THE CATHOLIC RECORD


## THE EMPTY CRADLE While the vast wastage humam life on the battlefields

Europe continues at a rate unparal
leled in all previous history, it is no
wonder that some are viewing with alarne the declining birth-rate am longer is it the problem of excessiv
fecundity that confronts the Wester World. Race suicide is the troubl
to-day, and on a scale to make me think. Most signacant prominen
that among the most
the path toward extinction are of the great nations pouring In Germany, in 1876, the birth-rat sunk to 28.2 . In France the popula
tion has been practically stationary for many years. Its birth-rate is low
and still sinking, being 18.7 in 1911. Striking, too, is the decline in the
United Kingdom, where in 1876 th birth-rate was 36.3 per 1,000 , bu
where it was in 1914 reduced to 23.8, the lowest on record.

## birth-rate Britain is

Brown, Vi
Archdiece
Duchess of Marlboroughinster, the Lady Willoughby de Broke, th
Anglican Bishop Boyd Carpente Anglican Bishop
Dean Inge, of St. Paul's, Dr. T. H.
C. Sterenson, Superintendent Statistics for the Registrar General, a
number of Nonconformist ministers women. The evidence heard by the
commission was taken from all classes - clergy, doctors, social
workers and specialists in various Striking were the statistics given
y Dr. Stevenson. He stated that from the date of the institution of 1840, the birth-rate gradualty rose
from 32.3 per 1,000 to 35.5 in 1871.75 . It reached its highest point, 36.3
1876 and then began steadily decline, falling to 26.3 in 1906
and 23.8 in 1912 . Few whoknow the old country wil
be sur prised to learn from the birth poorer the man, the larger, as a $r$ verge of starvation who rejoices the tenement increases. Among th
factors stated by social workers t
be resposible for the declinin room for large lios, and the
objection of landlords of working
class tenements to admit tenants The increased age at which chitant factor towards smamer familie were regarded by working class par earning career began. Now the
must remain at school till fourteen pense by limiting their number.
The empty crade is no factor lares there is no reason to believe
further reduction in the Britis give a larger yield of wealth pe
head. It would, on the contrary attract foreign labor do dhat counThere are some points in the com
mission's report which show how
necessary is Catholic teaching on
 "Catholio Enoyclopedia." The word
Ruthenian is derived from the later
Latin Ruthenia, the former name for
Russia, and in fact the Ruthenians Latin Ruthenia, the former name for
Rusia, and in fact the Ruthenians
might well be called Russians. In-
deed, the present Ruthenians declare
dit
they are the original Russians, and necie

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| share in |
| they wa |
| that and |
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| and ach |
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## ne be long spared to the $c$ Christ in tyat distant land.

## P. O'CONNOR'S


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\begin{aligned}
& \text { name Ruthenian is today used exclu } \\
& \text { sively to donote the Russians of } \\
& \text { Austr-Hunary. }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Church. In } 1595 \text { the Russian bishops } \\
& \text { of Litu Lani and Ditlo Russia deter. } \\
& \text { mined to return to unity with the }
\end{aligned}
$$

They hurl not the bolted thunder,
but their silient way they keep.
Where they have been that we know!
Where En but their silent way they keep,
Where they have been that we knowi
Where Empires bowered that were
not just.

 that the present Russia and Russians
owe their name and nation to the
accident of succoessful conquest and


ence is due to youth." Of him could
be said, what he himself wrote o
of thought beeause he beliiveses in the
existence of God and in the truths


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Awake, he loved their vices
And wove them into his rhyme;
And the musio of their laughter
Was with him all the time.
Not children alone but those who,
ough their hairs be white with hage,
oill retained the heart of a child,
onjoy his poems ; for they carry them
ack to the days when the circus was
them a dream of grandeur, when
The executios of Sir Roger Case-
ment has necessarily aroused conBy some it is regarded as a blunder,
others as a crime. Whether the
and or the othere, or, on the other
and, an act of justice, we do not
ke it upon ourselves to say. But
hhe one impression it cannot fail to
have made upon the world at large
is that his eleventh hour conversion
to the Catholic Faith taught him
how to die. And the world will not
fail to note the contrast of this
man's bearing in presence of death
with that of the presumptuous
bravado of the many who have
stepped off the scaffold into eternity
certain that they were to enter
immediately into the abode of the
Bessed. To thoughtul minds the
"Lord have mercy upon me," of Sir
Roger Casement will prove, in itself,
THE LITtLE BAND of American
a sermon.
Jesuits which, afew months agoo, went


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\begin{aligned}
& \text { great host upon whom the task of } \\
& \text { Christianizing that vast country i } \\
& \text { likely to fall in the near future. }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { and to spread and with the vast } \\
& \text { resources at its disposal in the two } \\
& \text { Americas, there is abundant room } \\
& \text { for optimism. The early explorers }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { looked upon the new continent as } \\
& \text { the gateway to the East. It was the } \\
& \text { the }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { tee gateway to to te East. .t was the ted } \\
& \text { ambition of finding it that inspired } \\
& \text { Columbus in his venture into the } \\
& \text { unknown and when he planted the }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { unknown, and when he planted the } \\
& \text { standard of the cross upon the little } \\
& \text { island of San Domingo, he thought } \\
& \text { he had already attained the goal of }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Orien and that through its portals } \\
& \text { will pass the glad tidings to the } \\
& \text { teeming millions of China, Japan } \\
& \text { and the Indies is scarcely to much } \\
& \text { to hope from the missionary develop. } \\
& \text { to } \\
& \text { ment of the past few years especiall } \\
& \text { in the United States. To our own }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { ment of the past few years especially } \\
& \text { in the United States. To our own } \\
& \text { Father Fraser, true son of Canada, } \\
& \text { may be accorded the honours of the } \\
& \text { pioneer. }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { pioneer. } \\
& \text { ONe of the little group of Jesuits } \\
& \text { to whom we have referred has had } \\
& \text { an interesting history. Father Denis } \\
& \text { Lynch was some twenty five years } \\
& \text { Lych a secular priest in the Diocese of } \\
& \text { ago a } \\
& \text { Burlington, Vermont. He was then }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { have given some proofs, that the } \\
& \text { true cure for her ills and for those } \\
& \text { weaknesses of the empire which her } \\
& \text { ills create is to apply caurageously } \\
& \text { to her the same great principles, } \\
& \text { which with such signal fortune you } \\
& \text { when }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { ago a secular priest in the Diocese of } \\
& \text { Burlington, Vermont. He was then } \\
& \text { teaching in St. Joseph's college there, } \\
& \text { but, fired with zeal for the propaga- } \\
& \text { tion of the Faith, had long desired to } \\
& \text { consecrate himself to missionary }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { believe that no such object lesson } \\
& \text { has ever been prosented to this out of many. A full roll of students } \\
& \text { people as that shown by the great } \\
& \text { from the Cotholic colleges of Eng. } \\
& \text { Colonies this month. I thank God land, Ireland and Scotland would run } \\
& \text { for it, and I humbly pray that they } \\
& \text { into many thousands. } \\
& \text { may take to heart the lesson. To }
\end{aligned}
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LETTER


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of

