rise against the infamous tyranny, and die with enthusiasm for God, and the king of our fathers."

AGENTS: We are assured that it is this spirit of resistance to tyranny that is now alarming a section of the Cabinet, which has not the face to enforce Jacobinism upon the nation.

AGENTS: The French people do not wish to witness a repetition of the horrors of 1793 and 1871, which would surely be repeated if the Atheistic faction retain or obtain power, whichever may be the word we ought to use here.

AGENTS: With a resolute leader such as was Laroche Jacquelin, we are convinced that the true will of the people would be made manifest; yet we trust that the matter may not be carried to such an extreme.

AGENTS: It is said that the Government has a hope that Pope Pius X. may surrender, but we may be sure that he will not surrender a point where the divine constitution of the Church of God is the matter at stake.

AGENTS: Dec. 11 is the day appointed by the Government for the enforcement of the confiscation.

AGENTS: ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, SANDWICH. Thanksgiving Day, Oct. 18, was a gala day at Assumption College, Sandwich, as on that day was held the annual meeting of the Alumni Association of the College. A large number of priests and laymen, former students of the College, from Canada and the United States, were present. At the Solemn High Mass which was sung by the Rev. Father Goldrick, a very earnest and inspiring sermon was preached by the Rev. E. VanAntwerp of Detroit.

AGENTS: Besides the Alumni a number of guests, special friends of the College, honored the occasion with their presence. Among them were the Right Rev. F. P. McEvay, Bishop of London, the Very Rev. Father Marjion, Provincial of the Basilian Order, and Mgr. Meunier, V. G., of London diocese.

AGENTS: The Very Rev. R. McBrady, President of Assumption College, had for all his guests a hearty welcome, and by his whole souled hospitality made the reunion one long to be remembered.

AGENTS: IN CHEPSTOW, diocese of Hamilton, last week, a very successful mission was held by two distinguished Jesuit Priests of Buffalo, Fathers Aloys Schuler and Carl Jansen. We have been advised that this mission was largely attended, not only all the Catholics of the parish being present at the exercises but a number of non Catholics as well. We congratulate the good parish priest of Chepstow, Rev. F. A. Zettler, on the happy outcome of his efforts to secure for his faithful flock those graces and blessings which follow the holding of missions.