

PREPAREDNESS

The cry of preparedness is in the air. It is preparedness consisting in unlimited supplies of guns and man, of aeroplanes and submarines and apparatuses, of bombs and shells and rounds of ammunition.

Here alone, therefore, is the preparedness that can save civilization and re-Christianize it. Do penance for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. It is the warning of the great Precursor to our age as to the Jews of His generation.

There is no hope of lasting peace, whether social or international, in the world without, until the charity of Christ first comes again into the souls of men, bringing with it the true Christmas peace which the Angels announced to the shepherds on the Judean hills.

PARCELS FOR THE FRONT

Post Office Department, Ottawa, Can. Newspapers are constantly urging the Department, and applications are still being received here to have all parcels addressed to our soldiers in France sent free or at reduced rates of postage, there evidently being the impression that the Post Office Department of Canada has control of this, and can do as it wishes.

This is not correct, inasmuch as the transference of parcels depends on a special convention, under the terms of which all parcels are transmitted, and under the terms of which only can parcels be transmitted to England and France. As Canada is the only one party to this agreement, it is not possible for her to take independent action and lower the rates.

Application has already been made by the Canadian Post Office Department for a reduction of the rates of postage on parcels posted in Canada and destined for France and this has been refused by England and France on the ground that the amount of parcels and mail matter presented at the present time is such as to strain almost to the breaking point the transport service, and the War Office has stated publicly that it cannot and will not transport more parcels than it has been doing.

This statement was made in the British House of Commons, and the reasons above were given as to why they would not make a reduction in regard to parcels being sent from England. What France and England could not do for their own people, they could not do for Canada, and moreover they have refused the applications of the Department to have this done.

The number of parcels is so many and the strain on the transport system is so great at the present time that the British Government has notified the Post Office Department of Canada that temporarily all parcels all reduced to 7 pounds, that is, no parcel weighing more than 7 pounds will be carried for the present.

The British War Office has notified the Post Office Department of Canada that it is necessary to limit the amount of parcel traffic for the troops during the Christmas and New Year's Season, in the interest of military efficiency. The War Office points out that the great bulk of mail matter dealt with in normal times is already a severe tax on the transport service; that the amount which the roads will carry without breaking up, is limited; that ammunition, food and stores for the army must necessarily have preference over the mails; that any increase in the volume of mail traffic must cause delay in the forwarding of these necessary equipments for War.

The Choir

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in the interest of military efficiency, to limit the use of parcel post to articles of real utility. Fruit, perishable articles of all descriptions, bottles and earthenware and like articles are prohibited, and will not be accepted for transmission; and, until further notice, no parcel exceeding 7 pounds can or will be accepted for transmission to the forces in France or Flanders.

All parcels must be strongly and securely packed in covers of canvas, linen, or other strong material. Parcels which do not comply with these requirements are unlikely to reach their destination safely, and if observed in course of post will be returned to the sender. The name and address of the sender must be written on the outside, and parcels which do not comply with this condition will be refused.

The Honourable T. Chace Casgrain, Postmaster General of Canada, has been successful, as a result of negotiations entered into with the Imperial Postal Authorities, in effecting an arrangement with the British Government whereby parcels from Canada for Canadian soldiers in France and Flanders will be carried at the same rate of postage as applies to parcels from the United Kingdom for the Expeditionary Forces on the Continent; that is,

For parcels weighing up to three pounds, 24 cents. For parcels weighing over three pounds and not more than seven pounds, 32 cents.

For parcels weighing over seven pounds and not more than eleven pounds, 38 cents. This means a material reduction on the cost of parcels, and it is hoped it will be a source of satisfaction to the Canadian public. This reduction has been brought about by Canada foregoing all postal charges for the conveyance of these parcels in Canada and on the Atlantic.

The public are reminded, however, in accordance with the circular issued by the Department recently, that until further notice, no parcel can be sent weighing over seven pounds.

THE INFANT JESUS

O Child of beauty rare—O Mother, chaste and fair How happy seem they both, so far beyond compare. She in her infant nest, And He in conscious rest, Nestling within the soft warm cradle of her breast.

What joy that sight might bear To him who sees them there, It, with a pure and guilt untroubled eye, He looked upon the twain, like Joseph standing by.

MR. TUMULTY ANSWERED

When Mr. Tumulty, President Wilson's private secretary, undertook to defend the Administration against charges in connection with abominable outrages committed upon Mexican Catholic Sisters, he stated in the most positive manner that there was not a single affidavit on file in the State Department that would substantiate these charges. Relying on this negative evidence he maintained that the Catholics had not made out a case against Carranza and his followers. It turns out that Mr. Tumulty's statement is not based on facts. An affidavit enumerating a series of diabolical acts committed by the Carranzists has been on file in the State Department since Oct. 8, 1914. Before dealing with the horrible crimes perpetrated by the Carranzists we think it well to give the following sworn statement:

"Martin Stecker, being first duly sworn, deposes, and says that the foregoing is a true copy of a letter sent by him to the Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, and that the same is in all substantial particulars a true statement of facts.

MARTIN STECKER. "Subscribed and sworn to before me the 28th day of October, 1914. CHARLES M. BIRCKHEAD, Notary Public, D. C.

Mr. Stecker, in his affidavit, tells of Catholic clergymen who within his own knowledge were forced to sweep the streets of the city and to do mental work for common illiterate

soldiers. He tells of a Catholic bishop, seventy years old, deported to the penal colony on the Pacific Coast, of several priests confined in the Monterey penitentiary, of a parish priest, eighty years old, so tortured that he lost his reason, of priests and Sisters tortured by hanging and strangling, of a priest in hiding who was enticed out of his place of refuge under the pretence of hearing the confession of a penitent and then thrown into a dungeon, of forty Sisters of Charity who were violated. Mr. Stecker, in speaking of these abhorrent crimes, says: "Four of these Sisters are known to me and one of them has become demoted. I have been instrumental in saving six Sisters and seven girl pupils from the same fate." We are told of valuable paintings stolen from churches and supposedly brought to the United States by filibusters. Mention is made of Governors of Mexican States issuing decrees prohibiting the practice of religion and closing the churches, convents and schools. The record of the atrocious acts was laid before the State Department a year ago. Mr. Stecker who compiled it, is not a Catholic. He may not, therefore, be charged with having been influenced by religious bias. He tells a plain story of what came to his knowledge while residing in Mexico.

In endorsing Carranza our Government cannot escape a measure of responsibility for the infamous acts of the man who lifted not a finger to prevent his followers from indulging in an orgy of crime against the Catholic Church, Catholic bishops, Catholic priests and Catholic Sisters. Such is the person President Wilson has installed as ruler of Mexico.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

THE NATIVITY

Balthazar said "I see afar The splendor of His wondrous star."

Then Gaspar sighed "The end is lost; Beyond his star I see the cross."

But Melchior cried "God's grace comes down; Beyond his cross I see a crown!" —DAN C. RULK, Jr., in the Independent.

NEVER TRIED

In a discourse recently at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, Father Bernard Vaughan, talking on the war, observed that: "It had been said that this war was a condemnation of Christianity. Was not this war it was asked, proof of the complete failure of the Gospel of Christ? What was it that had failed? The Hague Convention had been set up to secure everlasting peace upon this planet. The Hague Convention had failed because it was without Christianity. Armaments, modern diplomacy, mechanics, science, Socialism: all these had failed, because they were without Christianity. They could not say that Christianity had failed, because it had never been tried. Three hundred years ago this country shook off the Christianity that made England. We were calling ourselves a Christian nation without making up our minds to take the whole Christianity of Christ, but put in its place a fragmentary Christianity."

It was "fragmentary Christianity" that failed. The whole Christianity of Christ would have prevented the war had it been tried, but it never had been.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

WHERE THE POPE STANDS

Here and there a voice is raised criticizing the Pope because he does not take sides in this great conflict. Considerable irritation has been manifested in England and at the Pope's neutrality, in quarters, strangely enough, where but a short time ago any intermeddling of the Pope in secular affairs would have been frowned and condemned. But English Catholics remain unaffected in their loyalty to the Pope by the criticism which he is receiving in non-Catholic circles. Here is an illustration of how fanatically English Catholics view the situation, as compared with the narrow, peevish and one-sided view which we see expressed in non-Catholic publications. The following is from a pastoral by Bishop O'Hisholm:

"Our Holy Father Benedict XV. gives us a moving example how each Pope in his own day strikes a responsive chord in Catholic feeling and Catholic sentiment. He has already shown us how his paternal heart beats with intense love for the human race in his approaches to the various belligerent endeavors to bring about, or at least to prepare the ways for peace. He has succeeded in bringing about an exchange of wounded prisoners. In his position of Universal Pastor he manifests his love for all. But that very position prevents him from taking sides and showing preference for one more than the other.

He has indeed expressed in no uncertain words his condemnation of barbarous and his praise for fair and honest modes of warfare, but farther than that he can not go. It would be different, indeed, if he were called upon by both sides to adjudicate between them, if full and complete evidence from both sides were brought before him, upon which

alone he could form a judgment, and if both sides were prepared to stand by his judgment.

"And he is the only Power in existence from whom a fair and impartial judgment could be expected.

"His English and French and Italian children are just as dear to him as his German and Austrian and Russian children are. But the time for such action, if it will ever come, has not come as yet.

It is the hope and prayer of all fervent lovers of humanity that the time when the Holy Father may act, may soon arrive. We are sure no matter where individual sympathies may lie in this present war, that everybody really desires peace.—Sacred Heart Review.

DIED

McINTOSH.—At Harrison's Care, on Nov. 13, 1915, Ambrose McIntosh, youngest son of Donald J. McIntosh, aged twenty years. May his soul rest in peace.

McQUILLAN.—At Dickinson's Landing, on Dec. 6th, 1915, Charles McQuillan, aged sixty four years and six months. May his soul rest in peace.

Daly.—At his late residence 893 McLaren St. Ottawa, on November 23, 1915, Patrick Daly, formerly of Almonte, aged seventy one years. Funeral took place on November 25, 1915. Requiem Mass being celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Almonte, by Rev. W. E. Cavanagh, P.P. Interment was made in St. Mary's Catholic cemetery, Almonte. May his soul rest in peace.

CAMPBELL.—On Nov. 18th, after a brief illness, at St. Joseph's Convent, Hamilton, Ont., Sister Mary St. Paul of the Cross, formerly Miss Agnes Campbell, third daughter of Mr. John C. Campbell of Burlington, Ont. The funeral took place from St. Joseph's Convent Chapel to Holy Sepulchre cemetery on Saturday, Nov. 20, 1915. "Eternal rest give to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her."

THE TABLET FUND

Toronto, Dec. 15, 1915. Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: I thank you for giving space to the Appeal for the Tablet Fund for the Relief of the Belgians. So far I have received because of this appeal:

- Previously acknowledged.....\$924 81 Rev. P. Duffy, Red Bank, N. B. .... 2 00 Mr. J. F. Copeland, Toronto..... 5 00 F. Whitehead, Britain..... 25 Mrs. O'Donohue Toronto..... 1 00 Athol Murray, Toronto..... 25 Mary and Albert Melanias, Grants 1888, Oregon... 1 00 L. E. C. Halifax, N. S..... 5 00 A. R. D. Kentville, N. S..... 5 00 Miss Scott, Ottawa..... 2 00 Miss McGregor, Appleton... 5 00

If you would be good enough to acknowledge publicly these amounts in the columns of the RECORD I would be very grateful.

Respectfully yours, W. E. BLAKE, 98 Pembroke St.

RESOLUTION RE LIQUOR ADVERTISEMENTS

At a meeting of the Executive of the Grand Council of the League of the Cross held at West Melgrave on the 14th October, A.D., 1915, the following Resolution was adopted: "Whereas the tendency in the majority of Municipalities of the Province is to practically prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors excepting for medicinal and mechanical purposes;

"And whereas it is desirable that advertisements advertising the sale of intoxicating liquors by newspapers in the different Municipalities in which licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors are refused be prohibited;

"Therefore resolved that in so far as the Legislature of the Province can forbid by law the publication of such advertisements that legislation to that effect be passed by the Legislature of our Province."

It was moved, seconded and passed that a copy of above Resolution be forwarded to The Casket and CATHOLIC RECORD for publication.

J. ALBERT MACDONNELL, Grand Sec'y., L. O. G.

"GOD BLESS HER"

Bishop Thibault, of New Orleans, pre-empting a trouble when he warned the closing session of the Methodist conference of the board of home and Church members that the Catholics are making inroads among New Orleans Negroes.

Speaking of Mother Katharine Drexel's Negro work for the Catholics, he commented: "God bless her; she is doing a noble work."

"Bishop" Burt, the bigot of Buffalo, retorted that these were strange words from the mouth of a Methodist Bishop.

The chairman interceded. Finally \$1,500 of a request for \$5,000 was appropriated to build a Negro Methodist church in New Orleans.

Even though you do not like it at first, stick to a definite task until you master it. By that time you will like it for itself. We cannot give care and thought to any occupation without acquiring gradually a personal regard for it.

It is the prepared man, and he alone, who can enter a prepared opportunity. The man who has to spend the care, time and strength of his manhood rooting up the wild oats sowed in his youth—this is not the man to accomplish and achieve much in life.

TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED FOR C. S. S. & N. O. 1 STANLEY Second & Third Professional teacher. Salary \$450 per annum. Duties to commence Sept. 1st Small attendance Apply E. J. Galina, Sec. Treas. R. A. Zurich, 1915 5.

A QUALIFIED TEACHER ABLE TO TEACH and speak English and French. Will pay \$50 a month. Apply to L. Lafrance, Sec. Pinewood, Ont. 1915 5.

TEACHER WANTED FOR C. S. S. No. 1, Osgoode, holding a 2nd class certificate. Salary \$500. Duties to commence Jan. 3rd, 1916. Apply to James O'Leary, Osgoode Station, R. C. No. 3, 1915 5.

A BILINGUAL TEACHER WANTED FOR Separate School of Massey. Please enclose your certificate. Apply to Ed. Froil, Sec., Massey, Ont. 1915 5.

TEACHER HOLDING SECOND CLASS professional certificate for Union schools, section 6 and 8, North Crosby. Apply stating salary to Bernard Grant, Westport, Ont. 1915 5.

WANTED A TEACHER HAVING FIRST ON second class professional certificate for C. S. S. No. 1, McKillop. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1916. Salary \$525 up, according to experience, and certificate. Apply to Edward Horan, Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 5, Bealville, Ont. 1915 5.

FEMALE TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 2, Baldwin and Mount Pleasant. Second class certificate. Apply to Mrs. J. M. Murray, Sec. Treas., 1915 5.

A NORMAL TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 5, Normansby Tp., Grey Co. Duties to commence after Christmas holidays. Salary \$525. Address W. F. E. McMurray, sec. Neustadt, Ont. 1915 5.

TEACHER WANTED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL Sec. No. 7, North Crosby, qualified teacher. Salary \$450 per annum. Duties to commence January 3rd, 1916. Apply to M. J. Green, Sec. Treas. School Sec., No. 7, North Crosby. 1915 5.

WANTED A NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER for S. S. No. 4, Opa. Duties beginning Jan. 4, 1916. School is 5 miles from Lindsay, and a few rods from a station on the C. P. R. Apply stating salary to J. S. Black, Sec. Treas. Pricville, R. R. No. 4, Lindsay, Ont. 1915 5.

QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 9 and 14 in Rochester, who is able to teach French and English. Salary \$600. Duties to begin 1st of January. Apply to Victor Gagnon, Sec. Treas. Ruscomb, Ont. 1915 5.

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE school, No. 7, Township of Glenelg, holding a second class certificate. Duties to commence January 3rd, 1916. Salary \$500. Address stating experience, etc., to J. S. Black, Sec. Treas. Pricville, R. R. No. 2, 1915 5.

WANTED CATHOLIC PRIMARY TEACHER, holding a second professional certificate for S. S. No. 13, New Germany, Ont. Must be able to teach and speak German. Salary \$400 per annum. Apply to Fernando Bitchy, sec. New Germany, Ont. 1915 5.

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