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THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE.

The resignation of the Combes Government, which was brought about in a great measure as a result of the indignation aroused throughout the nation by their despicable policy of spying upon the private lives of officials of the civil Government and officers in the army and navy, has necessitated the advent of a new and as yet untried Government.

It was proved beyond doubt that subordinate officials were employed both in the army and navy to watch their superior officers, to ascertain whether they attended Mass on Sundays and feast days, or recited the Rosary at home with their families, or even said their prayers in the morning and at night, or showed by any other acts that they were faithful to God, in which case the vengeance of the War Department was wreaked upon their heads.

When the truth became known Messrs. Pelletan and Andre, the Ministers of the Navy and Army Departments of Government had to be thrown overboard, to silence the clamors of the public against such treatment of brave and efficient officers.

In the civil departments the same system was carried on, but public attention was fixed more upon the treatment of the army officers, as the army is the pride of the French people, and anything which touches its effectiveness stirs them to the depths of their heart.

In the civil departments the proofs of espionage were not so numerous and striking as in the Departments specifically mentioned, but M. Combes, having once lost the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies, could not regain it. He was not actually defeated by a vote in the Chamber of Deputies, but his followers had so deserted him that he could not control them, and with a mere majority of ten, which was still apt to dwindle, he considered it to be his best policy to resign the Premiership before he should be utterly overthrown.

It is stated that while resigning office, he announced that as he had not been actually defeated, it was his right to dictate a policy for his successors. But M. Rouvier, who, even before he was actually called upon to form a Ministry, was looked to as the necessary successor of M. Combes, declared that if the office were to be offered him, he would follow his own policy, without any dictation from his predecessor in office, and it is on this understanding that he has taken office.

It is not generally expected that M. Rouvier's policy will be very different from that of M. Combes, though it will be certainly less violent. The opinion is that it will come nearly to the general policy of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, though it is added that it will include substantially the plan of M. Combes for the separation of the Church from

the State. The carrying out of this plan, it is said, will not be undertaken at once, as M. Combes proposed, but the temper of the French people will be first ascertained that it may be known how far they will go in the direction proposed, and whether it will be prudent to abolish the Concordat without reference to the Pope's views on the subject, or that some understanding should be reached with the Holy Father before taking this extreme step.

It remains to be seen what will be M. Rouvier's actual policy on this matter; but it does not appear that the Holy Father expects much from the new Government. He said recently in an address to the Cardinals in Consistory:

"We cannot hope to see an early cessation from the attacks made against the Church in France. A few days ago, indeed, we discovered evidence that the heads of the Government are intensely hostile to the Catholic religion, and we have reason to expect that the final catastrophe will happen very soon."

This was said of the Combes Government, but it may be applicable also to the Government now in power.

In fact, the Bishops of France are preparing for the threatened blow, and should it come, they will not be taken entirely by surprise. Yet it is often the unexpected which happens, and this may be the case in the present instance. The Commission appointed recently by the Chamber of Deputies to examine into the Combes Bill did not find its provisions suitable, and M. Rouvier's Government must modify it accordingly, if it is to be pressed at all.

On the other hand, it is already said that the new Ministry cannot last long, as its control over the Chamber of Deputies will be very precarious. The Radical party, which is the one which is really desirous of dissolving the connection between Church and State, is torn by factions, and it is quite possible that the effort to break off all ties between Church and State may yet come to naught.

From all appearances, a new election for the Chamber of Deputies must take place before long, and though we have often been disappointed in the hope that a new Chamber would be an improvement on the old one, we have not entirely lost confidence that the religious spirit of the French people must soon be roused to action in asserting that the religion of the people of France has been grossly assailed by past Governments, and that a new policy must at last be inaugurated which will be favorable to the interests of religion.

THE MAID OF ORLEANS HONORED IN PARIS.

An incident in connection with the impious regime of M. Combes, the premier of France, who is now consigned to his political grave, is worthy of special notice at the present moment while the government of France is in a transition state. It has been a very general opinion that Paris, which may be said to rule France, is hopelessly ranged on the side of infidelity, but this is not the case, as the metropolis is at least a debatable ground.

It is true that at times the Municipal Council of the city has taken the side of the adversaries of religion, and at the present moment there is a small Radical or infidel majority in the Chamber of Deputies representing the city; but this condition of affairs is purely accidental.

The very heart of Paris, enclosed within the inner circle of Boulevards from the Boulevards Haussman, Montmartre, Du Temple, etc., to the Boulevards de Grenelle, Mont Parnasse and Port Royal, is represented by a phalanx of Catholic deputies, whose votes are counteracted by the outlying districts of the East and South of the city. On the confines of these distinct districts, there is a densely peopled debatable territory which is swayed (alternately), according to circumstances toward one party or the other; and it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Paris during the last decade or longer has been usually Catholic in its manifestations.

Lyons is somewhat in a similar position in Paris, while Bordeaux and Lille are predominantly and decisively Catholic. It must be said, however, that Marseilles is strongly Radical and infidel; and thus the state of affairs stands throughout the country. There are departments which are thoroughly Catholic in spirit, while others are Socialistic or Radical, and others debatable.

The election of M. Doumer, a decided opponent of the Radical programme, as President of the Chamber by a fair majority, was a decisive blow at Radicalism, and that M. Combes and the Radical party felt it to be so is evident from the fact of their abandonment of their governmental portfolios within a few days after it was delivered.

But the incident to which we refer in the beginning of this article also

shows that Paris is not hopelessly under control of the infidel party.

Professor Thalams of Condorcet College took occasion recently, while lecturing his students on French history, to cast slurs upon the personal moral character of Joan of Arc. He reshaped the slanders which have from time to time been thrown out against her virtue; and this is done at the moment when, as is generally believed, her sanctity is on the point of being solemnly recognized by the Catholic Church, and by the Holy Father Pope Pius X., by a solemn decree placing her name on the venerated catalogue of saints.

No one is placed on the calendar of Catholic saints who has not been proven by rigid investigation to have been of the highest virtue among mankind, and only a diabolical hatred of the Catholic Church could have led Professor Thalams to malign Joan of Arc, whose virtues have already been proven and pronounced upon by the Roman Congregation of learned and pious Cardinals and other ecclesiastics to whom the work of investigation was committed.

But, apart from her sanctity, Joan of Arc is, in France, a national heroine, honored on history's pages, and the slanders on her parity uttered by Professor Thalams excited the most intense indignation, not only among the students of the College in which the address was delivered, but throughout Paris. A delegation from Condorcet College headed a procession of the students of Paris, who thronged in thousands from all the Colleges, to make a demonstration of reverence for the maligned "Maid of Orleans."

These marched with white banners and lilies, the symbols of innocence, to attest their belief in the purity of the great French heroine. Joan of Arc's name was inscribed on most of the banners in letters of gold, and cries were raised "a bas Thalams," "Down with Thalams," which were echoed by the people on the streets.

The women of Paris also turned out in a procession which first proceeded to the Place Rivoli to adorn the great statue of Joan of Orleans at St. Augustine's Church, which is the work of the artist Dubois, and it was covered with wreaths of sweet smelling flowers. The procession then went to the Chamber of Deputies, and it was discovered that Professor Thalams, frightened by the unexpected storm he had raised, had fled from the city. His name has been erased from the faculty of Condorcet College, as it has been found that it is not safe thus to defy public sentiment. The French people regard the Maid of Orleans as the instrument of God's mercy toward the French people, and no Thalams with his falsified history can root this conviction from their hearts.

Many members of the Chamber of Deputies, and of the Municipal Council of Paris joined in the public demonstration in honor of the great heroine in order to testify to their opposition to the anti-Christian policy of M. Combes, who, it is said, was fearful that the indignation of the people would be turned against himself equally with the unfortunate professor, and it is stated that the demonstration in honor of the Maid of Orleans was part of the reason for Premier Combes' resignation from office before his actual defeat in the Chamber of Deputies, as he saw that the tide of public opinion had turned decidedly against him.

THE DOMINION CAPITAL AND THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE.

An interesting article appears in a recent number of the Ottawa Citizen in which a retrospect is given of the progress of the capital of the Dominion, and its selection by her Majesty Queen Victoria, as the seat of government of United Canada, the royal proclamation elevating that city to this dignified position having been dated Jan. 28th, 1858.

The reminiscences of past days were recalled in an interview of the Citizen's representative with the Hon. R. W. Scott, the worthy and venerable Secretary of State of the Dominion, to whom, probably, more than any one else living, the choice of Ottawa, by her Majesty, as the Capital of Canada, is to be attributed.

The Hon. R. W. Scott had served as Reeve of Bytown, which was the original name of the city of Ottawa, and as a member of the Carleton County Council, and fifty-three years ago he was elected Mayor of Ottawa.

Owing to the dissensions of political parties it was found extremely difficult for the Canadian Parliament to select a Capital for Canada, which then consisted of Canada East and West, now called respectively Quebec and Ontario. The Parliament House in Montreal had been burned down by a mob, during the Governor-Generalship of Lord Elgin, and the Parliament was obliged to seek for a domicile elsewhere. Then the peripatetic system

was adopted, Toronto and Quebec being made the seat of government alternately for every four years.

This system was inconvenient, cumbersome, and expensive, and great efforts were made by the Government of the day to obtain the choice of one city as the permanent seat of government, but without success, as claimants for this honor were numerous, and no city in particular was able to secure a majority in Parliament in its favor.

Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec all set forth their claims with pertinacity, and there were many hot debates in the houses of Parliament as to which city should be selected for the honor.

It was then decided to refer the matter to Queen Victoria for decision, and each city which made a claim was invited to prepare a case showing why it should be preferred.

The statement of the case for Ottawa was prepared by Judge Armstrong, H. J. Friel, and R. W. Scott, and it was the presentation of Mr. Scott which was forwarded to her Majesty in May 1857 as an embodiment of Ottawa's claims.

On Dec. 31st, 1857, the reply came from Mr. Labouchere, Colonial Secretary, that her Majesty had selected Ottawa as the Canadian capital. But the dispute was not thereby settled, as the struggle was still kept up by the other cities, in the hope that the choice should even then be set aside. In fact, in 1858 by a division of 61 to 50 the Parliament declared that the choice of Ottawa was not accepted. This decision, however, was finally overridden, and the contract for the construction of Parliament buildings at Ottawa was awarded in 1859, and the corner-stone of the building was laid in 1860 by his present Majesty, King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales. At a later period, when the Confederation of the provinces of Canada was decided upon, Ottawa was again selected as the capital of the Dominion.

The Hon. R. W. Scott, who is one of the grandest figures in the Dominion capital, has naturally witnessed with gratification and laudable pride the steady growth and advancement of Ottawa. He favors an appropriate celebration of the semi-centennial of its selection as capital of Canada when the proper time comes.

The Citizen remarks that "having, as it were, grown up with the capital, Hon. R. W. Scott is one of the most highly respected of the old Bytowners, and his career has been such as to inspire all young men to honorable and industrious lives—qualities which, if steadily pursued never fail to bring a reward."

To the Hon. R. W. Scott is due the chief credit for the preparation of the improved Catholic Separate School Bill which passed through the Canadian Parliament in 1862 and came into operation on the 1st of January, 1863, and which afterwards became the basis of the Catholic educational rights in Ontario on the Confederation of the Provinces which now form the Dominion of Canada. Mr. Scott prepared the bill, and was its guardian and promoter while it was under the consideration of Parliament.

THE EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.

It is a sad fact that since the year 1841, the population of Ireland has been steadily decreasing. Before that date, this was not the case. In 1801 the population was 5,216,000, while that of Scotland was 1,608,000. In 1821, Ireland reached 6,802,000, while the census returns showed that Scotland had 2,092,000 people. In 1841 the respective populations were 8,197,000 and 2,620,000.

During these forty years Ireland increased by 57 per cent., while Scotland grew by the addition of almost 63 per cent. to its population. Scotland increased, therefore, during this period considerably more than Ireland, yet the latter country was not alarmingly behind hand.

But since 1841 the first decade saw an alarming decrease. It was a period when famine and fever decimated the land, and a large emigration served also to thin out the population rapidly, so that in ten years the diminution was 1,622,720 and there was a population of only 6,574,271.

After this the diminution was not nearly so rapid, but in 1871 the population had decreased to 5,412,377, and in 1901 it came down to 4,450,546. That of Scotland, in the meantime, rose to 4,471,957, and as the population of Scotland has been steadily rising since that time, while that of Ireland has been steadily falling, Scotland has now a considerably larger population than her sister kingdom, Ireland.

Census returns from France and Sweden show that the increase of population in these two countries is exceedingly small—in fact almost stationary; but Ireland is the only country in the world which has been and is still being

steadily depopulated.

It was hoped that the depopulation of Ireland would be stopped by recent legislation having in view the greater prosperity of the country; but this legislation has not had the effect desired. One reason for this strange state of affairs is evidently that the laws designed to give greater prosperity to the country have not yet had time to produce their general effect; but there are other causes which operate in the same direction, among which we may safely say, one reason for the present conditions is that many persons emigrate in order to follow relatives who have emigrated in former years, while another cause also works to the same effect, namely that the cost of steam-boat passage is much less than it was in former years, making it much easier to leave the country for new lands, and even the passage of emigrants is prepaid by some countries which are desirous of increasing their population.

It cannot be denied that Ireland is now in better condition than it has been for two thirds of a century, and an Anti-Emigration Society has been in existence for some years in Ireland, the object of which is to put an end to the stream of emigrants who have been pouring out of the country at a still very rapid rate.

A recent manifesto issued by that society says that the two principal causes of the exodus from the country are "the attraction of foreign lands, and the spread of passages for emigrants." The manifesto styles those who are leaving the country deserters, and it appeals to public opinion in America to put a stop to the drainage, or at least not to help it on.

It is stated that there is now plenty of work in Ireland for the whole population of the country, as it is proved by the fact that while the Irish are leaving it by way of Queenstown, the Jews and Scotch are pouring in to take their places. The Society points out that Irish-Americans who urge their friends to come to America, are not doing the people of Ireland a service, but are helping to transfer the country to alien races.

UNHAPPY RUSSIA.

For some months past, hopes have been entertained that the Government of Russia, which as our readers are aware is, in theory, an autocracy, in which the will of the reigning monarch is the law. Notwithstanding this theory, it is held that the Czar has not the strength of mind and firmness of character which are needed to constitute him a ruler in reality, and that, in fact, the real ruler of the Empire is the Grand Duke Vladimir, who is the chief of a Grand Ducal clique who are utterly opposed to yielding to any demand on the part of the people to have a share in the government of the Empire.

A recent request of the Zemstvos or Council of representatives of the governmental districts of the Empire recently petitioned the Czar to give these districts at least a consultative voice in the government; and as the Czar received graciously the deputation which presented the petition and promised to consider the matters, hope ran high that the petition would be acceded to in some form. But this hope has been shattered, as the Grand Ducal clique above referred to induced Nicholas to give a final peremptory answer that no part of the imperial prerogatives shall be given up on account of any demand which the people or their representatives may make.

A few days later came a fearful attempt to assassinate, not only the Czar himself, but the whole imperial family. On the solemn occasion of the blessing of the waters of the river Neva, which courses in a very irregular manner through St. Petersburg, a grand salute of artillery was fired in front of the palace in which the imperial family were grouped together. One of the guns was pointed toward the spot where the imperial family were sitting, and this gun was found to have been loaded with grape-shot, for as soon as the salute was fired the windows of the palace were broken, and a large quantity of grape shot entered into the room occupied by the family and struck the walls behind them. The only cause by which the imperial family were saved from death was that the gun had been pointed too high, and for this reason, the shot passed over their heads.

No doubt is entertained that this was the result of a plot for the destruction of the whole imperial family, and especially of the Czar. Orders were at once issued for the arrest of all who had part in the care of the loaded gun, but the two principal officers in charge at once committed suicide, so that a complete investigation into the matter will now be extremely difficult.

But the worst is yet to be told. The workmen of St. Petersburg were on a strike for a shorter day's labor. The demand is for a working day of eight

hours, instead of eleven hours as the rule is at present.

Under the leadership of Father Gopon, a priest of the Russian Church, it was determined that the working populace should go in a body to the Winter Palace on Sunday, Jan. 22, to make known their grievances and needs to the Czar in person. In a letter to the Czar, Father Gopon, after explaining the wishes of the people, added: "If, vacillating, you do not appear before the people, you will tear the moral bonds between you and the people, and trust in you will disappear, because innocent blood will flow between you and the people. Appear to-morrow before your people and receive our address of devotion in a courageous spirit."

The procession started for the Winter Palace at 10 a.m., and 12,000 strikers followed. There were some revolvers in the hands of a detachment of 500 who marched as a guard in semi-military fashion, and some carried ice-picks and other rude weapons; but they were otherwise unarmed.

Troops were drawn up before the palace and along the streets, and the general in command ordered the procession to stop. Father Gopon said in a loud voice, we are going to present a petition to the Emperor, and he pressed onward, followed by the strikers. The general ordered at first a blank volley to be fired, but as this did not stop the workmen, a second volley of lead was fired into the ranks of the people, and volley after volley was fired, and the dead and dying lay in heaps on the ground.

At the Mokovski railway crossing a scene occurred. Here more than a thousand were killed and 1500 wounded. Two hundred soldiers refused to fire on the people, and threw their guns upon the ground. These mutineers were beaten unmercifully by their officers, and a bayonet charge was ordered against the people, many more being killed.

Later on, the soldiers were ordered to charge bayonets against crowds of men, women and children who came upon the scene to look for their dead and dying friends.

The total of dead owing to this brutality is estimated at 2,100, and of the wounded, 3,900.

What makes the situation worse is the fact that the authorities knew of the intention of the people, and deliberately allowed them to proceed with all their plans until the massacre took place.

The fear is entertained that the result of this barbarity, the blame for which is thrown upon Grand Duke Vladimir, will be a revolution, which is already threatened. A revolutionary proclamation has been issued, and some attacks have been made upon the troops with dynamite, but the revolutionary party entertain the hope that in fine the army which comes from the people will make common cause with the people in the emergency.

General Trepoff, who was Chief of Police at Moscow, and who has the character of being merciless, has been appointed Governor-General of St. Petersburg to meet the crisis, and it is believed that this appointment will incite the people to greater indignation than ever; but the general declares that he has the city already in a quiet state. Revolutionary meetings are, however, being held in all parts of the empire, and even if for the present there may be apparent quiet, there is reason to fear that a revolutionary movement will break out openly, as soon as the plans of the revolutionists are matured.

MADE IN IRELAND.

Recently an American, Mr. Wm. A. Callender, of New York, has discovered a means of making paper out of bog-peat, and he has recently erected a factory for that purpose in the little village of Colbridge, county Kildare, Ireland, in the immediate vicinity of the celebrated "moving bog of Allen," eight hundred acres of which he has purchased from the proprietor, the Earl of Meath. For the present the manufacture is confined to the production of paper bags and loose paper for parceling purposes, the manufacture of postcards and envelopes, etc.; but when the mill is complete and the new machinery in full working order, the dispatch adds, more ambitious efforts will be made. It is also stated that the present outfit is not enough to supply Ireland, so great and general is the demand for goods "made in Ireland." So mote it be!

The following kindly reference to Rev. Father Twomey, the new parish priest of Belleville, is taken from the Intelligencer, of that city. The respect entertained for the Rev. Father in his late parish of Tweed and the warm reception accorded him on his arrival at Belleville gives assurance that his ministrations both spiritual and temporal will be most successful. That every success may be his in the arduous

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