

RUSSIA

POPE IS FIRM IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Washington, D. C., June 8.—Charges made in the "neutral" and anti-clerical press of some countries of Europe and repeated in the United States that the Vatican is "flirting" with the Soviet Government of Russia are exposed as wholly false by the text of the Pontifical note which Pope Pius XI. directed Monsignor Pizzardo, his personal representative to deliver to the recent Genoa Conference.

An authentic text of the Holy Father's letter on the subject has been brought to the United States by a priest who recently returned from Russia. A translation of the letter follows: In the letter addressed by the Holy Father on April 29, last, to His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State, the latter was charged to communicate to the powers with which the Holy See is in diplomatic relations, the wishes formed by His Holiness for the happy outcome of the Genoa Conference, especially in what concerns the Russian nation.

Since the development of events does not leave time to communicate with each Chancery through the ordinary channels of the Pontifical Representatives accredited to the various nations, the Holy See takes advantage of the presence in Genoa of the delegations of States with which it entertains diplomatic relations, to deliver to them directly the text of the Pontifical document above mentioned and to call their attention, and through them that of the Conference, to some points of particular importance.

At the historic hour in which the readmission of Russia into the consortium of civilized nations is treated, the Holy See desires that religious interests, which are the basis of all true civilization, should be safeguarded in Russia. In consequence, the Holy See asks that in the agreement which will be established between the Powers represented at Genoa, there should be inserted in some fashion, but very explicitly, the three following clauses:

- 1. Full freedom of conscience for all, Russian citizens or foreigners, is guaranteed in Russia.
2. There is also guaranteed the private and public exercise of religion and worship.
3. Real estate which belonged or still belongs to any religious denomination whatsoever will be restored and respected.

K. OF C. CONVENTION

About 120 delegates representing every Subordinate Council of the Knights of Columbus in the Province of Ontario met in convention at Niagara Falls on June 6th and 7th to receive reports from the retiring State Officers; discuss the problems affecting the work of the Order in Ontario; complete plans for proposed activities during the next fiscal year, and to appoint State Council Officers to put the proposed plans into effect.

The opening of the Convention was preceded by Solemn High Mass, at which His Grace Archbishop McNeil, of Toronto, pontificated, and the Rev. Father Wood of Niagara University delivered a most inspiring sermon as to the aims that should actuate the delegates in their deliberations.

The visiting ladies were invited to the formal opening of the Convention, which consisted of an address of welcome from Mayor Newman of Niagara Falls, to which a suitable response was made by State Deputy Geo. Hanrahan.

His Grace Archbishop McNeil attended all the regular meetings of the convention and delivered a most interesting address relative to the necessity of a greater measure of power for the Knights of Columbus in Canada, to permit of the undertaking of Dominion wide work.

The Rev. A. MacDonell addressed the Convention on the subject of Immigration, and outlined the work he is carrying out, under the direction of Bishop Fallon, in the training of immigrants to operate farms, and then locating small farms which these settlers can rent or purchase.

of the Boy Scout movement and outlined the plans which the Christian Brothers of LaSalle Institute are inaugurating, under the direction of His Grace Archbishop McNeil, to give a short, but complete, course at Toronto University in the instruction of suitable young men to act as Scout Masters of troops of Catholic Boy Scouts, and the assistance of the Knights of Columbus was urged in helping to establish such troops in every parish throughout Ontario, also in the selection of the most desirable young men to receive the necessary instruction as Scout Masters.

STEADY LOSS MARKS EFFORTS IN INDIA

PROTESTANT BIBLES USED BY NATIVES TO WRAP PARCELS

Bombay, India.—In spite of State support and financial aid from several well-organized missionary agencies in Great Britain, Protestant churches in India are gradually losing their hold on the natives. Year by year, copies of the Bible are distributed free to Hindus and Mohammedans in increasing numbers, but the Bible alone does not constitute Christianity, and Protestant missionaries painfully realize that copies of the Bible that they circulate broadcast are utilized more in shops and salesrooms to wrap articles with than in chapels and study halls to feed souls on. As if to proclaim before the whole world that Bible-Christianity—if such a term is permissible—is far from the spirit of the religion taught by Christ, Protestant educational authorities at Bangalore decided a few months ago to eschew the name of Christ from text-books in their educational institutions to oblige the non-Christian students attending them. The authorities in England objected to this deletion and a heated controversy over the subject is still being waged.

PROTESTANT DELEGATION ARRIVES

A delegation of a few men and women from the Church Missionary Society committee in England visited India a few weeks ago to study conditions here and to see how far Indian missions justify the expenditure incurred on their behalf. They organized meetings, delivered addresses and strove by other means to make Indian Protestants realize the duty of supporting their own missions so as to make them independent of outside help. How far their attempts have been successful remains to be seen. However, the delegates must have been struck by the fact that Anglicanism in India as in the Mother Country is drifting toward atheism and materialism. Still there is a strong movement in England in favor of making Protestant missions in India more efficient. Lords Curzon and Crewe and some other influential and highly-placed laymen in the Establishment have appealed for \$25,000 to be spent on sending Protestant missionaries from England to this country, and it is announced that the Bishop of Peterborough and several other clergymen are shortly to embark for India.

What these incoming Protestant missionaries propose to do on this side of the Indian Ocean is not yet known. However, their willingness to suffer difficulties and inconveniences in connection with a journey to, and sojourn in, India shows a good deal of zeal and religious fervor on their part particularly because they want to fortify Indian Protestants at a time when matters in England are quite in a muddle owing to Protestant bishops and deans denying the Virgin Birth and Resurrection of Christ.

SEEKING CONSOLIDATION

Even inside India, forces are working to consolidate Protestantism. The Anglican Bishop of Calcutta wants all Protestants "to remember that we are anxious that a branch of the Catholic Church should be planted in India, one that would hold the Catholic faith and not depart from it." His Lordship explains that "the one faith can be maintained without the employment of identical terms." Really this explanation serves as a key to the Bishop's Catholicity. He wants to accommodate all shades of belief sponsored by the various Protestant denominations from the highest type of High Churchmen who approach Catholic or Roman Catholic ideals very closely, to the lowest specimen of Low Churchmen to whom altar rails and Holy Water fountains are taboo; from Anglicans who believe in the Bible, the Incarnation and the Divinity of Christ to the Modern Churchmen whose critical studies relegate them to the realms of superstition; from the Broad Church people to whom Rome is the "Scarlet Woman" to those Anglo-Catholics who revere the Pope as

the Head of Christendom. Of course, a very comprehensive idea, but where to get the chemist sufficiently skilled to prepare such a pill!

OBITUARY

MRS. MARY AGNES POOCK

The funeral of the late Mrs. Mary Agnes Poock and her infant daughter, who both died at St. Joseph's Hospital on May 8th, was held from their residence 410 S. Wharfedale Road, on Thursday, May 11.

Funeral services were held at St. Martin's Church at 9 o'clock. Requiem High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Poock, assisted by Rev. Father Mahoney as deacon, and Rev. Father Forster as sub-deacon. Right Rev. Monsignor McKeon was also present in the sanctuary. Interment was later made at St. Peter's cemetery where Father Poock officiated at the grave.

Mrs. Poock, who was formerly Miss Agnes McIntyre, is survived by her husband and six small children, who mourn the loss of a most devoted wife and mother. She is also survived by her sisters, Sister M. Dolores of the Ursulines; Sister M. Remigius of St. Joseph's; Mrs. Allan Morrison of Parkhill and Miss Katherine of Toronto, and her brothers, Mr. F. J. of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. J. F. and Mr. J. E. of El Paso, Texas.

The unhappy circumstances which attended the death of this esteemed young lady but deepens the regret and sorrow of her many friends and admirers and expressions of sincere sympathy are being received from far and near by members of the bereaved family.

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN EDUCATION

The battle in defense of the right of the father to educate his child in a private school has been resumed in Michigan. Defeated on two previous occasions, a group of bigots are now attempting to write the following clause into the State Constitution:

From and after August, 1924, all children residing in the State of Michigan, between the ages of seven years and sixteen years, shall attend the Public school until they have graduated from the eighth grade.

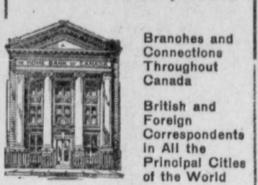
It is obvious that the purpose of this amendment is to destroy the Catholic parish school. But if adopted, it will operate equally against the schools conducted by the Lutherans and the Jews, and against any school maintained by private agencies. Worse, however, it will make impossible the exercise of a right which rests upon the natural law, and which has always been recognized in this country.

There are two subjects, it has long been recognized, upon which a minimum of legislation by both Federal and State Governments is desirable. One is religion and the other is education. With regard to both church and school, the American procedure has been one of uniform encouragement. Since 1831, there has been no State church in this country, and while the first schools were definitely religious no State has conducted religious schools for nearly a hundred years. But all have encouraged the foundation and maintenance of private institutions, contenting themselves with the loose, yet sufficient supervision secured by requirements easily met by the private-school authorities. Back of this procedure is the American belief that subjects so intimately touching the individual as religion and education must be regulated not by the State but by the individual, or, in case of the child, by the child's natural guardians. The claim that the child belongs first to the State and then to those who brought him into the world has never met general acceptance in American law-making bodies. Hence the respective States have usually legislated on the principle that while both religion and education are to be regulated by the individual, the civil power, laws which vest in the civil power the absolute control of either, or which discriminate against one church or school in favor of a State establishment, are not in harmony with the spirit of our institutions. Under this sturdy Americanism, not only the respective religious establishments, but, in particular, the private schools have flourished.

These time-tried American principles are now under fire in Michigan, but the attack is not confined to that State. In no less than eleven States campaigns are in progress to secure legislation which will force every American child, regardless of his religion or the religious convictions of his parents, into the State school. Catholics must awaken to the danger of these movements, and be prepared to resist them in every lawful manner. But clearly, the best way in which the Catholic citizen can show his appreciation of the Catholic school, is by sending his children to it. Apart from the fact that the Catholic father must react in great measure upon the Catholic school in the discharge of his duty to his children, the law of the Church is plain and unmistakable. The Catholic father, without permission obtained from the Bishop, entrusts his child to a non-Catholic school is guilty of a dereliction, which is grievously

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sinful. If he persists in this dereliction, he is as unworthy of absolution as though he had announced his intention always to eat meat on abstinence days or never to hear Mass on Sunday.—America.

CALLAGHAN'S TOURS

Mr. J. J. Callaghan announces his first Pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre and tour to Montreal, Quebec and Saguenay. Boat leaves Toronto on Monday, July 17th, returning on Monday, July 10th, eight days vacation. This will be the eleventh tour under the direction of Mr. Callaghan, as all his former tours were a decided success, all who patronize him this year will be assured of having a delightful outing. Descriptive booklets may be had on application to J. J. Callaghan, 613 Wellington St., London.

DIED

STOREN.—At the residence of her sister, Mrs. Mary Martin, 9 West 103rd Street, New York City, on Sunday, June 11, Margaret Storen, daughter of the late Matthew Storen, formerly of London, Ont., interment in St. Peter's cemetery, London. May her soul rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

The Second Anniversary High Mass of Requiem will be sung at the Holy Family Church, West Bathurst, by the Rev. Father Boucher, for the repose of the soul of John Calnan who departed this life June, 1920. He is sadly missed by his son and daughters.

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- WANTED a teacher for S. S. No. 3 Kendall, Ont. Please state qualifications, experience and salary. Apply to Secretary Treasurer, S. S. No. 3, Kendall, Ont.
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RETREAT FOR LADIES The Annual Retreat for Ladies (young and elderly) will open at Loreto Academy, Niagara Falls, Canada, at 8 o'clock on Friday evening, June 30, and close on the morning of July 4. Those wishing to attend should write early to Mother Superior. 227-2

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED WANTED housekeeper by former Canadian for no less home; must be good Catholic; from thirty to fifty years of age; in reply state age and nationality; good home and full furnished good references. For further particulars address M. F. Moughler, 52 Church Ave., Highland Park, Mich. 227-3

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