

from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. And now in 1910, we have here present an archbishop, the most worthy celebrant of this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In 1860, there was but a handful of priests, five old pioneer missionaries; and today there are about fifty. In 1860 there were but a few scattered Catholics here and there, and today there are something like fifty thousand. Today we find fully equipped schools, churches, colleges and hospitals spread everywhere throughout the land. These are the achievements that have won for these missionaries, these Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the admiration, respect and love of all well disposed people.

"The Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was founded on the 25th of January, 1816, by the saintly Charles Joseph de Mazenod, who was born in Aix, in Southern France.

"After the French Revolution this saintly bishop was so affected by the sufferings, the ignorance and neglect of the people, especially the poor, that he was moved to pity, and he resolved to dedicate his life to their service. In order to carry out his heaven-inspired intention, he conceived the idea of gathering about him other devoted workers in the service of God, and thereby established his Congregation, a Congregation which spread so rapidly, and was held in such esteem, that it soon merited from the Holy Father his solemn approbation. The Congregation spread beyond all calculation, and the work it was doing attracted the admiration not only of France, but of other countries both in the Old and New World.

"One of the first to appreciate the work of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was Bishop Bourget of Montreal. He quickly wrote the saintly Founder, and implored him