

THE IRISH EDUCATION BILL

BISHOPS CONDEMN MEASURE

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Dublin, May 15.—Today in Ireland the outstanding Catholic crisis is the struggle for the schools. The number of Catholics in the country is over three and one quarter million, or seventy five per cent. of the entire population. The number of pupils on the primary school rolls is nearly 700,000 of whom seventy five per cent. are Catholic children. Apart from religious establishments, the primary education system is in the hands of the "National Schools." These are under the direction of a Government department. But a certain time has hitherto been set apart for religious instruction. The teaching is supervised by the local clergy who, as "managers," have free access to the schoolhouses. A bill has been introduced by the British Government revolutionizing the whole system of education—primary, secondary and technical. In brief, this bill seeks to hand over the entire administration of matters relating to education to a new department consisting solely of nominees of the Government.

The Bishops of Ireland have condemned the bill as "the most damnationizing scheme since the Act of Union." They say they are convinced that the measure would deprive the Bishops and clergy of such control as is necessary for that religious training of the young which Leo XIII. declared to be a chief part in the care of souls. Should the Government force the bill on Ireland and set up an educational department controlled by British Ministers, "it will be our duty," say the Bishops, "to issue instructions to Catholic parents in reference to the education of their children in such a deplorable crisis." This clearly fore-shadows the withdrawal of Catholic children from the schools thus laicized.

The Government have not yet abandoned their plan of proceeding with the bill. The protest of the whole Catholic community. A minority comprised chiefly of Protestants is in favor of the bill. Apart from politics, the topic is the most controversial one of the hour. Archbishop Hartly writes: "The education bill is an example of British incapacity to rule Ireland according to the principles of justice."

Never, according to the utterances of Bishops and priests, have the young men of Ireland displayed more virtue or devotion to the Catholic faith than at present. Dealing with the shooting of three men in Clare by police and military, the Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty said: "Our attitude in these sad circumstances should be one of Christian fortitude and patience." At the inquest on the victims the religious fervor of Clare people was strikingly illustrated. In the midst of the evidence of a most important witness the "Angelus" rang out. The jury were in the box, the witness in the chair made the sign of the Cross, and for a moment all in the public court remained with bowed heads in silent prayer.

BLESSED OLIVER PLUNKETT

PRIMATE OF ALL IRELAND WHO SUFFERED DEATH FOR THE FAITH AT TYBURN IN 1681

Rome, May 23.—Venerable Oliver Plunkett, the Irish martyred Archbishop of Armagh in 1689, and who suffered death for the Faith at Tyburn, July 1, 1681, was today beatified.

The ceremony took place at 10 o'clock this morning in the Basilica itself instead of the smaller Hall of Beatification, where such rites usually occur.

Cardinal Merry de Val and the officers of beatification took their places near the high altar as the ceremony began. The mellow light of hundreds of candles and electric lights illuminated the Basilica, and the summer sunshine streamed down through ancient glass windows, making more glorious the brilliant scene. In the congregation were Count and Countess George Plunkett, representing the family of the Archbishop; Sir T. Gravatt Esmonde and family, Sean O'Connell (John O'Kelly) member of the Irish Parliament and the Lord Mayor and members of the Municipal Council of Dublin, the Mayor of Drogheda, etc.

It had been originally announced that the Mass would be celebrated by Archbishop Edward Healy, of Birmingham, but Irish Bishops objected to the choice of an Englishman for the service, and Msgr. Pietro Paolo, Canon of St. Peter's officiated. Msgr. Hagan, Rector of the Irish College, delivered to the Pope, in the name of the postulants, a reliquary containing fragments of the bones of the Archbishop. This reliquary was a replica of the shrine which contains the bell of St. Patrick in Dublin.

The Papal Bull announcing the beatification was read, the relics were exposed, and a Te Deum was chanted, and the bell of St. Peter's rang out the tidings, being answered by peals from other churches throughout the city.

In the afternoon there was even a greater concourse when Pope Benedict, in the midst of gorgeously robed and uniformed dignitaries and attaches of the Vatican, visited the Basilica to venerate the relics. The ceremonies ended with the Benediction by the Pontiff.

It was really "Irish Day" at the Vatican, the only thing not reminiscent of Ireland being the weather. Rome is suffering just now from a burst of summer heat, but the oppressiveness of the day was relieved by a shower.

Cardinal Logue, the octogenarian Primate of all Ireland, headed the list of distinguished ecclesiastics present. With him were Archbishop John M. Healy, Archbishop of Cashel, fifteen Irish Bishops and many Irish Abbots and pilgrims. There were also in attendance many prelates from America among them being Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. Archbishops Edward J. Hanna of San Francisco, and Michael J. Spratt of Kingston, Ontario, and Bishops Michael J. O'Brien of Peterborough, Ontario; Edward A. Le Blanc of St. John, New Brunswick; Daniel M. Gorman of Boise, Idaho; John J. Carroll of Los Angeles, and John P. Carroll of Helena, Mont. Australia was represented by Archbishop Michael Kelly of Sydney.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL DEWAN

On Monday, May 31st, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dewan of Lot 2, Concession 8, London Township, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

High Mass was sung by their Pastor, Rev. Father Hanlon, P. P. of St. Michael's Parish, London, at which the family and relatives assisted. A family reunion of an unbroken chain, consisted of six sons, and two daughters, both of whom are religious in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, London. After a sumptuous banquet Rev. Father Hanlon and also Rev. Mr. McKee, D. P., expressed their congratulations and good wishes to the Jubilarians and hoped that they may be spared for many more years for the Master's glory.

Rev. F. R. Costello, of St. Mary's Parish, nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Dewan, also spoke for the occasion. In reply, Mr. J. D. Dewan, on behalf of the family, offered heartiest gratitude, congratulations, and good wishes to the beloved parents, assured them of constant prayers that God's blessings may be showered down abundantly on them for many years to come. Six grandchildren were present, two of whom made a presentation of flowers and other suitable tokens. The day of joy and thanksgiving will be long cherished in the memory of all who were present.

THE NATIONAL SHRINE SITE BLESSED

APOSTOLIC DELEGATE SAYS MASS AT ALTAR BUILT IN 1774 AND USED BY BISHOP CARROLL

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Washington, D. C., May 17.—Forecast of the pomp and impressiveness of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23 was given when the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Bonzano blessed the site of the great edifice yesterday in the presence of more than 6,000 people, of whom 1,500 were Knights of Columbus and 500 Daughters of Isabella from New York.

After His Excellency had blessed the ground, he said Mass at a small wooden altar built in 1774 and used by Father (afterwards Archbishop) Carroll, the first Catholic Bishop of the United States. This altar stood under a canopy erected on the spot which will be occupied by the main altar of the Shrine. American flags were mingled with the Papal colors in the decoration of the altar.

To impress upon those attending the ceremonies the great dimensions of the Shrine, which is to be one of the six biggest churches in the world, the perimeter was outlined with cords strung along a series of stakes. At intervals in the great outline were American flags. This marked the points at which there will be angles in the exterior walls of the Shrine. The building will be 420 feet long, and 194 feet wide across the main transept.

Following the Mass, the Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D. D., Rector of the Catholic University, addressed the large gathering and explained the significance of the Shrine. Bishop Shahan said it would be the offering of American Catholics to the Mother of God, patroness of the Church in this country, and a monument to their own faith and devotion.

As an incident of the blessing of the site of the Shrine, the Apostolic Delegate blessed a statue of Jean of Arc, who was canonized in Rome almost coincidentally with this ceremony in Washington. This statue is one of the first of Saint Joan of Arc to find a place on the altar of a public church in this country. It will stand in Salve Regina chapel near the site of the Shrine for the present but later will be transferred to the big church.

It is expected, as a result of the interest aroused by the formal ceremonies marking the first step in the erection of the Shrine that the laying of the foundation stone next September will attract Catholic men and women from all sections of this country and Canada. The stone will be laid on one of the days that the entire hierarchy is in session here.

Although we are always in the presence of God, the soul approaches Him only as it advances in love.—St. Gertrude.

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DIED

CANTY.—At a local hospital, Ottawa, on Friday, May 28, 1920, John Canty, brother of Mrs. E. K. Fyfe. May his soul rest in peace.

MCCUE.—On April 20th, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thos. Connolly, Proton, Mrs. James McCue, aged eighty-nine years. May her soul rest in peace.

MCDERMOTT.—At Almonte, Ont., on May 20, 1920, Mrs. Elizabeth McDermott, beloved wife of the late John McDermott. May her soul rest in peace.

TUFFY.—At Cobden, Ont., Ellen Shields, beloved wife of Edward Tuffy, aged sixty-four years, on Saturday, April 10, 1920. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Bishop Ryan with four of his priests in attendance in Sacred Heart Church, Cobden, when burial was made in Oaccola cemetery. May her soul rest in peace.

Religious reading is practically the only available antidote for many against the false maxims of the world.—Cardinal Vaughan.



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We often forget that criticism does not mean fault-finding. It means rather the art of finding virtues.—Maurice Francis Egan.

IN MEMORIAM

KEON.—In loving memory of Robert Keon, who died at his home, Wyman, Que., on April 7th, 1920, after an illness of one month. May his soul rest in peace.

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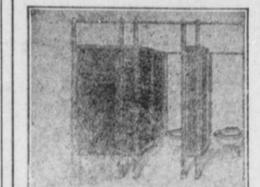
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