

The Catholic Record

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

Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, L.L.D.
Editor (Rev. James T. Foley, B. A.)
Thomas Coffey, L.L.D.

Associate Editors (Rev. F. J. O'Sullivan,
H. F. Mackintosh)

Manager—Robert M. Burns.

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

Approved and recommended by Archbishops
Falconio and Shearrett, late Apostolic Delegates to
Canada, the Archbishops of Toronto, Kingston,
Ottawa and St. Boniface, the Bishops of London,
Hamilton, Peterborough, and Ogdensburg, N. Y.,
and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

Obituary and marriage notices cannot be
inserted except in the usual condensed form.
Each insertion 50 cents.

The following agents are authorized to receive
subscriptions and copies for the CATHOLIC
RECORD:

General agents: M. J. Hagarty, Vincent S.
Cox, and Miss Jessie Doyle; resident agents: Mrs.
W. E. Smith, Halifax; Miss B. Saunders, Syd-
ney; Miss L. Herlinger, Winnipeg; S. R. Costello,
226-23th ave. West, Vancouver; B. C. Silas Johnson,
211 Rochester St., Ottawa; Miss Rose McKenney,
149 D'Aiguillon St., Quebec; Mrs. George E.
Smith, 2308 St. Urbain St., Montreal; M. J. Merrin,
Montreal; E. O'Toole, 2341 Arzyle St.,
Regina, Sask.; and E. J. Murphy, Box 125, Saskatoon.

Subscribers changing residence will please give
old as well as new address.

In St. John, N. B., single copies may be pur-
chased from Mrs. M. A. McGuire, 249 Main Street,
and John J. Dwyer.

In Sydney, N. S., single copies may be pur-
chased at Murphy's Bookstore.

In Montreal single copies may be purchased
from J. Millou, 241 St. Catherine St., West.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1918

THE Y. M. C. A. AND CATHOLIC TAXES

The Y. M. C. A. is a Protestant organization, many of whose activities during the War have been of unquestionable benefit to our soldiers overseas. But it remains a Protestant organization which by its Constitution excludes Catholics from full membership, expressly disqualifies them for office and debars them from voting even for Protestant candidates for official position in the Association. This invidious discrimination against Catholics has not prevented the Y. M. C. A. from posing as "non-sectarian" and making no distinction of persons or religions when soliciting financial support. So long as this support was voluntary it sufficed to point out that Catholics could not reasonably be expected to contribute to an organization which interpreted the term "Christian" in such a sense as to exclude Catholics. It is worth noting here that to our own knowledge when Protestant solicitors for Y. M. C. A. funds have learned for the first time from Catholics solicited the foregoing facts with regard to this "non-sectarian" organization, they have admitted quite frankly their chagrin at being placed in such a false and humiliating position.

Now in all this we have no word of fault to find with the Y. M. C. A. It is exclusively a Protestant organization and as such has a perfect right to make such conditions as to membership and government as will insure exclusive Protestant control. In their frequent campaigns for funds their solicitors often do not know that Catholics are debarred from full membership and office; when they find that out they are, in many cases at least, quite frank in acknowledging that they have no right to expect subscriptions from Catholics.

While these campaigns for funds were conducted on the basis of voluntary giving—passing over for the moment an unfair form of compulsion sometimes used to force Catholics not only to give but to solicit—no ground for complaint existed other than the disingenuous suppression of the fact that the Y. M. C. A. is exclusively Protestant, and the pretence—often the bold assertion—that it is open to all and discriminates against none.

When, however, it comes to municipalities making grants out of the taxes of Protestants and Catholics alike to this Protestant organization there is real ground for protest. It is true that the War activities of the Y. M. C. A. amongst our soldiers overseas are not solely religious but extend to recreational and other spheres which are of unquestioned benefit to the men whether Catholic, Protestant or agnostic. It is true, also, and Catholics owe grateful recognition to the Y. M. C. A. for the fact, that they often placed every facility at the disposal of Catholic chaplains and soldiers for Mass and Confessions. So important, so necessary do we consider this phase of the work the Y. M. C. A. is doing that were there no other organizations doing the same or similar work THE CATHOLIC RECORD would not oppose municipal grants in aid of the recreational and social activities by which they supplement their religious work. But there are other organizations doing precisely the same work. The Catholic Army Huts is an association organized and incorporated to do for Catholic soldiers what the Y. M. C. A. is doing for their Protestant comrades in arms. The C. A. H. is on the relig-

ious side as exclusively Catholic as the Y. M. C. A. is exclusively Protestant. In the matter of social, recreational and all kindred activities, which supplement but can never replace religion, the C. A. H. is as broad as the Y. M. C. A. "All Soldiers Welcome" is on every sheet of the C. A. H. stationery, over every hut, and is the motto which expresses the spirit in which this Catholic organization enters into friendly rivalry, or perhaps the better and truer term is cordial cooperation, with the older Protestant organization. Only last week a deputation interviewed the members of a county council to ask for a grant to the Y. M. C. A. War work; one of the spokesmen, a Protestant Army Chaplain, paid generous tribute to the work of the Catholic Army Huts. But—and it is a regrettable "but"—no Catholics of that county were present to ask that any grant paid out of the taxes of Protestants and Catholics alike be divided proportionately to the Protestant and Catholic population of the county, between the Y. M. C. A. and the C. A. H. We greatly overestimate the sense of justice and fair-play to be found in our municipal bodies if a request so manifestly fair and reasonable would not in this and every other case have met with instant and unanimously favorable consideration. More, we believe that the various deputations which are about to meet or have already met the county councils in this matter would welcome the cooperation of Catholics on the basis of proportionate division of the grant between the Y. M. C. A. and the C. A. H. If not then the Y. M. C. A. are unfortunate in the selection of their spokesmen.

The Knights of Columbus who placed their organization at the service of the Catholic Army Huts in the splendidly successful campaign for funds last October might do worse than take for their guidance the Irishman's interpretation of the adage: "one good turn deserves another."

They did one good turn in the aforesaid ably conducted campaign; if they appeared before every municipal body considering the making of a grant to the Y. M. C. A. and presented the claims of the C. A. H. they would—in the Irishman's sense—be doing the other good turn.

The Knights of Columbus by their widespread organization are perhaps in a better position than other societies to act in the name of Catholics where organized action is called for. The general recognition of this fact gives them opportunities which they are shortsighted not to embrace.

In the States as is well known they are officially recognized by the Government in War activities as doing for Catholics what the Y. M. C. A. is doing for Protestants.

But even though the K. of C. and other Catholic societies in Canada fail to act in the matter under consideration, Catholic taxpayers have the right and the duty to act in their own name.

We know of only one county in which the Catholics presented their claim; and in that county the grant of \$27,000 was divided pro rata, one quarter to the C. A. H., three quarters to the Y. M. C. A. There is no reason to think that Essex is the only county in Ontario where considerations of justice and decency would govern in such matters. We know through correspondence that in some other counties Catholics intend to place the matter squarely before their municipal representatives. In other places where they have been asleep at the switch they have awakened sufficiently to do some hole-in-corner complaining of the unfairness of being taxed for a Y. M. C. A. grant.

The manly, straightforward and self-respecting thing to do is to meet the councils and present courteously but firmly the Catholic claim for a proportionate share of the grant. Despite the frothy and noisy few so much in evidence recently we believe where this claim is presented that it will need no pressing. If necessary it should be pressed, and pressed vigorously. The time for complaint—even for more effective action—is when our just claim is deliberately ignored or refused. The most appropriate time for urging our claim is when the request for a grant is being made. If, as we are told happened in some cases, this request has been presented without consulting or even informing Catholics, then it is their right and duty to see to it that before final action is taken the just and reasonable claim of Catholics is placed before the council. In cases where final action has already been

taken a supplementary grant to the Catholic Army Huts should be sought; the amount to be determined always by the proportion Catholics bear to the whole population in the municipality concerned.

It may be useful to give here the address of the Overseas Secretary-Treasurer of the Catholic Army Huts:

MAJOR THE REV. JOHN J. O'GORMAN
Sec. Treas., Catholic Army Huts,
Oxford Circus House,
London, England.

"IN FLANDERS FIELDS"

The Santa Fe Magazine, published in Chicago, contains a brief but pleasing reference to Miss Margaret Helena Lunn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Lunn, of Dundas, Ont., who is nursing in one of the hospitals in France. It is published in a letter from Lieut.-Col. (Dr.) John McCrae, of Guelph, who has written one of the most soul-stirring poems of the war, "In Flanders Fields." The managing editor of the magazine is Thomas H. MacRae, a cousin of Lieut.-Col. McCrae, whose wife is a cousin of Miss Lunn. In writing to his soldier cousin, the editor asked him to get into touch with Miss Lunn, who was in the hospital where he had his headquarters. In his reply, which is published in the magazine, and which was written but a few days before his death in France, Col. McCrae, in referring to Miss Lunn, says:

"I had known Miss Lunn, though not as your relation, and I at once informed her that you were a common tie. She is a very efficient nurse and a very charming little girl whom everybody likes."

A most pleasing and interesting tribute from a soldier and writer whose double distinction will ever remain enshrined in Canadian hearts.

Miss Lunn is a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy and St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

FARMERS AND CONSCRIPTION

With singular unanimity the farmers of Canada have informed the Government that they consider it imprudent, impolitic, unjust and disastrous to extend conscription to the farming community on the same basis as it applies to the rest of the population. We do not feel called upon to express any opinion on the merits of their presentation of the case. But judging from the election returns it is a safe inference that apart from the delegates from Quebec the thousands of farmers in Ottawa last week spoke for men who voted overwhelmingly in favor of conscription for Canada. The RECORD of June 30th, 1917, pointed out the danger and the meanness of appeals for votes to conscript the other fellow. At the request of a very intelligent subscriber and esteemed friend we reprint that article in this issue. However the votes were secured—and the farmers now give striking evidence of the success of the appeals we then condemned—the Government has decided to accept the verdict at the polls as giving them a mandate to enforce conscription without being bound by the specious promises and tortuous methods of the politicians; to take the verdict as though it were passed upon such a measure as we advocated submitting to the people. If there are circumstances which forbid the telling of the truth about people, what shall we say of the man or newspaper that strives, by malicious lies to rob individuals or nations of their good name?

A large section of the daily press is too old and too hardened offender in the matter of calumny to offer any hope of its immediate conversion. We have had several examples lately that prove that it is deaf to appeals to a sense of justice and honor. If it were wise in its generation, however, it would realize that it is not expedient to overtax the credulity of its readers. Constant slandering of the Church, its august head, its ministers, and Catholic peoples is beginning to have a very different effect from what the perpetrators of these calumnies intended. Many are beginning to suspect that, as in other matters it has been proven that the press has had ulterior motives, so it may be that this propaganda of abuse is only a blind to hide the real truth which the very violence of these attacks have induced honest people to seek for themselves. Charges against the enemy of monstrous depravity, based on no authentic evidence and magnified in cartoon and editorial comment, are acting on the public like an overdose of stimulant. Neither does the repetition ad nauseam of the noble and

law. But the legal consequences, even though they involve a term in jail and forced military service afterwards, are the least important consideration. Years from now they will have it flung in their faces that they fought in the Great War only when they were kicked into it. The vast majority of those who go over come back again. They will have a decisive voice in the control of Canadian affairs for a generation to come. Those who have to be rounded up by the police before going will be ashamed to look their children yet unborn in the face when the Great War is, as it will be for a generation to come, the absorbing topic of conversation.

Another query we answer here and ask correspondents to consider it a reply to letters we have received. There is no shadow of dishonor or discredit attaching to those who wait until they are called upon to serve. The only advantage in enlisting before that time is that, if they have a decided preference, they have an opportunity of choosing that arm of the service in which they will serve. Even this choice obviously does not rest entirely with them.

A GROWING EVIL

While the War has called forth many examples of heroic charity, there is one form of that queen of the virtues which has evidently suffered an eclipse. That is charity in the written and spoken word. Never before, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, have so many attacks upon the character of individuals and institutions and nations, either in the press or from the platform or yea even from the pulpit, been made as within the past few months. It is quite justifiable to arraign before the bar of public opinion a politician and a government if they have been recreant to the trust imposed in them. It is also permissible, and even necessary as a matter of self defence, to lay bare a nation's faults if those faults constitute a danger to the liberty or the morals or the very life of other peoples. But in all these cases not only charity and justice, but even expediency, demand that the writer or speaker keep within the bounds of truth.

It is a principle of moral teaching that everyone has a right to the reputation that he enjoys, and that it is a sin against justice and charity to unnecessarily deprive any one of his good name. This applies not only to persons of supposed upright character, but also to those who are not held in such high esteem. The latter may not with impunity be robbed of whatever measure of good standing they may possess in the community. Furthermore, this rule includes in its scope not only private individuals but also public officers, from the mayor of the town to the ruler of the empire. Every one is free to discuss the publicly known qualifications of a candidate for office; but neither during the campaign or after a man has entered upon the duties of his position is it right to reveal his secret faults or past lapses, provided they are not a barrier to his fulfilling his new duties. If the above, which comes under the head of detraction is a sin and often a grievous one, how much more serious is the sin of calumny? If there are circumstances which forbid the telling of the truth about people, what shall we say of the man or newspaper that strives, by malicious lies to rob individuals or nations of their good name?

A large section of the daily press is too old and too hardened offender in the matter of calumny to offer any hope of its immediate conversion. We have had several examples lately that prove that it is deaf to appeals to a sense of justice and honor. If it were wise in its generation, however, it would realize that it is not expedient to overtax the credulity of its readers. Constant slandering of the Church, its august head, its ministers, and Catholic peoples is beginning to have a very different effect from what the perpetrators of these calumnies intended. Many are beginning to suspect that, as in other matters it has been proven that the press has had ulterior motives, so it may be that this propaganda of abuse is only a blind to hide the real truth which the very violence of these attacks have induced honest people to seek for themselves. Charges against the enemy of monstrous depravity, based on no authentic evidence and magnified in cartoon and editorial comment, are acting on the public like an overdose of stimulant. Neither does the repetition ad nauseam of the noble and

unselfish aims of the Allies tend to the development of a spirit of loyalty, for the thinking man will conclude that "the lady doth protest too much."

Another evil effect of this unbridled crusade of slander is that the public conscience has become so dulled and even atrophied that it refuses to be shocked by the news of official dishonesty or even grave crimes. Not so long ago a public scandal would have put a government out of office, and actually did cause here in Canada the downfall of an administration. But now it would seem that political debauchery does not diminish in the least the prestige of a leader or his party. Public dishonesty has become so common, and accusations against public men are launched with such indiscriminate that the people have ceased to pay any attention to one or the other.

What prompted the writing of this article is that this unchrist-like spirit is manifesting itself more and more among Catholic writers. This is only another proof that every one is influenced by the spirit of the age in which he lives. We do not refer to men like Lord Denbigh, whose recent outburst has been a cause of scandal to many. To those who know the history of a section of the Catholic party in England, his attack upon the Irish Bishops and even the Holy See comes as no surprise. As far back as the days of O'Connell, the ancestors of these same men, who are evidently more loyal to Caesar than to God, were willing to accept Emancipation on the condition that the Privy Council of England would have the right of veto in the appointment of Catholic bishops, something that the Irish Catholics, he it said to their credit, absolutely refuse to countenance.

What we have in mind are Catholic writers in Canada and the United States. The old cringing spirit, the unhappy heritage of centuries of persecution and social ostracism, shows itself even in some educated Irishmen. In a spirit of sycophancy, and in order to prove how up-to-date and broadminded they are, they do not hesitate to give expression to flippant criticism of men whose scholarship and whose office eminently fit them to be the best judges of the prudence and justice of a certain course of action. Merry desiccants at the expense of those who have laid down their lives in the defence of an ideal are scarcely suggestive of good taste or of Christian charity. The Catholic cause would be very much strengthened if so many of those who pose as its champions were not warming themselves at the fires of their enemies.

THE GLEANER

NOTES AND COMMENTS

OF THE FOUR engine-room artificers on the *Vindictive*, at their own urgent request, during the perilous operation at Ostend, two bore the names Michael Carroll and A. Cavanagh. And notwithstanding the present state of affairs in Ireland a census of the Fleet as of the Army might produce a greater proportion of Irish names than the world is disposed to give the little island credit for.

THE THOROUGHNESS of American preparation for active warfare, and the far-reaching character of the great Republic's propaganda of education towards making it, in the intelligent apprehension of its people, a real war for democracy may be seen in the work of the Committee on Public Information at Washington. We have not, nor have we had from the beginning, any such institution in Canada. The work falling within the scope of such a Government committee has here been left to the regular press, with the inevitable result that the information thus transmitted to the people at large has been unequally distributed and has not always borne the stamp of authority.

IT WOULD BE difficult to overrate the splendid work in this direction performed by the newspapers of Canada since the outbreak of hostilities—a work which in its general efficiency, we venture to say, has not been surpassed by any press in the world. But from the nature of things it has necessarily lacked the cohesiveness which can come only from the existence of a central and authoritative bureau of direction, such as the Washington Committee, and even at this advanced stage of the War regret that the Dominion should not have undertaken a similar work may be deemed quite allowable.

THE LATEST publication issued by the Committee on Public Information bears the title "Why America Fights Germany," and is from the pen of Professor J. S. P. Tatlock of Stanford University. The keynote of the pamphlet is in this sentence: "If democracy is conquered in this war, all free peoples must either submit to Germany's domination or else give up a part of their democracy in order to resist her. We must fight Germany in Europe with help, that we may not have to fight her here in America without help."

This is the fundamental reason for the entry of the United States into the War, and after all is said and done, it sums up the reason for the War itself, and for the copious outpouring of blood and treasure by Great Britain, and France, and Italy, and their dominions beyond seas, since that fatal fourth of August, 1914.

PROFESSOR TATLOCK outlines concisely and pointedly the events which led up to the declaration of War by the Washington Government. He shows how President Wilson's whole efforts for three years were directed towards keeping his country out of the War, and that only when events made it impossible any longer to disguise the real purpose of Germany was this attitude departed from, and the United States joined hands with the Allies in the determination to resist and overcome so merciless and unscrupulous a foe.

CIVILIZATION AND the very spirit of freedom alike demanded such a termination to the long course of remonstrances which Washington had sent to Berlin. To repeat in substance Professor Tatlock's own summing up of the situation, Germany had sunk America's ships, had drowned her citizens by the thousand, intrigued against their Government, and outraged their sentiments of right and humanity by her unspeakable outrages in Belgium and France, founded, as these outrages were, on deliberate principle and precept. "If we had not fought Germany after her false and brutal conduct," he concludes, "we should have been despised by all the world, including the Germans."

THE SCOPE of the Washington Committee on Information may be gathered from the catalogue of war publications issued under its auspices. They comprise 33 up to the present time, not including the Official Bulletin, which is issued daily, and sent free to all newspapers and postmasters. For the former the Bulletin is the basis upon which accurate information may be diffused and intelligent editorial comment built up, and for the latter it is the intention that bulletins should be displayed in post-offices for the benefit of the public. With but one or two exceptions all the publications may be had free for the asking. Those for which a charge is made are of considerable size and permanent in character. It would be difficult to imagine a more effective way of educating the public to the needs of the hour, or of stimulating patriotism, and enlisting the full cooperation of the brawn and brain of the nation in the stupendous task upon which it is embarked.

A NOTABLE personality passed away recently in the death of Lady Anne Blunt, or Baroness Wentworth, to give her her more recent title. She was the daughter of the Earl of Lovelace, and granddaughter of Lord Byron. Her marriage to Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt united two most interesting characters, with kindred tastes and interests. The wedded pair travelled for many years in the East and became fine Arabic scholars, and authorities on Eastern matters. Like her husband too, Lady Blunt was a devoted champion of Ireland and did much for the peasantry during the dark eviction days. It is interesting to know that the Catholic posterity of Lord Byron (for the Baroness, like Mr. Blunt, was a devout Catholic) is continued in an only daughter, who succeeds also to the title. The Baroness died at her Egyptian home, Sheykh Obeid.

MANGER AT BETHLEHEM

BIRTHPLACE OF CHRIST MARKED BY SILVER STAR

From Bethlehem a youthful British soldier writes to a friend:

"I am on guard at present and it is a great honor, I can tell you, that I am guarding the birthplace and manger of Our Lord. It is a wonderful place and I never thought when

I used to read about it that one day I should stand and guard it.

The birthplace is marked by a fourteen pointed silver star, presented by the French government. The stable is hung with lamps from all different countries, and they look beautiful; and, I might add, they are always alight.

The manger itself is cut in natural rock, but marble has been put in to keep it in a good state of preservation."—St. Paul Bulletin.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

A RUSSIAN VICTORY of some importance is officially announced by Constantinople in the statement that Bolshevik troops, reinforced from Turkestan and Astrakhan, have recaptured the port of Baku, on the Caspian Sea, and are vigorously continuing their attacks on the Turks. So long as they hold Baku there will be a considerable measure of protection for Northern Persia, towards which the Germans have been casting envious eyes, and in which country they hope, with the assistance of the Turks, to create great trouble for Britain. It may be found later that the British have had a hand in assisting the Russians in this move.

London recently announced that Persian tribesmen are organizing and giving the British forces in Mesopotamia some assistance, which will be of value in protecting General Marshall's right flank in the attempt to reach Mosul. With the conditions in the Ukraine admittedly serious, according to Berlin, German complacency regarding Russia as a force that need not be reckoned with in the future of the War is being rudely shaken. It is not stoked, however, by the refusal of the Russian Ambassador to Berlin to fly any other but the red flag, or by the spectacle that the German representative in Russia recently witnessed in Moscow of former German prisoners marching with units of the new Russian army under the red flag in a Labor Day celebration.

ON THE WEST FRONT aerial activity, coupled with the growing intensity of the artillery duels, gives warning of the coming big offensive. In the air the Allies are showing that they are at present the masters. They have brought down an unusually large number of German planes lately—the British report of Wednesday recorded thirty-seven. At the same time they report a marked tendency on the part of the German flyers to offer flight. This is perhaps more significant than the known concentrations of men and guns on the German side of the line, indicating a determination to try to prevent the Allies getting information about German movements and a desire to secure some knowledge of the preparations of the British, French, American, Belgian, Italian and Portuguese forces opposing them.

Reports of new airplanes built of steel which the Germans are testing come with stories that the Allies have a surprise in store in aerial warfare, and that it will be sprung with the opening of the offensive.

THE ITALIANS and French on the Albanian front have been attacking the Austrian positions north of the Devol River and southwest of Lake Ochrida. An Austrian official despatch admits "an important gain of territory by the Allies near Korca." The idea of a serious advance, is to begin the operation, if it is to turn the Austrian line to the north of Monastir and clear southwestern Macedonia of the enemy. Despatches from Greece say that the mobilization of her army is proceeding rapidly, and that before long she will have 300,000 men under arms on the side of the Allies. Venizelos has wrought a wonderful change in Greek sentiment during the past six months.

HERR HAUSMAN's statement in the *Wurtemberg Diet* that Germany must prepare for another winter of war is significant. The high hope of March that a decision would be reached as a result of the offensive then begun is no longer entertained by men in a position to know the facts, and they are naturally seeking to eradicate from the public mind the illusion they themselves created. If the coming stroke falls, Germany evidently proposes to return to defensive warfare on the West front in the hope of tiring out the Allies.—The Globe, May 18.

"IF AMERICANS KEEP COMING"

Chas. H. Grasty writes:

"I met to-day an officer who goes three times a week to Gen. Foch's headquarters and asked him about the questions. He was smiling confident.

When questioned about the French losses since March 21 he said that they hadn't been heavy. That is considered as the crucial point. If the French army remains at its strength and if the flow of American troops direct to the front continues without interruption, the expert opinion is that the Allies will hold the Germans, and holding them will mean victory, for time fights with the Allies by reason of America's coming.

HALF MILLION FROM INDIA

Simla, India, May 16.—As a result of the Delhi conference the provincial governments have held meetings unanimously reaffirming the resolution of loyalty and promising all possible aid.

The Government of India has already decided to immediately recruit over half a million men and organize central provincial publicity bureaus.