

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.50 per annum.
United States & Europe—\$2.00

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Advertisements for teachers, situations wanted,
etc., 50 cents each insertion. Remittance to
accompany the order.

Approved and recommended by Archbishops
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THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME

So completely has War education eradicated what before the War seemed to be, as reflected by literature current and permanent as well as by pulpit and platform, the deepest conviction of the Protestant world, that it requires some such dramatic gesture as the hurling from its pedestal into the gutter of the statue of Frederick of Prussia, to make us realize how great and how complete is the revulsion of feeling. And, though the press gave but passing notice to the fact and none at all to its deep significance, that is what happened to the statue of "The Protestant Hero" the other day in Washington.

Many of our readers have a living and vivid remembrance of the fact that in 1870 the sympathy and moral support of the English-speaking world were unreservedly and outspokenly on the side of Protestant Prussia as against Catholic France.

People with much shorter memories—it is marvellous how short memories can be sometimes—can if they will recall that in loyal Ulster with volunteers trained by German drill-sergeants and armed with German guns, Members of Parliament, Church papers and leading clergymen openly threatened that in the event of Home Rule they would join "the greatest Protestant Empire in the world," and boasted of the aid which the Kaiser would extend to them in that dire extremity.

Picking up the other day a favorite book of long ago, "Tom Brown's School-days," we came across the same note—a footnote this time—where the great admirer of the great Dr. Arnold praises the Prussian school system and with unmixed satisfaction at the political outlook remarks as a matter of course, that alliance with Prussia is the most natural and desirable for Protestant England. And so we might go on.

But the development of modern Prussian militarism owes to Protestant England much more than sentimental and moral support. Only the other day a reader inquired about the rise of Prussia to its present dominating and menacing position in the world.

Our answer to this particular reader may satisfy intelligent interest in other readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD.

Perhaps the most impartial and (to England) decidedly the most friendly witness we could summon is the Oxford historian, Professor John Richard Greene, who published his "Short History of the English People" a few years after the Franco-Prussian War; that war which left "the gaping wound in the side of France" but which would never have been inflicted had Protestant England uttered a syllable of protest against the Prussian annexation of Alsace-Lorraine. This was only one of a long series of annexations which England had not only condoned but in some important instances aided and abetted. Writer after writer since this war began has pointed out that the present lust of power and rapacious appetite for neighbors' territory are the outstanding characteristics of Prussian policy. And it is true beyond dispute. More than a century and a half ago nearly all Europe banded together to curb this audacious and shameless policy of robbery on the part of Prussia. Let Professor Greene tell the story:

"The two powers of the House of Bourbon were still united by the Family Compact, and as early as 1792 the Queen of Hungary, by a startling change of policy, had secretly drawn to their alliance.

Neither Maria Theresa nor Saxony, in fact, had ever really abandoned the design for the recovery of Silesia and for a partition of Prussia. The jealousy which Russia entertained of the growth of a strong power in North Germany brought the Czarina Elizabeth to promise aid to their scheme; and in 1755 the league of these three powers with France and Spain was silently completed. So secret were these negotiations that they had utterly escaped the notice of the Duke of Newcastle, the brother of Henry Pelham, and his successor in the direction of English affairs; but they were detected from the first by the keen eye of Frederick of Prussia, who found himself face to face with a line of foes which stretched from Paris to St. Petersburg."

To a degree that is shocking today we miss the note of alarm, distrust and hatred of Prussianism, and observe the complacency, the pride with which the English historian praises the English statesman who came to Frederick's aid and averted—or delayed for a century and a half—Prussia's merited retribution.

The reason let the Oxford Professor tell in all the simplicity of pre-war candor:—

"When England was threatened by a Catholic Pretender, it was no time for weakening the chief Protestant power in Germany."

Of course the "Pope-and-Kaiser" stuff now ladled out is not intended for students of history past or present though it goes down with the average Protestant who knows no more of history than history knows of him.

Professor Greene continues:

"His (Pitt's) foreign policy was directed to the preservation of Prussia, and Prussia has at last vindicated his foresight by the creation of Germany."

"He recognized the genius of Frederick the Great, and resolved to give him a firm and energetic support. The Convention of Kloster-Seven had almost reduced Frederick to despair. But the moment of Pitt's accession to power was marked on the King's part by the most brilliant display of military genius which the modern world has as yet seen. Two months after his repulse at Kollin he flung himself on a French army which advanced into the heart of Germany, and annihilated it in the victory of Rossbach. Before another month had passed he hurried from the Saale to the Oder, and by yet more signal victory at Leuthen cleared Silesia of the Austrians. But these prodigious efforts would have been useless but for the aid of Pitt. The English Minister poured subsidy upon subsidy into Frederick's exhausted treasury, while he refused to ratify the Convention of Kloster-Seven, and followed the King's advice by setting the Prince of Brunswick at the head of the army on the Elbe. The victory of Rossbach was destined to change the fortunes of the world by bringing about the unity of Germany."

"England had never played so great a part in the history of mankind as now. The year 1759 was a year of triumphs in every quarter of the world."

"But it was not so much in the number as in the importance of its triumphs that the war stood and remains still without a rival. It is no exaggeration to say that since its many victories determined for ages to come the destinies of the world. With that of Rossbach began the recreation of Germany, its intellectual supremacy over Europe, its political union under the leadership of Prussia and its kings."

And, as the world now knows to its sorrow, the aggrandisement of that robber power which made the present world-war inevitable.

Just as a sample of ten thousand such articles we append an extract from a recent editorial of the New York Times, (May 17th) "Professors, Idealists, Angels":

Frederick the Great is the Prussian typical practical idealist. In the year he came to the throne he published his "Anti-Machiavel," wherein peace is praised, wherein he "would tell the Kings that their true political interests consist in outshining their subjects in virtue." That same year he invaded and grabbed Silesia, "in order to defend that country against attacks from a third Power." This was a genuine Prussian, a genuine modern German, the hero and the god of the Hohenzollerns; and he had his professors too. As he wrote in "The Seven Years' War":

If sovereigns wish to make war, they are not restrained by arguments suitable for a public proclamation. They determine the course upon which they wish to embark, make war, and leave to some industrious jurist the trouble of justifying their action.

On the larger scale of today practically the whole corps of professors is set at work justifying. That is part of their work as servants of the State. They get decorations besides, and are well seen at Court. They are better paid than Frederick's favorite jurist and justifier, Professor von Ludewig, who got, say, \$2.25 (three thalers) a day for his assemblage of Prussia's right or claim to swallow Silesia. Forty years the good man labored for the author of "Anti-Machiavel," most Machiavellian of the

Kings of his day, and was glad and proud, to be paid with the honorific "von." Frederick's Minister, Podewils, said contemptuously of this typical Prussian professor's ennobling particle: "A little wind that costs nothing."

Thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION

A new departure in selecting the Minister of Education for Ontario is in itself nothing to alarm those interested in the welfare of our schools; on the contrary most people well-informed in educational matters will be likely, on general principles, to welcome any such departure as a probable change for the better. It was time to get out of deep-worn ruts. The appointment of a Protestant clergyman, however, is a somewhat startling innovation. But Protestant clergymen have been taking so active not to say meddling, and withal so irresponsible, a part in politics of recent years that perhaps it is wise that one of them assume the responsibility of office.

As for Archdeacon Cody, the new Minister of Education, so far as we know he has never been identified with those political parsons whose activities were conducive to the good of neither citizenship or religion. On the contrary we believe him to be a scholarly, high-minded and public-spirited Christian gentleman.

We may be permitted to hope that his appointment as Minister of Education is an earnest of the Government's desire to lift that Department out of the atmosphere of petty politics and to infuse into its management that spirit of broad scholarship which will give new life and vigor to the educational system of Ontario.

During the last quarter of a century or more there has been but one really progressive step taken in the school system of this province; that was the extension of the facilities for secondary education to the rural districts in the establishment and development of Continuation Schools. Before this was done farmers, with the exception of those in the immediate vicinity of High Schools, labored under a serious disadvantage, and suffered the injustice of being compelled to support a system of secondary schools which was almost exclusively urban.

But secondary education considered in itself—and the elementary schools as well—has been characterized by a long and disheartening period of stagnation. Few there are who take an intelligent interest in schools who did not think it high time for a change. The new departure in seeking a head of the Department of Education outside the ranks of the politicians will inspire many who had almost despaired of betterment with new hope and keen expectation of better things.

One rather radical change in the administration of educational affairs was initiated a decade or more ago when the office of Superintendent was created. In opposition the party responsible for the change was obliged to offer some constructive criticism of the administration of the Department of Education, and this new office was proposed. Theoretically it seemed a progressive step. To find amongst party politicians a man qualified for the position of Minister of Education was always difficult, often impossible. To select from amongst educationists themselves a technical head and from amongst the party men a political head seemed to be a solution of the problem. But the practical experiment has utterly discredited the theory. It would be difficult to find any one really interested in the development of our school system who is convinced that the surrender of the principle of responsible government so far as education is concerned brought compensating benefits at all adequate to the price paid. The responsible minister will naturally seek the advice and assistance of those actively engaged in educational work; but he should assume the responsibility for the policy and administration of his department. An irresponsible Superintendent with wide statutory powers relieves the Minister of Education in large measure of his nominal responsibility; and what is perhaps worse, deprives him of that freedom of action which is essential to progress.

We venture to hope that the selection of a man of educational outlook and vision as head of this all important department means the return to the principle of responsible govern-

ment; and that the new minister will be accorded the widest scope and freedom of action consistent with that principle which compels him to exercise his authority in the bracing air of free criticism. Then will the new departure in choosing a Minister of Education give at least the opportunity of realizing the hopes it has created.

SINN FEIN AND GERMANY

What appears to be the supreme effort of the "last-ditchers" to discredit Ireland's claim to the right of self government and self-determination is the attempt to fasten upon the whole population the odium of an alleged pro-German plot which in the words of the vice-regal proclamation itself is limited to a very few Irishmen. Of all the slackers and shirkers this War has produced the slackest statesmen of England who shamelessly shirk their plain duty to Ireland are the slackest and shiftiest.

Robert Donald a short time ago wrote:

"What is the position today in England and Ireland? A majority of Englishmen, if asked, would say, 'Let Ireland have Home Rule and be done with it.' The more thoughtful would add: 'We could not hold up our heads at the peace conference with Ireland on our backs. How can we preach the regally self-determination for all countries and fail to apply it to Ireland?'"

And that is the solid ground for hope amid the morasses of what an honest Canadian, Sir Herbert Holt, in shocked surprise called the "rotten politics" of England. England and the English people are better than their politics. And the press of England which knows its politics is much more honest and alert than our papers would lead us to believe. It is too early at this writing to gauge the effect of the latest poison gas bomb; but this from the Parliamentary correspondent of the Westminster Gazette who openly discredits the Government pledges with regard to Home Rule is from the latest number to reach us through the mails:

"And we have Sir Edward Carson on the war path again. The 'Long and the Short' of it, as one member said, will probably destroy any hope of a generous measure of self-government for Ireland."

Walter Long, uncompromising Unionist, is chairman of the committee which is charged with drafting the Home Rule Bill.

The correspondent continues: "And in that event it is presumed that conscription will not be applied to Ireland, which will, in its turn, cause much beating of tom-toms in the Unionist camp. Altogether the Government is in a very unenviable position. It would not be surprising if the ground had to be cleared of all these complications, and a new start had to be made by another Government before the Irish question can be settled."

"This, at all events, is the view that is held by many members who regret that the Government should ever have attempted to run Home Rule and conscription together. One thing is certain. The House is in no mood to stand the addition of a 'No Popery' campaign to the Irish trouble. As a Liberal member put it in the lobby yesterday, with what face can those who regally used armed resistance to the Home Rule Act, and did nothing to discourage Irish Protestant clergymen from preaching the right of rebellion, now denounce the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland for advising passive resistance to an Act of Parliament if it is put into force? I do not think this plea justifies the Irish Bishops any more than the attitude of certain Unionists to Home Rule justifies Sinn Fein. But it cannot be denied that it hardly lies in the mouth of those who encouraged active resistance to the law to talk now about the 'disloyalty of Roman prelates' in denying the right of this country to apply conscription to Ireland."

The tone and spirit of the foregoing will serve a useful purpose in reminding us that British sanity and sense of justice are much better represented in the House and country than amongst the Carsonite supporters of a shifty and unstable Government.

MR. MURPHY'S SPEECH

We call attention of readers to the advertisement in another column relative to the distribution of Mr. Murphy's great speech. Despite the pitiable conspiracy of silence on the part of the press the masterly refutation by the Ex-Secretary of State of the charge against the French religious resident in Canada has placed the Hon. Newton Wesley Rowell in an unenviable position. A Protestant fellow-member on Wednesday last publicly challenged Mr. Rowell to reply or retract. Evidently the cowardly charge and the still more

cowardly silence of the late Liberal Leader in Ontario has got under the skin of self-respecting Protestants.

We regret very much that we were unable to secure a copy of Wednesday's Hansard before this week's formeclosed. For the credit of Canadian manhood and decency in Canadian public life we shall be very glad next week to reproduce Mr. MacMaster's protest against further silence on the part of Mr. Rowell.

Have you noticed the loud silence of the secular press with regard to Mr. MacMaster's challenge?

THE ENTENTE CORDIALE AND MAPLE SYRUP

We hasten to remark that the association of ideas, indicated by the above title, was not suggested to us by the fact that entente cordiale sounds sweet and that maple syrup tastes sweet. Neither has it any reference to the remark, made recently by a French Member of Parliament, that Quebec did not wish Ontario to be making love to her. No, it was the outcome of a little transaction that we had with our grocer.

Each Spring we indulge in the luxury of some Quebec maple syrup, not that we are particularly fond of sweets, but because the taste of the genuine article revives old memories, carries our mind back to days when with wooden spiles we drew sap from the maples on the sunny side of the wood lot. When the can arrived we proceeded to sample it. It looked good; in fact it looked too good. Every one knows that pure maple syrup has a rather murky appearance, but this was almost crystal. It did not taste nearly as good as it looked; and the proof of the pudding is in the eating. It did not smack true. There was an orange flavor about it; and a something redolent of a Cuban sugar factory. "Did that syrup that you sent up to the house come from Quebec?" we enquired over the phone. "Oh, no," was the reply, "we got that from a farmer out at Ballyclare. We expect the consignment from Mr. Ladouceur tomorrow." After expressing our appreciation of that farmer's regard for the pure food law, we ordered some of the real thing.

The first taste of it set the wheels of memory in motion. As in a vision we saw the old familiar maples and the faces of the kindly neighbors of our boyhood. We saw also the narrow strips of farms running down to the banks of the St. Lawrence, the white washed cottages, and the wooded highlands in the distance. The concluding stanza of "Le Canada," that beautiful little poem by Cremazie, our country's national poet, occurred to us.

"Heureux qui le connaît, plus heureux qui l'habite.
Et ne quitte jamais pour chercher d'autres lieux
Les rives du grand fleuve ou le bonheur l'invite,
Sait vivre et sait mourir où dorment ses aïeux."

Meditating upon this experience, and upon others that we have had, we put to ourselves these conundrums: "When is maple syrup not maple syrup?" "Where is the entente cordiale not an entente cordiale?" Our answer to the first is "When it is made in Ontario," and to the second, "On this side of the Ottawa River." That syrup from Ballyclare was to our mind symbolical of the spirit of a large section of Ontario in regard to Quebec. Its loyalty and its sentiments of religious toleration are almost crystal in their simplicity, their disinterestedness and their whole-souled devotedness, when given expression to in the presence of the intelligent representatives of Quebec on the floor of Parliament. But when the tasting time, or rather the testing time, came it was found to be adulterated. It is very significant that the first outbreak against conscription in Ireland should have occurred in the Orange city of Belfast; and that the first delegation to Ottawa asking for exemption from military service for farmers' sons, should have hailed from those townships that gave that traducer of the French clergy, Hon. Newton Wesley Rowell, an almost unanimous vote, when they were assured that their own boys would not be conscripted. Did they tell the Premier that they were opposed to conscription on principle; that their sons did not want to go to the front? Oh no! As a preamble to their request, they reiterated their sentiments of loyalty. They assured the Government that the young men of the district were keenly anxious to meet

the Hun; and that it was only because of their settled conviction that they could aid the Allies more at home that they were asking for their exemption. Like that syrup from Ballyclare, that looks good, but it is so transparent that any one can see through it. Oh, the maple leaf forever!

Whatever faults Quebec may have, there is about its people a sense of honesty in the expression of their views, and in their business transactions, that stands out in bold relief in the midst of the lying deception and dishonesty that is bringing disgrace upon Canada. They may be mistaken in their attitude, but they give honest expression to their opinions. Those who have commercial dealings with them can bear witness to their integrity. Leaders of thought and business men are beginning to appreciate this, and it is doing more to further the entente cordiale than all the gratuitous advice of the Toronto Globe.

As was very well expressed by the French member above referred to, what Quebec wants from Ontario is not flattery but justice. We have had public men in this province who were actuated by a sense of justice. The late Sir James Whitney and Hon. Mackenzie Bowell were types of a class of honest politicians, whose number is to-day unfortunately very small. The latter gentleman, referring to the Manitoba School Question at a banquet tendered to him in 1895, said among other things: "This is not a religious matter, gentlemen. It is a question of the rights guaranteed to those people by the constitution; and I shall champion those rights even though that should cause the overthrow of my government." That Orange premier may not have been as suave and as gracious in his manner as some of the "nest of traitors," but he had the courage of his convictions, even though those convictions favored a minority that was looked upon as a minority by the society of which he was a prominent member.

Camouflage, a much used word exactly describes the present day religious, political and commercial life of many who occupy prominent positions in this province. That is why there can be no entente cordiale between it and Quebec—at least so long as that syrup from Ballyclare typifies the spirit by which it is dominated.

THE GLEANER

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE INAUGURATION of the first regular Aero Mail Service in America passed with less comment in the daily papers than would ordinarily be devoted to the unveiling of a monument or the opening game of a league baseball season. Yet it was an event as momentous and as far-reaching in its possibilities as the launching of the first steamboat, or the initial message over the Atlantic Cable. And so rapidly do we move in these epoch-making days that men have ceased to marvel at any new development in the conquest of the elements, and in presence of the great conflict look with indifferent eyes upon the arts of peace. Who would undertake to forecast the future of air navigation!

REFERRING TO THE ATLANTIC CABLE

we are reminded that its original concept and first public proposal as a practical enterprise came from a Catholic bishop. It has been conclusively proved that to Rt. Rev. J. T. Mullock, fourth Bishop of St. John's, Newfoundland, the inception of the idea is due. The suggestion first took form in a letter to the Morning Courier of St. John's, during the course of a discussion as to the comparative merits of that city and Halifax as an outlying telegraphic station for the American continent. Discussing the feasibility of connecting Newfoundland with the mainland by cable, and the pending connection of England and Ireland in the same way, Bishop Mullock brought his letter to a close with these words: "I hope the day is not far distant when St. John's will be the first link in the electric chain which will unite the Old World with the New."

THIS WAS seventeen years before the Atlantic Cable became a fact. The world is familiar with the history of that enterprise and with the repeated failures which preceded its successful inauguration in 1867. Throughout, Mr. Mullock gave its projectors his constant support and encouragement and was never heard to cast a doubt upon the ultimate

realization of his own scheme. The respect paid to him by the men practically engaged in it, especially by Peter Cooper, Chairman of the American Transatlantic Telegraph Company, and their acknowledgment of the Bishop's part in it, is matter of record. Efforts have from time to time been made to place the credit elsewhere, but no evidence has been produced to antedate Bishop Mullock's letter of 1850.

THE VALIANT PART played by Australian troops in the War has, despite other and, for the time being, more absorbing interests, drawn attention anew to the great Commonwealth of the Antipodes, and to the almost limitless possibilities which lie before it. Very few people on this continent have any idea of either the concrete wealth or the vast resources of Australia. The Canadian Trade Commissioner at Melbourne has recently communicated to his Department at Ottawa some figures illustrative of this subject which furnishes food for thought for dwellers in other parts of the British Dominions, or, for that matter, for all the Allied nations.

ACCORDING TO THE official Commonwealth statistician, an estimate based on probate returns made in 1911, the private wealth of the country exceeded £1,000,000,000. Careful revision of these figures proved that the estimate was below rather than above the actual. A later estimate, 1915, based on similar returns for that year produced the figures £1,643,000,000, and another gave by the inventory method £1,620,000,000, so that one set of figures proved the substantial accuracy of the other. This gives something like \$1,750 per head of the population. The material resources of the country are, of course, beyond all reasonable estimate. The above figures have, however, an index value in that direction.

THE SPIRIT of the soldiers at the front, Canadians as well as others, is illustrated by an incident related of a gunner in a battery not named. "We had been firing for about an hour," writes the narrator, "and in the east a rosy dawn was tinting the clouds, when I noticed a delay at one of the guns. 'What's the matter with No 2 gun?' I shouted out, struggling towards it through the mud. 'The bombardier's got his hand jammed, sir, and can't get it out,' was the answer. A couple of fingers, it was apparent, were badly crushed, and it was impossible to withdraw them until the gun was fired again. So the gun was fired again, the bombardier coolly putting on the range with his left hand, and withdrawing the injured hand as the gun-piece came back. 'Don't trouble about me, sir; I can carry on all right,' was the answer I received when I asked him if he wished to get away."

IT HAS EVER been the boast of Socialism that it stands for the mass of the people and for the cause of free government. If Socialists really believe this, they have, as the New York Journal of Commerce points out, made and are making a deplorable mistake in allowing themselves to fall into unconditional pacifism at this time. It puts their influence, whatever it may amount to, on the side of the most autocratic government on earth, and in that way identifies their cause with the slavery of civilians and those other nameless horrors which have characterized German rule in Belgium and elsewhere from the beginning of the War. Socialists themselves may disclaim such intent, and it must be said, they are by no means a unit in fostering pro-Germanism. But, as Catholic socialists have been unceasing in declaring, the doctrines of Socialism as formulated by its founders and recognized by its accredited propagandists make in the long run for the limitation of human freedom by discarding the moral safeguards of Christian dogma and making the human mind the final arbiter in determining the relations of man to his Creator.

A MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS

TO THE MARYLAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

Will you please convey to the committee having Mother's Day in charge my hearty indorsement of this splendid enterprise?

Every day news comes to us of our boys, both at home and abroad, freely giving themselves to the cause of liberty and justice, determined to endure all things—yes, if need be, to