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FATHER WHELAN'S OPEN LETTER

Born in Ottawa and educated in Ottawa schools, Father Whelan was ordained there, and there during the early years of zealous priesthood he assiduously visited the classes and served on the school board.

Father O'Gorman was also born in Ottawa and educated in the Ottawa schools; and though he reads, speaks and writes several languages, on the occasion of his public pronouncement on the question some unilingual bilingualists read him some profound pedagogical lessons on the way, the only way, of acquiring a knowledge of a language other than the mother tongue.

and Prussianism a little light from an authoritative source on the other side of the question was much needed.

Father Whelan's Open Letter leaves little to be said and less to which exception can reasonably be taken.

Though Le Droit is edited by priests who have received the approval and encouragement of the same authority which banished English speaking priests for daring to hold different views on the school question, its utterances may be repudiated.

Hence it may not be out of place to add some corroborative documentary evidence.

Following is an extract from "L'Église Catholique au Canada" by Father Alexis, O. F. M., cap; Quebec L'Action Sociale; page 27.

"The Diocese of Ottawa, to-day, is without question, after Quebec and Montreal, the most important in the Dominion.

"This ecclesiastical province is established astride of the Ottawa River, extending into the two civil provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

L'Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Canadienne-Française (L'A. C. J. C.) which is now conducting an active campaign for funds to finance the cause of the Ontario belligerents, or if you will, to relieve the suffering of the Ontario martyrs, was founded in 1904.

The grand outline of their scheme of colonization is given very frankly, in a paper read at the A. C. J. C. Congress, by Amédée Denault, editor of Le Pionnier de Nominique, and Secretary of the Co-operative Society of the Settlers of the North.

Boasting of the capture of the Anglo-Protestant fortress of the Eastern Townships, Ottawa, Argenteuil and Pontiac, he goes on:

"After having assured its positions in the Province of Quebec, our colonization advance-guard did not rest satisfied. It invaded the English Province of Ontario, and in the Eastern peninsula alone, in a quarter of a century it has conquered definitely two counties: Prescott and Russell, or rather the entire with the new division of the City of Ottawa, it has succeeded in acquiring a controlling majority in a fourth, Glengarry, and has seriously cut into a fifth, with a double electoral constituency, Renfrew.

of the counties of Fort Arthur, Fort William and Kenora, which are also developing normally, we shall succeed, according to the provision of the clear-sighted Curé Labelle, in giving the hand to our French-Canadian settlers in Manitoba and the Canadian West.

"To prepare for this great future, and to realize all that it promises, we must think seriously of renewed action, colonizing activity coordinated, disciplined, and systematized, but above all determined to lose no ground already gained.

"We must organize a crusade of colonization, active and permanent—which will recall the glorious epoch when we undertook the conquest of the Eastern Townships.

"We must have an organization, definite, and permanent, that will enable us to fill up the ranks of our colonizing army in the field; to reinforce and make assured our present positions in Ontario, in Manitoba and even in the west; and to proceed to new conquests necessary to prevent the stranger from despoiling us of the best part of a patrimony, reserved by its very nature, to the sons of the family."

There is some exaggeration in the statement of what has been accomplished; there is nothing impossible, nothing even difficult in the programme outlined for the future, provided always that the so-called bilingual school system is maintained and extended to suit the "invaders" whose rights as belligerents are now recognized by the civil and ecclesiastical powers of Quebec; and are receiving the benevolent consideration of some senators not otherwise overworked.

It will be seen from the foregoing extracts, which might be multiplied indefinitely, that the language quoted by Father Whelan from Le Droit is not that of a few irresponsible agitators.

As in the great world-struggle now going on many Canadians do not realize that the existence of the British Empire is menaced; so in this so-called bilingual question many easy-going Ontario people, far removed from the bilingual zone, see nothing but local squabbles between French and Irish Catholics.

While a good deal of attention has been given to the part taken by the Irish in the Army it is not so well known that in the Navy they have proportionally an even greater representation.

A CATHOLIC DAILY The oft mooted question of a Catholic daily is again engaging the attention of our American contemporaries.

At first sight it seems utterly incomprehensible that whereas a handful of Catholics in, say, Holland, can and do support more than one Catholic daily paper, the multitude of American Catholics are unable to point to even one successfully established and maintained in their midst.

Father Whelan's Open Letter should be read as throwing much-needed light on a local phase of a question which is of vital and practical interest to every part, indeed to every citizen, of Ontario.

THE MEXICAN MUDDLE

The course of events since General Huerta was eliminated last July, chiefly because Mr. Wilson insisted upon his withdrawal, has not yet thoroughly broken down the patience of the American authorities, but it must have considerably shaken their optimism.

"This 'one definite object' achieved, President Wilson at Indianapolis thus delivers himself: 'Have not European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilled as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs, and shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak? No, I say, I am proud to belong to a great nation that says 'This country which we could crush shall have just as much freedom in her own affairs as we have.'"

"Pro-digious!" If the American President had only got that far in his thinking before he arbitrarily and unwarrantably interfered to eliminate Huerta whom the rest of the civilized world had recognized as the de facto president of Mexico, he would occupy an unassailably consistent position so far as he personally is concerned.

AN ELOQUENT IRISH LAD In another column we publish the Tablet's comments on extracts from Midshipman Esmond's graphic description of the battle of the Falkland Islands.

AT THE annual meeting of the Toronto Bible Training School last week, Rev. Dr. Griffith Thomas of Wycliffe College, was unparagoned in his denunciation of German theology and expressed himself as quite convinced that the foundation of the present war was to be found in the "German view of the Bible."

FOR HIS honest admission as to the widespread following of the German critics and iconoclasts amongst his clerical brethren Dr. Thomas is certainly entitled to some degree of credit.

THE WEAKNESS in Dr. Thomas' case is that his admissions do not go far enough. He denounces unparagoned the work of recent German critics forgetful of the fact that to get at the root of the trouble it is necessary to go back some centuries to a period of German history which Protestants generally and, not the least, Dr. Griffith Thomas, are in the habit of glorifying beyond measure.

THE STANDARD of scholarship to which contributors to our Presbyterian contemporary must measure up may be inferred from the following extract from an article entitled "The Sixteenth Century: the Century of Martin Luther." "One day when he [Luther] was rummaging through

see how, under present conditions, we could benefit thereby. Of what practical use would it be to have a paper controlled and edited by Catholics while it depends for its news service upon the present biased channels?

NOW THIS is one of the oldest stock fictions of Protestantism. D'Aubigne, the "historian of the Reformation" dwells upon it with great unctuousness, and Milner, from whom better things might have been expected, repeats the absurd tale.

MAITLAND QUOTES both D'Aubigne and Milne on Luther's achievements as a Bible discoverer, and then asks: "Is it not odd that Luther had not by some chance or other heard of the Psalms?"—and adds: "but there is no use in criticising such nonsense. Such it must appear to every moderately informed reader, but he will not appreciate its absurdity until he is informed that on the same page this precious historian (D'Aubigne) has informed his readers that in the course of the two preceding years Luther had 'applied himself to learn the philosophy of the middle ages in the writings of Occam, Scot, Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas,'—of course none of these poor creatures knew anything about the Bible."

AND THEN HE goes on to speak of the place of the Bible in the ages before printing was invented, saying: "The writings of the dark ages are, if I may use the expression, made of the Scriptures. I do not merely mean that the writers constantly quoted the Scriptures, and appealed to them as authorities on all occasions, as other writers have done since their day—though they did this, and it is a strong proof of their familiarity with them—but I mean that they thought and spoke and wrote the thoughts and words and phrases of the Bible, and that they did this constantly and habitually as the natural mode of expressing themselves. They did it, too, not exclusively in theological or ecclesiastical matters, but in histories, biographies, familiar letters, legal instruments and documents of every description."

WE MIGHT go on to quote Maitland on the Bible's place in the Church after the invention of printing and before Luther had come upon the scene, but we forbear. Suffice it to say that, as Maitland explains, over fifty different editions of the whole Latin Bible, to say nothing of Peeters, New Testaments, or other parts, has issued from the press before Luther was born—and yet, he adds, "more than twenty years after we find a young man who had received a 'very liberal education,' who 'had made great proficiency in his studies at Magdeburg, Eisenach, and Erfurt,' and who, nevertheless, did not know what a Bible was, simply because 'the Bible was unknown in those days.'"

ON THE BATTLE LINE RUSSIAN STAFF CAPTURED? Special to the Evening News Berlin, Feb. 15.—(By wireless to Sayville)—The whole Russian General Staff in Bukovina has been captured and the commanding general has committed suicide, according to despatches printed in the Budapest Daily Avest to-day.

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ALBANIANS PIERCE SERBIAN LINES Paris, Feb. 15.—A telegram from Nish to the Havas news agency says that the following statement was given out by the Serbian Government to-day: "Yesterday large numbers of Albanians broke through our lines, crossing the frontier in the department of Prirend. Before superior forces of the enemy our troops, as well as the municipal authorities were forced to retreat."

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT Petrograd, Feb. 15.—The following communication from the General Staff of the Russian Commander-in-Chief was made public to-night: "On the front of the Niemen and Vistula Rivers some encounters took place on February 13 at about the same places as on the day before. On the left bank of the Vistula the customary cannonading occurred. "In the Carpathians we repulsed stubborn attacks by the Austrians at Svidnik. We had some progress on the left bank of the upper San, and captured more than one thousand prisoners, five machine guns and a gun. "Germans who attacked the heights near Myto Kozion between the Beskid and Wyszok Passes, were repulsed. They suffered heavy losses. Our troops, starting a counter-attack from Dukla and Wyszok, dislodged the Germans from the heights fortified by them. "Strong Austrian forces are advancing along the roads leading to Nadworna and to Bukovina."

DROPPED 240 BOMBS London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Mail has the following despatch from its Dunkirk correspondent: "This afternoon (Tuesday), between four and six o'clock, a number of British and French aeroplanes and water-planes left for the Belgian coast to carry out combined operations. "They dropped 240 bombs on the German aerodrome at Ghistelle, on Zeebrugge, and on Ostend. The British bombs were of 85 pounds weight each."

FRESH GERMAN DRIVE AGAINST WARSAW (Special Cable Despatch to The Globe) London, Feb. 18.—According to a Central News despatch from Petrograd, Russian military critics believe operations of great magnitude are under way. There are indications that the Germans are moving their whole front against the Russians. The Invalid, the official organ in Petrograd, says: "We are on the eve of prolonged operations which will finally decide the position in East Prussia. Fortunately the recent German operations were forested by the Russian General Staff. "While heavy Russian losses are conceded here, military experts hold that the German double flanking movement has failed."

HAS 120 SUBMARINES! London, Feb. 18.—A despatch to The London Daily Mail from Copenhagen repeats the story that the Kaiser is going to Heligoland to direct the attacks on Britain, and adds: "It is reported that the Germans have built 120 big mine laying submarines during the last six months, each with a carrying capacity of over 100 mines."

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WITHDREW TO SHORTEN LINE London, Feb. 19.—A Petrograd despatch to The London Times says: "West of the Niemen operations have not yet gone beyond preliminary skirmishes, while in Bukovina the Russians simply have withdrawn comparatively small forces in order to shorten their line. "The Russians have now evacuated all of Bukovina, according to a despatch to The Times from Bucharest. "BIG RUSSIAN LOSSES Berlin (via Sayville), Feb. 19.—Swiss newspapers which have been received here estimate the Russian losses in recent fighting in East Prussia at more than 150,000. They declare that the German victory "proves that the German offensive spirit is still very active."

STEAMERS TORPEDOED (Canadian Press Despatch) London, Feb. 19.—An official statement issued by the Admiralty to-night says the Norwegian tank steamer Helligra was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine to-day near Folkestone. "This is the first occasion on which a neutral ship has been deliberately destroyed by a German submarine, although since the war began almost 50 neutral ships have been sunk by mines in the North Sea."

FRENCH STEAMER TORPEDOED Paris reports that a German submarine torpedoed this morning without warning the French steamer Dinorah, from Havre for Dunkirk, at a point 16 miles off Dieppe. "The presence of a German submarine off Cape Ailly was reported four days ago. "The daily steam traffic service between Dieppe and England has been suspended. "TRAVEL" SUSPENDED Washington, Feb. 19.—The State Department announced to-day that Great Britain has suspended "travel" between British ports and the continent. Secretary Bryan understands that this means passenger traffic. The British order evidently will not interfere with British ships and American ships travelling to and from the United States.