

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.40 per annum. United States & Europe—\$2.00. Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, LL. B. Editor—REV. J. J. FOLEY, S. A. Associate Editor—D. A. CASEY. H. F. MACINTOSH.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1918

THE CATHOLIC RECORD AND THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THE MATTER

An old and very intelligent friend, writing from the prairies of Saskatchewan, sends us some words of appreciation and encouragement, but at the same time gives forceful and pointed expression to a complaint we have sometimes heard from other sources.

The weekly papers in question are merely reprints of the daily editions. Dailies are necessarily limited in their circulation. A daily paper must reach its readers the same day that it is published.

Publishing a Catholic newspaper is a business proposition. It must be conducted on business principles. The writer of these lines remembers the Montreal True Witness when it was a live Catholic paper wielding a widespread Catholic influence.

Advertising, of course, is a consideration with a Catholic paper. Its value is determined by the circulation of the paper and the class of its subscribers. The circulation of the CATHOLIC RECORD was less than 10,000 in 1900; in 1906 it was 18,600; at the end of 1912 it was 27,400.

Then there is advertising and advertising. Most of the papers in this country are affiliated with one or the other political party. With the ups and downs, the ins and outs, political parties their revenues fluctuate.

scriptions cannot be too squeamish as to the advertising they admit into their columns.

Our correspondent mentions the high cost of living. Does it not occur to him that this weighs on the publisher quite as much as on the subscriber?

John McBain, in the London Daily Mail, has an interesting and instructive article on the cost of newspapers in England as compared with America. Here the great dailies have no such circulation as in England.

The American publisher has met the difficulty in several ways. In many localities the newspapers are combining to increase their price from a halfpenny to a penny.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

A good deal of utter nonsense passed for profoundly intelligent criticism of the Entrance Examination. In Ottawa the teacher's recommendation replaces to a very large extent the written test.

"No written examination can comprehensively cover the whole subject. At best, the test is on what the examination sets forth. If the promotion of pupils depends upon the recommendation of their teachers, there should be better order observed in the class rooms and better done for the pupil will be on trial every day.

If the written test is a "catch" test, the fault lies entirely with those who set the papers. But there is not even a pretence on the part of the humanitarian critics to show that the Entrance papers are anything other than a fair, straightforward examination on the ordinary work of the elementary school.

What "catch" is there in these questions? What will be the cost (to the nearest cent) of 18 2 1/2 inch planks 16 feet long and 10 inches wide, and 33 pieces of 2x4 scantling 16 feet long, at \$22 per M., board measure?

Write a letter to Ed. Montreal describing a home gathering.

Describe Manitoba under the following headings: (a) the soil, (b) the climate, (c) the products.

Go through every question on every paper and then ask yourself what people mean by referring to this common-places test of ordinary work as a nerve-racking annual ordeal.

Abolish the written test for Entrance to High Schools and we shall have a "checker-board" standard in good earnest. Every school in the Province takes or should take this examination, though, as we have already pointed out, it should be a primary school leaving examination.

The Globe, referring editorially for the second time to the question, has this to say that may be of more than ordinary interest to readers of the RECORD:

"At a recent High school entrance examination in Toronto the candidates from the Roman Catholic Separate schools secured a considerably higher percentage of marks than the candidates from the Public schools obtained. This is not the first time such an incident has occurred, but it has not happened so frequently as to become anything like a general rule.

The fourth form is not the fourth year. Very frequently the entrance examination comes at the close of the eighth year, when the pupils are 14 or 15 years old!

SEPARATE SCHOOL WORK

In making comparison of the splendid showing made by Separate schools, as compared with Public schools, it is not our desire to cast any odium on the latter. We wish them every success, and the more efficient they become the better we will like it.

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of Quebec. Mr. Orman ought to know if he reads the papers that not long since there was an uprising against the Protestant Separate schools of Quebec because of their inefficiency.

"The Separate school scholars of Toronto are said to have made a better showing at the entrance examinations than those of the Public schools. This calls for congratulations, and possible revision of sundry previous judgments."

Rev. Father Minehan, that public spirited and exemplary priest of Toronto, has written a letter to the Globe on this question which is of considerable interest. In making comparison of the two systems of education he has this to say:

ECHOES OF THE TWELFTH

The midsummer madness which takes possession of our Orange neighbors has now passed for another year. We are still, however, receiving exchanges by the dozen from all over the Dominion asking us to notice this or that utterance of some orator, principally a preacher of some of the sects who is over fond of notoriety.

Notwithstanding the fact that Orangemen in some places, notably in Belfast, have driven their Catholic fellow workmen from the shipyards, Rev. Mr. Orman still contends that the followers of William preach peace on earth and good will to all men.

ST. ANGELA'S COLLEGE LONDON

The opening of St. Angela's College, the announcement of which will be found in another column, will be hailed with pleasure by the Catholics of London. It will offer them a select Day School in which their daughters, while acquiring that thorough education in all the branches of the Ontario school curricula which will enable them to become practical women, will at the same time receive that excellent culture of heart and mind and the aids in the formation of character and exterior deportment which will fit them to fill honorably and usefully any vocation in life.

Why are there eight thousand miles of railway in Ontario and only four thousand in Quebec? Mr. Orman's question is that of a shallow rustic, betraying want of an ordinary strength of mind.

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Perhaps the high cost of living would account for this. But, seriously, this is also a very silly question. How will Mr. Orman account for the fact that there are as many divorce cases in Toronto alone as in all other parts of the Dominion combined, and that there are comparatively none in the great Catholic city of Montreal.

Mr. Orman concluded his speech by asking why there were two hundred and fifty thousand people in Quebec who could not read or write and one hundred and fifty thousand who do not attend schools. As press agents are in the habit of saying, this report needs confirmation, as also some other statements which Mr. Orman advanced at the celebration.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

According to Associated Press despatches, the English Methodists will not press the heresy charges preferred against Rev. Dr. Jackson, whose rationalist teachings in Victoria College, Toronto, have received much publicity through Canadian papers within the past two years.

IN CHRONICLING the death of a reverend educator of some celebrity in Methodist circles, the Christian Guardian remarked that his life had been largely devoted to warning Protestant parents against sending their daughters to Catholic schools and convents.

THE MAIL AND EMPIRE had an article last week on "Sing Sing Prison: a House of Horrors," in which the deplorable conditions

success of these schools conducted by the Ursulines in other places, leads us to predict for St. Angela's College of London a career of steady achievement in the great work of education.

ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN CONVERTED

Our Newfoundland correspondent states that recently Rev. Mr. Dall, Anglican clergyman at St. Anthony, in that province, severed his connection with that church. He has had interviews with the Catholic Church authorities in St. John's and gave assurance that his intention was to study for the Catholic priesthood. May he be given the grace to persevere and finally seek rest in the "City of Peace" like many more of his brother Anglican clergymen.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE

The population of Ireland is increasing. For the first time in many years the Registrar-General reports a gain of 1,102 in the year ending June 1912.

In any normal country such an increase, so far from being regarded as a matter for congratulation, would be calculated to cause uneasiness and depression. A gain of only 1,000 within a year would be looked upon as no gain at all. But Ireland is not a normal country—and has not been so for more than half a century. With a high birth rate and a very low death rate, the country has steadily declined in population ever since the famine of "Black 47." The natural increase was not able to compensate for the loss by emigration, and year after year the Registrar-General's Report recorded the same dreary fact of a declining population, until it began to be considered as inevitable.

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