

Current Comment

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ous views which appear in the secular press, and wait patiently until the supreme authority has pronounced what policy he lays down for the sorely tried Catholics of France, before whom a new world has suddenly dawned.

In the same issue the "Catholic Times" corrects a serious misapprehension of the recent action of the French clergy.

The vast majority of the French clergy have applied for the salaries or pensions guaranteed to them under the terms of the new Separation Law. And this fact is being perverted into a reason for assuring the French public that the priests are quite willing to accept and abide by the law itself. The foreign correspondents of certain English newspapers are sending to their journals accounts based on the same misunderstanding. But the two things are absolutely distinct. The clergy are applying for their salaries, because they have a right to them under the Separation Law, and also because those salaries represent the restitution of church property stolen at the time of the great revolution. The State compounded for the property confiscated by undertaking to provide a yearly support for the clergy. Now, the State has once more taken over the ecclesiastical property, but promises to pay salaries for a certain period. Why should not the clergy apply for what is their own by every law of civil right? But in doing so they by no means commit themselves to any assent to the justice of the law which appoints the local committees of worship. They wait for guidance on that matter from the supreme judge of jurisdiction, the Holy See. Until the Pope has decided they look upon the law as a civil document which may or may not prove accordant with the principles of the Church.

Two or three weeks ago three ladies took the St. Boniface car from Winnipeg at or about 8.30 in the evening. The car was delayed a full half-hour at the power house, waiting for the electric current to be put on and make it move. Just after crossing Norwood bridge, the car was stopped again because the previous long stop had demoralized the service and accumulated cars at the Norwood and St. Boniface end of the line. The conductors and motormen of two cars meeting on the switchless track began wrangling and "joshing" each other like a lot of irresponsible boys at a loss what to do. As there was no chief to settle their dispute, it took them some time to decide that the passengers must get out and change cars. The same difficulty occurred further on, near the Norwood pump, and was settled after a repetition of the wrangling and joshing, by another change of cars. This double change was particularly painful to one of the ladies, whose weak health had made her choose the car in preference to a carriage so as to avoid jolting over the terrible east Broadway and St. Boniface ruts. This lady, who was the guest of the other two on her first visit to Winnipeg, will carry away with her a vivid remembrance of the haphazard way in which the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway way manages or fails to manage its service. Is there no provision for avoiding such ordinary and oft-recurring delays in power furnishing? And when such a congestion of cars does occur could not instructions be given from the head office so as to obviate these endless bickerings among the employees?

Persons and Facts

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pointed Dean by his Lordship Bishop McEvay of London.

The Stanislaus Julien prize of 1,500 francs, offered for the best work dealing with China and Japan, has been awarded by the French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres to Rev. Emile Raguet of the Paris society of Foreign Missions. Father Raguet is doing mission work at Nagasaki, Japan.

Rev. Wm. P. Curtin, who was elected General Secretary of the Missionary Conference just concluded at Washington, is a native of Toronto. He is now affiliated with the Pittsburg Diocesan Board of Missionaries to non-Catholics.

Rev. Mother M. Antoinette Macdonell, Superior of St. Joseph's Convent, Toronto, died June 14, after a short illness. She was in her eighty-fourth

year. The late Mother Superior was a daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. Macdonell of Matilda, Ont., who fought in the battle at Chrysler's Farm. She was born in October, 1822. Educational and charity work early attracted her sympathies and attention, and for some time she was Superioress at the Academy of St. Joseph's Convent, St. Catherine's. Later she became Mother Superior at the House of Providence, Toronto. Fifteen years ago she went to St. Joseph's Convent, Toronto, as Mother Superior, and had since, until a short time previous to her death been actively engaged in the religious and educational life of that institution. She was a cousin of the late Hon. D. A. Macdonnell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 1875 to 1880; a cousin of Hon. R. W. Scott, Secretary of State; a niece of Capt. John Macdonell, who fought at Ogdensburg and at Lundy's Lane, and a kinswoman of Lieut.-Col. Macdonnell, aide-de-camp of General Brock, both of whom fell and were buried at Queenston Heights. She was also a niece of Symon Fraser who discovered the Fraser River. May she rest in peace!—The Catholic Record.

The St. Joseph Society for Negro Missions in the eighteen years of its existence has grown from three priests to forty. The number of churches and schools has increased proportionately.

Mr. F. B. McNamee, of Montreal, who devoted much of his life to Catholic philanthropy, recently passed away. He is endeared to many by his large charities.

The report that Pope Pius has consented to authorize a search for the

tomb of St. Peter, the Apostle, has excited the interest of all Rome. The tomb of St. Peter is supposed to be concealed in the vaults under the altar of the original basilica built by Emperor Constantine in A.D. 306. In 1450 Pope Nicholas V. demolished the church preparatory to erecting a new one. The tomb of St. Peter, however, was left undisturbed.

Marshall Field's estate will pay taxes this year, in Chicago, on \$25,930,435 worth of real estate, practically all in the downtown district, in addition to \$17,500,000 worth of personal property—a total of \$43,430,435—if the assessments made by the boards of assessors are confirmed by the board of review. For many years before his death, Mr. Field was known as Chicago's largest individual tax payer on real estate. On the basis of 7 per cent. per year—practically the same as last year, and reckoned on assessed valuations, one fifth of actual valuations—the estate will pay taxes on real estate alone of approximately \$363,000. On the personal property assessment of \$17,500,000 the taxes will be at the same rate, \$259,000, making the total taxes paid \$622,000.

There were 160 Catholic students in attendance at Queen's University this year, an increase of sixty per cent over the previous year.

The findings of the commission which investigated the conditions in the Chicago packing houses has aroused interest in Dr. Charles Neill, chairman of the commission. Dr. Neill is of Irish extraction, and is a practical Catholic. He is the United States commissioner of labor, holding the position for many

years filled by Col. Carroll D. Wright, at whose instance in considerable part Dr. Neill was selected. He is forty-one years old, was educated at Notre Dame University and other institutions, including Johns Hopkins, from which he received his degree of doctor of philosophy. He served as professor of political science at the Catholic university in Washington for eight years, and while thus engaged was employed as assistant recorder of the anthracite strike commission, and afterwards as recorder of the arbitration board which it created. He has been prominent in the charitable and philanthropic work of the national capital and long identified with the associated charities. He is an independent Republican, although his appointment was in no sense political. He is regarded by those who know him as a strong and clear headed investigator.

The New York diocese numbers thirty Italian parishes, with over one hundred Italian priests.

TIN

Who first found tin? There is a legend among the Cornish miners that St. Piran, an Irish hermit, was the discoverer. This ancient church in the parish of Perranzabuloe, in Cornwall, laid bare of sand by the sea many years ago, has recently been repaired. Cornish miners still keep the feast of St. Piran, who, according to the fable, first found tin, forgetting that their forefathers had long previously sold it to the Phoenicians. Possibly the legend points to the fact that this Irishman was a skilful metallurgist.—Ex.

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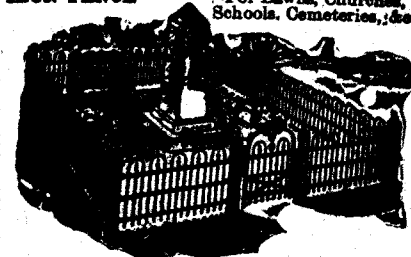
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Dated this 16th day of May, A.D. 1906

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