

Canadian News

(Continued from Page 1)

armed the policemen. They were just proceeding to call the police, when the patrol wagon arrived on the scene. Explanations were made, but the man with the can had disappeared. It was for him the wagon had been summoned.

Nova Scotia

HALIFAX.—Emergency measures, it was learned, were necessary to overcome insubordination among some of the soldiers on board the transport Empress of Britain which docked here Feb. 24. During early hours of the trip several men absolutely refused to carry out fatigue duties assigned to them. It was not until Col. J.M. Yates, the officer commanding the troops on board, threatened to order the vessel back to a British port that the difficulty was overcome and the men in question carried out their orders.

New Brunswick

ST. JOHN.—Lieut. R.L. Johnson and E. R. Osten, were drowned in the Kennebecs river near here. They were crossing the ice in an closed automobile, when the car broke through and floated under the ice. Col. McAvity, who was also in the car, and the chauffeur managed to swim to an opening.

Release of Sinn Fein in English Prisons Demanded by Irish People

The London News, according to an Oregonian dispatch, says that Irish opinion is greatly stirred over the failure of the British government to release the 20 Sinn Fein members of parliament in English prisons. The News says the Sinn Fein leaders had good reason to believe that the men were to be released but there is now no prospect of their being released and the position is ten times worse than it that prospect had never been held out.

"The Sinn Fein executive committee considers that it has been tricked again and accordingly will go ahead with plans that were matured some weeks ago to bring this question forcibly into notice. They will be supported in this course by an immense volume of public sentiment, but it is as profound as it is understandable. For the prisoners have neither been charged with any offense nor tried and it is known they are suffering severely in health after nearly nine months in jail.

"It cannot be doubted that any campaign of force thus opened will throw the whole country once more into a state of disorder. Both the political and industrial wings of the republican movement find the moment ripe for a blow. The gravest danger to the government always has been that these forces would form a temporary union. That union will almost certainly be achieved very shortly, thanks to the unique combination of governmental blundering in Dublin and London.

The agitation may result in the adoption of a resolution urging President Wilson and the other American commissioners to bring up the question at the peace conference, says a Washington dispatch to the New York World. Friends of the president, who fear he would be embarrassed by such action, virtually admit they are unable to prevent a favorable vote if its supporters insist.

"The concentration of the two wings upon concrete issues could not have been more skillfully timed by the cleverest generals. With their banner inscribed 'Release the Prisoners' and 'A 40-Hour Week,' the allied army of patriots and industrialists would be able to rally threequarters of the population."

FRENCH CATHOLICS PETITION POWERS

The Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of France have petitioned the French government to introduce into the Peace Conference the question of religious freedom for Mexico. This is evidenced in a letter addressed by Mgr. Alfred Baudrillard, president of the Catholic University of Paris, to His Grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Orozoco, of Guadalajara. The

letter of the French prelate, who was one of the ecclesiastical mission to visit America recently, follows:

INSTITUTE CATHOLIQUE DE PARIS
74, Rue de Vaugirard
Paris, 27th December, 1918.

Monsignor:

Your Grace has already received a letter that His Eminence, Cardinal Amette, wrote in the name of all the Bishops Protectors of the Catholic University of Paris.

I have since had an interview with "La Croix," which I have the honor of transmitting to you. I have presented the request of the Mexican Bishops to Mr. Poincare, president of the republic, in the audience that he honored me with on the 17th of December last, and he said I should speak of this with Mr. Pichon, minister of foreign affairs. His Eminence Cardinal Amette, will send him a note to this effect.

I hope, Monsignor, you and your venerable brothers in the hierarchy will recognize that we have done all we could to further your wishes.

May Your Grace deign to present to Monsignor, the Archbishop of Yucatan and of Michoacan, our respects and our religious esteem.

ALFRED BAUDRILLART,
Rector.

Member of the Academy of France, Cardinal's Letter.

The letter of Cardinal Amette referred to above follows:
Paris, Dec. 9, 1918.

Monsignor:

On his return from America Mgr. Baudrillard informed the Archbishops and Bishops, Protectors of the Catholic University of Paris, in their yearly meeting, of the sad and intolerable situation of the Mexican Church.

We have been deeply moved by his exposure and we share from our hearts your sufferings, and with our venerable brothers of the United States of America we protest with our might against the outrage committed in your country against the Faith and Christian liberty. We wish that we could lift our voice so that you could obtain justice and that respect for the great principles of the freedom of the people and their liberty of conscience that the peace conference has as its principal aim to establish in the world, might be assured in Mexico, as in other civilized nations.

Not having any other means to serve your cause, we ask God to take it into His hands. We offer you and to all your venerable colleagues of the Mexican Hierarchy the homage of our respectful and brotherly sympathy.

His Eminence, Cardinal Lucon, Archbishop of Reims; and the twenty-seven other Archbishops and Bishops, Protectors of our Catholic Institute, have also asked me to express their sentiments to you. Ask your Grace, to receive them and believe me to be your very humble brother in Jesus Christ.

LEON CARDINAL AMETTE,
Archbishop of Paris.

To His Grace, the Archbishop of Guadalajara.

The Interview.

The interview which Mgr. Baudrillard gave to the celebrated Catholic daily of Paris, La Croix, follows, as narrated by the editor:

It is no longer a secret that the Bishops Protectors of the Catholic Institute of Paris asked His Eminence, Cardinal Amette, to send a letter of sympathy to the Mexican hierarchy.

Why was this done at the present time?

We knew that Mgr. Baudrillard, who has been so kind as to communicate to us his impression of America, could tell us all about this subject; he has done so, and we are happy to be able to repeat to our readers the very interesting interview we had with the rector of the Catholic Institute.

"Would we be indiscreet, Mgr. Baudrillard," we asked him, "if we questioned you regarding the meaning of the act of the Bishops Protectors of the Catholic Institute in favor of Mexico?"

"Not at all. On the contrary, it is necessary and advantageous to clear the French public opinion on one of the subjects that preoccupy the minds of many Americans, the Mexican question.

"The revolutionary state of the country and the despotism of the masters that reign only by terrorism are a permanent danger to peace. The American Catholics are very anxious because of this state of affairs, that has injured so grievously their brothers, the Catholics of Mexico, who are crushed under the most odious laws.

"The conversation I had in Chicago with the Apostolic Protonotary, Mgr.

Kelley, founder of the Catholic Church Extension Society, and those with which I have been honored by several exiled Mexican Archbishops, have given us light on the situation and made known to us the wishes of the hierarchy and the Catholics of that unhappy country.

"What do they expect from us? Do they desire a foreign intervention?"

"None of them wish this, and still less the intervention of the United States. That might endanger their independence, and all are zealous patriots. But they think that one of the questions that must be treated at the peace conference is that of Mexico, and that the authority of the conference might be exercised with the authorities of Mexico to better the general situation and especially the religious one."

"Why, Monsignor, this intervention of the peace conference?"

"Because the peace of the world is endangered directly by Mexico's troubled state, because foreign capital (French, English and American) is continually in danger, also because the Constitution of Mexico now in force is Socialistic and entirely inimical to religion, and hostile against the foreigners. Peace and order cannot be restored in Mexico if religious liberty is not given to the people, who in spite of the efforts made to tear them away from their Church, are still loyal to the faith.

"All this was written in the protest of the Mexican prelates, on the 24th of February, 1917, a protest that has been recognized by a letter of Benedict XV, and to which the American hierarchy added theirs in a letter signed by the venerable Cardinal Gibbons in the name of all."

"At what price can peace be restored in Mexico, Monsignor?"

"These are the conditions that the Mexican hierarchy consider essential, for any kind of government in power to enforce:

"1. Complete religious liberty on the basis of the independence of the Church and state, as it is in the United States and Brazil.

"2. Complete liberty of association, i. e., a liberty extended to religious associations, and absolute liberty to teach; now all Catholic teaching is prohibited, and all schools have been closed.

"3. Restoration to the Church of all its buildings, churches, episcopal and parochial houses, seminaries, colleges, schools and other buildings confiscated in 1913 (without returning those confiscated in 1857), and a constitution that will allow the Church to own the necessary property for its existence.

"They do not wish to establish the old union between Church and state? I am listening with great interest, and am asking myself whether you are talking of Mexico or of France."

"Unhappily, they resemble each other," said Mgr. Baudrillard. "Without comparing our fate and that of our Bishops with that of the Mexican Bishops and Catholics, we must recognize that their justification is also ours."

"Do you not think, Monsignor, that the Mexicans will not look with displeasure on intervention by the peace conference, as mild as it would be?"

"No; nearly all Mexicans will see it with pleasure, as they are suffering greatly because they are Catholics. Even the Sacraments are forbidden them. They suffer, too, in their national dignity, as everybody knows that Carranza received German gold, and that he does not allow Mexicans to show their preference for the Allies. He also forbade them to buy Liberty bonds."

"But would not the United States consider the intervention of the peace conference as intruding on a question that they alone should solve?"

"I do not think so. The American Catholics would be satisfied, and they count for much. Also the government would be glad should any one help it to get out of the difficult situation in which it has engaged itself. Mexicans wish only for what Mr. Wilson wants to give all countries—Independence, liberty and peace.

"What joy for the Mexican Bishops if the French Hierarchy and even all generous France would interest herself in the future of those that are now enduring a veritable persecution."

"Has anybody as yet done anything in so just a cause?" was asked.

"Yes. The British embassy in Mexico has done much. It is owing to her that the Archbishop of Guadalajara was not executed, although condemned to death. The Spanish government has also shown good intentions. As to the French minister, he is purged by the implacable hatred of Carranza."

This is the very interesting message that we have had from Mgr. Baudrillard's own lips. He added that he made all this known of the Catholic

John Mamer

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Institute of Paris, and that they had asked His Eminence, Cardinal Amette, to send to the Mexican Bishops an address of sympathy.

"Thanking the illustrious academician for his good-will in answering all our questions, we think he will appreciate that we repeat his sentence speaking of the French Bishops: "May God will that the French opinion will not rest there."

WHAT PONTIFF DID NOT SAY TO WILSON

L'Oeuvre, having made a statement alleging that it had been informed from a most reliable source that the audience which President Wilson had with the Pope, consisted mainly of a plea made by His Holiness for the consideration of the Roman question at the Peace Conference, the Observatore Romano officially declares that this statement is unfounded.

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