FOUR

The Catholic Record

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LONDON. SATURDAY. JUNE 2, 1923

THE INDICTMENT OF THE CLERGY IN RUSSIA

Through the N. C. W. C. News Service we are able to give our readers this week a verbatim copy of the full text of the indictment of Archbishop Cepliak, his Vicar-General and the other priests whose trial so stirred the world a short gherita : while ago. In addition we have full notes of the testimony at the trial, and many other important and interesting documents which reveal the whole Russian situation. Space does not permit of the reproduction of all of these this week. We thought it better to give our readers an opportunity of perusing the indictment drawn up by the Soviet authorities in which are detailed the whole basis and scope of their charges against the clergy. This indictment of itself will acquit the suffering and heroic clergy of Russia of the lying charge now so assiduously circulated or insinuated that prelates and priests were condemned for political crime. Their course of action throughout was that imposed on them by their sacred office. They defended the right of the Church to hold property, the right to teach, the right, in brief, to exist and to ates in Russia were putting themdischarge the duties of its divine selves in opposition to the relief of mission. They stand forth as the the starving. He said : fearless and heroic champions of

religious liberty.

The Freeman, (of New York) power approved by our ecclesiaswhich boasts of its advanced and tical authority. The Holy See confearless liberalism, had in its sented to it. This was communi-Current Comment, says the Catho- cated to the representative of the under our penal code." lic World, a paragraph which is a Soviet Power Vorovsky. As for the masterpiece of disingenuousness. relief of the starving-I immediate-'At this distance," it says, "the ly published an appeal, in the form Krilenko said : trial of the Archbishop and his of a circular, to give our part in colleagues is involved in some this relief. In principle, I was far the pulpit of God, of the Prophet is or will be slightly under twenty obscurity." "Fragmentary news from opposing the taking of valu- Elias, but if he begins to tell ignor- years. Now if girls can do this despatches" made it appear that ables for the relief of the starving. "the defendants were accused of The Catholic Church has done this refusing to obey the law confiscating many times, but I would not disheaven and crush you, we shall One thing is certain; we shall certain ecclesiastical valuables for pose of these valuables myself be- not permit it. To the formal pro- never have that eminently desirfamine relief." (Notice the insinua- cause they had been entrusted to hibition of the law to terrorize

and mendacity in the light of the actual facts. The following is a copy of a telegram sent to Mr. Chicherin, Com- from profanation the sacred vessels troversy along this line." missar of the People for Foreign

Genoa Conference, by Assistant Secretary of State for the Vatican, the Christian world could not for Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph Pizzardo : From the Vatican, May 14, 1922. Excellency.

"On this occasion I have the honor to inform you that according to a telegram from Mgr. Cepliak to property of the Church and cannot the Holy Father, the government authorities in Petrograd have insacred and valuable objects of worship in order that the proceeds of their sale may be used for the relief of the starving.

"In this connection I hasten to and untruthfulness of the accusa- from the Ursuline College received these sacred objects, leaving them authorities was effectively to pre- Western Ontario; it is at least the in the care of Mgr. Cepliak. The price agreed upon will immediately be turned over to Your Excellency or to any other person the Government may indicate.

"I beg Your Excellency to let me have an answer on this subject as soon as possible, and to transmit the necessary orders to Petrograd. (Signed) JOSEPH PIZZARDO

For the Secretary of State of His Holiness.'

On May 17, Mr. Cicherin replied as follows from the villa Mar-

'As regards the very interesting proposals contained in the second part of your letter, they were immediately transmitted by me to Moscow and will certainly be examined by the Government with all the benevolence they deserve."

On June 7, 1922, Cardinal Gasparri addressed the following telegram to Premier Lenin :

" I should be grateful to you if you would inform me what reception was given to the proposal of the Holy See to buy valuable objects in conformity with letter addressed to Mr. Chicherin under date of May 14."

No reply was ever received by Cardinal Gasparri to this inquiry. On the third day of the trial Archbishop Cepliak dealt with the claim of the Soviet that the Catholic prel-

"We drew up a formula for an understanding with the Soviet

BRESCIA HALL

measure in the great educational

The Ursuline College on the other

A striking evidence of the wisdom

Governor-General's gold medal

standing in Arts, and open, there-

fore, to the competition of all Arts

It is also worthy of note that four

It is a remarkable and to our

RELIGION

arithmetic that we apply to our

worldly affairs there is nothing in

the world so cheap as religion.

money on several unessential things

than it spends on religion. Take,

for instance, the ordinary town.

several times as much to support

moving pictures as they spend to

support religion. They spend much

more for drink and for tobacco

spend twice as much for unneces-

There is not a community in the

secured grade A. standing.

Not Catholics alone, but men of may wish to travel in this manner, ary parish church. Unnecessary Ages, when a large part of the work century," says a press despatch. any or of no religion can easily irrespective of religion or creed, and luxuries in the homes, even of on those cathedrals which are still And a statement issued by the new understand the keen anxiety to save I do not intend to tolerate any conconsecrated to God's service, sanc-Doctors are agreed that all forms Affairs, while he was attending the tified by the contact with the most of hysteria are best treated in this Adorable Sacrament. Otherwise way, but from none too worthy motives many are tempted to humor centuries be moved to so deep and the patient unduly. reverent an interest in the legends of the Holy Grail.

The sacred vessels and the sacred ASSUMPTION COLLEGE AND need to be replaced. edifices consecrated to God are the be alienated without the consent of the supreme Head of the Church. of the two Catholic Colleges with

in this case, with his continued action This year they enjoyed the first and effort for the relief of starving fruits of this extension of degree Russians, is wholly admirable and conferring powers. Fourteen stu-

vent all Catholic worship. removal of a serious handicap The atmosphere of the judicial hitherto existing. But it is by no tribunal in which the prelates and means the full measure of the to devote themselves to purely priests were tried, the attitude of benefits sought under the generous religious matters. the Soviet authorities, and of the sch me of affiliation which makes court is illustrated by these extracts the University in fact as well as in

from Prosecutor Krilenko's address: name the University of Western "Who shall administer the prop- Ontario. There are many universerty of the Church, the representa- ity courses, well-equipped, welltives of the ecclesiatical hierarchy staffed, which it would be impossible, or those who give to the Church even if desirable, for the Catholic their pennies, earned by the sweat colleges to duplicate. For Catholic

of their brow? This is the ques- students to participate in full tion.

"This is why it is of no import- facilities thus offered and placed ance whether it be the Catholic, freely at their disposal, it is, of Orthodox, Mohammedan or any course, necessary that the Arts other Church. According to the buildings of the Catholic colleges canons, the sole proprietor of be located in London. Thus far church property is the representa- Assumption College has not been tive of the Church-the Vatican, able to fulfil this requirement, which is outside of Soviet Russia. though it is hoped that the near Here is a nice position! As for me, future will see this ambition I say that whoever can not substan- realized.

tiate the right of ownership, actually, on the spot, that one is hand immediately provided a comnot the owner. The Catholic pre- modious and suitable temporary lates say : 'I took the chalice, I building, Brescia Hall, and plans had it at home. It is my own prop- are afoot for a permanent Arts erty.' It is clear who is the real Building, the site for which is

owner of the property, and not the already secured. Holy Father who is in the Vatican. "We call this right of the Holy of thus entering into full participa-Father RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE. We tion of the University benefits is also call Baptism RELIGIOUS PREJU- afforded by the fact that the DICE. Penance is also RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE, and we also call all awarded for the highest graduate other sacraments RELIGIOUS PREJU-

DICE. "We also call all of these acts of graduates, was won by Miss Winthe Church thus in our penal code ifred Guinane, of Mount Carmel, and we have a right to do it here Ontario, a student of Brescia Hall. in our own country. The use of Miss Guinane, who is but twenty those religious prejudices for the years old, led by a comfortable

purpose of killing in the child the margin, with an average of 87 in capacity of choosing and discussing, all subjects. we call RELIGIOUS POISON. And we consider it a political act coming of the seven Brescia Hall graduates

In reply to the address of Father Fedoroff to the court, Prosecutor mind a very gratifying fact that of the forty odd University students "Citizen Fedoroff can speak in at Brescia Hall the graduating age

ant people and children that the why can not their brothers do like-Prophet Elias will come down from | wise ?

able leaven of liberal education children, you reply 'I shall do so' amongst lay Catholics so long of the Church. One could conceive new hypocrisy, John," was the and we say: 'We do not permit as the present stupid system years High school, and with four, cross. five or six years of professional "Your religion-I spit on it-as training, the Arts course is simply on all, on Catholic, Orthodox, Jew- crowded out. And crowded out it ish. Mohammedan and the rest. will remain until the whole course "There is no law but the Soviet of studies is so adjusted as to give it The girls of Brescia Hall have The hypocrisy of such a paragraph cherin. From this answer of the throughout the world should go up Baccalaureate degree at an age From every Catholic heart shown the way, by taking their to the God of mercy and justice a when most of our boys matriculate. But is it altogether the boys' archbishop and priests in solitary fault? Are they not victims of a imprisonment, not alone for their stupid not to say vicious system ? poor people "like sheep without

workingmen, in some cases far the glory of Europe was done as a organization declares the conception exceed the salary paid to the parish simple act of Faith by the people of the Bible as a single inerrant priest. The parish priest is often themselves. one of the lowest paid men in the town. The alms given to the poor is usually a good deal less than is spent for new hats or new neck-ties; in replacing household articles

that are not used up and do not There is enough money spent on Four years ago the arrangements

were completed for the affiliation the churches of half a dozen dioceses parish church is bare and shabby ment. our homes are not allowed to lack anything that we can think of for makes clear not only the meanness dents from Assumption and seven their adornment. In fact, our editor of the London Tablet, the parish meet, in a financial way,

> call at all times, and we do not want to pay a fair price for their tury. services, whilst we are willing to pay any price that theatres or other amusements may demand of us. It takes a Catholic parish years to pay off a small debt which a shopkeeper or a theatre manager is the truth, and a truth which is comfort or pleasure.

it? Is it not a thing to be heartily far beyond it. ashamed of ? We are grudging in the very matter of all matters institution in the world are jammed with people who jostle one another for the right to pay in their money

made upon them. Well, this would have less signifilet us make a comparison in that stitious' editor of the Tablet. matter, and see how the case stands there. Is there any other matter of serious concern to human beings that gets so little attention as religion ? If there is, what is it ? Is there any other matter which men try to dispose of with a few hurried words night and morning, and a hasty three quarters of an hour once a week ? If so, what is it ? Not any of the means of enjoyment. Not amusements. Not business. Not household adornment or personal adornment. All these are matters of continual concern and no day goes by without taking up in the mind of the average man, a great deal more time and thought than religion, prayer and the glory of God take or receive. Religion is not attended to either on its spiritual side or upon that side to which it is necessary to give financial aid, to anything like the same extent as are a score of things which, by comparison, are of no importance what-

A CLASS of schoolboys took charge

cigarettes in this country to put judge from the editorial utterances nothing of imagination. of numerous papers up and down sisted on the handing over of the But the action of the Holy Father the University of Western Ontario. Whether or not the altar of the possibly they noted an improvefirst class financial shape. the country we should say that

clergy are, for the most part, leading Catholic paper in the Enginform Your Excellency that the tion against the clergy, but reveals the degree of B. A. In itself this compelled to give their time to lish language, removes a noted Holy Father is prepared to buy that the real purpose of the Soviet is a great advantage to Catholics of anxious consideration of ways and figure from the Catholic intellectual means of making the ends of the life of England. Under his management the Tablet maintained the high level of scholarship which it "An illegal demand, do not present when they ought to be in a position high level of scholarship which it inherited through a succession of editors from its founder, Frederick

There is nothing that comes so Lucas, who was a cousin of John cheap as religion. We want priests Bright, England's greatest parlia- tions of the Commission at Yaroslav and sisters to be at our beck and mentary and popular orator in the and failed to present his inventory latter half of the nineteenth cen

LUCAS, WHO WAS a convert from Quakerism, found in the Tablet a vehicle for his exuberant intellectual vigor, and made it the force it this case, as formerly, the clergy certainly became as a champion of very cleverly distorted the law can pay off in a few months. This the Faith, and of the emancipation of the Irish people from the thralnot at all to our credit. We dom of oppression and misgovernprofess to think that religion is the ment under which they had lain so knowingly suppressed the le most important concern of our long. Like his contemporary principle that all ecclesiastical principle that all lives; we know that it must have O'Connell, however, he was fated State, and in quoting the treaty of a financial support because it has to meet with opposition and misun-peace with Poland they omitted purto do its work with human means derstanding from quarters from as well as with Divine means ; yet which he had the least right to look we are disposed to grumble at for it, and like the Liberator, too, every demand on us for the support died a disappointed man. Ample of the Church while we are cheer- reparation has in the event been fully ready to pay and pay high for the lot of both of these champions wishes, but within the limits anything that ministers to our bodily of Faith and of Liberty, and their names are now honored wherever

which is the one we ought to be undergone many changes, but has generous in. Can we compliment never lost the high intellectual ourselves on our good sense any character which its founder gave to more than on our generosity? it. Mr. Milburn, who had for recourse to repressive measures, What a difference there would be twenty-five years been assistant to among others, the closing of the What a difference there would be twenty-five years been assistant to in the condition of our parishes J. G. Snead-Cox, succeeded to the in a financial sense if we would editorial chair on the latter's withonly put them on a footing equal drawal, and the highest tribute to that on which we put the which can be paid to him as an theatre or the fashions in dress. editor is that in the judgment of The Church alone has to beg for competent authorities the paper directed. The representatives of the government, when they attemptmoney. The doors of every other fully maintained its high standard under his gridance.

REFERRING TO the relationship first. The makers of gewgaws for between Lucas and John Bright we the person or the home cannot are reminded of a story told of supply the demand as fast as the their meeting some time after the effective. Nearly everywhere that people call out for more and more. former's conversion. Lucas, like The Church alone has to beg. his cousin was a Member of Parlia-All others are hard put to it to ment, and when entering the House advanced in the meetings of the keep up with the demand that is of Commons one day shortly after his election met Bright in the

corridor. "Well, Fred !" ejaculated cance if people were eager to avail Bright. "How goes the old super of Catholics being lax in the finan- quick rejoinder. Bright laughed, cial support of their Church if they and passed on. It is said that he were always ready and eager to retained throughout life the highest give ear to her counsels and willing respect for both the character and to aid in her spiritual mission. But the mental qualities of the "super-

volume to be, "an unfortunate inheritance from mediaval Europe." "The old order," it is further of the editorial department of a declared, "has passed away and newspaper for one day. Our Winni- with it much of a traditional peg contemporary, the Northwest theology." And so it goes all along Review, thinks it would be interest- the line. President Harding must ing to know if any difference was certainly be the possessor of a apparent to its readers. If we may large fund of optimism, to say

MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

scriptions of the Soviet Government. Thus, in reply to the dispatch of the priest Routkovsky (Dean of Yaroslav,) on the subject of the presen tation of an inventory to the local Commission and the requirements of this body, the Archbishop in his disthe inventory." In compliance with the order of Monsignor Cepliak, the Dean of Yaroslav, the priest Routan act for which he was tried and condemned to a year in prison by the Revolutionary Tribunal Petrograd (t. 1 8 & 21.)

The most interesting feature of this new position of the clergy was their tendency to find a "juridical" basis for their pretentions and in which were in force through the employment of fraud. Thus, in citing the decree for the separation of Church and State, the clergy the legal posely the fact that, after this reaty was made, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic agreed permit all citizens of Polish nationality to organize their religious activities according to their general legislation of the R.S.F.S.R. Such was the new situation

This is the truth. Can any one deny ? Is it not a thing to be heartily far beyond it. All the English language is spoken, and Goubispolkom (a Government body) of Petrograd during the course of the last half of the year 1922, hav-SINCE LUCAS' time the Tablet has ing for their aim the arranging of new contracts with the Catholic parishes, were without results The law could not be enfor the government was obliged to have churches, a move which nullified at once the secret aim of the counterrevolution, viz., the arousing of the masses of the people against the Soviet authoritie toward which the efforts of the Church party were enter the assemblies of the ed faithful, found no one present or, on the other hand, were accorded a very hostile reception and all their

efforts to convince the parishioners of the necessity of signing the contracts in their own interest were inassemblies were held, the Catholics urged the same motives for refusing to sign the contracts which had been Roman Catholic clergy and in the circulars of Archbishop Cepliak, namely, that the Roman Pontiff was the sole administrator of ecclesias tical property; and at the "Much better than the time, they appealed to Canon Law, crisv. John." was the to the decree for the separation of Church and State, and to paragraph of the peace treaty of Riga,-an obvious proof that all these reasons had been explained and urged upon the masses of the faithful by their clergy. SIGN WITH RESERVATIONS In the district of Moscow-Narve, an inspection of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (1st Rota, n. 1) was undertaken and the first contract was signed on November 16, 1919 with this reservation : "temporarily pending the approval of the supreme authority of the Roman Catholic Church, i. e., the Roman Pontiff." The minister of ecclesiastical affairs committee that the inventory would be audited on March 6, a procedure which required the presence of representatives of the group responsible for the church. But on arriving at the church at the time agreed upon, Michailoff found the the greatest truths that have been Hvetzko with a group of parishioners who prevented him from proceeding, and at length it appeared that the majority of the parishioners who had concluded the contract for the use of the church, had already presented their resignation to the parochial committee. The same day a meeting of the regard to its hold upon those who profess to make it the last course and it was decided to consider the earlier contract as dissolved and henceforth not to agree to another. these words a congress was in the fact that the Soviet government was interfering with ecclesiastical New York, discussing ways and affairs in proposing to audit church property and the administration of the Church in accordance with the regulations of civil law. The same day, March 19, the representatives of the local section of the district of Moscow, Michailoff and Losseff, once

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

JUNE 2, 1928

'certain ecclesiastical valu- me for safe keeping. tion.

ables" needed for "famine relief !") "Desiring to reach an understand-But now, says The Freeman, "tardy ing with the Soviet Government. I it.' We know how to react against obtains. With Entrance to High news cables have made it clear that was ready to do everything possible, that. Your game is up. You have school at fourteen or fifteen; four political matters were deeply within my authority, to aid the nothing to do but to bear your involved in the case," and that the famishing and avoid misunderstanddefendants were "accused of ings. I sent a dispatch to the Holy treasonable activities." And the Father, and I was told in reply that Soviet Government has an apparent the Pope had ordered that all valupolicy of encouraging opposition to ables be sold and the proceeds given the Russian Church by "opening a over to representatives of the Soviet law and by that law you must a reasonable chance to be included. broader opportunity for the growth Government at the Vatican through die." of other sects." the intermediary of Comrade Chi-

is nauseating, comments the World, Holy Father it is clearly seen that and adds: The truth remains that he did not care for these treasures continual prayer not alone for the the victims are martyrs to a if it was possible to assist the staryprinciple, and that the liberal press, ing. Unfortunately, we have rewhich pretends to admire martyr- ceived no reply. What could I do dom and to adore fidelity to then ?"

principle, couldn't recognize spirit- Lawyer Pushkin (who defended shuts out the sky," but for each ual heroism when face to face with the ecclesiastics)-""And now there it. It has no rebuke for the is organized relief."

Archbishop Cepliak-"A wide persecutors, and no word for the martyrs but insinuation, innuendo, spread relief service is now being and false accusation. As for the conducted in Russia by our Church, mental attitude that could lead any and it seems to me that this relief well informed journal to credit the deserves great gratitude on our Bolshiviki with a policy of "open- part. In the foreign papers lists offered the venerable Archbishop of world which does not spend more ing a broader opportunity " to any are printed of offerings from ecclesi-Christian Church-we should like astical institutions.'

Pushkin-"How much food has to believe that such an attitude is due to nothing worse than credul- been sent for the starving ?" ousness Cepliak-"Forty car loads."

Such "liberal" attitude will not be Pushkin-"Was the Soviet Govso easy to maintain in face of the ernment informed of your request documentary evidence now avail- to the Vatican ?" able. Cepliak-"The fifth section of

The insinuation-repeated in the Justice knew of it quite well. We To a Gazette representative's inindictment as will be seen-that the had sent a delegation several times, Catholic ecclesiastics meanly and particularly to Comrade Krassikoff selfishly desired to retain possession to say that there was an acceptable I will always extend any courtesy other unnecessary things. of "valuables" needed for famine formula for the solution of the in my power to any gentleman of relief is seen in its naked ugliness question."

a shepherd when the snow THE LOW COST OF and all of the millions of harrassed BY THE OBSERVER Russians whose sufferings almost Calculated by the same sort of pass human understanding.

THORNTON'S REMEDY

Sir Henry Thornton recently Quebec, Cardinal Begin, a private car on the Canadian National during his tour of Quebec. This courteous action brought from a certain The people who live in it spend Ontario clergyman a splenetic letter

to The Globe. The reverend gentleman's disease is common enough; Sir Henry's treatment is somewhat unusual and likely to be effective. than they do for religion. They quiry he said :

sary adornment of their persons, "You cay say this from me, that and much more for a number of

Religion is cheap. A few autothe land in private or public who mobiles cost as much as the ordin- This is reminiscent of the Middle Bible in the light of the twentieth of signing the contract; but the

NOTES AND COMMENTS

ever.

cese of Ogdensburg, N. Y., fifty ever slender threads of authority men, members of the parish, are it still possesses in the non-Catholic engaged in building the new parish world. "Present-day scientific, hall and school, the only expense in- ethical and philosophical theories hall and school, the only expense in-curred being for the material. will be employed in rewriting the and pointed out to him the necessity

PRESIDENT HARDING has recently paid what is termed a "high tribute" to the increasing power of the Bible "as an inspired, vehicle of the greatest truths," in a letter written to express regret at his inability to attend the annual meeting of the American Bible Society. Michailoff, had notified the parochial 'Whatever mutations may come in the affairs of men," he wrote, "the Bible remains the book of books. . It is winning constantly wider acceptance among men wherever they live as the inspired vehicle of revealed to the world.'

THIS SENTIMENT is, no doubt, very admirable as regards the Bible itself, but it can scarcely be called anything but high imagination in of appeal in matters of belief. While the President was writing

session in J. P. Morgan's library, IN THE parish of Pine Grove, dio- means to deprive the Bible of what-