

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

FRANCE

M. Combes gained last week a victory of which Admiral Alexieff, Admiral Togo, or the Russian and Jap Generals might well be proud. He marched an army of 1,800 men against the British monks known as the Freres de Lantonnais...

It is worth while to note that at a time when French Catholic officers are insulted, and when a War Minister, impelled thereto by the Freemasons, in closing Catholic military clubs, which were like the young men's societies in Ireland...

Uneasiness still prevails as to the possible machinations of the Religious Orders, and notably of that of the Jesuits. M. Combes is afraid that the secularized Religious are only fooling him, and that they are still active in Paris and France...

Canonization of the Irish Martyrs

In an official letter to his clergy Archbishop Walsh of Dublin writes; I wish to make it officially known to the clergy and faithful of the Diocese that the proceedings in the case of the Canonization of a number of those who are reputed to have suffered death for the faith in Ireland...

Saints of this Diocese, St. Lawrence and St. Kevin, in bringing it to a successful issue. Our notice will be given of the close of the proceedings in the Diocesan Court. Whilst they are in progress, the Collect of the Mass of the Holy Ghost, "Deus, qui corda fidelium," should be said at Mass throughout the Diocese, when permitted by the rubrics.

Pilgrimages of 1904

The present year is likely to be noted for the number of pilgrimages that will come to the Eternal City. The fact that it is the 50th anniversary of the declaration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin is sufficient to justify these pious journeys. Amongst the pilgrimages already announced, with their dates, are the following: Feb. 21st, Austrian, from Vienna; French from Arras; March 2nd, National French Pilgrimage; March 12th, French, the Hospitalliers of Lourdes; March 17th, German Labourers and Workmen's Pilgrimage; March 31st, Hungarian, from Buda Pesth; April 7th, Catholic medical men, from France; April 8th, French, from Montpellier; April 14th, Hungarian, from Csanad; April 19th, Piedmontese and Ligurian, Lombard, Emilian Marche-Umbrian, Tuscan and Southern Italian; April 30th, Tyrolean, from Brixen; Polish, from Premysl. On the 19th of April there will be, besides, a Venetian pilgrim-

age for Rome. This shows a notable movement in the minds of Catholic people in many countries. The Pontiff will receive them all, and Rome offers full scope for their warmest devotion. In the month of April, especially, the desire of the Catholic heart will turn longingly to Rome, for then the Pope will celebrate Mass in St. Peter's, and the musical accompaniment at that solemn service will be the first great outcome of the reintroduction of the Gregorian Chant by Pius X. The Solesmes Chant will then be heard under the most favorable conditions, and the reform in Church music in Rome at least will be thus inaugurated with all solemnity. From those who have been speaking to the Holy Father regarding the subject I have learned that his Holiness is quite determined to enforce the adoption of the new Gregorian Chant, and to put an end to the abuses which have crept into ecclesiastical music in many churches.

It is Good for Man and Beast.—Not only is Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil of incomparable value in the household, but the farmer and stockman will find it very serviceable in the farm yard and on the cattle range, often saving the services of a veterinary surgeon. In injuries to stock and in cases of cough and paths it can be used with good effect.

Wise is the man who profits by the costly experience of others.

The Mutual Life of Canada

34TH ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the Annual Meeting of Policyholders, Thursday, March 3, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,—Your directors respectfully submit for your consideration their report of the business for the year ended December 31st, 1903, with the Financial Statement duly audited.

We are pleased to inform you that, in all branches, the business was of a most gratifying character, and that the new business was largely in excess of that of any other year in the history of the Company. The Surplus earnings were such as enabled us to continue the same very liberal scale of distribution to the Policyholders as in the past. The death rate was slightly in advance of that of 1902, but still much below the expectation. The Lapses and Surrenders have been gradually decreasing for some time, and for the past year were comparatively moderate.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS.—The applications received for new business were \$512 for \$5,173,112, of which 47 for \$72,500 were declined. The Policies issued were 333 for \$5,011,390, and the amount of insurance now in force is \$37,587,551.88, under 25,730 policies, being an increase in amount of \$2,118,631.

INCOME.—The net premium income, less reinsurance, was \$1,254,986.47; Interest and Rents, \$306,007.48; Profit and Loss, \$78.08; Total Income, \$1,561,072.03.

PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS.—The payments to Policyholders were Death Claims, \$253,586.95; Endowments, \$122,587.00; Purchased Policies, \$31,972.18; Surplus, \$77,300.28; Annuities, \$82,749.90; Total, \$493,721.31. Expense Account, \$282,728.43; Total Disbursements, \$776,449.74. Excess of income over expenditure, \$784,622.29.

The Cash Assets amount to \$6,882,953.83; the Total Assets are \$7,298,552.12, an increase over 1902 of \$88,772.04.

LIABILITIES.—The Total Liabilities are \$6,676,224.19, including the requisite reserve of \$6,617,714.89 for the security of Policyholders, computed at 4 per cent, 3 1/2 per cent, and 3 per cent.

SURPLUS.—The Surplus of the Company's standard of valuation is \$616,633.46, and on Government standard \$878,465.60. The increase in Surplus is \$117,483.22.

During the year the demand for money was active, and the funds were fully invested, at a somewhat better rate of interest, and in a class of securities entirely outside anything of a hazardous or speculative character. The payments on Principal and interest were unusually well met, there being only \$5998 overdue interest at the close of the year, most of which has since been paid.

The Executive Committee examined all the securities and compared them with the records, all of which were found correct and in accordance with the statement herewith submitted.

The Manager, Officers and Staff continue to discharge their respective duties to the satisfaction of the board.

You will be called upon to elect four Directors, in the place of the Hon. Mr. Justice Britton, Francis C. Bruce, M.P., J. Kerr Fishken and George A. Somerville, whose term of office has expired, but all of whom are eligible for re-election.

On behalf of the Board, ROBERT MELVIN, President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Table with columns for Ledger Assets, Income, Payments to Policyholders, and Total Assets. Includes sub-sections for Debentures and Bonds, Mortgages, Loans on Policies, and Real Estate.

Surplus Company's Standard 4%, 3 1/2% and 3% - \$616,633.46. Surplus Government Standard 4 1/2% and 3 1/2% - \$878,465.67.

J. M. SCULLY, F.C.A., J. SCULLY, Auditors. GEO. WEGENAST, Manager.

The growth of the Company during the past year may be seen in the following table:

Table showing growth of the company from 1902 to 1903, with columns for New Assurance, Income in force, Assets, and Surplus.

The record of progress during the past 30 years is shown in the following figures for each five-year period:

Table showing progress during the past 30 years, with columns for Year, Income, Assets, and Surplus.

The various reports having been adopted, the retiring directors were unanimously re-elected. After a number of able and thoughtful addresses had been made by members of the Board, prominent Policyholders, the agents and others, the meeting adjourned.

The Directors met subsequently and re-elected Mr. Robert Melvin President; Mr. Alfred Hoakin, K.C., First Vice-President; and the Hon. Mr. Justice Britton Second Vice-President of the Company for the ensuing year.

(Booklets containing full report, comprising lists of death and endowment claims paid, of securities held, and other interesting and instructive particulars are being issued and will in due course be distributed among policyholders and intending insureds.)

W. H. RIDDELL, Secretary.

Pope Pius is 258th Pontiff

The official "Gerarchia Cattolica," which has only just been published for 1904, contains one noteworthy change. Hitherto the lists of the Roman Pontiffs from the time of St. Peter down to our own times have given the number of Pontiffs as 264, including St. Peter himself and Pius X. It was known that among these some were certainly not genuine Popes, but intruders who occupied the Papal Chair for a few stormy months, etc. The famous historian, Mgr. Duchesne, who has been working on the subject for many years, recently published the results of his investigations and the Gerarchia incorporates some of these results in its latest issue. Ten Popes are eliminated from the list. The first of these is Anacletus, who has been identified with Pope Cletus, the second successor of St. Peter. The second is St. Felix II, who acted as Bishop of Rome during the exile of Pope Liberius in the middle of the fourth century. After the return of Liberius, St. Felix retired, and was martyred shortly afterwards. Pope Christopher was an anti-Pope who occupied the See of Rome by violence six months after having dethroned and imprisoned the real Pope Leo V. in 903. He was forced to abdicate and died in a monastery. The case of Pope Dogus II. is even more remarkable. He was supposed to have been Pope for a few months during the year 973—as a matter of fact he never existed. Boniface VIII. who used to be on the list as reigning for seven months, in 1294-95, did exist and was elected three times, but all three elections were invalid, and he was as much a usurper after the last of them as after the first. John XVI. was believed to have been Pope for four months during 996, but he was an anti-Pope, and was never consecrated. The last named four personages it will be seen, belonged to the tenth century, which was the most embroiled, and continues to be the most obscure in the history of the Papacy. This sorely tried century closed with another anti-Pope, John XVII., who usurped the Papal Chair from April, 997, to February, 998. John XIX. has been identified with John XVIII., who began the eleventh century. About the middle of the same century one of the Counts of Tusculum usurped the Apostolic See during nine months, but had the grace to retire. Finally Alexander V. and John XXIII. were anti-Popes of the great Western Schism at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

On the other hand, however, five Popes have been added to the official list. Leo VIII., owing to the confusion of the history of the tenth century, was commonly regarded as an anti-Pope; it is now recognized that he was a legitimate Pope, who reigned for a short time between John XII. and Benedict V. But the most extraordinary fact brought out by the latest studies centres round the figure of Benedict IX. The story of the eleventh century during which he lived is almost as confused as that of the preceding one, but there can be little doubt but that Benedict IX. was a bad Pope—one of the very few whom God has permitted to be a successor to St. Peter, just as He permitted a Judas among the Apostles. Indeed it is clear that this Benedict was the worst of all the Popes. He was first elected in 1033 and reigned until 1044, when he resigned and was succeeded by Silvester III. Silvester abdicated after a pontificate of two years and eight months, and Benedict IX. was again elected. He abdicated again after less than three months, and was succeeded by Gregory VI. Gregory, it would appear, also abdicated, and Benedict was elected for the third time, but after a reign of seven or eight months he retired definitely, and did some time afterwards at the famous Abbey of Grottaferrata, the ninth century of which we are celebrating this year. Thus Benedict IX. figures three times in the new list of the Popes. The official list also refrains from giving exact figures for the duration of the reigns of the early Popes, as there is not sufficient data to justify it. The result of the changes is that Pius X., instead of being the 264th Pope, is the 258th.

Quebec and Irish Home Rule.

London, March 1.—Replying to Mr. Devlin in the Commons last night, Colonial Secretary Lytton said the Government would lay on the table a copy of the resolution on home rule for Ireland adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Quebec within the last two weeks, and the answer sent by the Imperial Government.

HE'S WELL KNOWN IN PORT HOPE

Mr. Ohas, Gilchrist Declares Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured His I. abetes.

He Suffered for Ten Years and Had Could Get no Relief Till He Tried the Great Canadian Kidney Remedy.

Port Hope, Ont., March 7.—(Special).—It has long been admitted that what will cure Diabetes, will cure any form of Kidney Disease, and Dodd's Kidney Pills have cured the long-standing Diabetes of Charles Gilchrist of this place.

Mr. Gilchrist is easily one of the best known men in Port Hope. For fifteen years he was Chief of Police and for twenty-two years Fishery Overseer of the Dominion Government. He had no hesitation in saying that he was cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills and nothing else.

"I had Diabetes and Kidney Disorder for ten years," he said, "My urine was like brickdust and I had a terrible backache. I tried doctors, I tried everything, but could get no help till I was advised to try Dodd's Kidney Pills. I commenced taking them, soon began to get better, and am quite well now."

"If I had not used Dodd's Kidney Pills I am sure I would have been in my grave."

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Japan

Cardinal Moran has written an appreciative estimate of Japan, from which at the present time it will be of especial interest to quote: "No nation throughout the East," he said, "has come to the front during the past half-century as has Japan. Its people boast of their Mongolian descent and of having occupied their present island homes at a remote date before the Christian era. It now enjoys the rudiments of constitutional government, and its people almost at a bound have risen from practical serfdom to the use and abuse of the franchise. Its population is forty millions. They are described as 'cleanly, courteous, kind-hearted, industrious, honorable, and patriotic.' They have defects, but we need not dwell on these. The land is picturesque and beautiful in its scenery, full of natural charms, brilliant with flowers and sparkling with pleasant streams. But it has also its natural drawbacks, being subject to terrible earthquakes."

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S WORK.

Japan was the missionary field of predilection of St. Francis Xavier. By the toil of that truly apostolic man and of those who follow in his footsteps there were about two millions of Japanese Christians towards the close of the sixteenth century. The persecution that then began to rage against the Christian name was one of the most bitter and persistent ever recorded in the history of the Church. It is sad to recall that the fury of the persecutors was stimulated by the Dutch Protestants. The first fruits of the glorious Japanese army of martyrs were the twenty-six priests and religious who were crucified at Nagasaki on February 5, 1597. The soil was in truth fertilized by the blood of the native martyrs. The last Bishop, a Franciscan, was buried alive in 1624. The Catholic Church, so far as the hand of the persecutor could reach, was declared to be extinct in 1688.

PROTESTANT TESTIMONY.

It may be well to refer to a few Protestant authorities to set in its proper light the cruel atrocity of this persecution.

The author of "The Conquests of the Cross" writes: "One may search the grim history of early Christian martyrdom without finding anything to surpass the heroism of the Roman Catholic martyrs of Japan. Burnt on the stakes made in form of crosses, torn limb from limb, buried alive, yet they refused to recant."

Lawrence Oliphant, in his "History of Lord Elgin's Mission," states that "the early records of the Church do not afford instances of more unflinching heroism than is furnished in the narratives of those martyrdoms to which Japanese of all ranks were subjected when the day of trial came."

Mr. Murray, in "Japan," in "The Story of the Nations" series (London, 1894), says that the persecution "has never been surpassed for cruelty and brutality on the part of the persecutors, or for courage and constancy on the part of those who suffered."

Mr. Gibbons, in the "Transactions" of the Japanese Asiatic Society, refers to the Japanese records of this persecution and writes: "We read of their being hurled from the tops of precipices, of their being buried alive, of their being torn asunder by oxen, of their being tied up in rice bags which were heaped up together, and of the pile thus formed being set on fire; others were tortured before death by the insertion of sharp spikes under the nails of the hands and feet, while some poor wretches, by a refinement of horrid cruelty, were shut up in cages and there left to starve with food before their eyes."

THE MARVELLOUS RE-BIRTH.

For two hundred years Christianity was regarded as extinct; nevertheless the families in some remote districts retained the lessons of Divine truth, handed on from generation to generation the record of the heroism of their martyred brethren, and administered baptism to the children. The Catholic missionaries re-entered on their spiritual toil in 1858, and in February, 1865, a beautiful new church was dedicated at Nagasaki.

A few weeks later, on March 17th, a deputation from the native Christians made known to the priests that hundreds still professed the Catholic faith. Great was the joy of those fervent souls when they heard once more the lessons of truth from the devoted missionaries and were admitted to the sacraments.

Several converts were soon added to the fold; and before the close of 1866 the number of Catholics was reckoned at about 20,000. But once again a fierce storm of persecution was stirred up against them.

MORE RECENT PERSECUTIONS. The present Mikado, or Emperor of Japan, ascended the throne in 1867, and, thanks to a revolution skilfully planned and energetically carried out, became in the following year sole ruler, invested alike with spiritual and temporal supremacy throughout the empire. He inaugurated his reign by a fierce edict against the Catholics. In a few months 4,000 of the native converts were torn from their homes and distributed as criminals throughout remote districts. Yet they cling immovably to the faith.

For six years that persecuting policy was pursued, but everywhere the Christians gave proofs of the greatest heroism; it is calculated that during that period about 8,000 of the Japanese Christians were subjected to torture, of whom nearly 2,000 died in prison. It was not till the 14th March, 1873, that religious liberty was tacitly allowed, and the Christian prisoners and exiles were restored to freedom.

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Dr. Gilchrist Becomes Catholic

Dr. H. E. Gilchrist, who resigned as pastor of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Roselle, a fortnight ago, was baptized in St. Michael's Church, Crawford, N.J., Feb. 17. Father John A. Westman, pastor of St. Michael's, officiated. The sponsors for Dr. Gilchrist were the Baron and Baroness von Oldenmeel, of Roselle. There were present Countess Tancitaphi and daughter. Dr. Gilchrist, who has a wife and two daughters, will continue to reside in Roselle. He has been considering the change of faith for a long time. Dr. Gilchrist is a graduate of St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y. After his graduation there he entered the Universalist ministry and held a pastorate in Portland, Me. After that he entered the Episcopal Church acting as reader in several churches until made Rector of the Roselle church.

If it is desired to keep cakes moist, put them in a stone jar—If crisp cakes are preferred, use tin as a receptacle.