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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1917

CONDITIONAL LOYALTY

Addressing St. George's Society, of London, on St. George's day, the Rev. Canon Tucker said:

"If we make our loyalty conditional on England passing a prohibitory law then we are on a par with Irish Roman Catholics who make their loyalty contingent on the grant of Home Rule."

A cowardly slander of this kind might be passed over if it were not typical of a rather widespread effort to arouse antagonism to the Catholic Church by dishonest appeals to religious and racial prejudice. To the credit of Protestant Canadians it must be said that such appeals fall rather flat. Several secular newspapers have openly expressed disapproval of such unparliamentary work.

Saturday Night, for example, thus takes the Editor of the Orange Sentinel to task:

"Ex-Mayor Hocken, of Toronto, seems to have been stamping around on unfamiliar ground when in a recent speech at London, Ont., he attacked the Catholic Church as a whole as being pro-German, and the Pope as an ally of the Kaiser's. In his heat Hocken evidently forgot that France, when it is anything is Catholic; that Belgium is nearly all Catholic, and that Italy is all Catholic. And that unless we have been consistently lied to by our war correspondents, the sacrifice of the lives of French and Belgian priests on the battlefields has been one of the outstanding dramatic features of the war."

Hocken of course keeps right on. If the facts are against him so much the worse for the facts. And he finds willing disciples, here and there, to continue his apostolic work. Our readers will pardon a digression which may throw some light on the character of Hocken's henchmen in London, who are doubtless typical of the brethren elsewhere.

The greatest "loyalist" effort of a century to discredit "Irish Roman Catholics" and Home Rule was what is now known to history as the "Pigott Forgeries." Pigott had been employed by the Irish "Loyal" and Patriotic Union to hunt up documents which might incriminate Parnell and the Irish Constitutional Party with lawlessness, revolt, crime and anarchy. The Times published the documents so obtained. For months "Parnellism and Crime" was a regular department of the greatest of English newspapers. Those whose memory goes back so far will remember the tremendous sensation created by the publication of the forged letters. Charles Russell (afterwards Lord Russell of Killowen) in the cross examination of Pigott asked him to write several words, amongst them "hesitancy," which Pigott spelled "hesitency." This was the clue to the forgeries. Pigott broke down, confessed, and later committed suicide. Here endeth the first lesson.

Mr. E. T. Essery was once Mayor of London. His loyalty and Protestantism may be judged from his boast about that time that he would make the Catholics of London crawl into their hole and pull the hole in after them. Also from the fact that he solemnly presented a Bible to the notorious Margaret L. Sheppard in the hey-day of that wanton's shameless career.

Just after Mr. Hocken's "loyal" address here in London Mr. Essery was reported in the press as saying that the press and politicians "kow-tow" to the Catholic vote.

Canon Tucker some time previously, also through the press, stated that there was too much "kow-towing" to the Church of Rome. Here endeth the second lesson.

Argument with Mr. Essery and Canon Tucker could serve no useful purpose. But just to soothe the Canon's righteous indignation at the conditional loyalty of "Irish Roman Catholics" we shall quote a passage from the Irish Churchman of Nov. 14th, 1913:

"It may not be known to the rank and file of Unionists that we have the offer of aid from a powerful Continental monarch who, if Home Rule is forced on the Protestants of Ireland, is prepared to send an army sufficient to release England of any further trouble in Ireland by attaching it to his dominion, believing, as he does, that if our king breaks his Coronation Oath by signing the Home Rule Bill, he will, by so doing, have forfeited his claim to rule Ireland. And should our king sign the Home Rule Bill the Protestants of Ireland will welcome this Continental deliverer as their forefathers, under similar circumstances, did once before."

The Irish Churchman is not "Irish Roman Catholic"; it is the Ulster organ of the Church of Ireland, now disestablished in spite of the threat of the "loyalists" to kick the Queen's crown into the Boyne if disestablishment were carried through.

This "unconditional" loyalty of Canon Tucker's co-religionists in Ireland would cause a man of less reckless zeal to hesitate before making that fling at "Irish Roman Catholics."

And lest it be said that Ireland has a monopoly of conditional loyalty we shall make one more quotation. In the British House of Commons, F. E. Smith, M. P., (since knighted) in 1914, before the outbreak of war, delivered himself as follows:

"Whatever the consequences—civil war or whatever the cataclysm that may dismember the whole Empire—the Unionist party will support Ulster whatever the consequences may be."

The people of the home lands have not such short memories as some of the Canadian apologists for the brutal disloyalty of Irish Protestant Ascendancy. Hence the old sneers and the old calumnies and the old shameless bearing of false witness have lost their power for evil over there.

And "Irish Roman Catholics" of Canada will take no lessons in loyalty from the belated and misplaced Canadian imitators of the thoroughly discredited Irish Protestant "loyalists."

THE ANOMALIES OF OUR ARCHAIC SCHOOL CURRICULA

We were very glad to notice that at the recent meeting of the Ontario Educational Association some attention was given to matters on which the people of the province might fairly expect from the Association intelligent leadership. There is nothing within the sphere of self-government in which so large a proportion of the people are directly and intensely interested as the subject of education. There is nothing in which intelligent and rational leadership could find a readier response. But it must be admitted that the Ontario Educational Association has not to any great extent exercised a real and practical influence on the direction and development of our school system.

However, Mr. C. L. Sprague, of the Hamilton Technical School, called attention to a fact which we have emphasized over and over again. Three or four years ago when the discussion was somewhat general as to the wisdom of doing away with the written High School Entrance examination we pointed out that the discussion touched only the fringe of an extremely important subject. In view of Mr. Sprague's position before the Educational Association it may be well to recapitulate what we then urged.

The Entrance Examination as the *terminus ad quem* of all elementary school work emphasizes the radical misconception of the meaning and purpose of a democratic public school system. Less than 10% of the Public school population enter the High schools. And yet the whole Public school course of studies is very largely determined and limited in the interests of the 10%; while the 90% whose education, so far as our school system is concerned, is completed in the elementary schools, are not considered at all.

Common sense and common justice demand that these conditions be reversed. The paramount consideration in the determination of the curriculum, in the aims and objects of the whole elementary system, should be the interests of the 90%. This revolution of outlook on our school system need not and would not limit the opportunities or sacri-

fice the interests of the important minority who desire the benefits of secondary and higher education.

Secondary education, again, labors under the same radical defect. It is conceived, planned and carried out exclusively in the interest of the small proportion who desire to enter the University. Matriculation, (or Entrance to Normal which is practically the same thing) is the dominant consideration in fixing the course of studies for the first four years of the High School course. So that the interests of the vast majority who do not go to College are sacrificed to the interest of the favored few for whom Matriculation has any purpose or meaning. The result is disastrous for secondary education as High School pupils drop out anywhere and everywhere during and after the first year of the course.

Now it should be quite possible to so arrange the High School curriculum that two years of secondary education would be a valuable, desirable and attractive way of supplementing the elementary school course, altogether regardless of what the pupils may take up as a life work. As it is, two years in the High School gives them a smattering of a variety of subjects useful only to those preparing for Matriculation.

Until this radical and revolutionary change is made from the present obsolete ideal which governs our whole school system intelligent educational progress is impossible.

Few there are who have given thought to the subject who do not feel that the abdication of responsible government in educational matters in favor of a superintendent of education has in practice proved a retrograde step. Technical advice is of course necessary. But responsibility to the people vitally interested would stimulate intelligent study of educational affairs by our representatives in the Legislature, arouse discussion and lead us from stagnation to intelligent progress.

SETTLEMENT IMPERATIVE

Rising above party and prejudice Sir Wilfrid Laurier voiced the sentiment and conviction of all Canada in his eloquent plea for Ireland. We shall not attempt to gild refined gold or paint the lily. But to realize the fact that this was one of the great statesman's greatest speeches, the reader must picture to himself not so much the charm and grace and dignity of Canada's greatest orator, but rather the fire and force of conviction and sincerity that transmuted these printed words into the glowing heat of eloquence unsurpassed.

Across the ocean their influence was felt. Two days later, Lloyd George, abandoning the untenable position he had taken, said that "if he appealed for settlement of the Irish question it was because he knew from facts driven into his mind every hour that in America, in Australia, in every part of the empire it was regarded as the one essential to a speedy victory."

Amongst the facts "driven into his mind every hour" must have stood out the great fact of Laurier's great speech.

THE FOOD CRISIS

Despite the agitation in the press and on the platform for greater production, there is evidence that the gravity of the situation is not fully realized in the quarters where such realization can alone prove effective in finding a remedy.

The Resources Committee is responsible for the solemn warning that "Famine and World-Hunger are on our Threshold." It is of the utmost importance that this warning be heeded. The world never produces more food than is necessary. At present there is an enormous decrease in world production.

"France, England and Italy in peace times did not depend upon America, but on Russia, Roumania and Bulgaria for most of their breadstuffs. With these sources closed, the crisis of the hour demands that we see that our soldiers and the Motherland are fed.

"Everyone in Great Britain has been put on limited rations. Meat is prohibited one day a week, and the making of cakes and pastry has been stopped. Further restrictions are anticipated."

"Lord Devonport, British Food Controller, proposes taking authority to search the houses of Great Britain to prevent food hoarding."

Ten nations are on limited rations of restricted diet.

The fall wheat reports both from Canada and the United States are discouraging. The United States, it is predicted, will have 244,000,000 bushels below the yield of 1915.

"David Lubin, representative of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture—maintained by forty Governments—reports officially to Washington that the food grains of the world on March 31st, 1917, showed a shortage of 150,000,000 bushels below the amount necessary to feed the world until August, 1917. He declares it is beyond question that unless a greater acreage is put to crop in 1917 there will be WORLD-HUNGER before the 1918 crop is harvested."

Lloyd George is confident that with the aid of the United States the submarine menace can be overcome. But even if the sea routes were as free as in times of peace the food must be produced to avert disaster.

It is treason to humanity to leave any source of production untapped this year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

DURING the course of an initiation ceremony at a Toronto Orange Lodge last week the speaker of the evening gave some account of what he called "the dawn of Orangeism in Canada." This transpired in the year 1850. Those were anxious times, the speaker said, and the original L. O. L. No. 1, comprising some sixty or seventy members, though starting out on their great crusade for religious liberty with the greatest vim and enthusiasm, was wrecked by intoxicating liquor.

ANXIOUS TIMES no doubt they were for the wives and children of the valiant sixty, who looked forward to the regular weekly or monthly lodge with fear and trembling. Instances are not wanting in much more recent years where an L. O. L. on an outing has turned things upside down and terrorized a whole community. It is not surprising then to be told on such good authority that the whole institution of Orangeism in Canada narrowly escaped untimely death at the hands of John Barleycorn. Had he but succeeded in the larger design we are assured he did with L. O. L. No. 1, how many unsavory pages might not the history of Canada have been spared! That would have been at least one achievement for which the said Barleycorn might very reasonably have claimed some credit.

WHETHER the Government of France remains as indubitably anti-Christian as before the War, or has in that respect undergone some process of change, may be left to the future to decide. There can be no mistake, however, about the Army. All accounts agree that whatever the disposition of its Administration in Paris, religion has once more become the great motive power of the soldier in the field. We see this in the accounts which reach us of his personal bearing to religion and its ministers and in the avidity with which in presence of death he avails himself of its offices. This is true in regard to the officer in high command, to the subaltern and to the man in the ranks. In this time of stress God has in the Army at least, come into His own again.

OF THOSE in high command who have throughout the War, as before it, given evidence in their conduct of the faith which governs it, is General de Castelnau, elevated by General Joffre to the position of Chief-of-Staff. The intense Catholic spirit which has characterized him throughout the War, and for that matter, throughout his life, is traced to his parentage and home training. The son of a solidly Catholic father (a talented barrister) and of a devout mother, he was born at St. Affrique, Department of l'Aveyron, in the year 1857; was educated first by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, and later by the Jesuits in his native town. Adopting arms as his profession, he bore a distinguished part in the War of 1870, and on the breaking out of the present conflict, was assigned to a command on the Lorraine frontier. To his able generalship in this position it is owing that Nancy and adjacent forts have throughout remained in French hands. The Germans did everything humanly possible to encompass their downfall, but the watchfulness of Castelnau, and his profound strategy foiled their every effort.

SHOULD IT SO come about, therefore, that Moscow becomes once more the seat of government, she will go far to rival London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna, as at once one of the great national administrative and commercial capitals of Europe. Moscow is very proud of her past, and points with pride to her ancient buildings, amongst them the Kremlin, in which are stored up so many national memories. Her dehonourment as the capital by Peter the Great in favor of what was then but a raw seaport town, remote from the great centres of population, was a serious blow to Moscow's pride, and should her ancient prestige in that respect be now restored to her, her citizens will rejoice and regard the event as the triumph of right.

various sources. According to these authorities, Castelnau, while a strict disciplinarian, is always affable and courteous to his men. He delights those from his own department by addressing them in their native patois and he is always approachable to the very humblest of them. Further, he makes no distinction when off duty between man and man; the best instincts of French democracy characterize his bearing towards them always. The consequence is that they regard him with something more than respect and are ready to follow wherever he may lead them.

GENERAL DE CASTELNAU has in his own family borne his full share of affliction in the present War. Of his six sons serving in the army three have been killed, one of them—the youngest—being directly under his father's command. The story told of the death of this boy, though perhaps already familiar to our readers, cannot be too often repeated. Intelligence of the event was brought to the General while engaged in drawing up the details of an important manoeuvre. He turned pale, his lips were seen to move in prayer, and then, after a moment of silence he turned to his staff, saying: "Messieurs, let us proceed with the business before us." The epithet applied to this great soldier by M. Clemenceau, perhaps with something of a sneer—"the booted Capuchin"—stamps the character of the man as a Catholic devoted to his Faith, and mindful of its precepts. The General never fails to hear Mass when it is possible, and is regular in his frequentation of the Sacraments. It is worthy of remark, says Baroness de Courson, that the governing authorities of his country who are by no means inclined to favor Catholics, know how to look to this "booted Capuchin" as to one of France's most valued servants in this crucial epoch in her history.

THE REPORTED German preparations for a big drive on Petrograd, and the rumors of the change of capital from that city to Moscow, may render interesting some particulars of the latter. Moscow is not only the largest city in Russia, and the ancient capital of Tsar—before Peter the Great came to change its destiny—but is also the centre of the richest and most populous district of the Empire. The region contains eighteen governments (as the administrative sub-divisions in Russia are called) covering an area of 480,000 square miles—less than one half the area of the Petrograd District, but with more than twice its population, viz. 45,000,000. It is roughly twofifths of the total area of European Russia, and stretches from Minsk in the West to the frontiers of Siberia and of Central Asia on the east, a distance of 1,500 miles. This single fact may help us to realize the vastness of Russia as a whole.

BEING the oldest settled portion of Russia, cities and large towns are more numerous than elsewhere in the Empire. Moscow itself contains a population of close on two millions (1,617,000 were the exact figures in 1912, but the city has grown considerably since then). The District contains two other large cities, of 225,000 and 200,000 respectively; ten of from 100,000 to 170,000; and at least ten more of from 40,000 to 80,000, so that about 7% of the total population is urban. As a commercial centre Moscow city occupies a unique position. It is the hub of the most important railway systems, and from it radiate much of the business and financial activities of the whole country. The Moscow merchants are also well abreast of the times in their methods and understand fully the benefits of organization. They may be said to practically control the trade of Siberia.

I cannot repeat all the tales I was told, not even hint at many of them in their details. One old, old man upon a day failed to salute a German officer as he passed. Without a chance for defense, without opportunity to plead before a court, that man, for such a slight dereliction, passed three long months in prison, whence he was at last liberated, so broken in health that he is but an aged wreck. This is only one instance. There are many others who suffered for offenses, so called, of no greater magnitude. The worst suffering the people of Noyon had to endure rose from the food situation. With the Germans in absentia control, there was nothing but starvation to be expected as their niggard and exacting hands dealt out the supplies. This was a terrible weapon to enforce their will, and they used it unsparingly. Weighed from the tasks of a long day, it was not an unusual thing for a man to return to his home in the evening only to be ordered out again for what

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

GERMAN VANDALISM WILL LEAVE HERITAGE OF HATE

SICKENING RUTHLESS BRUTALITIES DO NOT TERRORIZE FRENCH BUT HARDEN DETERMINATION

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1917, Central News)

Paris, April 28.—I have just returned from a trip through some of the territory long held by Germany, but now recaptured by the brave sons of France. Many stories have been told of the wanton destruction by the Germans, of the atrocities they have committed and of the fearful conditions they have created in their Hun-like warfare. Terrible as some of these stories are, not one that I have read has even approached the awful truth. Powers of description fail when they are called upon to picture the destruction of beautiful and historic edifices, the orchards, farms and land laid waste in vandalism that destroys for nothing except the pleasure of destroying; and the amenities of civilization prohibit one from even hinting at many of the indignities, humiliations and atrocities inflicted by the German conquerors upon both male and female, young and old, among the inhabitants. Time will some day restore the devastated land to its fruitfulness, new buildings will replace some of those which have been destroyed and, so far will be forgotten; but never, so long as the human tongue can pass down from generation to generation the awful tales of wrongs suffered, will the people of this ravaged country either forget or forgive the race which defied all the laws of God and man. Agged men and women will tell the horrors to their grandchildren, and they in turn will carry the heart-racking stories down to their grandchildren, keeping the feeling of hate alive through the generations.

I came to Paris with other British delegates to attend a conference of committees formed in England, France, Russia and Italy, the first business of which was to send congratulations to Russia, through Milukoff, upon its newly acquired freedom, and to offer to send a delegation to Russia if it were desired. This was to express our warm sympathy with Russian democracy and to let the people there know that the liberation of the Russian people, and the ending of the long slavery of the Russian people, was also to offset the mischievous conspiracy of pacifists and Socialists who have flocked to Stockholm and Petrograd from nearly all the countries of Europe in an attempt to cooperate with the small section of the Russian Socialist party which holds that Russia should abandon warfare and make a separate peace. Berlin's one hope is that it may operate through this party.

After the conferences were concluded, the members of the Parliamentary Association were invited by their French colleagues to visit some of the towns that have recently been liberated from German control by the successes of the British and French troops. There were ten in our party, six of whom were British and Italian delegates. I shall not soon forget that trip. My indignation still rises as I recall the devastation I witnessed, and my heart still aches at the memory of the awful tales poured into our ears by the suffering people.

At the town of Noyon we were relieved to find that, so far as the buildings were concerned, little damage had been done by the vandals. But conversation with the Mayor and some of the rest of the inhabitants of the town revealed that, while the Germans had spared the structures, they had omitted not an act of brutality towards the people which their infamous minds could conceive during their two and a half years of occupation. The Mayor himself, a worthy man, had, for a slight offense, been imprisoned for months, traveling from one jail to another in Germany at the capricious will of the Germans. Little was needed in the way of transgression of the laws, rules or whims of the Germans to open the prison doors for the entry of the French people. Even a suspicion of offense often was sufficient to send man, woman or child behind bars, with no hope for freedom or mercy except whatever might lie within the will of the Germans.

I cannot repeat all the tales I was told, not even hint at many of them in their details. One old, old man upon a day failed to salute a German officer as he passed. Without a chance for defense, without opportunity to plead before a court, that man, for such a slight dereliction, passed three long months in prison, whence he was at last liberated, so broken in health that he is but an aged wreck. This is only one instance. There are many others who suffered for offenses, so called, of no greater magnitude. The worst suffering the people of Noyon had to endure rose from the food situation. With the Germans in absentia control, there was nothing but starvation to be expected as their niggard and exacting hands dealt out the supplies. This was a terrible weapon to enforce their will, and they used it unsparingly. Weighed from the tasks of a long day, it was not an unusual thing for a man to return to his home in the evening only to be ordered out again for what

was practically another day of work. There was no refusal. There could be none. The slightest hesitation to obey brought the threat that not only his food, but that of his wife and children, or of his aged parents, would be cut off and all left to starve.

Shocking tales were told of the treatment of the girls and women as the Germans made abominable use of this weapon. Did one of them appeal to the lust of a German, there was no food for her or for her entire family until his demand was complied with. Married or unmarried, there was no help for her, and many a wife and mother has been compelled to choose between the loss of all that womanhood regards as sacred and the lives of her parents and children. Nor were the Germans willing to leave the girls and women behind them. Just before they evacuated the town, seven hundred of the inhabitants, including every female between the ages of fourteen and forty-five, were torn away from the arms of their families and sent to Germany. To-day fathers and mothers, and in many cases children, remain without any knowledge of the whereabouts or the fate of their loved ones who have been sent into slavery—or worse.

The one gleam of light in this dark picture is that food sent from America saved the population of Noyon, and of other afflicted districts, from actual starvation. When I told the Mayor that I would cable his gratitude and that of his people to the newspapers of America so that all might know how much depended upon the charity of that country, he thanked me with tears.

At Auxy it was saddening to look upon the work of ruin and the desolation wrought, but at Jussy it was worse. To me Jussy was once one of the most delightful villages in that part of France. Fine and prosperous, every part of it was delightful to the eye. To-day literally not a single house remaining standing. Here and there walls, sad reminders of what were once homes of happy people, stand stark in the rubbish-filled streets. All this ruin was accomplished scientifically; so scientifically that the German general who directed the work of destruction left no house for himself and was obliged to make his headquarters in a wine cellar.

There were many pathetic sights in this ruined town, but none more so than one I witnessed at the wreck of a chapel. Of the walls hardly one stone stood upon another save the arch that was once the entrance. Here a devoted priest had stayed a bit of canvas with some sticks of wood, using it as a roof. Under this he had set up his altar, and there, as we passed, he was celebrating Mass.

At Auxy, or just outside the village limits, once stood the famous chateau of that name. It was one of the great historic monuments of France, and it might have been thought that the Germans would leave it if for nothing else than its associations. But no. To-day there is no Chateau de Auxy; only a heap of ruins which can never be repaired. The beautiful chateau, admired by hundreds and thousands has fallen a victim to German vandalism.

We saw glimpses of the great battle between the Allied forces and the German troops for the possession of Saint Quentin. We could see nothing distinctly but the occasional volcano that came when the shells from one of the great guns tore the earth open. In the forest beneath us we knew hundreds of thousands of men were fighting and probably dying. The roar of artillery was greater than any thunder that ever we had heard. It was appalling.

Our visits to Ham and to Chauny revealed the same horrors, the same atrocities, the same sickening, ruthless brutalities as elsewhere, except that in the work of destruction in Ham and in Chauny there was not that completeness that we saw in Jussy. They were destroyed, but they did not receive the climax of destruction, that absolute wiping out of everything but a few feet of wall that characterized the obliteration of Jussy. There were parts of buildings left standing in Ham and also in Chauny, but Jussy marks the highest attainment possible in scientific razing of the work of man.

It was not in the demolition of villages, towns and hamlets that the Germans did all their work. Complete and as scientific as they were in their operations in the towns, they were just as complete and scientific in the forests, in the orchards. What I saw personally of the destruction of fruit trees amounts to the obliteration of 550,000 of fruit wealth.

We returned to Paris saddened, very much saddened by these horrors, by the unwarranted violence of the Germans, by a vandalism shocking in every form. But when we reached Paris we were cheered by the splendid news of the British armies winning success upon success, north and south of Arras, of the breaking of the German lines, of the promise of victory. We were rejoiced still more by a realization that the abomination practised by the Germans in the land they had surrendered instead of terrorizing France as the Germans supposed it would have hardened the French to the end, to fight until this enemy shall be so paralyzed that he never will be able again to inflict such horrors upon mankind.

So far as the British delegates were concerned, their unanimous view was that the whole work of destruction was scientifically thought out in Germany, planned in all its details with the knowledge and ap-