

The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1916

PROHIBITION AND TEMPERANCE

His Lordship, Bishop Fallon, has made an unequivocal pronouncement on Prohibition. Our readers have doubtless read many references to that pronouncement in the daily press and looked from week to week to the CATHOLIC RECORD for definite and decisive information in the premises.

They will pardon us when we tell them that for some weeks past we were so busily engaged on other matters that the conduct of the RECORD was necessarily left in other hands.

Following a reference to the matter at a public function His Lordship gave to the press this letter. A paragraph or two seem to treat the subject so fully that we were inclined to quote in part. Reading and re-reading we were convinced that every paragraph and every sentence was significant. We therefore quote in full:

January 25, 1916.

For more than twenty years I have been a priest of the Catholic Church. During that time, and longer, I have been a constant worker in the cause of temperance and total abstinence. But I have always addressed any appeal to the conscience of the individual, using arguments that might move his free will, and endeavoring to leave to him the merit of his actions.

I am opposed to the principle of prohibition in regard to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. My opposition is based on a careful consideration of the reasons advanced in its favor, on a wide acquaintance with its effects in states and provinces where it is in operation, and, mainly, on my conviction that prohibition is foreign to the history and genius of Catholicity.

I regard the present agitation in Ontario a dangerous invitation to the State to meddlesomely interfere with the rights of the citizen and an equally dangerous attempt to regulate all human conduct by statute. It is a return to the pagan idea of the omnipotence of the State, whereas the Christian ideal is the responsibility of the individual.

The action of the State marks the limits of the free action of the individual, and the question how far the State ought to control the individual is the fundamental question of personal liberty. We are threatened with a multiplication of the functions of the State that will grievously narrow the circle of individual rights.

The German empire of today is, among civilized nations, the supreme example of State omnipotence. The very principle for the vindication and safeguarding of which we are now engaged in a colossal struggle with Germany, is precisely the principle which, in my opinion, is menaced by the present attempt to force the enactment of prohibitory and penal legislation in the matter of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

M. F. FALLON, Bishop of London.

For those who know Bishop Fallon it is not necessary to emphasize the continuous and strenuous advocacy of temperance and total abstinence which has in an especial manner marked both his priesthood and episcopate. Every child that he has confirmed, every young man that he has ordained to the priesthood has the indelible memory of Bishop Fallon's earnest and eloquent exhortation to total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. But neither the child at Confirmation nor the priest at Ordination was placed under a false conscience; the Bishop's appeal was to the free will, the moral judgment and the conscience of the individual. The youth of the Diocese of London pledged to total abstinence until the years of discretion, and the flourishing total abstinence league of the diocesan priests are moral achievements that may well gladden the heart of the Bishop far and away beyond statutory enactments. Whether or not we shall be considered sincere in saying so, we have for Protestant clergymen who have themselves adopted moral legislation a very sincere sympathy. They have little or no influence over their own

people. A handful, at best, listen to them. Not even when strident advertisement proclaims that sensational subjects will be sensationally treated do any respectable proportion of the Protestant people gather to listen to their supposed pastors. If these are to have any influence at all it must be through political agitation and what is generally considered moral legislation.

Perhaps we should except the Anglican clergy who still, as a rule, conduct themselves as wielding a real spiritual influence.

We are so fully and entirely in sympathy with Bishop Fallon's declaration on the subject of prohibition that we hesitate to put in black and white some of the reasons therefor. If we do so we wish to make the reservation that we are not fully or adequately treating a question that just now is on everybody's lips.

To start with we have ever been in favor of local option in rural municipalities in Ontario and we have no reason to change our attitude on that question. Indeed, while fully and unreservedly endorsing Bishop Fallon's pronouncement, we are, within the limits which we have always laid down, more strongly than ever in favor of local option.

It may not, however, be out of place to recall that a year before the Liberal Party adopted the Prohibition or Abolish the Bar policy that the present writer objected strenuously to committing the Liberal Party to the policy of Prohibition. The fact that we then were well known to have advocated local option made our unqualified opposition to provincial prohibition all the more remarkable.

Some of the reasons we then gave in our opinion still hold good:

While we acknowledge the right of each municipality to regulate its own affairs in the matter of licensed hotels we felt that the voters of Thunder Bay, Essex and Carleton had no right to decide whether or not Toronto should have licensed hotels. Moreover, we felt that the hypocrisy, the contempt of law, and the evasion of statutory provisions were inimical to all true respect for law and productive of a spirit with regard to law altogether undesirable.

While we recognized the right of each municipality to set its own household in order we failed to see why voters who never saw Toronto, should decide whether or not Toronto should have licensed hotels; even if Toronto should observe a law forced upon her by outsiders.

"I regard," writes His Lordship, "the present agitation in Ontario as a dangerous invitation to the State to meddlesomely interfere with the rights of the citizen and an equally dangerous attempt to regulate all human conduct by statute."

This no thoughtful observer will regard as an imaginary danger.

Provided the hysteria lasts tobacco, tea and coffee should quickly follow alcoholic beverages into the list of things prohibited by law and surreptitiously enjoyed.

The reaction may, of course, set in before the utterly irrefragable vegetarian arguments against the use of flesh meat as a food convince our sumptuary legislators that meat should be prohibited and milk for babes prescribed.

There is, however, no reason to think that our Act of Parliament moralists will limit their statutory morality to the matter of food and drink.

Some barren fig tree of a woman may be authorized by law to initiate normal children of decent parents into the mysteries of sex hygiene. Men and women may have to secure a certificate that they are physically fit to contract marriage, and afterwards a license to have a certain limited number of children.

Just where the social uplift by legislation may stop it would be difficult to predict; for even these things have their advocates.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS

One of our contributing editors forwards to us the following letter which was addressed to him:

Dear Sir,—Your article on the school question in last week's RECORD is entirely wrong in one particular. You say a Protestant father, whose wife and children are Catholics, is not allowed to support a Separate school in Ontario. This is rubbish of the worst kind. The very reverse of what you say is the truth.

In passing, a word or two to our esteemed correspondent. The CATHOLIC RECORD has one Editor. Two or three, if it is true, contribute something to its columns. But even

these are subject to the Editor's supervision. We do not, for instance, accept a contributing editor's opinion on a school question. We fully inform ourselves before writing on such a subject. And we wrote the article in question.

Our esteemed correspondent does not know whereof he writes so confidently. What we said is perfectly true. Even if our esteemed correspondent were able to get a glass of beer on Saturday night it would not permit the serving of drinks during prohibited hours.

There are places where Public school supporters are ashamed to enforce the law in the premises; but the law does not allow a Protestant, whose wife and children are Catholics, to pay his school tax to a Catholic Separate school.

THE CAPITAL LIFE

The Capital Life Assurance Company has just held its annual meeting.

For four years the CATHOLIC RECORD has had a good word for the Capital Life Assurance Company. We fully realize the responsibility that rests on us in saying to our readers that this is a safe insurance Company.

In 1906 and 1907 all our legislators recognized the responsibility they were under with regard to insurance and they appointed a commission to enquire into the conditions and principles which underlay Life insurance. In 1910 all the necessary safeguards for the insured were incorporated into the Federal law. In 1912 two years afterwards, The Capital Life came into existence. It was inaugurated under the rigid conditions that the Insurance Act laid down for the protection of the insured.

Just because the Capital Life is Catholic in its inception and management the CATHOLIC RECORD is all the more particular in giving its assurance that this Company offers safe and sound insurance to our readers. Canadian Insurance, a technical journal which is not likely to favor a Catholic Company as such, has this to say of the Capital Life:

"It would probably be difficult to find a company more admirably managed in its early years than the Capital Life. At the end of the fifth year 1915 it can boast of twelve months' business record superior to many of the oldest companies in the world. Its new business issued during the year was \$749,218, and its insurances in force increased by no less than \$267,000 during the year. This is a greater increase than in 1914 and it is a tribute to the success of the Capital Life, which can be measured when we explain that the total business in force of many companies at the end of the previous year. The premium receipts again—unlike those of many other companies—showed an increase of \$8,325, whilst the expenses were only a little more than in 1914. Consequently the policyholders' surplus (including stock capital) increased from \$139,238 to \$147,084, even after the company had reserved of \$10,817 more than the Dominion Government basis requires. The Capital Life assets now total \$321,710, and the insurances in force \$2,779,898 and we can recommend the company to the public as thoroughly sound and safe and as one of the best managed institutions Canada possesses."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE REV. R. J. CAMPBELL, who, as minister of the City Temple, London, England, gained world-wide notoriety through formulating a new system of Theology which eliminated the supernatural, and who later, within the year, announced his abandonment of that platform and his intention of transferring his allegiance to the Church of England, has been as good as his word, and is now in full Anglican communion, with the prospect immediately of being admitted to clerical status. So far as this means his repudiation of practical infidelity he is to be congratulated upon the step he has taken, but in face of the doctrinal chaos which exists within the Anglican fold, Mr. Campbell is, after all, not likely to find that the shift has made any appreciable improvement in his position. Indefiniteness, uncertainty, and toleration of any and every form of belief or unbelief—that is, comprehensiveness—are the watchwords indelibly emblazoned upon the standard of the Church of England.

THE WELL INFORMED WRITER

THE WELL INFORMED writer whose "fourth column" in the Mail and Empire is the vehicle of instruction to thousands throughout Canada, had recently some timely and impressive remarks upon the revival of the religious spirit in France as an effect of the War, taking the ruined cathedrals of Normandy as his text. We have barely space to refer to one or two of his paragraphs, which seem to us to testify in an exceedingly effective way to the innate religious character of the great body of the people of France. Whether the spirit thus evidenced will have a lasting influence upon the body politic time alone can tell. The governing authorities

are still infidel: will they be able to outlast the war, and to withstand the great uprising of Catholic devotion which cruel and devastating war has set in motion?

AS TO the creation of those great monuments of mediæval piety, the cathedrals of Northern France, the Mail writer quotes thus from Sterling Heilig, a leading journalist of the day. The Cathedrals, he ejaculates, each one ruined is irreparable, and it is vain to say, we will rebuild them:

"How shall anyone rebuild them? They were built by entire populations. The Cathedral of Laon was a splendid mark for their canons; and Jean de Bonneton deems that it is wrecked for good. It stands high on a steep butte. In the year 1280 the people of two cities and 14 towns quarried the stone and transported every block to the summit by hand! As at Amiens, after giving their money, they gave their labor. They worked day and night, in rags, by the light of lanterns, singing hymns.' At Chartres in the year 1194 it was grandiose. All the country round about, burghers, artisans, workmen and peasants, 'locked' for 50 miles to offer their labor gratuitously. Entire villages emigrated to Chartres in a body, for the purpose."

HIMSELF TAKING UP THE STRAIN

The Mail writer continues: "Tourists never cease to admire these marvelous churches—wondering how they could have been built almost a thousand years ago, in ages supposedly dark and poor. It was accomplished only by this gratuitous working together of all the people. Have you any idea what it would cost to rebuild a cathedral like that of Chartres to day? In 1840 a group of eminent French architects under Lassus calculated that if Chartres Cathedral had to be rebuilt in their time it would cost \$25,000,000. At present values of material and labor, the estimate would be nearer \$60,000,000. Now, it is a matter of history that 80 great cathedrals and 500 abbey churches were constructed in France during the reigns of Phillip-Augustus, Louis VIII, and Louis IX, i. e., between the years 1180 and 1270. The Abbe Balleau, in his monograph of the Cathedral of Chartres, thus estimates—in connection with the architects above mentioned—that had the work and material been paid even at the cheap rates of the Middle Ages, the capital accumulated in those ninety years would represent \$1,000,000,000."

AND WHAT meaning has all this for modern France? Simply that by their Catholic instinct, the people in this hour of stress flock to their churches as to havens of refuge. Those that have escaped the hammer of the invader are never empty. Hour after hour, all day long, in the centres of population those old churches are black with worshippers. It is estimated that at the Te Deum in Notre Dame, Paris, for the victory of the Marne a congregation of 100,000 overflowed that great edifice—a thing that has not happened for a hundred years. And so it is throughout the country, until the voice of all France, as if realizing that Divine forces are at work, is raised in one pean of praise and supplication for its preservation thus far and for its salvation as a people. Will this change be permanent? That no man can say, but one thing is sure that at the present time France is undergoing a tremendous religious revival.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

A GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY

At various times in this column we have pointed out the great importance of the Russo-German Caucasus campaign, even going so far as to intimate that Grand Duke Nicholas had been assigned no unworthy role when given the command of the Russian forces in that region. A slight study of the map will reveal the vast importance of the recent Russian victory; as well as what it would mean if the Turks had been successful in the Trans-Caucasus field of operations. The fall of Erzerum is one of the most important and decisive victories of the whole War.

A Budapest despatch, received in London by the Exchange Telegraph Company, says a big battle is raging west of Erzerum between the Turks, who are making a desperate rally there, and the victorious Russians. The remnants of the city's garrison—which is believed to have consisted of 100,000 men—are being hard pressed by the Russians among the mountains, but the main body of the Turkish army of Caucasus seems to be heading toward Sivras in a disorderly rout. There are as yet no figures regarding the number of prisoners captured by the Russians, but despatches speak of the "large numbers" taken and the great trophies made by the Siberian troops, who constituted the attacking force. A thousand guns were captured and the forts were found to be of the most modern construction. The

Czar has appointed the Grand Duke Nicholas honorary headman of the Cossacks of the Caucasus.

Already the results of Russia's great victory begin to appear. Although the Turkish official despatches have not said a word about the fall of Erzerum, the news has become known in Constantinople. Serious talks occurred there on Thursday, the crowd denouncing the war and the Young Turks. German police attacked the mob, and German troops are guarding the Sultan's palace and the Ministerial offices. More significant even than the anti-war demonstration is the action of Turkish troops ordered to Armenia, in refusing to proceed to the front. Disturbances took place also at Smyrna and Beirut.

Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who has been depending on Turkish bayonets for the defence of the Black Sea coast while the Bulgars were conquering Serbian Macedonia, has hurried back to Sofia from Vienna to make other arrangements. Turkey is certain to recall her troops from Bulgaria to stay the Russian advance in Asia Minor. The fall of Erzerum may prove the equivalent of the removal of the keystone from an arch—Turkish power may come crashing to the ground in all directions. Trebizond, the chief Turkish port on the southern shores of the Black Sea, is reported to be in straits, and there is no possibility of sending reinforcements, as the Russians control the Black Sea.

ROUMANIA

If Roumania is concentrating her army on the Bulgarian border, as reported, she is giving public intimation of her intention to join the Allies. The action reported would be that which the Government of Roumania would take preparatory to a combined movement to drive the Germanic forces out of the Balkans and begin the conquest of Transylvania. To cross the passes which separate the Transylvanian plain from Roumania while leaving her own territory to attack all along the Danube by a composite army of Bulgars, Austrians and Germans would be folly Roumania is not likely to be guilty of. The first business of the Roumanian army will be to put Bulgaria out of action while the Russians hold the Austrians fast to the Galician and Bessarabian terrain. Roumanian intervention is expected some time next month. An advance from Saloniki simultaneously must have been arranged by the Allies before Bucharest gave consent to the project.—Globe, Feb. 19.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

Special Cable to THE CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1916, Central News)

London, Feb. 19.—Parliament resembles in a curiously mixed mood. On one side the Ministry, especially Mr. Asquith, is more powerful than ever. On the other side, the daring and immunity of the Zeppelin airships and the exaggerated accounts of the success of Germany in breaking the blockade through Holland with iron ore have produced a good deal of popular unrest. The hall has been fanned into flame by the shrieking appeals of the Daily Mail and the excitable extremists.

More reasonable people criticize the Ministry in a calmer way by recalling many moments of indecision and tardy action. These criticisms are disappearing under the knowledge that the Allies have at last come to a common understanding regarding their objects. They are reaching the point when the joint military and political council meeting in Paris will subject all military and political movements to a single direction. The visit of the French Premier, M. Aristide Briand to Italy, following the frequent visits of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George to Paris, have now made such unity of direction certain.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

A GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY

The change in the Russian premiership is another favorable point, as many people in England have felt great misgiving at the triumphant position of the reactionaries, symbolized in studied insults to the Duma. With all these things are the preparations for making the next few months decisive. But here there is a difference in the outlook of the Central powers and the Allies. As time evidently fights on the side of the Allies there is less inclination among them to force the issue by early and risky big advances with inevitably gigantic losses, with uncertain results. The Germans, on the other hand, are confronted with the growing discontent of the underfed population, including hundreds of thousands of widows, and with an approaching financial crash, seem to press recently for some decisive victory on the western front.

This strategy is viewed with calmness and satisfaction by the Allies, who disregard a small advance into the first or second line of trenches in the confident knowledge that such advances are costly to the enemy with daily diminishing power in men, and that they will be easily arrested when they pass the first front. As things look now a big advance of the Allies is more likely on the eastern front than on the western. The recovery of the Russian army, their growing supply of ample munitions, no longer are doubtful. At the same time indications point to Roumania entering the conflict on the side of the Allies when the Rus-

sian advance begins in the Spring, and the expedition to Salonica has justified itself by the steady pressure it is exerting on the Bulgarian and German armies, and as a threat of joining this big concentrated advance when the right moment comes.

A growing sense of this peril in the east among the Germans is indicated by the practical abandonment of the long trumpeted attack on Egypt. Thus in England to-day are two sentiments. On one side is the growing sense of the imminency of her task, and consequently the necessity to put forth all her resources, with the equal necessity of economizing her resources. On the other side is the confident hope that her enemies have already reached their zenith and must begin descending, while she and her Allies are only now getting to their top note with a big superiority of men, money and munitions, which this year brings. The beginning of the end for Germany must be expected within the year. Some prophets, especially those who are in Switzer-land, and have gained inner knowledge of Germany's internal conditions, believe the decision must come by July. Another view is that the war will last until the late autumn, especially in view of the Allies' growing faith in time and attrition—rather than in big rushes as decisive factors.

The Irish members returning to Parliament from Ireland bring hopeful news regarding Ireland's attitude. The success of the party in warding off conscription for Ireland has silenced the voice of faction. Though well paid emissaries of Germany still try to stir up mischief, Ireland stands strong behind Mr. Redmond and his policy.

You can be of course in many parts of France without realizing that she is passing through one of the most cruel wars in her history. In Paris you are struck, of course, with the loneliness of the streets where people pass in units instead of hundreds. There do not seem to be many empty shops as at the beginning of the war, but there is even a certain approach to the normal. I ran down to the south for some days to get rid of a troublesome attack of insomnia, and there bathed in sunshine and with the indescribably beautiful scenery still as in olden times, one might imagine that the world was in the same as in those now apparently remote days before Germany spent millions to fight and destroy one another. But here again, there is an enormous change. I always choose Monte Carlo by preference from the other cities of the Riviera because I find the climate so excellent—not assuredly because I want to gamble, a passion that never had the least attraction for me. It is the old Monte Carlo, so far as at least as the general feeling is concerned; but what a different Monte Carlo from that with which the whole world is familiar. The greater part of the hotels remain closed. Some of them are turned into hospitals, and that area immediately around the Casino, which used to be perhaps the most crowded and liveliest spot in Europe, is painfully and sadly empty. The hotel de Paris has a few of its old clients; but again if you go there at the hour of afternoon tea or dinner, where you find as almost everybody in Europe, you find a yawning desert. But curiously enough, the tables are not only going, but at some hours of the day you find people in large numbers in pursuit of the fickle fortune of the roulette table or trente et quarante. But the shadow of the war nevertheless is over Monte Carlo as well as over every other place. Now and then a great singer attracts a large audience to the Opera House; now and then a good play brings a number of people, and you might forget if you did not take a glance at the audience and realize how many women were there in black, and if you did not see a wounded officer on his crutches limping along to his seat with everybody of course trying to help him—you might forget but for these things that there was a great war.

All around the coast you find military hospitals. The Riviera is evidently regarded as the best air for convalescence, with the result that there are many British as well as French soldiers scattered among the hospitals. I attended a little gathering of French officers who were at a picnic on Mont Argel, the new Golf Club that was founded some years ago on the beautiful mountain top above Monte Carlo. I was on these links—was it a few years or a few centuries ago?—with Lord Reading, then Sir Rufus Isaacs, and Mr. Lloyd George. It was as near, I think, as Mr. Lloyd George ever got to the fascinating and seductive capital of the gambling center of Europe. I don't believe that he was ever induced even by curiosity to enter the gaming rooms. In this he is in the same tradition as Mr. Gladstone, who never, in spite of his many visits to the Riviera, which he found an excellent remedy for the insomnia which now and then attacked him, could be induced to enter Monte Carlo, though he drove around it now and then. The golf ground at Mont Argel was, when I visited it last, so rough that a game there might be called mountain climbing rather than golf. Great improvements have been made since, and it now seems to me quite a good course, and the air is superb. It reminds me, a little of a golf course in Switzerland, for you look up from the smooth grass in the greens to snow-clad mountains in the near distance. It was in the clubhouse that the picnic took place, and