The Catholic Record

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THE FORD IMBROGLIO Elsewhere in this issue we publish the text of the official pronouncements in Conference of the priests of the diocese of London on the Ford scandals. In the deaneries of Stratford and London, though the denunciation of the perpetrators of the scandals was vigorous and outspoken, still as there was absolute unanimity on the subject the resolutions themselves, without a report of the discussion, may be taken as the full expression of the sentiments of the priests who signed them.

The parish of Ford is in the deanery of Windsor, as are the other parishes where the meetings were held at which the fomentors of sedition posed as champions of "the cause," until, the novelty wearing off and curiosity cooling, the thing petered out. While it lasted, however, it had a very active and successful publicity agent who must have been a graduate of the P. T. Barnum school of advertising. The priests of the Windsor deanery, then, were dealing with facts and conditions with which they were thoroughly conversant and with persons well known. Not only is the document signed by them, as given in another column the text of their official statement, but it is important to note, also, that the summary of the discussion which preceded its adoption is taken from the official record of the secretary of the Conference and was transmitted to us by Bishop Fallon for publication. These considerations and the fact that the sentiment of this Conference was not entirely unanimous, give to the deliberations and pronouncements of the priests of the Windsor deanery especial interest and importance. To readers far removed from the scene of the trouble we commend their careful perusal if they would understand a situation which no doubt distressed many good Catho-

Let us emphasize some of the salient facts.

Father Laurendeau's fitness for the position from every point of view -language, nationality, experience, ability, or unblemished record in the ministry—was unquestioned even by the four priests who refused to sign the document with the others. And let us bear in mind that this document was considered and discussed statement by statement.

The gross violation of order and decency at Father Beaudoin's Beautem Mass, the outrageous affront of spiscopal authority in the person of Vicar General O'Connor, and the indignity put upon all the priests present, preceded any other manifes tation whatsoever of their desires, reasonable or unreasonable, on the part of the parishioners of Ford with regard to the appointment of a successor to the late Father Beaudoin. This, too, was unquestioned by the priests of the Windsor conference who refused to sign.

The Rev. Father Langlois, whom the aforementioned publicity agent declared to be in sympathy with the agitation, admitted during the discussion that he "had no objection to the appointment of Father Laurendeau." If this is not exactly enthuslander and abuse had for its sole appointment it is difficult to see how the aggressive champions who base and baseless campaign; from the point of view of the vast majority of the clergy and laity of the diocese only a half-hearted repudiation it is true; but from theirs, repudiation which they might characterize in stronger terms.

Father Langlois denied all antea very mild disclaim of all respon- Citizen Army, an organization which narrow nationalism—singularly like blackrobe has been honored by

endorsation of their claim that Father | five years ago. Langlois sympathized with them and approved their action.

paper reports whether for or against ization is admirable; but it is beside the mark. The question in issue is that an uncontradicted newspaper report positively asserted that he approved of the action of those who offered forcible and violent resistance to episcopal authority, an offence which incurs not only episcopal displeasure, but ipso facto excommunication. The philosophy which rises superior to newspaper references may be admirable; but the silence which seems to consent to an uncontradicted assertion of such grave and serious import can hardly be considered a virtue. This vague and may be regarded by the great major. ity as a shifty evasion.

However, they might be quite wrong. The pastor of Tecumseh may have intended a particular application of his professed indifference to newspaper reports. His remark perhaps may be interpreted thus: "I know the reports referred to, but I were: also know the reporter and therefore I pay no attention to either the one or the other." And this the organizers of the agitation may consider the unkindest cut of all, for they, as well as many other people, know how well it is deserved.

When Father Langlois complained that he was being "forced to sign' he misinterpreted, we are positively assured by those present, the insistence of his brother priests on an intelligible reason for refusing. With the admissions, professions and disclaimers of their spokesman, with the failure to controvert a single statement in the document dealing with the situation, many find it puzzling to assign any reason for the refusal of the four priests to join their brother priests in condemning what no one dares defend.

Some suggest that a solution to the puzzle may be found in a letter signed by one of the rebel orators and published the day following the publication of the resolutions of the Stratford Conference. The letter is rather a silly effusion, but out of the rant emerges one intelligible demand: We expect that at the Windsor conference to-morrow the question of Father Laurendeau's appointment will be fully discussed.

There is significant menace in the truculent tone.

Well, the Windsor Conference has come and gone, the question was fully discussed, and the result may be read and studied in the published reports of the proceedings. In the and the agitators will have to be considerably more accurate and truthful they care even for the appearance of credibility.

It is quite unnecessary — it might gratulate the nineteen French-Canaon the side of order, truth, justice and religion with their Englishspeaking confréres. If we note the fact it is for the sake of a wholly mistaken impression prevalent amongst those too far distant to know the actual facts and conditions.

SINN FEIN

persistently gloomy despatches cabled siastic approval of the Bishop's nom- from London or from Castle sources ination, it is an extraordinarily im- in Dublin, Ireland is seething with reach us from Ireland that it is imopinion in the premises.

sympathy and approval can regard an argument in proof of the most pes-Father Langlois's declaration other-simistic predictions. Everyone knows "ourselves alone," or "ourselves for ourselves," or some other emphatic form of "ourselves" which connotes separation from 'others." Everyone knows, too, year is called the Sinn Fein Rebell. to Home Rule should vanish. ion ; though as a matter of fact twocedent knowledge of the meeting thirds of those who took an active held at his church in Tecumseh. part in that chimerical undertaking control as well as the high ideals of It is easy to realize their point of Again the majority will consider this were soldiers of James Connelly's its founders and into an intense and view. For more than a century the

sibility for the scandalous proceed- was the outgrowth of the resentment ings there; but the rebel leaders on of labor unions at the brutal represthe other hand can find here no sion of the Dublin strikers four or

Few know the high ideals of unselfish patriotic service that animated Confronted with this very news- its founders, nor of the earnest study paper assertion Father Langlois said of Irish problems in the endeavor to that he paid no attention to news- reach intelligent solution that characterized the early stages, at least, of him. The philosophy of this general- the movement. Judge John W. Goff, of New York, in an introduction to a recent work says :

"Fostered by misrepresentation, and aided by lack of correct information, ignorance regarding Sinn Fein | people of Ireland? has assumed amazing sway. Even people of a high order of intelligence have been misled by rumor and 'cable hearsay' to form the most grotesque opinions concerning its nature and purpose. The prevailing view is that it was a secret oath-bound society with revolution as its object and dark deeds its means. No doubt it will surprise many to learn from the clear definitions given in this book that it was not a secret oath bound society, and had no relation to plans or schemes for revolution. No doubt irrelevant declaration of Father that many Sinn Feiners were revolu-Langlois with regard to newspapers | tionists in spirit and act, and equally so there were Sinn Feiners opposed to revolution by force. Of itself, the novement might be termed patriotic political economy, and for unselfish aims coupled with patriotic purpose has not had its equal in modern

> As outlined by those who initiated the movement, its policy and purpose

"National self-development secured through the recognition of duties and rights of citizenship on the part of the individual, and with the aid and support of all movements originating from within Ireland, which, instinct with national tradition, do not look outside Ireland for the accomplishment of their aims.'

For some years its membership was small, confined for the most part to serious, thoughtful, educated men. In happier conditions, in any enlightened self-governing country, the services of such men would be welcomed and utilized. But there was no recognition for such service, no place for such men, in the atmosphere and environment of an outworn and discredited as well as alien Irish Government.

Supervened the break down of the constitutional movement and the bankruptcy of parliamentary government. Patiently, persistently, heroically, the united Irish people had struggled within the limits prescribed by constitutional methods until the greatest achievement of up-to-date structures, but one canconstitutional agitation was accomplished, the greatest victory in parhonorably won. Not Sinn Fein, not Irish Nationalists, but Carson and Carson's armed rebels flouted the authority of King and Parliament; and the incitement to rebellion, and are not wanting in generosity. the preparation for rebellion, which the British Government now tells Parliament must be sternly repressed, and openly, defiantly supported by eyes of the public the agitation the powerful Unionist party and half dian priests who ranged themselves in the struggle for freedom from oligarchic rule.

result with the high-spirited people anti-Catholic atmosphere. whose loyalty was insulted by the that the Easter rising in Dublin last of Irish Nationalists lest opposition mate relations between the English-

of the crowd and swayed by brought about by the world-war.

Conditions in Ireland may be as be; or they may be grossly and wilfully exaggerated.

In any case, who with any sense of fairness and justice will place the entire blame on the perversity of the

THE WESTERN LAYMAN

We conversed with just one man in St. Paul. It was a brief conversation; for our stay between trains was very limited. He was a good natured Irish policeman. We asked him to direct us to the new cathedral, which he did very willingly and very courteously. On our return to the railway station he came over to us and said, "Well Father, what did you think of it?" We assured him that it was very grand indeed, and that it would seem that there was an effort to eclipse St Peter's in Rome. 'Ah!" he replied, "I think we have it beaten.'

It strikes one that in some parts of our Canadian West there is not the same spirit. There is a lack of religious enthusiasm. One is not asked: "Did you meet our pastor?" or "What do you think of our church ?" On the contrary the conversation turns on crops, climate, and real estate. Of course there is everywhere a goodly number of not only practical but zealous Catholics; but the impression left upon a stranger is that in many places there is an absence of pride in local church institutions. We submit our diagnosis of the cause of this not with the assurance that we have solved the problem, but with the hope that we may arouse interest in a matter that is of vital importance.

One reason why the layman does not point with pride to his parish church is that, with a few notable exceptions, it is not a thing to be particularly proud of. This is especially true of those towns and cities where the State institutions make the Catholic churches appear to such poor advantage. It is true that the State has been recklessly extravagant in erecting magnificent and not help feeling that religion would impressive in a material way. It conversion in his last days. must be that there is a lack of organization; for, whatever faults Western Catholics may have, they

It must be remembered that, as far

concerned, the West is a new counwere for years condoned in Ulster, try. We realized this when, on enquiry, we found that of a large fourthhas shrunk to its true proportions; the electorate of England. This pupils were born in that place. The lived a life of isolation from the cynical bad faith and shameless great majority of the clergy, up to world in this out-of the way parish on treason to constitutional principles very recent times, were French the Atlantic, and devoted himself to in their press reports henceforth if did not at once alienate the Irish Oblates or members of some other the welfare of his simple, sea faring people. They recognized that it was community. The greater number of flock with a singleness of purpose the desperate political expedient of these had devoted their lives to min- and disregard of personal comfort the party of privilege and not the istering to the spiritual needs of the that recalls the best traditions of even be resented—to praise or con- voice of the British people with Indians and the few pioneers who humanity. His parish, occupying whom they had been for years allied had settled around mission centres, the northernmost corner of Corn-Shooting down in cold blood of katchewan were for the most part | coast, the shore piled high with rocks sympathizers with the Nationalist Protestant. These, by their unjust and boulders, with long reefs running gun runners on Bachelors' Walk was | treatment of the half breeds and by | out into the surf, their jagged points in dark, invidious and bloody con- the arbitrary and coercive education- appearing here and there among the trast with the shouts of exultation al policy that they fathered, were breakers. It is just such a coast as which greeted the successful gun- brought into conflict with the black- seamen dread in stormy weather, and running of Carson's Volunteers. robe who espoused the cause of as the scene of frequent wrecks, it Even this did not prevent enthusias- justice and religious freedom. That gave Hawker every opportunity for tic Irish co operation at the begin- antipathy to the clergy has extended the exercise of that helpfulness According to somewhat vague but ning of the War. It took the farther West and has not abated, as and practical benevolence, which, "stupidities and malignities" Lloyd is evidenced by the fact that in the throughout a long forty-one years George openly deplored in Parlia recent trial of Eskimos, accused of characterized his relationship to his ment to do that. Last Easter week murdering two Oblate priests in the people. portant admission from so strong, so sedition and on the verge of armed the great majority of the people of far north, it was impossible, as was As the whole disgraceful campaign of does the rigid censorship allow to to the Rebellion; it took the Prussian secure a just verdict in the city of bleak and rugged coast but from its and set up in his churchyard. butcheries of Maxwell and the Edmonton. The great bulk of young remote situation (being, in Hawker's basis the alleged injustice of this possible to form any well-grounded murder-lust of Bowen-Colthurst to Protestants, coming from Eastern time twenty miles from a railway) kill forever Irish respect for British | Canada and the United States, are | is, for a densely populated country Sinn Fein is the term which is for military service, and faith in the not bigoted. In fact many of them like England, a spot of peculiar isolaboasted in the public press of his a great many people an evil omen and sense of even-handed justice of Brit. are not interested in religion at all. tion. In that wild place the ocean ish rule in Ireland. And these are There is, however, sufficient of the was the Vicar's one never-failing only the broad outlines; an infini- leaven of the survivors of old feuds companion, and it is not to be wonwise than as a repudiation of their that the English of Sinn Fein is tude of detail worked its inevitable and professional bigots to create an dered at, says one of his biographers,

alien Government whose official public, which is still de rigueur in that a strong and vivid personality, record in the War Office deprecated some parts of the West, creates a cast in these surroundings, should the encouragement of the enlistment still further obstacle to more inti- develop on peculiar lines. To this speaking element and the clergy. In this unwholesome atmosphere The authorities have, no doubt, good Sinn Fein has grown away from the reason for perpetuating the custom.

that with which we are familiar in Indian warrior and civil ruler. It was not only a devoted pastor, but though it was, was a fitting crown to Canada. It is now-perhaps only has been to the red man the only he was a poet of high distinction as that life's aspirations. And among apparently-dominated by the spirit recognized uniform of the clergy, well. Morwenstow, though a lonely the galaxy of notable converts of the But there is no gainsaying the fact spot, is rich in historical and antiappeals to national resentment, to that English speaking people, who quarian interest, and its legends and rankling sense of injustice, and to now constitute the great majority of traditions became part of the Vicar's hopes inspired by the conditions the population and who have always being. Hawker had, in 1823, marassociated the cassock with the ried a woman much older than himpresbytery and the church, do not self, to whom, however, he became dangerous as they are represented to take kindly to its appearance on the deeply attached, and who was his market-place. The fervent and ever congenial companion. Her staunch Catholic is in no way affect- death, childless, in 1653, was a great ed in his attitude to the clergy by a grief to him. He felt her loss bittermatter of language or custom; but ly. "'Tis held," says Tennyson, there is a large and not over zealous element that of necessity are thrown certain notable instances it has also into association with Protestants, made men poetic, and it had this Germans are paying the price for the and who would be much more accessible to the priest if he could approach them in less conspicuous attire.

in this new land is that the priest take an active part in all that affects lowed by numerous effusions which the people, that he be dependent won him a measure of fame. His upon them, and that his interests be best known ballad is unquestionably closely identified with theirs. In old settled districts social work may be which has, indeed, won much greater country like the West, that is passing cares for poetry at all is not familiar through its formative period, the with the famous refrain : priest, who is usually the best educated man in the place, can lessen or avert many legislative evils, reduce Will know the reason why!" the number of mixed marriages. remove many obstacles in the way of prospective converts, and strengthen the backbone of timid Catholics by getting into more intimate touch with the community and interesting

himself in civic affairs. THE GLEANER

NOTES AND COMMENTS

many years a consistent advocate of among the regrets of literature. 'Corporate Reunion," and, in the end, in his own person, made good his profession by asking admission into the True fold. Another example that occurs to us is the Rev. Thomas Wimberly Mossman who, as an Anglican translated into English the not have suffered if the great Church Great Commentary of Cornelius a liamentary history was honestly and of the West had been made more Lapide. He, too, had the grace of

> BUT PERHAPS the most interesting example in our time of a death-bed conversion was that of Robert S. Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow, a as the bulk of the English people are lonely community made up of five or six scattered hamlets in "Far Cornwall," to whom has fittingly been applied the sobriquet-the "Sailor's book class in a certain city only two Friend." For forty one years Hawker The first English speaking settle- wall, had as its seaward boundary ments in Manitoba and Eastern Sas- five miles of rugged and precipitous

MORWENTOW IS NOT only on a that its turbulence and changeful-The wearing of the soutane in ness became a part of his being, or fact, therefore, it is due that, amid the sameness and conventions of the

FOR ROBERT STEPHEN Hawker therefore, at th

'that sorrow makes us wise." In effect upon Hawker. He was already well-known as a poet and antiquarian. He had, in 1827, won the New It would seem that the great need digate prize at Oxford with his poem "Pompeii," and this had been fol "The Song of the Western Men, neglected with impunity; but in a fame than its author. Who that

" And shall Trelawny die?

IT was the death of his first wife,

however that inspired his greatest noem. As he brooded over his grief. his mind wandered back to the scene of their honeymoon, which had been spent amid the ruins of King Arthur's Castle at Tintagel, and to the legends with which he had then become familiar. In the "Quest of the Sangraal" he found an outlet for his most sacred An interesting chapter might be feelings, and at the same time gave written on converts of eminence who to the world one of its most magnifihaving for years gradually drifted cent poems. The "Quest" is, howtowards the Church, had the great over, but an introductory portion of grace of reception into her bosom on what he intended to write. It tells their death-beds. Several instances only of the origin of the Quest, not occur to us at the moment-all of of the Quest itself. Would that he them clergy of the Church of Eng. had been able to complete the other land—and the list might be extended four chants which he had projected! almost indefinitely. One notable Had he done so we should have had example was the Rev. Frederick an epic eclipsing Tennyson's "Idylls George Lee, Vicar of All Saints, Lam- of the King." As it is, the "Quest," beth, who having accepted almost the in its uncompleted state, is in a whole cycle of Catholic doctrine, in- higher vein than the "Idylls," and cluding even recognition of the that it should stop where it does Pope's spiritual supremacy, was for must, it has been well said, rank

> IT IS WITH Hawker's spiritual struggles, however, that we are most concerned. Although full of humor in conversation and one of the most draw on it can be reinforced in the jovial of men, when alone his hour of need. thoughts turned to religion and to the more serious things of life. His library, we are told, was limited, and his chances of increasing it few. He became, as he often calls himself, President. The Brazilian navy will was the "Summa" of St. Thomas of Aquin. This book, as his letters Dreadnoughts, two old battleships, show, had a paramount influence on his mind, and no doubt was the guiding influence that led him in the end marines. With its population of to his true home. He also prized Greeser's "De Sancta Cruce," of woods, Brazil will be no mean addiwhich he has left an analysis in tion to the Allied forces, and could English. Either in his church or in raise a formidable army if the Allies a little hut which he had built of wreckwood in the face of the cliff, he is a statement that official report spent long hours in meditation and from the General in command of the prayer. Had he but had Catholic armies on the Northern front to the companionship occasionally he might effect that the position of the Russian have reached the Haven sooner than

HAWKER WAS always a man of striking originality. He did things in his own way, and despised conventionalities. He wore a fisherman's blue jersey instead of a waistcoat. A little red cross was knitted in the side, where the centurion's spear pierced Christ's side: he carried a broad carpenter's pencil in memory of the Carpenter of Nazareth; his walking. stick, which he called his "pastoral than they will give it serious constaff," had a cross-shaped handle sideration. What is important in Further, what was unusual among Anglicans then, he delighted in old wayside crosses, and had an old fact that a fresh invitation has been Cornish one brought from the moors addressed to the belligerents from a Piscina which he had discovered in men make war and strong men make the old Norman church under his

his mind more and more to religious them in doing what Lord Cecil said reflections. He had been an ardent they were doing, namely, aiming at a Tractarian in his younger days, and sound and satisfactory peace resting the Catholic sentiments he then im These, again, are general words. It bibed grew with his growth and deep- is the spirit which matters. And the ened with the years. He was appalled proper spirit surely is not to base our by the inroads of rationalism in the by the inroads of rationalism in the Church of England, and his mind human relations based on lasting and was irresistibly turned to the Church irreconcilable batred between nations world, Hawker stands out as an which history and tradition told him have ever proved beneficial in all unique and strangely fascinating was that of his countrymen universally in the old far off days. His rather than a little later the differreception into the Catholic Church, ence may mean the saving of millions of his life of young lives."

nineteenth century there were few more notable than he.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

FRENCH FORCES are continuing their successful advance beyond the Aisne and are within sight of Laon. They have captured several thousand additional prisoners, the aggregate of the offensive up to noon yesterday afternoon being over 12,000, while 120 big guns and many of smaller calibre have been aid they are giving to Austria in the drive on the Isonzo, and for their adventure in Russia. No temporary victory gained in other areas can compensate for the losses they are now sustaining in the West. In the latest communication from Paris there is enough to warrant a repetition of the belief emy must soon make a considerable retreat in France and Flanders whether he will or no, or suffer disaster.

THE GERMAN military view of the situation is exemplified in the uncensored statement of some of their critics foreshadowing a big retirement, and explaining that this is part of the prearranged plan.

ON THE ITALIAN FRONT things are not going well for our Allies. Berlin now claims that over 30,000 prisoners and 300 guns have been taken; that fighting is progressing at many points on Italian soil, and that the advance of the Teutonic forces is continuing The offensive is being made with huge forces, backed by a great aggre gation of artillery. On the northern end the Italians have been driver back, and have, as a result, been compelled to abandon the Bainsizza Plateau farther to the south. This is a most important position, and its conquest some time ago opened the way to a thrust which bade fair to put Austria out of the running. It is most important now that the Italian withdrawal on the north should be halted in order to allow the recti fication of the line farther to the south without involving the destruction or cutting of the main line of Italian communication for this territory, which would involve our Allies in a disaster of magnitude. It is obvious that the Teutonic forces are staking a great deal on checking aggression, and on the hope Italian of striking a body blow to the Italians from which they would not recover. British and French artillery are

assisting the Italians, who must not be considered as being beaten be cause of the enemy's really great initial success. Much of the fighting on the southen part of the front at tack is on Austrian soil, and as the Italian army has plenty of men to

BRAZIL IS now an active participant in the War on the side of the Allies, the Deputies and Senators having almost unanimously sanctioned a proclamation of way by the a man of one book," and that book be of considerable assistance in aiding the Allies and the patrol and blockade work. It includes three five protected cruisers, a dozen more destroyers and several sub about 22,000,000, and its immense natural resources, particularly in want more land forces.

THE BEST news from Russia to-day forces is improving.-Globe, Oct. 27.

ENGLISH EX LORD CHANCELLOR PRAISES POPE'S CIRCULAR

In an article headed "The Pope's Circular," in the current issue 'Common Sense," Lord Loreburn, who was Lord Chancellor in Mu Asquith's Government before the formation of the Coalition, says:

"Up to the present moment our Government has not said and could not be expected to say more in regard to the Pope's appeal for peace that appeal is not the particular terms the Pope suggests, which obviously are a mere sketch, but the

"It was said long ago that weak peace. We cannot suppose that our Ministers are unaware of what is at stake. The future destiny of mankind is atstake. We can all assist in creat-As YEARS drew upon him he gave ing an atmosphere which will help future relations with other countries history or ever will. If the Pope makes us realize this a little sooner