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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Academy of St. Mary of the Woods, in Indiana, has added a department of Gaelic to its curriculum, with an accomplished Gaelic teacher at its head. Thus does the language which is said to have been spoken in Eden assert its right to survive.

Rev. Father J. L. Hand, of St. Paul's Church, Toronto, will probably be appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of London, in succession to Bishop McEvay, made Archbishop of Toronto. Father Hand is a prelate well thought of both in his own and other churches.

Crowds of unemployed bearing banners with the legend, "Work or Revolution," have been parading the streets of London. There are indications that this will be a trying winter, but there is reason to believe that many of those who take part in such demonstrations do not want work, preferring to live on charity.

Dr. Sheard, medical health officer, Toronto, at the Charities and Correction Convention in that city, urged that the laws against expectoration on the street be vigorously enforced, with a view to preventing, as far as possible, the spread of tuberculosis. Such laws, where they exist, are unfortunately too often entirely disregarded. The habit is one of the most potent means of communicating the white plague, and the safety of the public requires that it should be stopped.

A tribute to the powers of self-government possessed by the Irish is found in Benedicta, a Catholic town in Maine. This modern Utopia was settled by Bishop Fenwick, of Boston, in 1825, the settlers being all Irish Catholics. Their descendants dominate the town. The settlement is forty miles from any other and a hundred miles from a railway, yet it has electric lighting, macadamized roads, fine buildings, but no crime, no jail, no poor-house, no debt, and is, to quote an exchange, "ideally administered."

The Church of England Synod for the Diocese of Montreal made an excellent selection when it elected Dean Farthing, of Kingston, bishop in succession to the late Bishop Carmichael. He was the favorite of the laity when the Synod met recently, but did not command a majority of the clerical vote. When the Synod re-assembled last week, after several ballots had been taken, he secured a majority of both orders. He will be consecrated on January 26th, and will make a worthy successor to the late esteemed bishop.

The General Assembly's committee on evangelistic work has been in session in Toronto. It was decided to start a campaign simultaneously in four different centres of the Kootenay district of British Columbia. Rev. Dr. Zartman of the American Presbyterian Church, who had come from New York, offered assistance with workers, and the offer was accepted. It was also decided to start a campaign in twenty different centres in the Minnedosa district in Manitoba. The committee adopted a plan of sending out literature showing the best methods of working. It was estimated that \$5,000 would be necessary to carry on the work mapped out for this year. Rev. Dr. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor) was present, and put in a strong plea for evangelistic work.

The situation in India has not shown such a menace of serious uprising as it does to-day for many years. Attacks and attempts on the lives of Englishmen, officials and civilians, are of almost daily occurrence. The police are taking remarkable precautions to safeguard Lord Minto, and this is regarded as most significant. It is hoped England will not have to cope with another mutiny, although it is highly improbable any outbreak could reach the dimensions of the former one.

Pope Pius X. recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his priesthood. Speaking of his character an exchange thus refers to him: "After all, the greatest thing on earth is the soul of man. It is higher than institutions, forms or ceremonies. Despite our beliefs, when we see a fine white spirit, true to God and his people, we hail it in whatever surroundings it appears. Such a soul is the simple, kindly, unpretentious and honest Giuseppe Sarto, son of peasants and now known to fame as Pope Pius X. We believe the comment is well deserved."

The Pope has adopted a new method of promulgating the laws and publishing the acts of the Holy See. An official bulletin to be issued by the Vatican printing press twice a month with the beginning of the new year, will be the means of promulgation of all these acts, which shall not have juridical force until they have been thus printed. Hitherto such promulgation was made only for the more important documents, and according to the ancient method of attaching copies of them to the doors of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. John Lateran at Rome.

The Sunday law in France works and works effectively. A Paris correspondent of the London Times finds the new Sunday "almost as dull as Sunday in London." But while complaining of its "dullness" he admits that the French workman now enjoys a rest that neither he nor his fathers ever knew before. He may not go to church any more than before the law was passed, and in very many cases he spends the day in the suburbs with his family. He may, during his cessation from toil, discover that he has a soul, and will have time to look after its needs.

At the recent Conference of charities and Correction in Toronto, Hon. W. J. Hanna, provincial secretary, under whose department the control of prisons and charities in Ontario falls, told of an experiment which is to be tried. The government, about eighteen months ago, appointed a commission to investigate prisons and prison labor. "At that time," said Mr. Hanna, "there was one or two of our number who had some rather fixed ideas about jails, and thought that what was good enough fifty years ago would do to-day. We just happened to find Dr. Leonard when we were in Cleveland. We drove out to his place and found boys working on an unguarded farm close to the railroad track, where every opportunity offered for them to escape. There were no armed guards over them. They seemed as free as hired men. Yet they were so-called criminals, sent to the State Reformatory for various offences. They were boys trusted and found true. We came home convinced that if they could do things like that and redeem boys as Dr. Leonard showed us he had in Ohio, we could do it here. We are arranging to try, anyway."

The Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance has just celebrated its jubilee at Toronto. Hon. G. W. Ross, who was one of the principal speakers, grew reminiscent, and in the course of his remarks, in responding to a toast to The Grand Division, said he first became identified with the order forty-seven years ago, and had many times since attended the annual conferences. He observed that the Sons of Temperance was a continental order. The exchange of good fellowship between Canadians themselves was a grand thing, but it was still more delightful when different nationalities united together on such an occasion as marked the diamond jubilee of the order. In referring to the objects of the order, he urged that it was the first duty of the members not to forget the purpose for which the order was originally established—namely, the rescuing of men whose habits were not what they should be, and the taking hold of the young people and instilling into them a temperance sentiment with a view to guarding themselves against the temptations frequently confronting them. These two principles were kept in the foreground. There were still many men to be reformed, and it would be well to save from the fire those who were in danger of being consumed. He spoke well of the work the churches, the W.C.T.U., and the temperance societies had done, and expressed the opinion that local option would wipe the liquor traffic out of existence.

The question of compensation to those who would be driven out of the trade were prohibition enacted has perplexed many worthy souls, who would fain see temperance legislation passed but do not wish to do an injustice to those who may have vested rights through having had Government license, John G. Capers, United States inland revenue commissioner, in an article in Harper's Weekly, points a way out of the difficulty by proposing that the distilleries be utilized for the manufacture of denatured alcohol, now so much used in the arts, and which could be employed as fuel, etc. He says: "When the knowledge of what Germany and other European countries were doing with denatured alcohol began to be disseminated in this country, when its great utility for purposes of heat, lighting, motive power, and commercial manufacture were made known, the Atlas distillery stopped making whiskey. The last gallon was shipped out from its doors three years ago, and today, instead of contributing its thousands upon thousands of barrels of strong drink, its mills are grinding grain and its cookers, vats and stills are seething with the processes that go to the making of denatured alcohol. The Atlas has ceased to be a drink-maker, and is helping to turn wheels and heat houses by the new, cheap agent, and assisting the cunning works of commerce and the arts. It is no longer the Atlas distillery, but the United States Industrial Alcohol Distillery, and about its buildings there hang the pungent odor of benzine and the scents of numberless chemicals used in the formulas by which the denatured alcohol is fitted for various purposes." That there is a market for this product is shown by the fact that Germany makes 78,000,000 gallons annually from potatoes alone.