GENERAL INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

THE WELFARE OF FARMERS The spirit of the League is vigilant; its sympathies are world-wide; nothing affecting the welfare of souls in any state of life or in any class of human society will find it indifferent. This month it is the brawny farmer, the horny handed tiller of the soil, who is to be the object of our prayers. The farmer has a well defined place in the scheme of God's Providence; he is an important cog in the machin-ery of human affairs; peace and happiness and national prosperity deepened upon the assiduity with which he carries on his work, and he has a right to the good will and prayers of our millions of members. Poets in the past have sung and writers have praised the nobility of his labors, for they well realized that without the farmer this world would be a desert. More interesting still, the "man who went out to sow his seed" exercised a profession noble enough to be used to illustrate some of our Lord's sublimest doc-

One of the reasons why anxiety is felt for this class of men is because unhappily nowadays too many of them are failing to appreciate the role they are called upon to play in this world. For a number of years it has been remarked both in Europe and America that a new orientation is taking place. The noble task of cultivating the earth, which God made fertile expressly for man, is losing its attractions. The trend of population is away from the open country towards town and cities, and large industrial centers are growing larger every year at the expense of agriculture, the key to the welfare and happiness of man-

This tendency would seem to be accensuated since the War, when thousands of returned soldiers, bringing back with them from Flanders a lessened sense of responsibility, feel that they can no longer live "far from the madding crowd." The close companionship cultivated in the trenches, and shared in danger as well as in victory at the seat of war, is still fresh in their memories. and they must have this companion ship, where it only can be had. that is, amid the noise and distractions of large and populous centers. They refuse to accept the solitude of the country because it is unbearable to them, they scout the drudgery of farm-life as something beneath them, they despise the noble career pursued by their forbears, and they drift to the cities.

Nay more, so strong and resistless is the current which has set in towards towns and cities that it is affecting all classes of country folk. Notwithstanding the pleadings of pastors who scent moral dangers, and of social economists who predict failure and hardship, even the sons and daughters of farmers are quitting the homesteads on which they born to be swallowed up in city life. In the mad quest for artificial pleasure at the expense of real happiness, the ties of years are prefer to breathe the wild and primitive aspect.

large centers for squeezing as much when the passion for pleasure tyran-nized only over the well to do and over those who could afford the luxury of change. But nowadays the masses are affected. Our boasted modern civilization ignores the simplicity and the humility of the Gospel, and the country home and farm which were good enough for generations of brave ancestors cease to be good enough for their upto date sons and daughters. Forgetting that all work is honorable, even work on the farm, those young shoots prefer the life of the cities. For the sake of amusement which may be had in plenty, they prefer nation. to plod on day after day in factories, or peg away at typewriters, or measure cotton over counters in big

departmental stores. To their mere selfishness. The supernatural shrivelled-up minds their grinding, slavish occupations are more attrac-tive and more honorable than following a plow, or hosing the corn-hills, or bringing the cows home from

Treason is a crime, and it has been farms is treason to one's nation. It is not in factories or in shops, but in the soil. Industry transforms, commerce exchanges, but it is the soil that produces; nothing can replace the treasure which the soil gives out; it alone furnishes the raw material which the captain of indus-try manipulates and the merchant prince disposes of. When the soil is not cultivated the supplies of life's nacessities are not equal to the demand, exports diminish, imports increase, taxes, and tariffs eat up profits, nations become impoverished. Let the plow cease to turn the sod, let the farmer hang up the scythe, and our wealthiest cities would scon become cities of the dead.

But treason to their nation is a consideration which has little weight with the farmer's modern son and daughter. What appeals to them is the bait of pleasure and enjoyment which large centers hold out to them and which allures thou-sands of them from the farms. The glamor of the city, its brilliant strests and avenues, its theatres and picture-shows, its thousand and one varied and artificial ways of diversion, all gotten up to kill time, one of God's best gifts to man, are contributing to the depopulating of our rural districts. If the country lad and lassie who have yielded to these fascinations were frank with themselves and would consult their better judgment, they would be the first to regret the healthy innecent enjoyment they have left behind. People brought up in cities do not know any other kind of life, but those who have abandoned the country are able to realize by bitter experience what a vast amount of misery lies hidden under the glamor of city life. Hard work may be the lot of "the man with the hoe," but one does not escape hard work by coming to a city to live; and foolish is the one who would exchange the grime, the dust, the smoke, the noise and bustle, for the fresh air and the peace and quiet of country life.

To the physical disadvanteges of city life one should add the dangers to the soul. While it may be true that facilities are offered in cities to Catholics to attend to their religious duties and to practice virtue the facilities for becoming vicious are also abundant. The moral corruption in our large centers of population is a matter which is giving serious thought to those who have them. This does not mean that everything in the country is rosethan in the city. The reason may possibly be that life in the country is

must enter somewhere; for an rea-son not tinged with the Christian spirit has little influence on passion only the Christian spirit can move men to do what cupidity and a bent for pleasure urge them not to do. The Christian spirit will make men understand and feel that unclassed asserted, not without a show of understand and feel that unclassed reason, that the abandonment of groups are undesirable factors in the social order, that it is in the designs is a well-known economic truth that the great source of material wealth should, as a general rule, fix the r should, as a general rule, fix the'r abodes in the state of life in which they are born. The Christian spirit teaches men that pleasure and time killing is not the be-all and end-all of life. This applies to farmers as well as to others. Undoubted-ly life in the country has its hours of ennui and tediousness; solitude may be keenly felt; the amenities of human society may be absent; but these are minor evils when compared with the greater interests that are at stake, the interests of immortal souls. Men must learn how to make sacrifices in this life if they look for a reward in the next. Bus are many sacrifices demanded of farmers nowadays? Is it true that their homes are the isolated spots they once were? What with good roads, rural mail delivery, aye even telephonic communication, all the advantages of city social life may be had for the asking. In the little conveniences which make modern mes sociable the farmer has noth ing to envy in his city brother : nlike his city brother he is not hedged in by people who are often unsympathetic neighbors; he is not harried by the complications insep arable from agglomerations of men; nor are his nerves set on edge day and night by the noise and bustle of

> country bas some disadvantages, it also has its compensations.
> "Back to the farm" would seem then to be the slogan in these stran-uous months of dearth and high prices, if there is to be any happiness at all. Our Lord would seem to have had more tenderness for the man of the soil than for others. He often took comparisons from the life of the tiller of the soil, rarely from the life of the merchant or the cap-tain of industry. He spoke of the shepherds and their flocks, rarely of the city professions. He was born in the country, and lived the greater in the country, and lived the greater part of His life in it. When He did ome to the city, it was to weep over its fall and then to die in it. Is there not a moral to be drawn from all this?

streets and avenues. If life in the

E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

HARD DAYS FOR HOPEFULNESS

Even inveterate opponents have ound themselves compelled to own the responsibilities of governing of outlook-like to a massive desply rooted oak, the many branches of which represented as many varieties colored, but relatively speaking there of native humour—has long flour is assuredly less vice and sin there ished in this country as a prominent racial characteristic despits many calm, silent, recollected; there, fluences. This buoyancy and which is the scho of the voice of "better times" have always had of "better times" have always had God, is more easily heard and more a place in the forefront of the Irish readily heeded; and where reason mind, but it is doubtful whether reigns there virtue more easily at any prior period in the history flourishes. broken without a quiver; the open air, the freedom of the fields, the joys of real living, are cast aside for the allurements of the cities.

Nature's own haunts, whose horizous are bounded by forests and the clouds of heaven, are abandoned by thouse the fields, the palled only after the cruel realities that has been their portion within the past year or two. Month after month the political and social situation are abandoned by thouse the fields only after the cruel realities that has been their portion within the political and social situation has been the prey of a succession of chaven, are abandoned by thouse the fields, the political fare to feed upon the past year or two. Month after month the political and social situation has been the prey of a succession of chaven, are abandoned by thouse the fields, the political fare to feed upon the past year or two. Month after month the political and social situation has been the prey of a succession of chaven, are abandoned by thouse the fields, the political fare to feed upon the past year or two. Month after month the political and social situation has been their portion within the political and social situation has been the prey of a succession of chaven, are abandoned by thouse abandoned their homes on past year or two. Month after month the political and social situation has been the prey of a succession of chaven. more scute as time sped on. air of cities and live the city is not alluring as it looks Responsibility for these upheavals cooped up between walls of bricks from the outside. But the current have rightly been laid at the doors of and mortar. This tendency bodes no has set in and the victims are rulers whose sham sympathy and good for the future. Farms are lying differ in all our Provinces, or only half-tilled, because there are none to do the work; vast areas of the soil, which is man's chief source there are no thirst for pleasure and liberty, which have wronged to the work of the soil of of well-being, are resuming their the tasts for adventure, or possibly which have wrought among the ild and primitive aspect.

visions of fortune, continue to drive population in many parts of Zionists are lending money to the And yet cases may arise when them into foolish enterprises which Ireland a state of feeling in which Jews at a rate of interest less than And yet cases may arise when necessity will obligs young birds to fig away from the old nest. The exigencies of modern life, even of commercial enterprise, may lure large numbers to the great centers, where opportunities are awaiting them. Poverty may force others away from their farms; men and women may have to go elsewhere to seek a livelihood which an arid and ungrateful soil refuses them.

These ere alrequestances which the social order is brought periously near to absolute dissolution. And yet the bureaucratic conspirators country, or the limpidity of its irritating, blundering, and futile policy with a callous complacency recalling that with which the last of seven taken cumulatively, make a coven taken cumulatively, make a flore for argument and fall to impress the desagrable. These are circumstances which must often be considered, and which should prevent a writer from being too sweeping in his judgments. In such cases no one should find their ditting upresponshle or days the little annual. In this precedent without anguish or resentment a situation now existing in Ireland, whom nature and her moods make disquieting in the extreme and disquieting in the extreme and such cases no one should find their ditting unreasonable or deny them little appeal. In this practical age one which cannot last without e right to live.

Unfortunately a motive less noble

some suggestion how to multiply dollars and cents would undoubtedly be position is all the more distracting and less praiseworthy is often at the hotom of those migrations; because of the bright expectations which were prevalent at the date because of the bright expectations the bottom of those migrations; pears, that theirs is a noble calling, of the Armistice in November, 1918, namely the opportunities afforded in large centers for squaezing as much and they should be urged to carry on The victory of the Allied armises artificial enjoyment as possible into farm, not haphazardly as they only when the passion for pleasure tyran. too often do, but in a skilful way; quished the upholders of the vicious they should have the advantages of principle which would make Might lessons in agriculture and in every superior to Right-who paved the lessons in agriculture and in everything pertaining to farming. Experimental farms, agricultural colleges, the delivery of courses in scientific farming, would give farmers a deeperinterest in their profession; it would show them how to augment their revenues and make them realize that they are the most independent of men. Unhappily our educational departments and universities are more intent on turning out lawyers and doctors than on training those who are the bone and sinew of the nettern members. There are no retirent members. nation.

However, any suggestion, no matter how plausible, is useless unless founded on a loftier motive than

germs too. 10c a packet

departed from. No, none. The legacy inherited from the Great War differs vastly from what was expected. In May of the present year there appeared an article in the Atlantic Monthly by Mr. Sisley Huddleston, which thus concluded: "Turn where one will, one finds only that the War has worsened mankind. These who, speak of the heroic virtues which ere born of the battlefield, which spring, like the Phoenix, out of the of war, are uttering the me stupid claptrap. The dominion of dark-ness has spread over Europe, and a slimy progency of cruelty, of bestia! ity, has crawled into the light of daynotsome brood, of which it will be long before we can dispossess Unfortunately as regards the effects of the War on several European countries, the above pen picture, repulsive though is be, does not apparently exaggerate. Because, therefore, of the menace of the "atmosphere" which overhangs the greater part of the continent, poisoning many men's minds therein, one would imagine that — if for no other reason—highly placed British politicians having any pretension to possession of the statesmenlike qualities, would, ere now, have shown themselves in their dealings with Ireland, willing, nay, eager, to display in palpable act and fact (not an empty profession, for their words generate only disfrust) justice, reason and conciliation. But no. As that inflgential Antrim man, able captain of industry, and ex chairman of Harland & Wolff, the Right Hon. A. M. Carliele, wrote the other day in the Daily Mail. Irereins," and even at this hour these mismanaging gentlemen do not appear to realise that Ireland "is on the edge of a crater."—The Derry Jour

WARNS OF ZIONIST PERIL

CARDINAL BOURNE SAYS CHRISTIAN SITUATION IN PALESTINE IS GRAVE

(Special Cable to N. C. W. C. News Service) London, Aug. 2. — A significant speech by Cardinal Bourne, dealing with the religious and political situation in Palestine and the former German missions in British Colonies masked the opening in Liverpool of the first National Catholic Congress held since the outbreak of

As regards Palestine, the Cardinal said that the situation was extreme. ly grave despite the assurances to trol and interfere with the legisi mate rights of Christians in Pales. ished by the War. Furthermore Jews at a rate of interest less than one-third of that charged Christians and Moslams who are being squeezed out. The Cardinal quoted recent

letters to show the Zionists are tast acquiring economic and financial domination

The Cardinal called for the constitution of the commission ordered Kill them all, and the the rights of ownership of the Holy Places, particularly established Catholic rights dating centuries back. at Druggists, Grocers and General Stores.

He proposed that the British Government admit English speaking ecclesistics residing in Palestine to diploisstics residing in Palestine to diplo-matic access to the authorities for presenting Catholic views and finally suggested that the Government give all nations in Europe and America representation in the guardianship of the Holy Places, which do not belong to the Government of Palestine alone, nor to England alone, but which are the heritage of the entire Christian world.

Regarding the former German missions in British dominions the Cardinal said the authorities were doing their best to meet the situation, but that efforts made to stir up feeling in other countries makes improvement unnecessarily difficult. ment could not control local Govern the admission of subjects of former enemy nations against their own judgment. He declared that the Holy See has never contested the right of States to safeguard their own lawful interests or legitimate guarantees of missionaries entering their territories.

Cardinal Bourne's speech, which has been widely published by the press, was the cutstanding feature of the great congress which held its sessions in St. George Hall. Cardinal Gasquet, Archbishop Whiteside of Liverpool, the Catholic Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Thomas Fox of the same city, and other prominent prelates and laymen attended the congress. A large crowd greeted Cardinal Bourne at the railway station, cheering him en route to the Cathedral.

JOYFUL AND BRIGHT

There is no religion so full of joyousness and brightness as the Catho management by Englishmen, Welshmen, and Scotchmen, but very few Irishmen have ever had a real opportunity of taking over the and hope. . . It is the enemy of and hope. . . It is the enemy of morbidness and scruple, which haunt the footsteps of so many who are striving to be good.

> The grave sweetness of meditation rests upon the faces of those painted monks, as the odor of incense lingers in the church after censers are put

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We have listened to the mighty through their tears they have prayed Another danger pointed out by the God to sustain the courage and fidelity to honor of their husbands Cardinal was in the fact that many
Protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the Protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the Protestant sects, particularly of enemy's factories. These gallant men have been heard at the hour of the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects, particularly of and sons, carried off by force so the protestant sects. departure, rallying their energy to instil courage into their comrades, or, by a supreme effort, to chant the national hymn; we have seen some by the League of Nations for settling of them on their return, pale, hag gard, human wrecks; as our tearful eyes sought their dim eyes we bowed reverently before them, for all unconsciously they were revealing to

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us a new and unexpected aspect of

national heroism.-Cardinal Mercler

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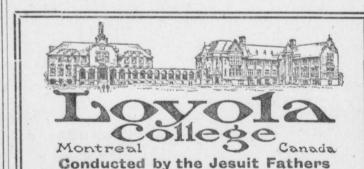
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