

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

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FACTS ESSENTIAL BY THE OBSERVER

The questions now agitating the country are of such deep, wide and far-reaching importance that it is essential that all the facts which enter into them should be known. Unfortunately the public discussion of these questions is largely fragmentary and scrappy so far as facts are concerned. How many of the returned soldiers are really in favor of the new grant of eight hundred million dollars? How large a percentage of the workmen are really underpaid? What proportion of the employees in Canada are actual participants in the passing of such and such resolutions? In what industries, and in what classes of occupations do the health and welfare of the workmen require shorter hours; and how short? Is the eight hour day too long in some cases; reasonable in others; too short in some cases? In what industries are too great profits made by the proprietors? We all know there are many; we all know that there are exceptions. Where should the line fairly be drawn?

All these are burning questions at the moment; and they are all being discussed in a way that is very confused and confusing. Generalization is a very common human failing. We all dislike the trouble of drawing distinctions. It is so much easier to generalize. It comes so much more readily to say: "The workmen of Canada want this, or that," or "The manufacturers of Canada do this, or that," or "Labor thinks this," or "Capital says that." And we forget that there are differences and distinctions which are important, and essential, to a right understanding of these matters.

The press of Canada could do much to make these great questions clear; but the truth is, the method of discussion in the press is such as to confuse them. Not even in moments of grave national strain and even danger can the daily press shake itself clear of its melodramatic habits. Its main aim is still to interest the reader, not to inform him. Indignant denials always follow when this criticism is made; yet the criticism is just, however little the daily press may be conscious of its injustice; however firmly it may be convinced that it is handing out valuable information. News despatches usually bring out in bold relief certain aspects of a question; certain striking aspects; especially any exciting or sensational facts or features. Undue emphasis is placed on these; to the neglect of more common place but more important facts; and the result is, that the reader gets a glimpse of the question in an unreal light, as one looks at a person or a thing under colored lights on a stage. Such glimpses interest and excite without instructing.

The present time in Canada imperatively requires plain, blunt, homely facts; and, glancing over the daily news accounts of what is going on, one realizes, if calm and observant, that a very great many essential facts are not being published. Sweeping statements are gratuitously made, on all sides, and upon all manner of subjects; only to be as sweepingly and as gratuitously denied; and the bewildered reader drops his paper with a feeling of helplessness and dissatisfaction. He feels that many things are going wrong; but his impressions are confused. How could they be clear? Facts alone will give clear impressions; and the ordinary, daily, average press discussion does not deal with facts save only in a fragmentary, scrappy way; and rushes on to stage the melodramatic features of the question; to tell of the great excitement at such and such a meeting; of how such a capitalist predicts ruin if prices are interfered with; of how such a labor leader threatens "direct action"; of how one man says that the remedy is more work; of how another man says the remedy is to work three or four days a week.

Generalization follows generalization; confusion piles up on confusion worse confounded. When will our

public men and our journals who have in their hands the business of informing the public and the agencies for gathering the news, realize that if one quarter of the time that is given to gathering and circulating nonsense were spent in gathering and circulating facts, the problems that confront the nation would have a fair chance of speedy solution?

There are many uneasy impressions abroad amongst the people. Capital and Labor seem to be arrayed in opposition in support of diametrically opposite principles. That is an impression created by artificial means and by artificial methods of press discussion. In reality, it is, we believe, the actual fact that the great majority of Canadian workmen feel friendly towards their employers; their leaders to the contrary notwithstanding. On the other hand, there is no common sentiment of opposition to the reasonable demands of the workmen that is shared by all employers. The supposed general conflict is artificial, melodramatic, unreal.

The workmen are not all hard up, even now, with all the high prices. The pictures are overdrawn. One thing is not exaggerated; and that is the race of profiteering. It is not exaggerated; but even in this, we miss many vital facts. We are thrashing about in the dark; we are hitting some innocent heads, and many guilty ones are getting clear without a crack. Moved by the stage methods of the daily press, which is ever acting a part, hoping for our interest and applause as actors do, we are spending a great deal of valuable time in shouting "stop thief" after thieves who are far beyond our reach, and we are not paying any attention to the thieves who are at our elbow.

Why do not local labor unions make an investigation of local prices right at home where they live? They would find much interesting material to lay before the Board of Commerce at Ottawa. Why neglect facts which are close at hand and can be found out, to waste time in talking about big profiteering far off where we cannot get at it?

Only two things can touch the profiteer, pitiless publicity, and a jail sentence or a heavy fine. Locally, publicity would do in many cases. Why have we so few householders' leagues in Canada? They could gather more facts in a week than the press agencies do in three months, and few local dealers would stand up against local publicity when it was shown they were acting unfairly; they have their local popularity to consider.

Needless to say, "the man higher up" must be dealt with on his own ground. Here's hoping that the Board of Commerce will scare him, at least, if not hurt him seriously. But "the man higher up" in profiteering is well aware that loud talk in the press or in public meetings will never put him in jail; he knows that when actual facts are not known and proven, talk cannot hurt him.

THE BISHOPS' COUNSEL

British politicians who would put the burden of the Irish situation upon the Irish themselves, and preferably upon the spiritual leaders of Ireland, are shamed for a reason occasionally. For if there is one other story that comes so persistently out of Ireland as that of the nation's unconquerable determination to loose the bonds of its servitude, it is of the incessant and imperative passions of the Irish Bishops denouncing lawlessness, even in the face of gravest provocations, and urging a conquering calmness. The sermon is preached again and again from the Irish pulpits. It was read recently by the pastor of Ennistymon over the signature of Archbishop O'Dea, when in that locality disturbances had taken place. It crept even into the magnificent cathedral of St. Colman at Queestown was consecrated. The Cardinal appealed to the young men of the country not to commit any act that would be contrary to God's law or that would incur Divine displeasure, no matter what their provocation or how manifestly unjust it might appear to be to them. And this is why the latest British plot in Ireland has failed, why the one hundred thousand British troops in Ireland are resting upon their arms instead of settling the Irish question, for all time, in the approved British fashion of which the

bloody Easter week was merely a prophecy.

Had Ireland made inroads into Ireland, as it has in almost every other country, had the Church's hold upon the masses of Ireland been loosened as Anglicanism has lost its hold in England, there would be another Irish story to be recited. For no nation could have restrained itself as Ireland's Christian courage has enabled her to do under grievances that no other white race now suffers. Ireland's struggle must be counted the most heroic the world has witnessed. And such effort cannot be eventually in vain.—New World.

CARDINAL MERCIER

SPEAKING AT BANKERS' CLUB LUNCHEON PLEADS FOR MORAL SUPPORT OF AMERICA

SAYS FEAR OF AMERICAN PRESS WAS ALL THAT KEPT GERMANS FROM IMPRISONING HIM

Cardinal Mercier, who was acclaimed by crowds on lower Broadway and on Fifth Avenue, New York, told of the present plight in Belgium, educationally and socially, in his address at a luncheon given in his honor by General George Wood Wingate at the Bankers' Club.

He said that many Americans whom he had met during his stay in this country had suggested that America would like to give assistance in aiding in the reconstruction of Belgium, and he told of the wreck in which Germany had left Belgian educational institutions, in the restoration of which outside help will be needed.

After giving thanks in eloquent words for the help which the United States had given to his country during and since the War, he continued: "I have been told that you wish to know whether our nation of the present day has recovered from the blow we got during the War. Well, old people surely are not anxious to resume their work. Many of our workmen are compelled to idleness—not only at the time when Germans came to our country and took away to Germany 70,000 of our workmen, protesting that they were idle, but at the present moment there are a good many of them who remain necessarily idle, because, although they are good will, their factories are destroyed. The Germans, before leaving our country, destroyed simultaneously the machines of our factories. These we want. We want also raw materials for working. From that point of view I make an appeal to the men of your great city; but still it is not my department to insist personally on that; it concerns our Government. It is more especially my task, I think, to tell you that we want also moral and social support. Our people were always, before the War, energetic, and those of our friends who have been in our country know how many ruins lie on the ground. Our great University of Louvain, the most ancient of all universities, where I spent twenty years of my life as a professor, not only the buildings—some of the buildings were destroyed, but the instruments of the laboratories and the instruments of scientific research are lost—are stolen and lost."

BISHOPS HAD TO BORROW

"During the War we were obliged to give living to the professors, one hundred and forty professors, so all the funds we had saved before the War were now given away, and even the Bishops of the great universities were obliged to borrow money from societies for the most urgent necessities of life. Personally, for my clergy and my colleges—and in my diocese there are twenty-five colleges—each of the professors got during the War four hundred francs—that is forty dollars a year; and in order to get that sum, the great benefactors of the country being away or being also damaged by the War. I was obliged also to borrow money from societies and financial societies. We have in Belgium now one hundred churches, schools and orphanages and schools of every kind that have been destroyed. I cannot rely much on the people who have themselves lost a good deal of their money, and therefore, I am obliged, although it is rather a little humiliating for us to appeal to others.

"I hope as soon as we have recovered that we shall ask nothing from foreigners in the future, but at this moment just what your President said, what your people said, may be now accomplished, even by ourselves.

"To this invitation the Holy Father feels certain that not only you will gladly respond, but all the children of your generous country, without any distinction whatever, for surely they will be mindful of the great services their fellow citizens of German birth and descent have rendered their country during the War. In this way they will become real benefactors of the human race and draw upon their own nation Almighty God's choicest blessings. And as a pledge of this the Holy Father with an outpouring of fatherly affection bestows on Your Grace, on all who shall take part in the Congress, and on all of your faithful, the Apostolic blessing."

PETER CARDINAL GASPARRI.

NEW YORK HONORS CARDINAL MERCIER

REMARKABLE TRIBUTE PAID BY ALL CLASSES OF PEOPLE TO HEROIC BELGIAN PRELATE

Wednesday, Sept. 17, was Cardinal Mercier day in New York City. The beloved Belgian prelate was for the day the guest of the city, receiving honors that came to but few men.

Beginning with the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Requiem at the Cathedral, at which he presided, and followed by the public reception at the City Hall, when he not only received the freedom of the city, but was made a citizen thereof, the day came to a close with a brilliant banquet given in his honor by the city at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Archbishop Hayes, Brand Whitlock, American Minister to Belgium, and the Right Rev. Charles S. Burch, who on that same day had been chosen to be the permanent Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of New York, were the other speakers whose addresses preceded the Cardinal's.

Archbishop Hayes, wearing the robes of his office, when introduced was cheered for several minutes.

"I am proud of America tonight," he said, "for with all due respect to any other nation on the face of God's earth, I will say to you, Your Eminence, that there is no other country that extends to you a welcome so cordial and so sincere as this, the welcome of the great nation, the United States of America."

"America has served France, Italy, and Great Britain, and they should be grateful, but tonight America stands before you, grateful for what you have done for her, for the world, in justice, in truth, and in right."

One incident of the banquet was illustrative of the unity of creeds that had come together to honor the Belgian prelate. Mr. Wanmaker just before introducing the Cardinal announced to the assemblage the news of Dr. Burch's election to the bishopric in the afternoon. Ringing cheers and continued applause from all denominations alike greeted the announcement. Still greater was the demonstration when Bishop Burch arose. He said in part: "I am sure that after such eminent tributes as paid by Archbishop Hayes and Mr. Whitlock I could add little, but I hope to say a few words in behalf of the Episcopal Church of welcome to His Eminence. He is a servant of God who inspired us with his noble services. These pastors of his—we read them, every one—had as much influence to raise us in America to the heights we reached in the War as any other influence that ever came to us."

"I can only repeat tonight, as Bishop elect of this diocese, what I wired to him on his arrival: 'Cardinal Mercier, the American people love you and owe you a debt of gratitude which they cannot repay.'"

"But now that the War has at last come to an end there is offered an even more promising field for their beneficent zeal. It is, alas, only too true that this cruel War which had so completely divided the human race into two opposite camps has left behind it a trail of hate amongst the nations. And yet the world cannot possibly enjoy the blessed fruits of peace for any length of time unless that hatred be entirely blotted out and all the nations be brought together again in the sweet bonds of Christian brotherhood."

"To bring this about the Catholics in a more particular manner must lend themselves, since they are already closely united in the mystical body of Jesus Christ, and should therefore constantly give others an example of Christian charity. And in accomplishing this result, the work of the German Catholics in the United States who, being united by the closest ties of both lately warring races, ought to be particularly successful."

"Consequently, the Holy Father, to whose heart there is nothing dearer than the real conciliation of the nations, and who has already addressed himself on this subject to the Bishops of Germany, now appeals to you in order that you too may co-operate in such a noble mission. Moreover, knowing the dreadful conditions under which our brethren in Germany are now living, the Sovereign Pontiff implores you most fervently to lend them every assistance, material as well as moral, and in the quickest and most effective way, especially facilitating the early resumption of commerce and all those benefits that naturally follow in its wake."

his proceeding to make me a citizen without first examining me to see whether I was qualified to become one. Such I believe, is the procedure, is it not?"

"But, to turn to other things, I would like to give you some instances of the resistance, the marvelous resistance, of our Belgian people to injustice and cruelty. First, I should like to pay tribute to that King who will be known through all future history either as 'Albert the Valiant' or 'Albert the Great.' By a single word, so greatly was he beloved, he was able to move a nation."

"There had been for years a discussion among the politicians and philosophers of Belgium, whether, in the weler of a great conflict, the two peoples of the country would hold together. On Aug. 2, 1914, that question was solved forever. 'There was only one Belgium,' was the cry of the people. It is a deep reality. It is a principle of life."

And here the Cardinal paused, and, looking about the crowded dining hall, said: "I feel tonight as if I were in the midst of my family. I am among friends. I am going to open my heart. I want to tell you that in the dark days, through all the trouble and terror, I never once doubted God's justice. I always thought of those words: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you.'"

"I never stopped to ponder or debate whether the consequences of any action of mine in dealing with the enemy would be good for me personally, or whether it would be evil. I just said to myself: 'Your one duty is the care of your people. God will do the rest for the protection of your life.' And because I never had a doubt, and because I thought the moment had come to speak the truth openly to enemies and friends, I spoke. I spoke the truth as I saw the truth."

"I preached peace. I preached proper respect for the laws of the invaders, but I told those invaders that we were merely tolerating them, and that in our souls we did not esteem them."

"I had a hard problem to face. Some of my friends told me that by speaking the truth I was endangering my life and the lives of others. I knew in my heart that if I did not speak, the souls of my people would run to dark despair. When I wanted to publish my letter that first Christmas, in 1914, some of my priests said that it would displease the Germans."

"It is all right for you to expose yourself," they told me. "Have you the right to expose us, also?" they asked.

"Well, that was easy. 'The General has the right to expose the lives of his soldiers,' I told them. 'I am here a General, I expose the lives of my soldiers.' And 2,400 secular priests read the letter in their churches, and all was well."—N. Y. News.

TIMELY WORDS FROM CARDINAL LOGUE

His Eminence Cardinal Logue, in the course of a pastoral just issued, reaffirms the warning given out by the great Irish leader, Daniel O'Connell, in an emergency similar to the present, that "the man who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy."

When, therefore, we are informed through sources inimical to Ireland that crimes are now being committed in Ireland we must remember that it has been proved up to the hills by Lord Ashton and other landlords in Ireland that vile agents have hired persons to commit crimes in Ireland and charge them to the Irish rural population. This sort of diabolism is, we are entitled to believe, now being re-enacted today. On the other hand, there is such a thing in Ireland as law-created crime—that is, ordinary offences which for the purposes of the landlords is dubbed crime—while in England and Scotland such are only misdemeanors, punishable by light fines or brief detention. It is important that such differences be taken into consideration just now.—Catholic Standard and Times.

CATHEDRAL FOR ABYSSINIA

India claims Saint Thomas for its Apostle, and Abyssinia, the ancient Ethiopia, of the Bible, had the faith first brought to it, according to tradition, by St. Matthew, who there met martyrdom. Unfortunately, temporal rulers have for many years made the work of the Catholic missionary hazardous and unfruitful. Two years ago, however, a new ruler mounted the throne and since then the Catholics enjoy freedom. They propose to celebrate this era of prosperity by erecting a cathedral. It will be situated in the city of Addis Ababa, from which centre the Capuchins conduct a successful apostolate. They have just converted three entire tribes with their chiefs, numbering in all about four thousand persons.

CATHOLIC NOTES

Eighty-five per cent. of the armies of France, Belgium and Italy, in the War, was Catholic.

Washington, Sept. 8.—By a vote of 244 to 7, the bill conferring the rank of permanent Admiral on Admiral William S. Benson and Rear Admiral William S. Sims was passed today by the House, and went to the Senate.

An Associated Press dispatch from Barne, reports that Prince George of Bavaria, oldest son of Prince Leopold, who was the German commander-in-chief of the Northern front in Russia, has entered a Jesuit novitiate at Innsbruck.

Very Rev. Victor F. O'Daniel, O. P., of the Dominican House of Studies, at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., has been elected associate editor of the Catholic Historical Review. He succeeds Right Reverend Bishop Turner of Buffalo.

Mr. Durhan, formerly a clergyman of the Anglican Church, occupied the Catholic Evidence Guild's platform in Hyde Park on Sunday, says the London Universe. "I have been a Catholic layman for fourteen years," he told a large audience. "For thirty years I had been trying to convert Papists throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. I converted only one and that man was myself. My effort to drive men from the Catholic Church brought me into her fold through the wonderful grace of God."

New York, Sept. 16.—Citizens of Metz have accepted the offer of the Knights of Columbus to erect an equestrian statue of Lafayette on the site formerly occupied by a statue of William Hohenzollern. It is proposed that the statue, for which the organization will raise a fund of \$50,000 from its members, be modeled partly from bronzes taken from German artillery captured in the War. Marshal Foch has been asked to officiate at the unveiling, which has been set for Lafayette Day, September 6, 1920.

His Eminence, Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, announces October 16 as the date for the consecration of the votive Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre. This date is peculiarly appropriate, as it is the octave of the Feast of St. Denis, the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Michael on the mountain named after him, and the eve of the Feast of Blessed Margaret Mary, so closely associated with the devotion to the Sacred Heart. His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV, will send Cardinal Vico to Paris as his apostolic legate for the occasion.

London, August 22.—At Antwerp, Belgium, on Sunday the famous processions of the Assumption, which had not taken place during the four years of German occupation, was held in glorious weather. The city was in holiday garb and all the shops were closed. More than fifty thousand men walked in the procession, which was composed entirely of the stronger sex. Eight banners supported the miraculous statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the city guilds marched in rich medieval costumes, with magnificent banners and many statutes.

Father Gilbert Simmons, a distinguished member of the Paulist Order died at the Rectory of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, New York, on Wednesday, September 3rd, after a week's illness. Father Simmons was born in England seventy-three years ago and was a convert to the Church. He was a Doctor of Theology and taught at the Paulist House of Studies in the Catholic University at Washington, D. C. He was also a Master of Novices and was engaged in missionary work for several years. In the last few years of his life he conducted the Current Events department of the Catholic World. He was also the author of several works.

The world of letters suffers a great loss in the death of Mr. W. S. Lilly, which took place in London, England, on August 29th. Mr. Lilly was well known as a writer on religious, political and social subjects. He was born in 1840, and after passing through Cambridge with the highest academic honors, he entered the Indian Civil Service, eventually becoming secretary to the Government of Madras. In 1877 Mr. Lilly became a Catholic, and through his friendship with the late Duke of Norfolk was appointed secretary of the Catholic Union of Great Britain, a position he held for twenty years.

Boston, Sept. 15.—Rev. Henry J. Wealing, S. J., a former Bostonian and the first blind man in the country to be ordained to the priesthood, has been transferred to Boston College High School and the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Father Wealing will probably give lectures in Christian doctrine to the high school classes. At the Church of the Immaculate Conception, he will hear confessions and preach. He has committed two Masses to memory, the votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin and the Mass for the dead. He lost his eyesight during a chemistry experiment which took place in his college course. He was ordained by special dispensation from the late Pope Pius X.