## The Catholic Record

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### LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1918

THE QUEBEC BUGABOO

The echoes of the anti-Quebec election oratory have died out; but organization now forming which will later with a fine courage and rare the memory of the ignoble appeal to unworthy motives with its menacing farmers of Ontario; though Sir cisely lay his patriotic duty. He went and undemocratic undertone is still Horace Plunkett bears witness that to the front to give the brave lads there fresh in the public mind. Few there the political influence of the Irish what is as important as food and are who actively participated in the farmers was quite negligible until drink - entertainment and amuse sorry faction fight who have not the organization compelled the respect. ment. The book itself is not unduly grace to preserve a shamefaced sil- ful attention of Parliament. The tinged with the author's personal ence. And the dupes are angry with agricultural regeneration of Ireland sorrow nor darkened by the horrors themselves for their childish fear of did not come from Parliament but of the War. It is wholesome and rethe Quebec bugaboo which drove was the result of study of Irish needs lieved at times by flashes of wit and them in frightened herds to vote on by Irishmen who were not politicians humor. Above all it is pervaded by political issues not for political real at all in the accepted sense of that Christian optimism which is the only sons, but from groundless religious term. The farmers educated and thing that can really lighten the fears or unworthy religious and organized had little difficulty in darkness that otherwise settles racial prejudice. The farmers of exercising the political influence to down on this war-stricken world. Ontario are giving over and over secure the legislation necessary to again evidence of their chagrin at carry out their program of develophaving once again lost sight of the ment. real bearing of political issues in the The farmers of Canada are quite artificial fog of religious passion un- as intelligent as those in any part of til they had surrendered the supreme | the world. In the West they have privilege of responsible self-govern- demonstrated the advantages, econment. We have seen the game omic rather than political, of organiplayed too often to be over sanguine zation. And incidentally rather than of the result of the present realiza- of set purpose they effected their tion that they have been the credul- emancipation from the unreasoning

But there are hopeful signs.

"W. E. Grieve, being introduced by Angus Beattie as one of the delegates to Ottawa, remarked that he was not bought by German gold. Referring to the stories told of Quebec farmers being illiterate, the speaker said he would never believe the delegation from that province at They were quite equal of any others at the capital."

It is not a verbatim report, and the recorded impressions of different by Sir Horace Plunkett. reporters help to a clearer understanding of what was said. The Free Press has it this way:

Praise was sounded for Quebec farmers taking part in the demonstration of protest at Ottawa and Mr. Grieves said they were the

them up-to-date and progressive."

inauguration of an era of sane judgment of political issues on their merits; but it is, we think, an encouraging sign.

in Toronto the President of the was received into the Church in United Farmers of Ontario, made France following some experiences this allusion to Quebec when urging when he visited that war-stricken the farmers of Ontario to organize:

that the farmers should not only organize properly, but solidly and definitely. Farmers' organizations taking a keener interest in the development of their own industry."

This is a simple fact; but, in the circumstances, it is significant that President Halbert, sane and unafraid, should openly and without qualification refer to it.

and necessary movement.

was able in 1905 to write of it :

so to reorganize their industry that | voice. He is not a great singer; but they may hopefully approach the he is a marvellous interpreter. God solution of the problems of rural gave us the faculty of laughter and life are being watched by economists for a wise and good purpose. In and administrators abroad. En- addition to the laughter-compelling quirers have come to Ireland during interpretations of the humor of Scot. the last two years from Germany, France, Canada and the United thousands the purity and depth of and the West Indies, having been of nature makes the whole world drawn here by the desire to under- kin. We were all Scots, at times, stand the combination of economic | when Harry Lauder sang. and human reform. It was not upon the character and awoke those in which lies the surety of any enduring national prosperity. . .

"From the other side of the Channel no less than five County Councils eth is of some personal interest, and have sent deputations of farmers to perhaps, of great significance as in-Ireland to study the progress of the dicative of the spiritual effects of the movement, and already an English Organization Society, expressly mod- by it. elled on its Irish namesake, has been established and is endeavoring to himself, who at first felt that his so impressed by the demand that he economics were more or less dependcarry out the same work."

ous dupes of interested politicians. thraldom of party politics.

And political education of the Last week at Port Stanley over a farmers (and others) of Ontario has and I, to the place where he is waitthousand members of Middlesex Far- been unworthy of their intelligence; mers Clubs proclaimed in trumpet they are beginning to realize that tones that never again would they be their fears of the Quebec bugaboo the tools of political tricksters. Some- have too often led them to forfeit the what vague and veiled as a rule were realities of responsible government; the references to the manner in which that their political influence is practhey had so recently been humbugged; tically nil; and in their anger they but one speaker at least had the are going to organize to show their courage to put his finger on the sore strength. They are not building on a spot. The Advertiser thus reports firm or lasting foundation in organizing primarily for political influence. Amongst them are men with all the qualities of leadership; but they must prepare themselves by patient and intelligent study of the problems they wish to solve.

speaker said he would never believe we know of no better initiation and foul prospering, for a little time, any such tales again after meeting into that study for the intelligent and they cannot understand. Ontario farmer than the story of the most remarkable and most successful organization of farmers in modern times-"Ireland in the New Century."

# A MINSTREL IN FRANCE

print there is a curious and persistent belief amongst many Catholics that Harry Lauder is of the house-He would never believe anything hold of the faith. At various times anybody told him again about the Quebec farmers. He had found ing from each other, we have heard ing from each other, we have heard the statement, positive, tentative or It is not conclusive evidence of the interrogative, that the famous Scots entertainer is a Catholic, and sometimes, a Knight of Columbus. The latest form this persistent rumor has taken is that the gifted interpre-And a couple of weeks previously ter of Scottish humor and sentiment country after the death of his only The consensus of opinion was son on the field of honor and duty.

There is no truth whatever in the rumor. Harry Lauder is not and were alive and thriving in Quebec, never was a Catholic. We have an with the result that the farmers indistinct recollection of his having never was a Catholic. We have an at one time been entertained by the Knights of Columbus; if so, that may be the source of the illusion.

The curious fact referred to above. and the singularly wide popularity of the Scottish singer gave to of the Scottish singer gave to was a soft, young light that I have the reading of the book he has just often seen in the eyes of priests and It is to be hoped that the present published, "A Minstrel in France," movement for organization amongst a little anticipatory interest all its the farmers may succeed. Apart own. There should be evidence from its origin, and apart from its that would give the quietus to the political bearing it is an important rumor or confirm its truth. This was not, however, the real interest in the In Ireland the organization of book. Hundreds of thousands agricultural interests was scarce a wherever the English language is spoken have heard Harry Lauder; —it does not fall . . . It stays and millions have listened to the lefter, hanging like an inspiration as outlined by an eminent Italian either in certain industrial works or best evidence of how utterly the learn nothing new in that, for it is decade old when Sir Horace Plunkett spoken have heard Harry Lauder;

land, he also revealed to tens of States, India, South Africa, Cyprus, Scottish sentiment; and one touch

It is alas! so commonplace a thing alone the economic advantages of in the world to-day that the Scots the movement which interested singer's loss of his only son in action them, but the way in which the could claim only a passing interest organization at the same time acted and sympathy. Yet that at least it has claimed and will claim from a forces of self-help and comradeship large part of the English-speaking world. That he has come to regard the great sorrow as coming from God who chasteneth those whom He lov War on those most closely affected

The Minstrel in France is Lauder work of entertaining and amusing It is not the political phase of the was over and done with forever; yet be of the greatest benefit to the good sense came to see that here pre-

> This passage shows Harry Lauder's religion; though not of the visible body of Christ's Church he evidently belongs to its invisible soul; and to Catholics not less than to his own co-religionists his message will be read with the sympathy of understanding faith:

is waiting for us beyond this life. He is waiting beyond this life and this world of wicked war and wanton cruelty and slaughter. And we shall come, and some day, his mother ng for us, and we shall all be happy there as we were on this earth in the happy days before the War.

My eyes shall rest again upon his face. I will hear his fresh young voice again as he sees me and cries

my grief and sorrow. There is a God. Ah, yes, there is a God! Times there are, I know, when some of those who look upon the horrid slaughter of this War, that is going on, hour by hour, feel that their faith is being shaken by doubts. They think of the sacrifices, of the blood that is being poured, of the sufferings of women and children. And they see the cause that is wrong

'If there is a God,' they whisper to themselves, 'why does he permit a thing so wicked to go on ?'

But there is a God-there is! I have seen the stark horror of war. as seen it at close quarters, what a thing war is as it is fought today.
And I believe as I do believe and I for me. In America, now, there are mothers and fathers by the scores of thousands who have bidden their telegram and tremble at the sudden clamor of a telephone. Ah, I know, I know! I suffered as they are uffering! And I have this to tell them and to beg them. They must I have found."

Naturally there were references to everywhere else expresses itself in These references are always sympathetic, sincere, reverent: never the hint of scoffing or even lack of sympathetic understanding.

For instance:

"It was then we met that old French nun. Her face and her hands were withered and deeply graven with the lines of the years that had bowed her head. Her back was bent, and she walked slowly and with difficulty. But in her eyes nuns, and that their comforting religion gives them."

Virgin of Albert he writes:

"The figure leaned at such an angle, high up against the tottering wall of the church, that it seemed that it must fall at the next ment, even as we stared at it. But

you, if you ask them, that when it falls at last the War will be over, and France will be victorious.

That is rank superstition, you y? Aye, it may be! But in the region of the front everyone you meet has become superstitious, if that is the word you choose."

NON-ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES

That the agricultural industry stands in the forefront of those vitally necessary and unquestionably essenation.

should not be a single man of miliin the services of such industries.

But there is another consideration. A great many earn their livelihood and support their dependent families in these industries. While it would industries, the closing of such nonand materially disturb the economic and industrial life of the country both during and after the War.

In this connection some remarks of the Vice-President of the Thomas A. Edison, inc., the other day are worth serious consideration :

"No legitimate industry is nonessential except as it interferes with the conduct of the War, and then only to the extent to which it interferes. No statistician can prepare figures that can be accepted safely as a guide to the curtailment that should occur in the manufacture of the so-called non-essentials.

'What we need to do is to speed up. It is not a question of what we must not do, but a question of what we must do. We must win the War. We must provide all the arms, ammunitions, ordnance, airplanes, and equipment that can be transported to Europe, and we must build ships as rapidly as possible. We must make all the other goods that we can possibly make. We must keep on creating new wealth. We must keep our manufacturing organization in good running order. We must continue to running order. We must continue to go after foreign trade, and we must prepare ourselves for the intense will come after the War."

Closing out during the War the know, as none can know until he so-called non-essential industries could not fail to aggravate still fur-ther the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to this pre-there the alarming situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation of the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation of the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation of the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation of the situation now facturer devoted himself to the situation of the situation of the sit shall believe until the end, because obtaining with regard to Canada's paratory war work, a great organization developed for manning the variation developed for manning the v Though we have never seen it in I know God's comfort and His grace, foreign trade, and impose a serious I know that my boy is surely waiting handicap on the country when the War is over. The matter is not so supplies and production. simple as it appeared to the farmers good-by; who water their who without serious consideration letters from France with their tears made the demand. The speaker Italy's participation in the War were who turn white at the sight of a before quoted gives further food for devoted largely to strengthening her thought in the following:

"We hear a good deal of talk about luxuries. Luxury is a relative term. been accomplished in producing war What is luxury for one man is almost material is, however, worth summarizbelieve as I believe—then shall they a necessity to another. No matter ind the peace and the comfort that what is said or done, the increased the religion of France which there as the urge to possess luxuries will do more to speed up production than many outward and visible signs. all the prize contests, bonus plans, and proclamations that can be de-vised. The laziest and most nonproductive man in the world is the man whose wants are the simplest. The fellow who has a family that wants luxuries and is endeavoring to gratify them is the man who is usually working the hardest and producing the most."

### NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE BRILLIANT defence of the in this great crisis. Piave River by the Italian and Allied armies, following so close upon the heroic event in the Adriatic upon workmen required by the mechani- assault on which we commented last week, has cal industries," says Signor Alberti, when the Austrians took seventy-Again speaking of the gilded drawn attention anew to the industrial and economic progress which of the War, especially as many of the Italy was making before the War and best workmen had been mobilized or heights hurriedly, most of these capwhich, emancipated from German sent to the front; but Italy soon tured guns should be retaken. The control, she has continued to make found even in this contingency a hardest fighting at the moment ap-But during the progress of hostilities. A practical solution, and by the rapid But at the progress of hostilities. A practical solution, and by the rapid where the Austrian bridgehead was which he speaks do so by an "inspir."

"The efforts of the Irish farmers phonographic reproduction of his straight from Heaven to all who see authority, may be of interest far in special schools instituted for the enemy's attempt to debouch into the it. The peasants who gaze upon it beyond commercial circles. We purpose, a great army of workpeople each day in reverent awe whisper to therefore make no apology for briefly of both sexes recruited from other summarizing Signor Mario Alberti's employments was created and set to interesting statistics. Signor Al- work on the production of war back toward the river bank, berti, who is a director of the Credito | material. Several schools for turn-Italiano Bank, Milan, is one of the ers were opened up in the different best-posted men in Italy on Italian Italian industrial centres by order of industry, trade and finance. We are the Under Secretary for Arms and On the Zenson bend they lost several indebted to the Weekly Bulletin of Munitions, and here also were em- hundred prisoners in these encounthe Department of Trade and Com- ployed the soldiers unfit for further ters, besides suffering heavy casual merce for selections from his article.

> AT THE outbreak of the War the industrial development of Italy, altial to the successful prosecution of though little known abroad, was anythe War goes without saying. In thing but backward. During the their anger with what they believe, last twenty years of peace, notwithwith reason, to be the Government's standing the interruption of the War breach of faith with them, the in Africa, industrial activities had farmers have demanded that all non- appreciably multiplied. Factories essential industries be closed down and industrial concerns had reached tributed in no mean way to the before their essential work be inter- a total of about 250,000, which emfered with by the operation of the ployed 2,500,000 persons. Electricity Draft. At first blush the position of had largely replaced steam and hand automobiles, cartridges, explosives the farmers seems to be well taken : power, and every branch of industry and aeroplanes, and in order to preand without a closer examination as well as agriculture showed marked may gain popular favor. The more progress. In spite of this satisfacso as Premier Borden seemed to be tory development, however, Italian arranged with Russian banks for the singled it out for special consider- ent upon Germany. In the chain of these supplies-in other words, she the successive manufacturing pro-Obviously unless there are men of cesses there was here and there a military age and fitness employed in missing link which gave to German such industries their closing down aggressiveness the opportunity of could not affect the man power strengthening the hold upon Italy Allies in the same boat in this available for military service, nor in which arose out of the latter's posithe slightest degree relieve the situa- tion in the Triple Alliance. By her tion which induced the authorities to system of dumping and other means, call out farmers' sons. And there not infrequently illegitimate, Germany constantly and designedly pretary age and fitness allowed to remain | vented the linking up of the chain of native Italian industries.

WHEN, THEREFORE, in the second year of the War, Italy broke with Germany and Austria, and cast in her be only reasonable to draw from lot with the Entente, she was contheir ranks any or all who are needed fronted not only with the problem of and capable for service in necessary maintaining her armies in the field, but of eliminating German influence essential sources of employment from her industrial life, and supplycould not fail to work great hardship ing the deficiency thus created. to a large section of the population This task was promptly undertaken. Energetically she set to work first to produce in large quantities munitions, guns, machine-guns, explosives, submarines, medical products, lorries, traction engines, and the hundred and one things necessary to resist the combined assaults of the Teutonic allies upon her northern frontier, and upon the sea.

> THE EFFECT of this combined effort of the Italian people is set forth by Professor Belluzzo of the Polytechnic Institute of Milan. He writes:

"While the metallurgical industries enlarged their plants with the end in view of increasing their production of iron and steel, and erected new buildings, new furnaces, new rolling machines, and new wire drawing machines, the mechanical industries also grew apace. New machine tools were installed for the manucarriages, guns, bombing machines, rifles, and machine guns, were turned out monthly. The chemical industries increased the output of acids mpetition for foreign markets that suitable machinery for the production of explosives; the spinning machines ran fast to spin wool and cotton, and the looms to weave cloth eloped for manning the vari-ustries, and resolving as the Piave. industries, ous quickly as possible the problems of

> WHILE, THEN, the first months of position as a combatant, the future materialis, however, worth summarizing. The Government military workwhom 13,000 are women. Private establishments, producing war material, some under Government control 435,000 hands, of whom 65,000 are women. There are, therefore, close munitions, tools and instruments, transport and other war material. energy and self-reliance of the nation of

military service at the front. From the seven schools which were quickthe seven schools which were quick-ly improvised about 2,000 turners attack four times in vain, until, demonstrating the versatility of the heavy losses suffered, he was forced native talent.'

NOT ONLY did Italy thus aim at national self-maintenance in prosecuting the War, but she also conequipment of her Allies, especially they got to the scene of action went Russia. To the latter she supplied vent Russia from losing by the exchange, the principal Italian banks temporary deferment of payment for gave Russia long credit. To what extent this will entail loss the events of the future must decide. The collapse of Russia has placed all the respect.

dicating the energy and resourcefulness of his own people does not withhold full credit from Great Britain, France and the United States for their help in this crisis in the history of all of them. Not only have her Allies upheld Italy's hands in the matter of finance, but in the steady supply, submarines or no submar ines, of much of the raw material essential to her stability at this 'time. For coal, for example, Italy which produces none, is entirely dependent upon others. In the advance made in other fields normal times Great Britain furnished four-fifths of her supply, and the rest came from Germany. The latter source being now cut off, Britain has shouldered almost the tile soil for the cultivation of all entire burden and notwithstanding the high prices which prevail gives to Italy a great advantage. The presented to the public for the first cost, however, is necessarily higher than in pre-war times.

SIGNOR ALBERTI, while thus vin-

GERMAN AGENTS, we are told, have tried to take advantage of this difficult situation. German submarines have preyed upon British shipping in the Mediterranean as well as upon the Atlantic, and sent many a cargo of coal to the bottom. Teuton agents have not been slow in inciting the Italian manufacturer against Britain, by constantly insinuating that Italy would materially profit by facture of tens of thousands of projectiles per day. Hundreds of gun ties on her part, in which event Germany would see to her coal had taught he should not be given requirements. This has been part credence. But then Mr. Rockefeller and parcel of the Teutonic propaand created from virtually nothing, ganda from the beginning, but Italy, with the example of Russia before exception. The choice of a name is her is not likely to be beguiled by certainly a happy one: "The Resuch specious allurements, even did ligion of the Inarticulate," and Mr. and textiles for the clothing of the her own national sense of honor not

#### ON THE BATTLE LINE GREAT BATTLE ON ITALIAN FRONT

There is no abatement of the was not lost sight of. What had been accomplished in producing war trians, who to the number of five or six divisions have secured a foothold on the west bank of the river, are now for the most part trying to hold earning power of the American people is going to result in the increased purchase of luxuries, and employ about 35,000 hands, of whom 13,000 are women. Private the find it extremely difficult to do so in face of the Italian counter-attacks. by which a good deal of territory has been regained, particularly in the alland some not, number altogether important Montello sector on the 2,150, and employ something like upper Piave. There the Austrians, who have been hedged in from the a strong attempt to break through and countless examples of humility. upon half a million people engaged near Nervesa, but the Italians, the in the manufacture of arms and official report says, "advancing with admirable élan, captured four hunmunitions, tools and instruments, dred prisoners and a number of the brave transport and other war material.

This of itself speaks volumes for the from the enemy two of our batteries heroism displayed by them in this promptly put into action again likely to forget it, for the Belgians

against the enemy." The guns here spoken of were doubtless a part of the "story" John D. very ingen-"THE ENORMOUS number of skilled the artillery captured in the first assault on Montello a week ago, "were not available at the beginning of the War, specially as many of the

ON THE lower Piave the Italian troops operating along the Zenson bend continue to press the Austrians space into which they are being driven becomes dangerously over crowded the Austrians fight desperately to prevent further retirement. ties, while in the Meolo sector, where an attempt was made to ad-

> GENERAL FOCH, recognizing the very great value of aviators for the work of destroying the Austrian pon-toon bridges, has sent reinforcements to the Italian front. Among those who arrived on Thursday were some Americans, who as soon as out and blew a hole in a new Austrian bridge across the Among the British fliers in there are known to be not a few Canadians.

THE AUSTRIAN official report, while admitting that the Italians are counter-attacking in the Montello region, claims that all these attacks broken down before the flinching resistance" of the Austrians, who in their hastily con-structed trenches "destroyed waves of enemy storming troops." It is claimed that thirty-two hundred prisoners were captured on the last ighting day but one on the Montello alone, and that two thousand of these were taken by a single Hungarian infantry regiment.—Globe, June 22,

#### A STANDARD OIL RELIGION

We are living in a wonderful age. An age that seemingly knows no limit to the progress of human genius. The sun of civilization has certainly reached its acme in these days of ours, and we are all enjoying the luxury of its genial rays. would be impossible to enumerate the many inventions in mechanical contrivances alone, to say nothing of the body is thus being cared for, the mind and the soul of the present generation have not been neglected. The present age presents a most fer sorts of "isms," "ologies" and new religions. One of the latest patents on the market, which is now being time, is a brand new religion invented by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. It is called the "Religion of the Inarticulate," the name being contributed by Mr. D. Hankey.

Now, we have a great respect for Mr. Rockefeller's genius as a financier, but when he insists on assum the role of a prophet we draw the line. A pamphlet of some twenty-three pages is all the literature we have at hand, which gives Mr. Rockefeller's views about his latest article. Those who are latest article. Those who are familiar with the reading of the Bible can not help thinking of St. Paul's admonition regarding the introduction of any new doctrine, in should teach contrary to what he is not an angel, and St. Paul had no opportunity of meeting him. If he had perhaps he would have made an Rockefeller fulfills the contract of lished and promulgated, what a rare treat it would be to attend a meeting in one of its conventicles! Imagin Rockefeller presiding and his great host" of inarticulates in attendance! Such a spectacle would certainly warm the heart of Mr. Darwin, for he would see before him the realization of his pet theory regarding the original state of man-

It is interesting to note how the idea of a new religion was born in Mr. Rockefeller's mind. In the first two paragraphs of his pamphlet John D. paints us a dismal picture of the present state of the world. goes on to speak about the "spirit of self-sacrifice and \* \* \* charity" love, as it has never been manifested before." Was he thinking of the price of gasoline when he wrote these words about charity? He goes into ecstasy about the and in a very Thespian manner asks: "Who will forget the story of the titled Belgian woman" War. Catholics, especially, are not uously omits.

It is too much to quote all the gems we find in this pamphlet, but what Mr. Rockefeller says in a very obtuse and anything but "inarticulate" manner, we can say in a very few plain English words. If the following paragraphs mean anything their mean that the people who are