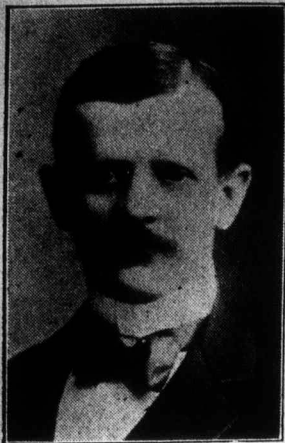


OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)



MR. WILLIAM O'CONNOR.

To save children from squalid, unhealthy or evil surroundings and to place them in an atmosphere, healthy in every sense of the word, to look after their physical, mental, moral and religious being, to place them in homes and provide them with an education that will enable them to make a way for themselves in the future, and to stand before God and the world as practical Christians and law-abiding citizens, is surely a most commendable work—a work worthy of being well and widely known, in order that others incited by example, may be drawn to the vineyard and may share in the laborers' reward.

"In the saving of neglected and dependent children, the Province of Ontario is in advance of any district or country in the world." This quotation is the statement of Mr. William O'Connor, inspector of neglected and dependent children, whose headquarters are at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and whose official jurisdiction is confined only by the boundaries of the province. The work in which Mr. O'Connor is engaged is of a most important character, and yet with the exception of those in actual touch with it or who come directly under its influence, there are comparatively few acquainted with it.

It is carried on under Government auspices, officers being appointed to see to its carrying out, for the Catholic children who come under the class in question, an officer has been appointed in the person of Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor was born in Toronto, and received his education and early training with the Christian Brothers in the schools of St. Patrick's parish. He is of Irish descent, his father and mother being both Irish. For the greater part of his adult life he has been a member of St. Basil's parish, and for twelve years held the position of treasurer of St. Basil's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul; this long term of service proved a grand training for the work in which he is now engaged, it also developed and fostered the inclination and liking necessary.

Mr. O'Connor has held the position of inspector for the past three years, during that time he has visited all parts of the province, either placing children in homes, or visiting them some time after being domiciled. Besides looking after children neglected by one or both parents, or in charge of dissolute or drunken persons, it is also the work of the inspector to visit the various reformatory institutions of the province, when requested, or thought desirable. The Catholic wards of the Children's Aid Society for the past year were thirty-five, and in the official report we read that "these children are under the special care of Mr. William O'Connor, who has with marked ability and acceptance looked after the interests of Catholic children generally. In addition to the above he has when opportunity offered assisted the various Catholic orphanages by visiting and reporting upon the progress of the wards." During the year, too, seventy-five applications were made at the provincial office for Catholic children to be adopted in Catholic families, these applications were filled either from the different Children's Aid Societies or from the various orphanages.

As an illustration of the closeness with which the interests of these children are watched, Toronto may be cited, each day two officers attend the police court, and if cases are brought up in which children are concerned who come under the provisions of the Children's Aid Society, they are handed over to those officers—one a Catholic—who sees to their placing in desirable environment. A private court is also held twice a week, where cases may be tried without publicity, thus in many instances guarding the children from the many disagreeable features that publicity often carries in its train.

To visit the children at stated periods is one of the works attached to the office. This duty in order to its carrying out with beneficial results, requires thoughtfulness and prudence on the part of the visitor; these are found in the person of Mr. O'Connor, whose gentleness and tact combined with the necessary firmness make him just the desirable officer for this delicate and important task. The foster parents in whose homes these children are placed, are always encouraged by a visit from the inspector and far from resenting his coming look gladly towards it.

Mr. O'Connor has on several occasions added a good deal of information to the general fund possessed by those interested in the subject of the care of neglected children. In 1901 he was delegate to the Conference of Charities and Corrections, held at Detroit, he was also a delegate to the conference lately held at Buffalo. Toronto societies too, had had the benefit of the lucid explanations which he is always prepared and glad to impart to those interested. Mr. O'Connor is a member of the C.M.B.A., but, apart from this, the many duties connected with his work do not permit of membership in many associations. Any information connected with the subject will be gladly forwarded by Mr. O'Connor on application to him at his office at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

AFRICAN MISSIONS.—In all the churches throughout the diocese, the collection taken up at the Offertory on the Feast of the Epiphany, is to go towards the support of the African Missions.

FOR THE JUBILEE.—Friday being the 8th of the month, devotions in preparation for the coming jubilee of the Immaculate Conception will be held in the different churches. Vespers and Benediction are announced in addition to the Masses for the day.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—At St. Helen's on Sunday last the financial statement of the Building Fund of the parish, was read from the pulpit. A sum, amounting to a little over three thousand dollars, collected since the clearing off of the debt was shown to be on hand; new districts had been added to the collectors circuit, and these during the past three months had raised the average to over one hundred dollars a month. Altogether the system inaugurated in the parish about six years ago has proved itself the most satisfactory possible to the pastor and executive, and one, too, which falls but lightly upon the people at large.

CIVIC ELECTIONS.—During the past week the city has been given over almost entirely to the civic elections. The usually exciting Mayoralty contest was this year missing. Mayor Urquhart being returned by acclamation. So far as we Catholics are concerned, we are not in quite as good showing as last year. This, however, is probably due to the new system of electing and voting which seems to have minimized chances all round.

Mr. Burns who, for years, did good service for the city, is now altogether out; running, not for alderman, but for one of the four controllers, it is not perhaps greatly to be wondered at that he was defeated, as this position carrying with it \$1,200 a year, was keenly contested. The election of Alderman Hubbard representative of the colored people, as one of the four controllers, is one which does Toronto credit, showing as it does that prejudice was not allowed to stand in the way of the recognition of merit. Mr. E. J. Hearn, who ran for aldermanic honors in Ward 4, presented himself to the city for the first time; his defeat is no subject for discouragement; though well known to his co-religionists, he was, perhaps, not so well known to citizens generally; this year's introduction will tend to future success. The re-election of Alderman J. J. Ward, together with his heading the poll in Ward 6, was no surprise. As one whose activity in the City Council has for some years made itself felt, the election of Alderman Ward is assured whenever he chooses to present himself.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.—This election at the time of writing, is not yet over; though one of the most important in its results, it is one to which little public interest attaches itself. The system of "open voting"

under which the election takes place, is regarded with so little countenance, that sooner than submit to it the majority of ratepayers absent themselves—as will happen at the coming election—each competent and popular, each, too, a personal friend of many of the ratepayers; at the same time in all probability one possesses, even to the admirer of both, some quality on qualities, which make him better suited to the position than does the other; to acknowledge this, however, in open voting is to give undoubted offense to the one whom the vote will act against; the "ballot" would make recognition of fitness possible without offence to either. We have still some remnants of old pioneer days, which require to be swept away before the manner of selecting a School Board, will be satisfactory to the minds of the majority.

THE CRIB IN ART.—A marked improvement is noticeable in the presentation of the Crib in our churches at Christmas. Many years ago, crudity in this connection was probably not conspicuous under the then existing circumstances, but looking back to a few years only, the make-up of some of our cribs was anything but suggestive of the reality. A change for the better is everywhere observable; the paper angels and tawdry ornamentation once part of the make-up, are now rare; occasional cheap scrolls are still to be found, but in time they, too, will probably disappear.

St. Patrick's Church of our city has long been first in the matter of crib equipment; the Cathedral, too, has now a complete outfit of figures in stone; the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, the shepherds, the sheep, ass, and ox are all there; and the effect is highly suggestive. Even in our poorer churches, where much statuary is as yet impossible, simplicity appears to be the key-note; the bare surroundings and the straw covered floor now presented, seem in much better taste and are much more satisfying than the more elaborate and gilded garnishings of the Christmas Crib of the past.

Deaths in United States

There were, according to the census, about one million deaths in the United States in the year 1900, from all causes. Two diseases claimed over one hundred thousand victims, twenty-three carried off from ten thousands to one hundred thousand, and the remaining 193 causes of death range from ten thousand downward. The following table gives the number of deaths from the twenty-five principal diseases:—

Disease	No. of deaths.
Consumption	109,540
Pneumonia	105,900
Heart disease	68,450
Typhoid fever	35,310
Bright's disease	32,150
Old age	29,200
Apoplexy	26,980
Cancer	25,930
Cholera infantum	25,270
Paralysis	22,540
Bronchitis	20,150
Enteritis	19,660
Meningitis	19,400
Debility	16,900
Diphtheria	16,400
Influenza	16,300
Convulsions	15,200
Malarial fever	14,800
Premature birth	14,700
Measles	12,800
Croup	12,500
Dysentery	11,700
Dropsy	11,200
Brain disease	11,100
Inanition	11,000

Total of above diseases999,040
193 remaining causes291,800

The birth rate in the northeastern States in 1900 was only 23.8 in the central and northern states 25.9, in the western states 26.9, and in the southern states 31.5. When to the heavy birth rate in the southern states are added a lower rate and a rapidly increasing immigration, it will require very little figuring to show where the south will stand in the next census.

You can conquer your cares more quickly if you do not continually carry a long face.

It is sometimes easier to weep with those that weep than to rejoice with those who rejoice.

There is no law against laughter, my friend. You are here on earth and entitled to its sunshine.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN FRANCE.

By a Regular Contributor.)

We have been asked to state why it is that several of the religious orders in France have asked for authorization under the Law of Associations, while others, including the Jesuits, refused to apply for such authorization. The person who asked this question seemed to be under the impression that all the orders should have either asked for such authorization or have refused to ask for it. We could easily answer this question, for there are several reasons why that which suited one order, as a course to adopt, did not suit another one. But the simplest way is to take an extract from the Declaration of the Provincials of the Jesuit Order in France. This document was signed, at Paris, on the 1st October, 1903, by Rev. R. de Scroville, S. J., Provincial of Toulouse; Rev. E. Pelletier, S. J., Provincial of Champagne; Rev. M. G. Labrosse, S. J., Provincial of Paris; and Rev. M. Pouillon, S. J., Provincial of Lyons. The declaration begins with a sketch of the Law, of its aims, of the delays granted for asking authorization, and of the impossibility of putting faith in the promises of the Government. The Provincials point out that this Law is merely another step in the warfare waged against the Church; and the fact that each fresh representation made by the Holy See was met by a fresh attack upon the liberties of the congregations, receives the utility of asking for an authorization that, even if granted, would carry with it no guarantee of freedom.

In closing, the declaration says:—"In making this declaration, far from us any thought of condemning those of our brethren in religious life who think proper to act differently. We know how full of bitterness is the deliberation. Forced to select between two evils, both very grave, between the ruin in all directions that must follow a refusal to apply, and on the other hand, the deep attack made by the Law upon the prerogatives of the Church as upon individual liberty, any hesitation is easily understood, and the Sovereign Pontiff, himself, under certain reservations, has left to the orders full freedom of choice. Several among them believe that they can find a conciliatory means of satisfying the rights of the Holy See. For our part, between the Government which insists on the condition, prior to authorization, the abandonment by the orders of canonical exemption, and the Holy See which declares—that it "cannot permit any ignoring or lessening of the direct and immediate exercise of its supreme authority over the orders and religious institutions" (Letter of Cardinal Gotti to the Bishop of France, 10th July, 1903), we admit, with all the religious who have taken the road to exile or have dispersed, that we cannot find any formula of conciliation. Being persuaded, moreover, that to ask for authorization would mean to deliver unto the Church's adversaries works a hundred times approved of by her, to sacrifice our individual rights, our independence and our dignity. That it would be a heavy blow at our very religious life, and in its most intimate relations. That, being placed in a position to render France a signal service, by resisting, according to our strength, a religious persecution that is killing her, it would mean a refusal to sacrifice ourselves for her; there remains, we believe, for us nothing else than to accept the part that our duty as Frenchmen, as Catholics and as religious, dictates. And we trust that no person amongst those who are not blinded by party spirit and sectarian prejudices, will see in our conduct an act of insubordination or of rebellion, but rather the fulfilment of that which we consider to be our duty.

"It is a painful resolution that we are forced to take all the works to which we have devoted our lives, are threatened with destruction. In an hour, when the future appears darkest for us, our greatest regret is that we can no longer work for the good of France, and to see expended—even in missions—energies that were not without credit and utility for her. Still, we assert that in our heart there is no bitterness towards those who condemn us. We do not forget that we are followers of the One who said, 'pray for those who persecute you.' May the merciful Hand of God check France on the fatal incline down which she is being dragged, is our most ardent prayer."

COLONIAL HOUSE PHILLIPS SQUARE.

GREAT ANNUAL DISCOUNT SALE.

5 per cent. for cash in addition to all other discounts or reductions

The undenoted discounts will hold good for the month of January.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

MEN'S ENGLISH WORSTED and GOOD HEAVY SCOTCH TWEED SUITS—value \$15.00 to \$22.00—33 per cent. off.

SPECIAL.

MEN'S OVERCOATS, all sizes and prices—\$10.00 to \$27.00—20 per cent. and 50 per cent. off.

CARPETS.

Special line of AXMINSTER and WILTON CARPETS, 15 to 20 per cent. Special line of BRUSSELS and TAPESTRY CARPETS, 15 per cent. Remnants of JAPANESE MATTING and FIBRE, 33 per cent. Remnants of BRUSSELS and AXMINSTER STAIRS, 20 to 33 per cent. JAPANESE COTTON RUGS, 20 per cent. TURKISH, INDIAN and PERSIAN RUGS, also PALACE STRIPS, all less 20 p.c. JAPANESE MATTINGS and FIBRE CARPETS, 15 per cent. Regular Stock of WILTON, AXMINSTER, BRUSSELS, TAPESTRY and WOOL CARPETS, less 10 per cent. WOOL SQUARE and AXMINSTER SQUARE, JUTE, JAPANESE RUGS, 10 p.c. MADE-UP SQUARES, in Wilton and Axminster, 25 per cent. MADE-UP SQUARES, in Brussels and Tapestry, 20 per cent. LINOLEUM, OILCLOTH, INLAID LINOLEUM, CORK CARPET, 10 per cent.

CURTAINS.

LACE CURTAINS from 20 to 30 per cent. PORTIERES from 10, 20, 30 to 50 per cent. MADRAS CURTAINS, 50 per cent. STRIPED SILK CURTAINS, 33 per cent. FIGURED VELOURS, from 10 to 33 per cent. CURTAIN and DRAPERY MATERIALS from 10 to 33 per cent. ALL UPHOLSTERY COVERINGS from 10 to 50 per cent. ARABIAN LACES and PANELS at 20 per cent. TABLE COVERS from 10 to 20 per cent.

FURNITURE.

DINING-ROOM FURNITURE.

SIDEBOARDS in Mahogany, Golden, Flemish and Weathered Oak, 10, 20, 33, and 50 per cent. off. EXTENSION TABLES in Mahogany, Golden, Flemish and Antwerp Oak, 10, 20, 33, and 50 per cent. DINING-ROOM CHAIRS in Mahogany, Golden, Flemish and Weathered Oak, 10, 20, 33, and 50 per cent.

BEDROOM FURNITURE.

LADIES' DRESSING TABLES in all woods, 10, 20 and 33 per cent. BUREAUS and WASHSTANDS in Oak, Mahogany and Bird's-Eye Maple, 10, 20, 33, and 50 per cent.

LIBERAL DISCOUNTS ON EVERY ARTICLE IN STOCK.
A full line of BRASS BEDS from \$10 to \$150 at 10, 20, 33, and 50 per cent. off.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

For the New Year's trade we have on exhibition a large variety of Electrical Goods and Novelties, consisting of the following:
Electrical Bronzes, from one to five lights.
Art Nouveau and Oriental Portables in all the latest European styles and finishes.
Reading Lamps in Old Brass, Gilt, Pompeian, etc., etc.
Silk and Paper Shades for Holiday Decorations.
A beautiful display of Electrolights, Ceiling Lights, Brackets, etc.
Special attention given to House Wiring, Electric Bells, and Repairs of every description.

COLORED DRESS GOODS.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS IN THIS DEPARTMENT range from 20 to 10 Per Cent. off all goods placed on Tables and Counters.

MEN'S HATS and CAPS.

20 dozen Black Hard Felt Hats, English and American styles, all Fall shapes, fur felts, silk trimmings. Regular, \$2.50 for \$1.50.
15 dozen Black Soft Felt Hats new shapes, in Fedoras, Alpines, etc. Regular \$2.50, \$3.50, for \$1.50.
22 dozen Heavy Stitched Oxford Hats and Tweed Hats, very warm and comfortable. Regular \$1.50, less 20 per cent.

CAPS.

20 dozen Heavy Winter Caps (8 styles to choose from), made of fine brown cloth or dark gray frize, satin lining. Regular \$2.00, \$2.25, for \$1.50.
Heavy Winter Caps, neat patterns, very warm (6 shapes). Regular \$1.00, \$1.25, for 75c.
Boys' and Men's Hookey Caps, dark and bright colors. Regular 40c to 65c, less 20 per cent.
Boys' Caps, with ear laps, pull bands, or Heavy Golf Caps, 50c to 75c, less 20 per cent.
Scotch Curling Tams, fancy border. Regular \$1.25, less 20 per cent.
Fur Caps, Fur Mitts, Fur Collars, all less 10 per cent.

Umbrellas and Walking Sticks.

2 lines of Neat Umbrellas, steel rods, good covers, cased, etc. Regular \$1.50, for \$1.00.
1 lot of Fine Gloria Silk Umbrellas, fine mountings, silk cased, tight rolling. Regular \$3.00, for \$2.00.
All Other Umbrellas not advertised less 20 per cent.

WALKING STICKS.

SPIKE STICKS.....20 p.c.
FINE INDIA WOOD CANES.....20 p.c.
IVORY HANDLE CANES.....20 p.c.
ONYX HANDLE CANES.....20 p.c.
GOLD HANDLE CANES.....20 p.c.

NECKWEARS.

This Department offers special inducements during this month. Several lines will be reduced from 25 per cent. to 75 per cent. See our Bargain Tables.

Embroideries, Muslins, Etc.

OFF ALL REGULAR STOCK—15 PER CENT.

Embroidery Edging and Insertions.
All-Over Embroidery and Skirting, 27 in. and 45 in.
Feather Stitching, Cash's Frilling, Fagotting.
Mexican Draw Insertion.
Renaissance Lace Doilies, Centres, Tray Covers, Runners.
Stamped Linen Work, in Doilies, Centres, Tea Cosies, Photo Frames.
Papier Maché Letters, all sizes, in Script and Old English.
Pillow Shams and Bureau Covers in Embroidery and Muslin Applique.
Down Cushions and Cosies, also Imitation Down Cushions and Cosies.
Bed Spreads and Shams in Lace and Muslin.
Japanese Silk Mantel Drapes and Tildies.
White Cream and Colored Curtain Muslins, all 15 per cent.
White Grenadine, Madras Swiss, spotter and figured.
Applique Net, Cream and White.
Tambour, in White.
Cream Madras black and colored figures. Green and White and Old Rose and Terra Cotta.
Art Muslin Bobbinet Curtain, with Frills.
Special lines Cushion Covers, in Silk, Velvet, Tapestry and Tinted Linen.
Finished Cushions, in Satin Velvet Tapestry, with Frills or Gords.
Tea Cosies, Silk, Satin and Crotonne.
Pin Cushions, long and square, 20 per cent.

5 P. C. for Cash in addition to all other Discounts and Reductions

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO MAIL ORDERS.

HENRY MORGAN & CO., - - - Montreal

PEACE OR

(By a Regular Contributor.)

A war-cloud that hangs over the far East and Japan threaten conflict at any moment before these lines are in the thunders of conflict will long the Korean coast. moment, there is yet a peace may prevail. If there has been preaching peace has really been in earnest not been playing the part of hypocrite, his influence the grasping paw of the Bear, and restore confidence and to that Empire's teagues. But the czar those who preach to those which they do not wish themselves. The utterance of the czar have been "as full precepts as a copy book; he was giving expression delightful sentiments, his gions were multiplying forces were being massed Eastern frontiers. With Siberian railway at her Russia has a mighty power the walls of smaller the Orient. There is no Japan is stronger than the ocean, and may possibly to cripple the best fleet. The czar can send against great ocean victory, or of them, cannot settle the Russia has her millions in she can summon up, at pour into Korea. Even the strength of the Mikado victory should come to his the line; still would Russia long run be likely to gain triumph. She has the armies, the resources, tion, and the patience necessary to take full advantage.

For generations has Cor lodged the guardianship and the Japanese are by willing to relinquish the Russia, like a huge glacier slowly, ponderously, but perceptibly, moving onward. India, Corea, China, Japan, towards the entire world, when the Bear of the North abode in any new section of the world, it is no easy matter to lodge him. It is true that appears less anxious for Japan; but it is to postpone the conflict, and not to ultimately, that Russia. And in this she has her enemy; more vivacious, it is simply boiling over, hasty to strike a blow.

conscious of great strength, on account of her splendid also feels that she has on her side, and that the Powers agree with her. It is to be hoped that will avert this war. If it were to be confined to Japan the affair would be bad—great as the struggle; but the danger is in the midst of world would almost drag into its vortex other Powers. Neither Great Britain, nor Germany could with indifference; their interests in the Orient would clearly at stake. It would be unfortunate if the twentieth century were to be ushered in amid of conflict such as marked the years of the nineteenth. One hundred years ago a war was abate as the conqueror swept, in triumph, from the frontiers. There was no room for the victor to try on all the continent involved, to some degree, whirlwind of destruction.

happily to come to pass a strip of land, in the far such powers as Russia were to come to blows, would be felt, not only but all over the civilized century ago the Crimean war of contention, and the Sebastopol, Inkerman, and the Crimea have remained to tell of British, French, Turkish antagonisms. If Peace be declared to be the order of the day, we may yet find Corea a history even as has figured in the past.

During the coming week from the far East will be with extra interest. Be it ill it will affect us all, to feel the great nations of the world will tend either to a universal confidence or to a universal equilibrium that has for time prevailed. The eyes are upon the Orient, at Europe's interested gaze have more or less an interest.

It is to be hoped, however, better feelings will prevail. Russia will not force a continuation of her grasping point that verges on exas-