

The Catholic Record

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RECRUITING IN IRELAND TO-DAY

In the current number of the The Nineteenth Century is an interesting article on "Recruiting in Ireland To-day," by the well-known humorous Irish writer, the Rev. Canon Hannay.

We do not intend to summarize the Nineteenth Century article nor to deduce from it any particular conclusion as to the status of Ireland in war time.

Many who read the papers have the impression that Lord Derby's recruiting campaign added millions to the British Army.

"No one has ever fully explained why Lord Derby's scheme was not tried in Ireland. (Though the Registration Act was not enforced here, we have a very good list ready to hand.)

"It was urged that we did not try Lord Derby's scheme because our Irish regiments were so immediately in want of men that we could not afford to adopt a system of postponed enlistment.

"An unfortunate incident marred the opening of the new (recruiting) campaign. A few Irish emigrants were hooded and jeered at in Liverpool while trying to get on board a steamer bound for America.

were doing what they would have done if there had been no war, behaving precisely as the English behaved this time last year.

There are some light Irish touches of delicate irony here that should not be lost even on Scotch-Irish-Anglo-Saxon Irishmen.

About his hyphenated fellow-country men the Canon quietly tells the truth however unpalatable it may be to the vociferous loyalists of the North.

"The work of the recruiter was by no means so easy in the North as might be expected by anyone who took Ulster's boast of singular loyalty at its face value."

To the Censor's contemptible blue-pencilling—until recently—of all official references to Irish gallantry and heroic services on the field, Canon Hannay thus refers:

"We have heard too little—till lately we have heard almost nothing—of the deeds of our Irish regiments. We read long casualty lists and mark in them the names of friends.

"SEPARATISM," BILINGUALISM AND THE DAILY NEWS

In its issue of the 10th inst. the Toronto Daily News has a characteristic editorial on "Saskatchewan's Schools," characteristic, we readily admit, in its honesty as well as in its assertions, assumptions and omissions.

"Trouble over separatism and bilingualism in education has developed in Saskatchewan."

"There are many foreign groups in Saskatchewan, Germans, Austrians, Poles, Ruthenians and others have colonies of more or less importance.

school advocate—not even for the Daily News.

The question of English in the schools is entirely distinct from that of religion in the schools. There is not the slightest necessity for confounding them.

Not religion but politics is to blame for undesirable conditions in some places.

Bearing directly on the point at issue between us and The Daily News is the Ontario election campaign of 1886.

"It would appear that till the year 1885 the teaching of English in the Public schools (mark the term, in the Public schools) of French districts was left to the judgment of the trustees and teachers, and as a result the English language was never used or taught in some of these schools."

And yet, in the General Election of 1886, when this question of English in the schools became the paramount issue in the campaign it was allowed to degenerate into a mean appeal to racial and religious prejudice and passion "to abolish Separate schools altogether."

Had that campaign, thirty years ago, been honestly and reasonably conducted and not marred by the erroneous and unreasonable assumption of which we complain, the present bilingual trouble in Ontario would be non-existent.

It is true that most of those schools have since become Separate schools largely because of the mistaken impression that as Separate schools they would be free from government control.

AN INSULT

We do not know whether the calendar that are distributed by the local managers of our banks are selected by the head office, or whether it is left to the pictorial taste of the local man to decide what work of art shall decorate the homes of his patrons during the space of twelve long months.

reins. The one-time familiar Paddy and his pig is the subject selected to popularize the Bank of Ottawa with would-be investors, Paddy is depicted in the regular stage Irish make-up, and to give it the genuine Irish flavor a nice fat pig is portrayed attached to his leg.

As we have already stated, we do not know if this pictorial insult is peculiar to the particular branch of this bank that we have in mind.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

WHILE SECTARIAN pulpits continue to talk of unity among Christians in face of the common enemy, sectarian papers continue to dish up stale calumnies against Catholics for the delectation of their readers, thus giving a new type of illustration of the old copy book maxim "Example is better than precept."

ATTENTION was called in one of the Toronto papers a few days ago to the share of the War burden assumed by the Macdonell family of that city.

NOR DOES THIS honorable record and here, Brigadier General Macdonell's only son, Lieut. Ian Cameron Macdonell, formerly lieutenant in the Strathcona Horse, is now a lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps.

THE INTELLIGENCE that "Archbishop Mathew, whose schismatical vagaries as an 'Old Catholic' have been much in evidence in England for the past ten or twelve years, has at length realized the error and fatality of his course, and submitted to the Holy See, is not without its seed of gratification.

AUSTRIAN REPORT

An Austrian official report states that as a result of the enormous losses they suffered in Wednesday's

created by an "Old Catholic" bishop in Holland and returning to England set himself up as the "Head" of that ill-starred schism there.

SOME CORRESPONDENTS of the Toronto Mail and Empire have been disputing as to the merits or demerits of Sir Edward Grey, and heaping maledictions upon his devoted head for the "humanity" of his conduct of the Foreign Office.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE STRAIN AND THE DRAIN OF WAR

The strain upon Austria Hungary approaches the breaking point. An official statement announces that the Government of that country, in order to replace the territorials sent to the front, has decreed that the age limit for service during the course of the war will be fifty years.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the Allies are not also feeling the strain. The Premier of Italy yesterday said that Italians thought the war in which they are engaged would be short and easy, but it had become a long and hard one.

The responsible leaders of the allied nations and armies are no longer talking of ending the war by a series of great battles intended to break up and disorganize the German armies and send them reeling back to their own frontiers.

THE SUBMARINE IN A NEW FIELD

The Germans are rejoicing over the success of their submarines in destroying British shipping. In December, it is asserted, 24 vessels, among them a British auxiliary cruiser and two transports, were destroyed by Austro-German submarines, the tonnage loss being 104,764 tons.

battle the Russians in the Czernowitz region ceased their attacks on Thursday. Calm prevails on the front, broken only by intermittent artillery duels.

IN THE CAUCASUS

The Russian victory in the Caucasus was far more complete than at first stated. An official Petrograd report says that the Russians pursued the fleeing Turks as far as the forts of Erzerum, capturing them and taking as prisoners 1,500 men.

THE STRAIN AND THE DRAIN OF WAR

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

London, Jan. 22.—Very little is doing at any of the fighting fronts. Both sides are making time and preparing for big operations in the spring.

Every week sees the increase of the Allies' superiority on the Western front. A friend just back tells me that the French and British are now firing two shells to the German's one.

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filled with great dexterity, is now a minister at large, with no salary, and no department for which he is responsible.

Lord Lansdowne is an interesting figure in the public life of England. Though he is half English and half Irish, through centuries of English and Irish history, he inherits from a French mother some of the qualities of that race.

Lord Curzon, keen, restless, ambitious, with something of the splendor still remaining to him of his arrogant, youthful self-confidence and of his glory as the Viceroy of India, is supposed to be one of the keenest and most intelligent of the apostles of Conservatism but he is also without a department and his appearances before the public are rare.

Mr. Austin Chamberlain has always been known to be an assiduous and energetic head of a department. He is one of the men who was carefully trained for political life from his boyhood upward.

Mr. Walter Long, another prominent Unionist figure in the past, has had to carry some bills in the House of Commons, and has been able to do so as adequately as any other minister by a blunt frankness and good nature that disarm all opposition, as well as a readiness to listen to suggestions from all quarters, he also, however, has a tremendous amount of departmental work to do, and does not figure prominently in the House of Commons.

The two ministers of the Unionist party who are forced to the front are Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil. For some days Mr. Law took the position of Leader of the House. I do not know whether it is a permanent arrangement or not, but for the time being it worked very well.

The Leader of the House, whatever his disinclination to speak, is forced by his position to speak frequently. Practice makes perfect, and that applies to speaking in the House of Commons as well as to anything else. I have seen many members of the House who have begun by being scarcely able to utter a few sentences, become quite fluent speakers, by the very fact of having to do so frequently at several times every night of the session.

Mr. Bonar Law certainly rose to the opportunity which fortune had thus placed at his disposal. He certainly has the admirable quality of knowing the use of language. Facility, distinction, and above all the tactfulness of expression, are his natural gifts. In many respects he would be an ideal spokesman of a department like the Foreign Office. All these qualities were required when he had to defend the government and to defend himself against the assaults made upon both by the extremists of his own party whose strong idea was to destroy the Purl Voting Bill. Everybody who heard the speech was delighted with it, partly because it put his own position and partly because it put the position of the government with extreme lucidity and candor. All the prejudices against Mr. Bonar Law for his strong utterances during the Irish struggle were forgotten, and people recognized—as those personally acquainted with Mr. Bonar Law already knew, that he was essentially a frank and a sincere man.

Of course Mr. Bonar Law is somewhat new to the parliamentary trade, for he had spent the greater part of his life in business before he entered the House of Commons, and he never held high office until the present ministry; but he has very considerably advanced his position