

The Catholic Record

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LENTEEN REGULATIONS

FOR THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

1st. All days in Lent, Sundays excepted, are fast days.

2nd. By special permission of the Holy See, meat is allowed at all meals on Sundays and at the principal meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays...

3rd. The use of fish and flesh at the same meal is not permitted during Lent.

Children under seven years of age are exempted from the law of fasting...

Persons under twenty-one years of age over sixty years of age are not bound by the law of fasting...

In order, however, to safeguard conscience, the faithful should have the judgment of their pastor or confessor in all cases where they seek exemption from the law of fast or abstinence.

Whatever may be the obligation in the matter of fast or abstinence, Lent is for everybody a season of mortification and of penance.

From this law no one can escape, and in it no one has the right of dispensation. Pastors are earnestly requested to preach during the holy season of Lent the necessity of penance and the obligation of Christian mortification.

A special effort ought also to be made to have the sacred practice of family prayer in common, and especially the recitation of the Rosary, a duty of honor and religion during this penitential time.

MICHAEL FRANCIS FALLON, Bishop of London.

THE DANGERS OF PROHIBITION

The Northwest Review is frank and fearless as usual. The last number to hand as we write is particularly good.

In Ontario Prohibition is likely to carry; but our esteemed contemporary would sooner be right than popular.

Writing of the fundamentally fallacious principle, subversive of all real liberty, which underlies Prohibition, the Review quotes from the Chicago Tribune this pertinent paragraph:

"In spite of our principles of individual freedom of our carefully considered constitution, and our free institutions, we are developing a system of social tyranny. A wish to live as A thinks B ought to live, not because B is injuring A but because A thinks B is injuring himself. A is not willing that B should be left free to determine this matter for himself. He demands that B shall be compelled by law to conform to what A thinks is good for him. A not only considers himself his brother's keeper—he wants to delegate his keepership to the policeman and the jailer."

"This all goes under the plausible guise of morals and social betterment. But it derives from one of the most offensive systems of oppression ever developed, the theocratic tyranny of early New England puritanism."

"The reason why moralistic reformers resort to Washington for certain laws is not that local authority is unable to enforce their will, but that very often it is unwilling. The appeal to the central power is not to protect one community from another but to impose the will of a group or a class or a section upon communities which will not adopt its standards."

"An altruistic purpose does not alter the fact that this is a subversion of American principles which ought to be frankly and courageously opposed. Opposition is certain to be misinterpreted and ascribed to a sympathy with immorality by the advocates of the specific reforms. Unfortunately, yet inevitably, selfish interests will take cover under this legitimate opposition. Nevertheless it must be

developed for the sake of the larger public issues involved."

Naturally and necessarily the "liquor interests" will take cover under legitimate opposition to the hideous tyranny of "temperance" legislation. The menace and its apologists shelter themselves behind the honest advocates of the freedom of the press; but the freedom of the press and the liberty of the individual are none the less worth fighting for.

The most consistent of total abstinence may be opposed to Prohibition just as some of the staunchest Catholic journals are opposed to the suppression of the Menace and its ally brood of imitators by any means that would involve a principle inimical to the freedom of the press.

The Catholic Church is the Mother of Freedom. She it was who gave to Christian civilization every principle of liberty of which civilization can boast. Be it hers to safeguard such principles when endangered.

In the current number of the Ecclesiastical Review W. T. Drury, a Catholic lawyer, has this to say, which mutatis mutandis applies equally to Canada:

"If any State should see fit to do so, it could so shape its laws as to forbid anyone to buy, sell, keep, or have in possession wine for any purpose, including wine for sacramental purposes; and if it did, it could enforce that law, since there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States that would prevent it."

"Our clergy and Catholics generally should be acquainted with these facts and be prepared to cope with this situation which I fear is close at hand. The first way in which this matter will ever become dangerous in this country is this: Some State will pass a law forbidding manufacture, importation, possession, or use of spirituous, vinous and malt liquors, without making an exception in case of wine to be used for sacramental purposes. Arizona has already done so. When the matter is tested out in the State courts of Arizona, if the State courts hold the law to be valid under their code—and I can see no reason why they should not—the question will be taken to the United States Supreme Court. That Court will hold that there is nothing in the Federal Constitution to prevent a State from passing such a law, even if the effect of it is to prevent the free exercise of religion. That it would prevent the free exercise of the Catholic religion is plain, since without wine there is no celebration of the Mass. The result of such a decision would at once affect the entire country."

The rabid anti-Catholicism, realizing that the Mass is the central element of Catholic worship, will see the importance to them of striking at the Church in this way, and they will move heaven and earth to prevent the adoption of the (proposed constitutional) amendment and secure the adoption in every State of prohibition laws similar to the law in Arizona. Ultimately, Catholics, being properly directed, will win out; but the crisis will be a grave one."

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Manitoba has its bilingual troubles. The Northwest Review reminds its bilingual friends of their very selfish and unheroic attitude in recent years.

With a political understanding to which the French electors as well as the Roblin government were scrupulously faithful the bilingualists were content. The Review adds:

"This was the only practical benefit. The minority (English-speaking) which in no wise benefited kept up the struggle, but, falling the assistance of their co-religionists, their efforts to obtain redress were futile. More than one occasion presented itself—notably in February and March 1912 when the extension of the provincial boundaries was discussed—to make their influence and numbers felt, but history records the total failure of the Bilingualists to measure up to expectations. It was street rumor at the time that they feared any readjustment lest Bilingualism might, in some manner, be compromised. It was apparent to the least observant that some of their more prominent leaders were playing politics, and that religious considerations were to them at least of minor importance. They enjoyed all possible privileges, then why jeopardize their secure position in reaching out for something, which, after all, did not concern them? Such was after a manner, the attitude of those we have in mind; and they had many docile followers."

Our contemporary then pays its respects to clerical politicians whose principles and practice can at times be so glaringly at variance:

"They (the bilingual beneficiaries) could not, or would not, read the signs of the times. They failed to realize the fact that the hand that dealt them the first blow was far from palsied, and that its possessor, although far from the scene of his earlier operations, still pointed a quill in this city. All that was necessary to turn it against them was a favorable condition and this condition has been supplied since the Ministerial Association and

the Social Service League undertook to control legislation in this province. A religious political campaign has been waged during the past few years by these organizations, the former of which has placed practically every Protestant pulpit at the service of the politicians. Men who would shudder at the mere thought of a union between Church and State have sat quietly in their pews and listened to political pulpiteres haranguing the congregations. They have even given their assent to the claim that the Church (Protestant of course) should enter politics and thereby raise them to a higher level, forgetful of the fact, if they ever knew it, that wherever religion and party politics have commingled in the past both suffered."

Two wrongs do not make a right; and the valiant opponents of union between Church and State do openly glory in their shame when such union is to their advantage. But does not our western contemporary see that its politically active bilingual friends, with their insistent language claims in the name of religion, at least went far to justify in the popular mind the activities of the Social Service League and the Ministerial Association?

In Ontario we shall do well to dissociate utterly the language agitation from religion.

WHERE WILL IT END?

The Y. M. C. A. is constitutionally and professedly a distinctly Protestant institution. No moral or physical benefits which it may confer on its members or on the Turks, Mohammedans, Catholics and atheists who may be admitted to associate membership alter the patent fact of its sectarian nature.

Still in Brandon it was proposed—and the proposal was seriously discussed—that the city council should raise money and pay off a debt of some \$85,000 on the Y. M. C. A. building.

Since the idea is becoming prevalent that legislation should concern itself chiefly with the regulation of human conduct we may not be far from the time when such institutions as the Y. M. C. A. may logically claim support out of the public taxes.

BLESSED IS THE PEACE MAKER

To the Ottawa Citizen Sir Joseph Pope wrote a letter recently on the bilingual school question which received some notice in the press.

We have no intention of reviewing the arguments of this distinguished peace-maker which do credit to his heart rather than to his head. But we shall give an extract or two just a bit of well-informed consideration.

"The French Canadians," says Sir Joseph, "are not attacking anybody. All they ask is to be let alone—that the practice under which they teach their children may be continued untrammelled by vexatious restrictions."

We shall comment on this statement by quoting from "L'Église Catholique au Canada," by Reverend Father Alexis, O. F. M. cap.; Quebec, L'Action Sociale; page 27:

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

"This ecclesiastical province is established astride of the Ottawa River, extending into the two civil provinces of Quebec and Ontario. At first sight such an arrangement may seem strange; but it becomes plain, and seems providential, when we consider the needs to which it responds. In order to foster the pacific invasion of Catholic (French) Canadians into Protestant Ontario, was it not essential to have unity of view in its guidance, and abundance of instruments in carrying it out? The wisdom of the plan has been proved by its success, since, to-day, the counties of Prescott and Russell, the county of Nipissing, and the territories of New Ontario are completely conquered to our faith, or are in a fair way of becoming so."

"Invasion" and "conquest" may, perhaps, be carried on without "attack." But the English-speaking farmers who were obliged to move to other parts of Ontario in order to give their children a decent chance for an English education think that they were "attacked" with the weapon of the "bilingual" school.

Of course they may be convinced to the contrary by the withering scorn of the query of the Under-Secretary of State for foreign affairs, who is especially well qualified to perceive that the only obstacle to the Empire's putting forth her supreme effort in self-preservation is—Regulation 17.

"What does it matter," asks the peace-maker, "to English-speaking people in what language a French-Canadian teacher in the Guiguis school addresses her pupils?"

Does Sir Joseph know that the Germans also vigorously disclaim all

desire or intention of "attacking anybody"; they merely wish to pursue their national policy and achieve their national ambitions "untrammelled by vexatious restrictions."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE TITLE, "THE RIGHT REV., the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada" surely marks a decided revision of principle in the descendants of the Covenanters. It sounds like a surrender to the despised "prelacy" of the Confession of Faith, and is enough to make the framers of that document or of the Solemn League and Covenant turn in their graves.

THOSE WHO, calling themselves Christians, countenance or tolerate the so-called marriage of divorced persons, and sneer at the Catholic practice as narrow and antiquated, should take to heart Gilbert Chesterton's apothegm that "if divorce is possible then marriage in the Christian sense is non-existent." The laxness of the present generation in this regard, if it suffered to endure unchecked, fruitful of disaster for the time to come. And, yet, the Christian pulpit outside the Catholic Church, while working itself into a frenzy over trifles at times, is silent in regard to this canker at the heart of civilization. War is neither the sole nor the greatest evil in the world of to-day.

THE PASSING OF "GLAD" MURPHY, whose untimely death robbed Canada of one of the greatest of her athletes, is also a loss to the moral, clean-living community of young men upon whom the country and the Church depend for their future welfare. The secular press paid tribute to the clean, pure life which had always distinguished him, "being a devout Roman Catholic." This was at once an admission, and a tribute to what the world expects of the practical Catholic young man. It looks to him instinctively for an exemplification of the Christian virtues, and where it is disappointed in this respect never fails to take scandal.

BUT "GLAD" MURPHY (the name by which he was always distinguished on the athletic field) gave the world no occasion for scandal. The clean, pure life to which the daily papers paid tribute tells only half the tale. For, as is well known to his intimates, is young Murphy's clean life grew out of his devotion to his religious duties, a devotion which was certainly beyond the ordinary. He was a daily attendant at Mass, and nearly always a communicant, finding at the altar the strength to withstand temptation, and the grace to edify his associates. And it was upon this noble example as at once a good sportsman and a good Catholic that the universal esteem in which he was held was erected. Men liked "Glad" Murphy because he was clean in his life and wholesome in his conversation. And in that remembrance of him they are not likely to forget that he was a good Catholic.

MANY GERMAN-Americans have shown a disposition to resent the title "Huns," which, since the atrocities of the Armies of the Fatherland in Belgium and Poland, has been universally bestowed upon them by the non-Teutonic world. One Lutheran pastor in our own Berlin, on the eve of a change of name apparently) was very indignant in his reputation of the title, and stigmatized it as unjust and born of race hatred engendered by the War. Yet, as Father Thurston, S. J., pointed out in a recent article in the Month, the title as applied to the German soldiery owes its origin to the Kaiser himself, and that even the atrocities of which they have been guilty in the present war may claim His Imperial Majesty as their patron and inspirer.

FATHER THURSTON is nothing if not thorough as a student of history and an investigator, and in so serious an imputation as he has thus made against the Kaiser he has not founded it upon mere hearsay, nor written at random. In July, 1900, he tells us, the Kaiser addressed at Bremerhaven the troops of the German expeditionary force sent out to China to avenge the victims of the Boxer rising and delivered himself in this characteristic way: "When you meet the foe you will defeat him. No quarter will be given; no prisoners will be taken. Let all who fall into your hands be at your mercy. Just as the Huns, a thousand years

ago, under the leadership of Etzel (Attila) gained a reputation in virtue of which they still live in historical tradition, so may the name of Germany become known in such a manner in China that no Chinaman will ever dare again to look askance at a German."

THE REAL AUTHOR of the nickname, Father Thurston thus points out, is the Kaiser himself; his soldiers were Huns because the Emperor himself had called them so, and had bidden them model their conduct upon the pattern of the ruthless and ferocious warriors of Attila, the "Scourge of God," and the destroyer of many of the noblest monuments of antiquity. If then, he himself is now likened to Attila, and his fighting men to the pagan Huns, he has no ground for complaint, nor have the soldiers or people of Germany. The world has but taken the Kaiser at his word, and accorded to him the doubtful glory which he seems to have coveted.

AND THE noteworthy thing, as Father Thurston proceeded to make clear, is that the German army in China appears to have carried out its Master's counsel to the letter. The matter came up in debate later in the Reichstag, and the Socialist members of that body brought forward evidence in the shape of letters from German soldiers in China, to prove that they had indeed been "Huns." They had perpetrated hideous massacres and brutalities upon the unhappy natives; no quarter was given to the fallen in battle, nor to the wretched victims who were in their way; and property had no value in their eyes. They had, in short, been guilty of the same barbarities as have since, in France, Belgium, Poland and Serbia, brought imperishable infamy upon German arms.

THE DEBATE in the Reichstag is most instructive and we regret that space does not permit us to enlarge upon it. Herr Bebel, the Socialist leader, urged that for all the outrages in China the Kaiser was primarily responsible, for not only were his words as to no quarter being given spoken in the hearing of the rank and file, and indeed, as Father Thurston points out, addressed expressly to them, but by this very fact the discipline which might otherwise have been enforced by their officers, was threatened and impaired. And it is important to note, that in the discussion which ensued no one thought of denying that the words quoted had been used by the Kaiser. To explain them away, as "spoken under excitement" or "in circumstances of much provocation" the murder of the German envoy in China, for example. This was the plea put forward by Chancellor Von Bulow, and it was the only justification offered for the Emperor's indefensible expressions. "I confess that, for my own part," said the Chancellor, "the little finger of a gallant German soldier is worth more in my estimation than the whole murderous pack of the Boxers"—a sentiment reechoed by an eminent German publicist not long ago, in upholding bombthrowing from zeppelins upon defenceless English towns, when he said that "the life of one German soldier is of more value than the whole population of London."

WE QUOTE some of Father Thurston's closing words: "There cannot be the slightest question that the words were really used by the Kaiser. Neither is there any room for doubt that his behest was faithfully executed, and that quarter was not given by the Germans to the wretched Chinese, innocent or guilty, who were considered to be obstructing their passage with hostile intent." And is not this the identical plea by which German apologists in New York dailies have sought to palliate the doings of their armies in Flanders? Huns, the Kaiser wished them to be in China, and Huns they have been on the sacred soil of Belgium. They must plead guilty of that crime in the court of history.

CATHOLIC APATHY REBUKED

Mentioning the fact that the agents of one of the vile anti-Catholic papers now howl out their wares on the streets of Detroit, the Michigan Catholic says: "Catholic laymen who are over anxious to promote the Catholic press, may well bestir themselves and take an example from the enemy. Very few Catholic societies ever devote an extra dollar to the work of circulating the Catholic papers."

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE BATTLE AT DOUAUMONT

At Douaumont the battle surges around the knoll on which the village is situated. The fort, in which the Brandenburg troops were trapped a week ago as the result of their own gallant but reckless advance, is still surrounded by the French troops. Capitalization from lack of supplies is imminent, and the Kaiser, probably knowing this, is making tremendous sacrifices to rescue his beloved Brandenburgers from the humiliation of surrender.

The second Battle of Douaumont began on Thursday evening. After a terrific cannonade the German infantry surged forward again and again, despite what the French official report speaks of as "cruel losses," and finally obtained a lodgment among the houses of the hamlet of Douaumont, which lies to the northwest of the fort of the same name. The hamlet is on the northern slope of Douaumont knoll, and the French, holding the higher ground, fought furiously for the possession of the houses. The battle continued throughout Friday, and the Paris midnight report stated that the French still held the highest point of the knoll and have gained ground in the immediate vicinity of the village. So long as they maintain their grip of the ground now held the French will be able to prevent the 2,000 imprisoned Brandenburgers from making their escape. Until the Germans in Fort Douaumont do escape or are forced to surrender the attacks along this part of the front will be continued.

AT VERDUN

The French are gathering reserve artillery into the zone of Verdun, and in the Argonne, on the Heights of the Meuse, and on the plain of the Woivre the French gunners are concentrating their fire on the points of assembly of the German army. Near Beaumont a column of the enemy while on the march was dispersed. All along the Aisne front similar activity prevails. Aerial scouts have evidently discovered that the Germans are concentrating for a further offensive in Champagne. In Upper Alsace the French have taken some sections of German trenches east of Seppois and are holding them against determined counter-attacks.

THE GENERAL SITUATION

Looking at the general situation, after two weeks of the most terrible slaughter in the history of war, it does not appear that the attack of the Germans on Verdun has proved profitable. They have captured about 18,000 French troops and killed or wounded perhaps three as many. But the German army has probably a hundred thousand fewer effectives than it had two weeks ago, and the lost legions were the finest fighting regiments in the Kaiser's army. Even the possession of Verdun, and the prestige that would follow its capture, would be dearly bought at such a great price. It is entirely possible that the Kaiser's army will dash itself to pieces and destroy its value for aggressive warfare by these continued attacks, and that the present operations will materially lessen the duration of the war.

The tendency will be to draw great masses of men closely around Verdun as the local point of the western front. It is asserted that four German army corps have already been withdrawn from the eastern sphere of operations to make good the losses in last week's attacks. The French are probably thickening their lines by calling in the troops in the valley of the Aisne, who are doubtless being replaced by part of the great body of British and Canadian troops now assembled behind the battle front in Northern France. In this way the strength of the combatants along the Heights of the Meuse will be maintained till long after the armies with which the battle was begun have disappeared.

The British official report is distinctly encouraging. On Thursday night five mines were exploded near the Hohenzollern redoubt, and the British occupied all the craters, one of which contained the enemy's main mining shaft. The trenches retaken from the Germans on the Ypres-Comines Canal, together with 200 yards of the original German trenches, have been consolidated in the British lines. Five officers and 249 Germans were taken prisoners.

THE SINKING OF LA PROVENCE

The German submarine which sank the French transport cruiser La Provence on Feb. 29th caused the greatest ocean tragedy of modern times. The vessel was crowded with troops, numbering nearly 4,000 men, and, as some of them were colonial infantry, it is reasonable to assume that La Provence was carrying Algerians to Saloniki. The number officially reported saved several days ago was 870, and, as no further boats have turned up, La Provence carried to the bottom of the Mediterranean over 3,000 men. It was reported by survivors of the disaster that no submarine was visible, nor was anything seen of the torpedo which inflicted the death wound on La Provence.

THE RUSSIANS

The Russians, in the capture of Bitlis, an important city in Turkish Armenia, about 110 miles southeast of Erzerum, have won a strategic position of the highest importance. The city was taken by assault, but was evidently not garrisoned in great

strength. Seventeen officers were captured and as yet unenumerated part of the rank and file. Bitlis lies to the southwest of Lake Van, and from a point near the city a tributary of the Tigris flows through the Bitlis valley to the point of junction with the parent stream, fifty-five miles away. The Russians should reach the town of Til, at the Tigris end of the Bitlis valley, or gorge, in a week or ten days. Once they do so the Turkish army of Mesopotamia will be in very serious danger. The cities of Mosul and Bagdad cannot be held against Russian forces headed down the river and British armies headed up stream. The only practicable line of retreat from Bagdad and Mosul for the Turks would be across the country to the Euphrates, and by the time they could retreat along that river as far as Urfa they would probably find the Russians in possession of the eastern end of the Bagdad railway. If the British and Russian armies in the Near East are promptly strengthened the Turkish cause in Asia Minor may suffer an irreparable defeat before midsummer—which will bring the Allies almost to the gates of Constantinople. The capture of Trebizond will be Russia's next stroke.—Globe, March 4.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

Special Cable to THE CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1918, Central News)

London, March 4.—The first question asked me on my return from Paris is what is the temper of the French people? I could answer wholeheartedly, splendidly and serenely confident.

I found this temper even during the first agony of the gigantic attack upon Verdun when things seemed worst. Premier Briand, by whose side I sat at a banquet given to the delegations, was quite cheerful and I feel that I may say that no single being in all of France contemplates the remotest possibility of not winning the war.

Referring to Verdun it is impossible to state either the final result or the real purpose of the German attack. The important question is, is it an isolated attack or the starting point of the final effort of Germany to force an early decision of the war by some striking combination of attacks along the whole Western line, in which all the military and naval forces will advance desperately together.

Germany cannot win through; besides Verdun has ceased to have the importance it once had. It forms nothing more than a series of trenches for defense fighting. But the combats that have taken place show the undiminished valour of the French troops.

It is known to Germany, as it is known to the whole world, that Russia is still bound at her many ports and she still is insufficiently supplied with arms and munitions. Similarly Great Britain has not yet got all possible supplies. On the other hand both countries will have these supplies by Spring and a joint advance on the Western and Eastern fronts will subject Germany to the biggest strain she has felt since the war began.

Thus the advance on Verdun may be due to the desire on the part of Germany to anticipate this threatened, dangerous attack by the Allies in the Spring.

Numbers and money and tenacity, and not positions, will decide this great war. Such positions as Germany so far has gained have attained upon her armies losses so gigantic as to diminish hopelessly, both her resources and her tenacity.

Thus, though we regard the present moment as serious we remain equally confident. In England the new conscription set is working smoothly, with little, inevitable jaus here and there, owing to the eagerness of the recruiting officers to force the pace.

The most important event would seem to be Ireland's triumphant final victory over faction in the election in County Louth, Healy's old constituency, where a stranger to the constituency defeated, by nearly five hundred votes, the strongest local candidate simply because Louth had determined that John Redmond's leadership and the party's unity should be maintained.

The Franco-British Parliamentary Committee is one of the many measures taken by the Allies to keep in closer touch with each other to procure more unified action and to keep public opinion in both countries better informed. The latter point is not unnecessary; partly owing to the constant system of disparagement which has been going on in our yellow journals; partly owing to the spiritual distance between the two nations, and finally, partly owing to the delay in conscription, the opinion had grown among certain classes in France that Great Britain was not contributing her share to the common fund of effort against Germany. This possibly was increased by the fact that the gigantic work done by the British Navy was to a large extent and in the absence of great battles at sea, invisible and almost impalpable.

I was astounded some months ago by continual visits from French journalists who had come to London, when I found that their mission chiefly was to detail to their own countrymen the gigantic efforts which Great Britain was putting forth to win the war. The thing seemed to me so palpable that any attempt to enlarge upon it, much less to describe it, seemed to me