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Muenster, Sask., Canada.

St. Peters Bote.

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AN APPEAL TO THE IRISH CATHOLICS

On Sunday September the 19th, 1920 the Big Knights of Columbus Drive for funds for St. Peter's College will be officially opened for one week in the Irish Colony. The Rt. Rev. Michael Ott, O.S.B., the learned and scholarly Superior of the Benedictine Order, will make his first appearance in the Irish Colony on the direct personal invitation of the Very Rev. J. C. Sinnett. He will speak on Sunday Morning in St. Ignatius Church, and in the afternoon at St. Patrick's.

Father Sinnett has blessed this great undertaking of the Knights of Columbus and I am sure that his faithful people will harken to his call. For over twenty years of unremitting toil he has given the impact of his genius to his adopted province. He saw the Colony spring from the lonely virgin prairie with its little shacks and log school houses till today it ranks as one of the most flourishing and up-to-date districts in the Canadian Northwest. As Father Sinnett says, we have passed through the pioneer days and now we are on the eve of great events and the boys and girls of the present generation must have the advantages of higher education. He in his great wisdom and foresight sees that the paramount need of the hour is for men of vision, men of integrity, men



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, as it will proudly stand.

of big ideas to shape our future national policies in this self-governing Dominion of ours. Therefore if we the Irish Catholics of Saskatchewan want to keep up in the affairs of the world, we must not only work but read and study. Work is indeed important, but how to work, how to work usefully is essential to know, if work is to bring the lasting results that will be satisfactory to all.

The day has come when the work of this old world has become very complex, very much more than it was in the days of our forefathers. The work of getting the most out of our boundless wheat fields on these plains of Saskatchewan is now recognized to require scientific knowledge and scientific application of that knowledge.

The days of simple management, simple development, simple operation are gone; and they will never return. From all sides the cry for the trained individual, both manual and mental, is being sounded. The trained hands must work in cooperation with the trained heads if the things are to be done as the conditions of these momentous times require them to be done. That grand and noble work of Education has a very wide scope in this the twentieth century. The day is here when we have come to realize that the field is larger and the laborers fewer than we used to imagine.

Leadership in ideas is the great requirement of the day. The world cannot get along without ideas, and a fresh output from time to time; and they must be sound ideas; they must be progressive ideas, not retrogressive ideas. Very often we have found in our day many a man bob up who believes that he is a leader in ideas; yet all he has to offer is destructive criticism, to pull down some of our social fabrics that it has taken thousands of years to build up, and he has nothing to offer to replace the institutions that have stood the test of time, and time is no criterion for destroying anything. In pre-war days the men renowned for wisdom and integrity stood up against the Lord and his Christ; in their simple ignorance they tried to get the world to forget that Christ had died for us on Calvary hilltop, and make it believe that Heaven and Hell were obsolete terms.

This makes it clearer to the thinking man that all new ideas are not good ideas. Nevertheless new ideas, sound new ideas are necessary in every field of thought, in which it is open to man to make changes. Who shall form such new ideas as we demand? — The educated man who has received his knowledge in Catholic schools surrounded by a Catholic atmosphere and all the high ideals which Holy Mother Church has propounded down through countless centuries.

I am sure, gentle readers, that you have all heard old-fashioned arguments amongst untrained thinkers. Let the subject be politics, religion or history,—how does it go?

One man makes an assertion, the other denies it—he makes a second assertion with little or no connection with the first, that is

also denied—so it goes on for a while, then they begin to warm up. "What do you know about it anyhow?" "As much as you and more." Voices rise high, tempers rise high, both talk at the same time. They try to shout each other down; they make uncomplimentary references and indulge in personalities. Neither convinces the other, neither learns anything from the other. Yet one or other may have sound views, perhaps both of them, but they cannot think anything out or if they can they cannot place anything in words. Why not? Because they are not educated.

All the way up the scale of education the same thing is true. The man of modern education if he is a prudent man is reluctant to expose his comparative lack of knowledge before a man who is, he judges, better informed than he is. It is for this very reason that the Irish Catholics of Saskatchewan must lift themselves from their slumbers. They must see that the boys of this age are qualified to take their proper place in the world.

Leadership in our day is inevitable—look at that little Erin Isle that gave our forefathers birth. Look what education has done for them. It produced a great leader by the name of Eamon DeValera. He came forth to lead his people from serfdom and his followers are today standing with a united front and face the world in arms. They defy either English guns or English soldiers to make them remain a conquered people. This is due to the great educational system that is in vogue in that land today. We all must follow someone else. Nor is this at all inconsistent with ample and effective thinking on our own account. The field of human knowledge is of incalculable extent; and great indeed was the darkness that fell on the human mind when man flung his first sin in the face of God, his Creator and his Judge. Every country that has taken her place in the world of nations needs men to lead them; and the leaders most needed today are men who are fertile in ideas and can think for the benefit of all mankind and not for themselves alone. Irish Catholics today have the first call in the ranks of thinkers. The confusion of thought which befalls the minds of those who have no safe, sound, settled system of moral law and moral teaching does not work so much havoc amongst the Catholics as amongst others. Catholics make easy solutions of questions about which others are greatly confused because they have the whole system of moral theology which the Fathers of the Church propounded centuries ago and on which they base their moral principles.

St. Peter's College will be the first seat of learning in Northern Saskatchewan where these principles will be taught to growing generations. It will be under the supervision of the Benedictine Fathers, and let it be clearly understood, that this Institution will in no sense be a German College. True it is, German will be taught just as it is taught in the University of Saskatchewan or in the different Collegiates of the province. But every branch of know-

ledge that youthful Canadians will require to know will be taught at this College by men specially trained in the subjects that they will be teaching.

Reflect, people of the Irish Colony, what a great thing St. Peter's College will mean to you from a material point of view by the fact that a few miles from your doors on that beautiful slope at Muenster overlooking the Canadian National Railway this new College will be located. It will be fitted up with all the modern devices for the training of the young mind. It will be second to none in the Dominion of Canada and this is guaranteed when we consider those old established Benedictine Colleges that flourished in Europe years ago and which kept the spark of Catholic learning brightly burning down through the dark days of prosecution.

As a life-long Canadian of Irish ancestry who has lived in St. Peter's Colony for a number of years and knows what a warm spot the big-hearted Germans hold for those from Erin's shores I would ask you people of the Irish Colony to reciprocate in those feelings of kindness and let us as Catholics of St. Peter's Colony and of the Irish Colony unite to place this College on a pinnacle of greatness that will be the pride of future generations.

The Knights of Columbus will personally appeal to you on behalf of this great work and you are asked to receive them well and treat them kindly.

The allotment of your Colony is \$5,000.00; the allotment of St. Peter's Colony was \$50,000, which was oversubscribed. I am sure that that good old Irish faith in Catholic schools and colleges will assert itself once more when you are asked to contribute to this fund. May the great St. Patrick, who holds a high place in Heaven, look down upon his faithful children who today are scattered in every part of the world, and direct you to assist this great undertaking. If he could speak to you at the present time he would say as he said of old, that Catholic Education is the grandest and noblest pursuit within the reach of man.—Irish Catholics, you must not fail—Irish Catholics, you will not fail. We must take our place in higher education and hold it, and to do this necessitates in each and every one making a personal sacrifice so that this drive will be an overwhelming success.

Give to the very utmost of your ability and I am sure that the giver of all good gifts will reward you a thousandfold.

IRISH CANADIAN.