# The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1915

#### MR. MICHAEL O'BRIEN'S APPOINTMENT

In appointing Mr. Michael O'Brien of Peterboro as their paid secretary for educational affairs, the Bishops of Ontario have done something decidedly in the interest of the hundred thousand Catholic children of this province. Of these something less than two thirds are enrolled in the Catholic Separate schools; the rest attending the Public schools. Obviously, therefore, Catholics are concerned in all school legislation school policy and administration Departmental regulations, the distribution of legislative grants for school purposes, text books ; in short everything connected with the elementary and secondary schools towards whose maintenance they contribute both directly and indirectly.

By virtue of their office it is the right and duty of the Bishops to watch over the educational interests and safeguard the educational rights of the Catholic people. And quite naturally they are regarded by Government and officials of the Department of Education as qualified to speak with authority in the premises. Disregarding for the moment that small but excitable element of the population which shudders at the thought of the "Roman Hierarchy" exercising ordinary civil rights, this is taken quite as a matter of course in this democratic Province of Ontario. It is good democracy and good sense for the powers that be to keep in close touch with the people whose affairs they administer.

But this very fact imposes on their Lordships the duty of being thoroughly informed on matters educational. In the appointment of an educational committee composed of the Archbishop of Toronto, and the Bishops of Hamilton, London and Peterboro, with Mr. Michael O'Brien as permanent secretary, the Bishops of Ontario have made very any matter without sufficient consideration or adequate information.

Mr. O'Brien has devoted his whole life to educational work. During his life he taught in every grade of school, ending his eminently successful teaching career as a highly esteemed and energetic member of the staff of Peterboro Collegiate Institute. During the years he spent as Separate School Inspector he covered the whole province, coming into close personal relationship with clergy, people, teachers and children. No one knows better educational conditions, no one is held in higher esteem. It is quite impossible for any one who takes an intelligent interest in school matters to come into contact with Mr. O'Brien and not be impressed with his forcefulness, his enthusiasm, his great good sense, his thoroughgoing appreciation of the merits as well as the defects of of our school system.

There is no reason to think that those charged with the administration of the educational affairs of the province do not desire to treat Catholics fairly, but that is a reason the more why there should be a perfect understanding between us. Transparently honest, straightforward and earnest, thoroughly conversant with his subject in all its bearings, Mr. O'Brien will be able to prevent unintentional injustice and undesirable misunderstandings.

We were pleased to read this kindly reference to Mr. O'Brien's promotion in the Toronto Globe :

"The selection of Mr. Michael late Inspector of Catholic Schools under the Ontario Government, to fill the education position under the hierarchy of this Province is an admirable one. After Province is an admirable one. After the wartostop; yet its appeal has gone long experience as a Principal of the wartostop; yet its appeal has gone of the honor of humanity and separate schools and as a member of forth for the love of Christ's sake in of the twentieth century we might

the High school staff of Peterboro, he has had fifteen years of inspectoral work of an exceptionally arduous work of an exceptionally are and trying character. His di duties have been discharged with tact and toleration, and probably this sort of self-control will be found peculiarly useful in his new office. It is quite certain that his chief aim will continue to be, as it has been, to secure for every Separate School pupil as good an education as condi tions make practicable."

His innumerable friends through out the province who will sorely miss the inspiration of his Inspectoral visits will be interested to know that Mr. O'Brien has three able-bodied sons enlisted in the service of King and country; one with a field battery at Shorncliff, (perhaps now in France), one at Niagara and a third who recently joined the Army Service Corps. Another son who was graduated two years ago at the University of Toronto is now studying theology in Rome preparatory to enlisting in the service of the King of Kings.

"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE "

At no time since the rending of the eamless robe of Christian unity four centuries ago have the evils of sectarianism been so fully realized and so deeply deplored as at present There may be those who advocate the union of Churches for reason material and utilitarian, and others who assent because of religious indifference; but there is not wanting the deeper note of a real aspiration of earnest Christian souls toward the unity for which Christ prayed: "that they all may be one, as Thou Father in Me and I in Thee . . . that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

The Constructive Quarterly, in whose pages earnest Christians of all denominations meet in frank and serious discussion, furnishes evidence of this aspiration and, it may well be, contributes materially to the desired end. The candor, the spirituality and the Christian charity which characterize so many of the articles make the Catholic reader realize the distinction which theologians make between material and formal heresy.

The Rev. Newman Smyth, in the June number, holds that after the War will come the greatest test and the greatest opportunity of Christian Churches.

"To prepare for this coming day of judgment for organized Christianity, the American Churches can not begin too soon to mobilize their several forces and to make them ready to act as one nower. . .

"For many in the trenches, for others waiting in the homes, the war has put new meaning into life. . .

'Is our present disorganized Pro testantism prepared, or so much as gathering itself together to make ready, for its full part and effectual working in this coming epoch for Christianity after the war? shall the Churches, because divided and powerless to act together, be found wanting in this notable day of the world?

"The reserves of moral and religious power in all countris must be called to the colors to overcome the causes of war; for until these shall be searched out and destroyed in every people, disarmament by the vanquished in the present strife may prove to be a truce for a time, but not a peace of God which shall come

to stay." Making all allowance for the bias of education and the influence of environment the Catholic reader will ask : Can he not see the strikingly visible unity of the Catholic Church? He does. He cannot see the Church of Christ in all its spiritual beauty and unity as these are apprehended by those who have the great happiness of belonging to the Church which is the mystical Body of Christ but from the outside he sees Catho lic unity as through a glass darkly, while from within, he beholds Pro testant division face to face; and he

contrasts them thus : " There is one Church that stand always ready. For centuries there has never been a day when it has not had the power, for better or worse, to speak its own mind with authority: and it has led its own following. At any time of need it has not to wait. the Reports of the Belgian Govern-In the morning its voice may go mental Commission on the Violation forth to the ends of the earth. At of the Rights of Nations and of the midnight it may speak; and, as the Laws and Customs of War in Belsun rises the whole world round, the gium. people shall listen. Before the sovereignty; it cannot command of unspeakable crimes. . . .

voice, and it can make it heard even amid the storm of war. The Protestant Churches cannot. The voice of the Roman Church is one voice, as the voice of many waters ; there is none to declare the mind of the Protestant Churches, though all would hear it spoken. Its voice is the murmur of distant brooks from disant source. . . The out standing fact which confronts Protestant Churches - their independ ence of one another has left them powerless to act, even when they ought to act together in their power as a whole. They do not, they can not, stand up as one solid force to confront an impious wrong; they cannot rise at an hour's summons to meet an emergency; nor can they minister, as one body for Christ's sake, to the urgent suffering of any land. They are not united or even practically federated sufficiently in any city to do the greatest possible good which they have the men and the means, the mind and the heart, to

do. . . "They can do almost everything else together; but this one thing which the Lord Himself prayed that the disciples might be, they have not become ;-they have not made their unity so visible that the world, seeing it, may believe in their Christ. This is the plain fact as visible as their Church doors, facing each other, which the world, passing by every Lord's day, sees, and seeing does not believe in their Christ."

Another writer in the same review William Porcher Du Bose, an Episcopalian Professor of theology in Tennessee, writes of the Church, whether consciously or not, in almost the precise terms of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"It is the Church only that is His true and abiding Body, the real Incarnation-the Fulness of Him that filleth all in all'-that which He fills with Himself as the soul or spirit fills the body and makes it all Itself. So true is it that the Church is Christ's body and self, and that we are in Him only as we are in that we need not hesitate at the extra ecclesiam nulla salus (out of the Church there is no salvation)-if we mean Christian salvation: 'Christ is the Head of the Church, Himself the Saviour of the Body.' As only the soul can save the body, only the spirit can sanctify and save the flesh, so only Christ as the Head and Heart, the Soul and Body, of our humanity is Christian salvation. We are fallen away from the meaning and actuality of the Church, if not of the fact of Christ Himself in the world, and of ourselves in Him, when we allow our selves to come down to and acquiesce in the conception and use of it as a creation and matter of mere human expediency or utility. The easy and endless multiplication of Churches, as against The Church, has been the natural result as well as the cle evidence of a growing loss of any real sense of the divine and necessary fact of the latter; and this, I hope, we are all more and more com-

ing to realize and feel." Such evidences of aspiration toward Christian unity are of deep interest and significance. " And the earth was void and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the waters." May not the spirit of God be even now moving over the dark and troubled waters of Protestantism? Obviously the first prerequisite for the reunion of Christendom is the recognition of the evils of division. And this condition is beginning to be fulfilled. Not unsympathetic or scornful criticism of the futility of Protestant aspirations and efforts towards unity should be the attitude of Catholics. We who see the beauty of God's House from within, whose inestimable privilege it is to belong to the Church which is the continua. tion and projection of the Incarnation, should in grateful humility pray that all may recognize and accept Christ's own plan of unity, that there be one Fold and one Shepherd.

## AUTHENTIC INFORMATION

We have received from the Belgian Consul-General at Ottawa a copy of

" In the pages of this book," re powers of the world it can appeal the preface, "there is unfolded in for millions of people, and in every the sober and restrained language of tongue. It retains no temporal a sworn judicial statement the story

well desire that we were not com- struction. When this is completed the British and French offensive is see my way clear to accept the nelled to give that gradenes to the to bis satisfaction they are received. stories of the atrocious acts which have been committeed far from the field of battle, and in the by-ways as it were, of the theatre of War. Unhappily doubt is not admissible.'

Sober and restrained, indeed, is the language which constitutes nevertheless a damning indictment The German professors in their appeal to the civilized nations have

"It is not true that our soldiers have done violence to the person or the property of a single Belgian citi zen unless acting under the hard necessity of legitimate defence. . "It is not true that our troops

brutally destroyed Louvain. "It is not true that we carry or war in defiance of the laws of humanity. Our soldiers commit neither acts of indiscipline nor cruel

Quoting the above, Mr. Van Dan Heuvel, the Belgian Minister of State who writes the preface, remarks with quiet but biting irony :

"These affirmations are made by eminent professors. They are boldly formulated and would be of great authority if the professors had spoken of facts within the range of their knowledge, but these gentlemen have neither visited the places nor questioned witnesses."

In the Sixth Report the Commis

sion says : "The facts are stronger than all arguments. Against the professorial protests of the German Universities the Commission of Enquiry opposes its reports. There is not one fact mentioned in them of which it cannot furnish proof. There are besides, documents, the authentic character of which the German Universities would not think of contesting. We refer to the proclamations of the generals of the invading army; the lack of conscience shown in them is no greater than their cruelty." Then follow several of these proclama

tions. The volume may be considered by some gruesome and depressing reading. But the whole war is a gruesome and depressing fact. The authentic information contained therein of what have now become irrevocable facts of history may serve a twofold purpose : to deepen our reverent gratitude to martyred Belgium, and to make us more fully realize the meaning and magnitude of the great struggle which we are bound to bring to a successful issue A copy of the volume in question will be sent free to any person apply ing therefor to the Consul-General

of Belgium at Ottawa.

### A "NEIGHBOURLY" CONVERT

If there is one note more than another that marks off and defines the system of contradictions that is labelled Protestantism it is beautiful thing or nothing, and you can still be a "member in good standing." Protestantism has no definite creed It does not know what it believes or what it denies. This is, to some extent, an explanation of its intense hatred of Catholicism. Catholicism has a certain definite dogmatic system. It knows what it believes, and it makes the acceptance of this belief an essential condition of member ship. This, in the minds of the loose theologians of Protestantism, is tyranny. Protestantism does not claim certitude in its teaching. This is what I think, it says, but since I may be wrong you are perfectly free to think as you please. This it calls liberty of conscience.

An incident that was recently reported to us well illustrates this Protestant "comprehensiveness." A person of our acquaintance, a Presbyterian, joined the Anglican Church. He lived in a section that did not possess a church of his own persuasion. A friend expressed his wonder that he should leave the church of his childhood to embrace another belief. "Well, I don't know that I believe in the English Church," he answered, "but I like to be neigh-

Contrast this with the method followed in the reception of Protestants into the Catholic Church. We will have nothing to do with "neighborly" converts. We have the certain teaching of our Church, and the convert-to-be must give proof that he or she accepts that teaching before he or she is admitted into the fold. Converts to Catholicism are real converts. For one reason or another their belief in the form of religion they profess having been shaken,

Sometimes, because the priest has doubts of their full acceptance of the Church's dogmas, they are not received at all. This it is that explains the different calibre of converte to Catholicism and "converts" to Protestantism. Protestants be-Catholics from conviction. Sometimes a few renegade Catholics come Protestants through self interest. Catholicism gets the Newmans. Protestantism gets the Chin-

iquys and the Margaret Ls. COLUMBA

### ON THE BATTLE LINE

Transcending all War news of the past week is the deposition of Grand Duke Nicholas from the supreme command of the Russian armies and the assumption of that office by the Czar himself. No satisfactory explanation has been given though various guesses have been hazarded The Grand Duke has been regarded as a great military genius and his saving of the Russian armies seems sufficient ground for ranking him great amongst the greatest generals of the War. Now he is banished to the Caucasus. Does the Czar fear a revolution and has he flouted the omnipotent bureaucracy by placing himself at the head of discontented people? Has the Grand Duke been a failure in spite of his wonderful reputation? Or has he fallen a victim to the intrigues of discontented and incompetent subordinates resentful of the iron dis cipline he was reputed to maintain? All remains shrouded in mystery until events prove the exception to

stream. In Washington the Austrian Ambassador's incredibly impudent assumption of the right to foment strikes in American munition factories and the German Government's repudiation of its own Ambassador's assurances in the matter of the sink ing of the Arabic have seriously complicated the relations of the United States with the Teutonic powers. Despatches from Washington report " amazement and intense dissatisfaction" amongst the officials there. This can readily be believed.

the old adage of the unwisdom of

swapping horses while crossing a

It is cold comfort that Col. Repington, the military expert of the London Times, serves out to the Germans on the eve of their winter campaign in Russia. Their armies, he says, will waste rapidly by exposure and disease. Great masses of Cossacks are forming, who, when the snow comes will begin to worry them. In Russia vast hosts of soldiers are preparing to renew the war, and in every allied and neutral country all available factories are working day and night to supply the munitions that Russis The west offers the German no better prospect, even were they able to add a million men to the 1,800,000 now on that front. After immense losses, such as they would able to pursue their campaign either east or west with any hope of success Col. Repington conveys the impression that the invasion of Poland rep resented Germany's supreme effort and that failure to destroy the Russian army inevitably brings in its train failure all round.

From Petrograd come statements having, it is believed, official sanction, that the Czar's first orders on as suming command of the army were for a further retirement, because the German centre had pressed beyond the point anticipated when the Russian front was rearranged. This retirement is now being carried out in an orderly way, and apparently ut pressure from the Nothing has come through to show east or the west of Vilna. Farther north, of course, the Dwina lines will be maintained. In the Argonne and in the Vosges

there have been sanguinary strug-gles. The Germans in both cases used asphyxiating shells and bombs and in the Vosges flaming liquids were added. A trench of the first ine on the Linge ridge had to be evacuated by the French, but by a counter attack they won back the lost ground to within 30 feet of their also made a lodgment in the French trenches, but there by a counterattack all the lost ground was re-covered, and the midnight Paris reort states that " a new and violent artillery action against Hartmanns Weilerkopf was completely repulsed. The Crown Prince makes no progress in the Argonne. An attack near St. Hubert yesterday, following upon a combardment of the French trenches with shells of large calibre, was quickly stopped. It is probable that these vigorous German attacks in the Vosges, in Lorraine and in the Argonne are intended to disclose the French strength on the portions of the front attacked and give some clue

Turkey's concession of territory in Thrace to Bulgaria under the treaty between the two states, which it is believed was signed last Monday, is more important than expected. Bulgarla is given about 780 square miles which she is to occupy a formight after the signing of the treaty. This is the price paid by the Turks for the passage of war supplies through Bulgarian territory. It remains to be seen whether the Allies will make a higher bid before the time comes for Bulgaria to disclose her position to all the world by cocupying the ceded territory. The position of Bul-garia has been doubtful all along, but the day of decision comes very

Vague rumors of important pending developments in the Dardanelles are in circulation throughout wes tern Europe, but nothing definite as From Mitylene comes a report that bombarded the camp of the Turks at Aivali on Wednesday, and killed or wounded many Turks. Another squadron of seaplanes attacked the Turkish fortifications at Smyrna. It s almost time to hear from the Italians who left more than a week ago on a great fleet of transports to take part in the campaign against the

The Italians are resuming a vigor ous offensive on the Isonzo. An Austrian report states that they have at Tolmino, but were repulsed every time, leaving many men near th Austrian wire entanglements. South of Goritz, in the Dorberdo region, they were also repulsed. Vienna ad mits that an Austrian torpedo boat was hit by a torpedo from a hostile torpedo boat and forced to make for port damaged at the bow.-Globe Summary Sept. 11.

#### NEW YORK PRIEST ON PRISON REFORM

REV. J. E. CURRY IS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

AND WOULD SUBSTITUTE LIFE

IMPRISONMENT Because of his religious work mong the prisoners in the Tombs and Sing Sing for many years the Rev. James B. Curry, pastor of St. James' Church in James street, New York City, is one of the best informed men in that city regarding the good and the evil qualities to be found in criminals.

For this reason Father Curry's opinions on the possibility of true re formation on the part of the criminal

are of especial interest. "There is no doubt that some of them do make good it the world gives them the chance," said Father Curry. "But the chief difficulty lies in the attitude of the world toward the man who has been in prison.

Speaking of Warden Osborne theories I think he has the right idea. There is no doubt that there is room for great improvements in the conditions that exist in Sing There should be no such things as dark cells or anything like that, for it is easy enough to govern the men, provided you understand treat them like human beings instead of beasts. Warden Osborne has had sufficient exper ence and has amply studied the ques for improving the prison.

" Here is a little incident which convinced me that some of Thomas Osborne's ideas which installed at Auburn prison at his sug sentence there produce some good. 'A young man whom I was

ested in had been arrested for an offence and I used some influence to have the man released, believing that he was a good man at heart and had committed the offence on an impulse. He wished to get marrie and I loaned him money, I think about \$19, to help pay for furnishing

### SECOND OFFENDERS

"Just when I thought I had this young man on the right path, greatto my surprise he was again arrested, and it being the offence, he was sentenced to Sing I'll admit that I was so dis-Sing. appointed and surprised that I lost interest in his case, and decided to wipe my hands of the affair. him again, but I turned a deaf ear to all of them.

"Not long after I had occasion to visit Sing Sing, and while there I was informed that this man, whom we will call James, had committed an assault on another prisoner with original position. On the ridge of Hartmanns Weilerkopf the Germans had been transferred to Auburn prison, where some of Mr. Osborne's suggestions had been put in practical use. Incidentally I wish to tell you that James was good at heart but had a violent temper, which was the cause of the assault on his fellow

Well. I had forgotten all about James when I received a letter one day in which was enclosed the equivalent of the money I had loaned him some months previous. In his letter James stated that he had never intended to cheat me out of the money, but he did not have the opportunity of getting together the sum of \$19 until he reached Auburn. By dint of hard work and economizto the nature of the concentration that is manifestly in progresss at some point behind the Allies' lines.

The Germans are attacking in the hope of learning where and when point behind the Allies' lines.

The Germans are attacking in the hope of learning where and when points in him. But I could not seem that I renewed hope of learning where and when points in him. But I could not seem that I renewed hope of learning where and when points in him. But I could not seem that I renewed hope of learning where and when points in him. But I could not seem that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where and when points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where are the content of the points are to impressed me that I renewed hope of learning where are the content of the points are the points are the content of the points are the poin

I sent the money to Father Cashin chaplain of Sing Sing, with the request that he distribute it among the prisoners in the death cells.

"On my next visit to Sing Sing Father Cashin met me and told me that James was there, not as a prisoner, but as a delegate at large from Auburn, where they had some sort of organization such as the Golden Rule Brotherhood which has been formed at Sing Sing. When I met James I never saw such man in all my life. All the criminal features in his face had sion in his face was almost angelic.

James informed me that the conditions in Auburn were such that they had changed him completely. Since his incarceration there his haracter had undergone a complete transformation. While in Sing Sing ne was morose, vindictive and selfish but on being transferred to Auburn ander the changed conditions for the batter, he became joyful, optimistic and devoted much of his time to doing good work among the prisoners and charitable deeds.

"In fact, I was so impressed with the complete transformation that I said to him, 'James, you look so good now that you could wear one of these collars and be one of us." and Father Curry put his finger on his clerical collar to emphasize

"Apropos of capital punishment," Father Curry went on, "I do not be-lieve in capital punishment personally, but I admit the State has the supreme right to take a life for a life. The Roman Catholic Church admits this right. Warden Osborne has expressed my sentiments when he delared that while he is against capital punishment he will execute prisoners and do the work thoroughly according to law as long as the law compels him to. Therefore, before any of our suggestions can be put into practice the law must be changed. If you could visit the death house and see the condemned prisoners in their cells you would not hesitate to raise your voice in favor of abolishing capital punish ment. The prisoners in the death cells are under a terrible strain which is really inhuman.

"My suggestion is that capital punprisonment be substituted, with the power of communication removed from the Governor. However, such prisoners should be granted the privilege of a new trial on the preentation of new evidence, etc. I think life imprisonment would be just as effective in preventing crime as capital punishment. - Providence

#### SIDELIGHTS ON THE GREAT WAR

THE PRIESTS AT THE FRONT

A young French soldier, writing to an ecclesiastic at home, eloquently voices the appreciation felt at the Front for the priests who are there either as chaplains or soldiers :

They have joined the priest and soldier in the trench, and whatever one may think of it, good has come out of it. What a happiness it is for us when an attack is pending to have someone to whom we can tell our sorrows and beg pardon of our faults. The priest in the trenches is a great blessing. There is not a moment in which he is not encour-The victory towards which we are going will not only be for France; it will be one for God also. And that is why we do not fear to sacrifice ourselves.

A PRIEST-LIEUTENANT'S RECONNAIS-SANCE

Nor is the appreciation above expressed confined to the soldiers. It extends also to the military authorities, as may be seen from the long ists of mentions in dispatches de servedly obtained by chaplains and priest-soldiers. Here is the official mention awarded to Sub-Lieutenant Pierre Marque, an ablé of Neufchateau, who has already won a previous mention and the Cross of the Legion

of Honour:
A young officer of remarkable intrepidity and coolness, who after having distinguished himself in the attack on June 17, on that day and the next made a series of most dangerous reconnaissances which enabled the command to fix the attack of June 18 and our troops to find the weak part of the enemy's position, thus assuring the success of the operation. He is adored by his men of the Chasseurs, who follow

### A VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN

Here is a brilliant record for a volunteer chaplain with a brigade of light horse, the Abbé Girardin, who the cure of Jeanne d'Arc at Luneville :

From the beginning of hostilities he has spent himself body and soul with the most admirable devoted ness; he has accompanied his brigade in the Marne, Flanders, Belgium. and Lorraine, constantly assisted the men in their outpost duty and in the trenches. During the fighting on June 20-23, he greatly contributed by his example and spirit in restor. ing and strengthening the moral of the men, never ceasing, day and night, and under fire, to give encour-agement to all, and to the wounded the most devoted care.