

The Catholic Record

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CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Catholic Educational Association, which closed recently in Baltimore, was interesting and important from many points of view.

Though in one essential particular Catholic education in the States differs radically from the Canadian system, many of the problems are identical with our own. The voluntary system if it does involve the burden of double school-tax at least leaves our American cousins free from the hampering restrictions which unsympathetic and autocratic officials sometimes endeavor to impose on us.

Two of the resolutions unanimously adopted by the distinguished educators recently assembled at Baltimore have every whit as much application to our own schools as to those of the United States.

Attention should be called to the fact that promotion in the grade schools is sometimes too slow, individual pupils being retained in a grade when they are perfectly capable of keeping pace with the pupils of the next grade higher. By promotion in due time, capable pupils will be able to take up the study of classical and foreign languages earlier and begin sooner the preparation for their work of life.

To retard a pupil is not only to rob him of precious time, but of the incentive to emulation; with the result that he loses interest in study, and, worst of all, industrious habits. This is a point of the gravest importance, and one upon which the CATHOLIC RECORD has insisted in season and out of season for several years past. To take tons of thousands of children and make them keep step for eight years, the dull with the mentally alert, the lazy with the energetic, the chronic idler and shirker with the honest and enthusiastic worker; to make all these take eight years for the conventional eight grades is unreasonable, stupid, absurd, even if it did not work irreparable injury to the most gifted and industrious.

We have known children to take the first form (two grades) in one year, and sometimes in six months, and then do much better in the subsequent years than others who religiously—perhaps superstitiously—is better—spent a year in each grade regardless of ability or capacity for work.

The Entrance examination has long since become the accepted test of elementary school work. Intelligently applied it is a satisfactory standard by which to judge the work of the school. But when we hear teachers—and even priests—boast that of twenty candidates sent up nineteen were successful, prescinding from all other considerations we feel a great deal of sympathy with those who would abolish the Entrance altogether.

The entire Senior Fourth class should take the examination; but that is not enough; the Senior Fourth class should be at least 10% of the school attendance unless exceptional conditions supervene. In a school whose average attendance for the past eight years is 800, obviously the eighth grade should have 100 pupils who should all be Entrance candidates. If as a matter of fact only 40 go up for examination there is something radically wrong.

And just here may be considered the fatuous contention of some well-meaning people who hold that since the great majority of children go no further than the elementary schools it is a good thing to keep them for eight years under the influence of religious teaching. What are the facts? Go into your school, almost any school, and you will find that

often not five per cent. of the average attendance ever reach the Entrance class. Therefore we do not hold them for eight years; they are dropping out everywhere, in the seventh, the sixth, the fifth, and even in the fourth grade.

Allow 20% for those who, through no fault of teacher, school or system will so drop off before completing the elementary course, the Entrance class should comprise at least 10% of the school attendance, at least 10% of the average attendance.

Another consideration that must be taken into account is the age at which pupils complete the elementary school course—in our case when they pass the Entrance examination. If pupils are kept back merely in order that they may obtain a high standing at this examination the supposed honor they reflect on teachers or schools is an empty honor dearly and dishonestly bought.

"To retard a pupil," the C. E. A. delegates unanimously agree, "is not only to rob him of precious time, but of incentive to emulation; with the result that he loses interest in study, and, worst of all, industrious habits."

Aye, and to rob the Church of priests and the professions of Catholic representatives.

If a boy completes his elementary course at twelve, he will begin his secondary education as a matter of course, on the recommendation of teacher, parents, and priest. At fourteen or fifteen it is quite another matter, as any one who has had experience can testify. At this age, however, (i. e. fourteen or fifteen) if he has already completed one or two or three years of his secondary education he will as a matter of course continue.

The undue retardation of bright and industrious pupils in deference to a stupidly rigid, conventional system of grading works irreparable injury to the pupil himself, to the Catholic population, and to the Church.

That the Public schools are no better—indeed often worse—is no excuse at all for our delinquency in this respect.

In the ungraded rural schools promotion is less rigid, more intelligent; and the whole result more satisfactory. In Carleton county the prize winner on the Entrance Examination one year was a little girl ten years old. She did not suffer in the slightest from over-work; but did excellent work later on in the High school.

The next year the average age of successful Entrance candidates being thirteen years, the competition was limited to those of thirteen years and under. A boy of twelve secured the prize; but the condition did not affect the result as he had the highest number of marks regardless of age. Instances might be multiplied indefinitely to show that "promotion in the grade schools is sometimes too slow."

When those interested in our schools grasp the importance of this fact we shall have made one important step, of far-reaching consequences, towards the permanent betterment of our schools.

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"WHICH WILL PRODUCE THE STRONGER MAN?"

Archbishop Mundelein, in order to secure a greater number of suitable candidates for the priesthood, in the diocese of Chicago, proposes to establish a special school for the training of boys who show signs of vocation to the priesthood.

The proposal is interesting in itself and has provoked an interesting comment by a Congregationalist editor. Consideration both of the proposal and the comment may prove instructive as well as interesting to Catholics.

The plan, says the Literary Digest, "to shelter students from the world and its temptations" is strongly criticized by the Protestant editor of The Advance, who says:

"These boys who are to be the real leaders of men are to be shut away from contact with their comrades from the time they are on the average not more than fourteen years old and prepared under such conditions for the work of the priesthood. How totally foreign to our conception of the way in which ministers are to be prepared for the leadership of churches! We think that a man who is to be useful to his fellows as a religious guide is one who has grown up among them, knows life as it is, understands the conditions under which his comrades live, and so is able to be the real minister to their deepest needs. Here is the

direct opposite in ideal. The priest is to be shielded from the early adolescent period until at last he is prepared to offer the sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of his benefactor's soul. Which will produce the stronger man?"

The honesty of our Congregationalist critic is as transparent as his self-assurance and condescending Protestant superiority are imposing. But this honest self-assurance, which sweeps aside with impatience, if not with contempt, the accumulated wisdom of ages, fails to impress even non-Catholics. They are asking for results. By their fruits ye shall know them. It would be interesting to hear our Congregationalist critic explain to one of that large class of honest but dissatisfied Protestants that the divine text as applied to the two systems—totally foreign to each other—of preparing candidates for the ministry shows that the Protestant system produces the stronger men, and in what sense they are more really leaders of men.

There would be no room for appeal to prejudice or the spirit of partisan controversy; but there would be great need of a little honest humility and unbiassed consideration of certain glaring facts which the honest Protestant layman would hardly permit his self-complacent clergyman to ignore.

Archbishop Mundelein's project is unusual; he proposes to have for aspirants to the priesthood a school separate and distinct from the ordinary Catholic schools and colleges. Face to face with the conditions of life in a great city like Chicago he proposes to meet the special requirements to which these conditions give rise. The Catholic population is growing apace; the need for priests is imperative and he believes that without special safeguards vocations are lost.

Care must be taken to shelter them (the boys who show their first inclination to the priesthood) not only from the killing blasts of sinful temptation, but also from the chilling atmosphere of modern materialism, the selfish craving for ease, the inordinate love of money, the exaggerated spirit of independence which comes not only into our schools and colleges, but enters right into the heart of the home itself.

Hence it is proposed to establish the Quigley Preparatory Seminary which will educate five hundred boys under suitable conditions until they are prepared to enter the theological seminary.

Yet the editor of The Advance exclaims: "How totally foreign to our conception of the way in which ministers are to be prepared for leadership of churches!"

If during adolescence candidates for the ministry are "sheltered from the killing blasts of sinful temptation," will they be less strong than those who "know life as it is?" The wisdom of the Catholic Church demands in those who aspire to the priesthood the clean strong virility which is based on moral purity. And in this our age human nature, however sinful and degraded and enslaved it may be, looks up to the pure for leadership in things spiritual: men know how little they have lost in not knowing in their youth "life as it is."

Modern materialism, craving for ease, inordinate love of money, are not these the very diseases of the society to which the priest must preach by his words and by his life the healing gospel of Jesus Christ? Can the physician be successful only after he has contracted all the diseases which he is called upon to treat?

Exaggerated independence is another name for what thoughtful men condemn under this and other names. He can not command who has not first learned to obey. And above all the self-willed, disobedient, irreverent youth is not the one to command or lead in the name of the meek and humble Jesus who was obedient even unto death.

The priest who has learned in early youth to love the beauty of God's house, who has grown strong by leaving all to follow Him whose priest he is to be, knows all that is necessary to "minister to the deepest needs" of sinful human nature. And experience is there to prove that it is to such men, morally and spiritually strong, that human nature looks for light and leadership in the things of the soul. The servant is not greater than his Master; and the servant's training can take its inspiration from no higher, holier or more perfect source than that indicated by the life of the Master.

SOME ORANGEMEN WE HAVE MET

A stranger who happened to spend the 12th of July in some of our Ontario towns, and listened to the inflammatory speeches and party tunes, would come to the logical conclusion that there was a civil religious war going on in this country and that it was not a safe place for a Catholic to live.

We know of such a one, a prominent American, who advised his wife to do her shopping the day before, as he deemed it inadvisable for her to be down town on the "Twelfth." He summed up courage to walk down himself, and was surprised to find the store of a prominent Catholic merchant gaily decorated with orange colors and the clerks busy waiting on the brethren. We question the propriety of the merchant's action, but the incident reveals the absurdity of the whole situation. The majority of Orangemen are, taken individually, very good citizens and very good friends.

Apart from the few dog-days, that immediately precede and follow their annual celebration, the greater number of them live in peace and harmony with their Catholic neighbors and are as ready to do them a good turn as to assist one another. There is a variety of types among them. First of all there is the holiday Orangeman. To him the "Twelfth" is simply a picnic. He is out for a good time and takes the family with him. The orange sashes, the music of the bands, and the procession appeal to that innate love of ritual which he possesses in common with all men. Of the historical significance of the event commemorated he has only the vaguest idea. What they killed each other for, he doesn't know, nor does he particularly care.

He is quite content that the glorious victory gives him reduced rates on the railroad once a year, and a show, that is a good deal cheaper than a circus. He is no spendthrift and will not pay fifty cents for his dinner, if he has acquaintances in town, upon whose hospitality he can presume. We have known of not a few instances where Orangemen sat down at the tables of Catholic friends, whom they had just heard described as enemies of their country, and whose religious Chief they had just consigned to the lower regions. The amusing feature of this is, that the incongruity of the situation never dawns upon them.

Next comes the place-hunter and the politician. The former is generally found in towns. He joins the lodge not because it has any attractions for him, but for what's in it. He is not anxious to appear in ragalia on the "Twelfth" and generally finds some excuse for non-attendance. He will speak to you in the most apologetic terms of the annual parade and deprecates the keeping alive of sentiments, that are opposed to the spirit of tolerance and brotherly love that should animate all the citizens of a free country. We much prefer the gold-braided publican to this honey-tongued pharisee. The Orange politician is too well known to require any description. He is the heart and soul of Orangeism. If it were not for him, this whole anachronism would no longer be a blenish on the fair face of our national life. He keeps up the show to serve his own selfish ends.

Lastly comes the Orange chaplain. His position is the most anomalous of all, representing, as he pretends to do, the Prince of Peace. It is notorious, that, at these annual gatherings, the most uncharitable and calumnious speeches are made by self-styled ministers of the Gospel. They do more to perpetuate bitter feeling than all others for the simple-minded are more prone to believe them. An illustration of this is given in an item that has just appeared in the press. An hotel proprietor in one of our Ontario cities engaged two girls in a neighboring town to assist in the dining room on the recent anniversary. They did not keep the appointment, but sent a letter stating that they feared to go, as they had been told that the main street of the city was mined and that it was arranged that the Catholic Bishop should touch a button, when the procession was passing, and blow all the Orangemen into eternity. We do not suppose that a clergyman told them this, but we know that clergymen do attribute to the Hierarchy equally nefarious schemes, and are very much surprised that any one would be so ignorant as to accept their statements literally.

While we gladly concede to Orangemen many good qualities,

there is one in which they are decidedly lacking; and that is courage. There is a tradition, that, at the time of the Fenian Raid, an Orange Lodge near Toronto resolved, with the greatest show of valor, to defend their hall to the death. They appointed pickets at every mile in the direction from which the enemy was expected to come. A daring fellow volunteered to act as sentinel at the farthest post. After many hours of watchful waiting a fox crossed the road. Unconscious of results, he shot the fox, and immediately he heard the pickets giving out the warning. He hurriedly returned to the hall to explain matters; but it was deserted. This story may or may not be true, but it certainly supplies a precedent to many things that have happened, not in Ulster alone, during this war. It would be interesting to know what percentage of the brethren who have gone to the front were emigrants who joined the lodge to get a position in the towns and cities of Ontario. When Carson was raising his army of rebellion, over two hundred Orangemen in one township in Ontario volunteered to join his forces; but when the real war came and the recruiters visited that township, there was not a single hollow log out of commission. In that same constituency, two hundred and fifty French Canadians from Quebec were imported, in the raising of its portion of one single contingent. After that, one would think that Orange orators and others would not have the effrontery to point the finger of scorn at the Habitant.

THE GLEANER.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE GENUINE L. O. L. way of exhibiting Canadian unanimity in regard to the War was to march through many of our cities on the "twelfth" flaunting the customary offensive banners and playing the old vulgar airs which so unmistakably embody the spirit of the institution. In Belfast even, they this year exercised some measure of restraint, but the peculiar exigencies of Canadian politics gave the "brethren" free play, of which, in keeping with their antecedents, they made the fullest use. That is their traditional way of showing respect for Britain's Allies.

THE EXTRAORDINARY rehabilitation of the Russian offensive against the Teutonic Allies and the vigor of her "push" into Galicia in the present campaign has made the nation the wonder and admiration of the world. What has not, however, entered into that appreciation to any extent is the multitude and variety of the obstacles which in her conduct of the War and the solution of her internal economic problems Russia has had to overcome as a prelude to this new offensive. There has been no question of deprivation to her people of the ordinary necessities of life, such as presses now so heavily upon both Germany and Austria, but the stoppage of her customary sources of supplies of manufactured goods, and the comparatively restricted area of her seaports have created problems which have pressed heavily upon her.

QUITE APART from military and naval needs, two paramount facts have contributed to increase Russia's immediate needs for supplies, chiefly of manufactured goods, from outside. These have been tersely summarized in a recent issue of Kelly's Monthly Trade Review. It must be remembered, says that periodical, that until the opening of hostilities she drew about 50 per cent. of her imports from Germany and Austria-Hungary. This inflow has of necessity been cut off. Practically the whole of her land frontier has been close to commercial traffic, and her harbor accommodation, even if open all the year round, is quite inadequate to deal with the imports, and even less so with the exports.

TO ADD to the difficulties the chances of War have temporarily at least deprived Russia of the most highly-developed industrial portions of her territory, thus increasing her requirements by reducing the facilities for their supply. So that while the demands for imports from allied and neutral countries is on the increase, the ability to export her much bulkier produce to pay for these imports is greatly reduced. The consequence is a serious adverse balance of trade against Russia, with a correspondingly high rate of exchange. The extent of the latter may be realized from the increase of the pre-

war discount on the rouble from 1 to 67 per cent.

NOTWITHSTANDING THIS heavy handicap following upon the reverses of 1915 (which owing to Russia's state of unpreparedness in the matter of munitions were inevitable) the great Muscovite nation has now the whole world at her feet. It is hard to apportion praise where all are doing so well, but having regard to the former estimate of Russia as an unwieldy giant, half barbarian and half tyrant, her powers of recuperation and her rapidity of action in 1916 may well be called phenomenal. And to none has the surprise occasioned by this development been greater than to the German, who, from proximity of border, and past trade relations, may be presumed to have known his big neighbor best.

IT IS refreshing to find a Protestant capable of a common-sense view of Protestant propagandism in Latin countries, and in the Episcopal Bishop Anderson of Chicago we have that man. We noticed his utterance on the subject in the columns of our Philadelphia contemporary, the Catholic Standard and Times, some time ago, but in view of the ever-recurring twaddle on the subject from interested parties, Bishop Anderson's sentiments are ever timely. The article from which this excerpt is taken appeared originally in the Bishop's diocesan magazine. It cannot have too wide publicity.

"IF WE can help South America," he wrote, "in the name of God let us do it. Let us be sure, however, that we help and not hinder. Protestant propagandism in Latin countries has not so far demonstrated great skill in ministering to the people. The missions in Italy, France, Spain, Quebec and elsewhere—they are all preeminently respectable and preeminently unsuccessful. It looks as though the Latin people and the Latin Church must travel together. Perhaps we can help them by administering to our own people in their midst and trying to set a good example. Perhaps in this way we can help them to be better Catholics, and Loos offensives were attempted, but artillery alone would not enable him to reap the fruit of victory. The British infantry is clearly in the grip of a firm disciplinarian, who expects his officers and men to perform the duties laid upon them, but not to advance without instructions into positions that have not been prepared for assault. One German line of defence between the Allies and their immediate objectives—Peronne, Bapaume and Comblies—and this line is reported to be less formidable than the two already captured by the French and British. The hope that the war of trenches, which has lasted for almost two years, may shortly become a war of rapid motion in the open fields of the Somme Valley has been greatly strengthened by the events of the past two weeks. This much can now be said with assurance, in view of the advances made by the armies of General Foch and General Haig—that the German front can be driven in at any selected point. Next week's operations may prove that it can not only be forced back, but pierced and disrupted by the Allied armies.

THE statement of Reuter's correspondent that the German soldiers surrendered freely is most important. In trench warfare relatively few men are captured. On the entire western front during two years of fierce fighting fewer men have been taken prisoners by one side or the other than the Russians captured in the month of battling in the open fields that followed the breaking of the enemy's lines along the Styr in Volynia. If the Germans in the west are so tired of fighting that they surrender readily when their trenches are overrun, a month or two of campaigning in the open along the Somme might produce surprising results in the total of prisoners, and greatly shorten the duration of the war.

THE French midnight report states that the day was relatively calm on the whole front. The fierce German attack on the positions in front of Fort Souville seems to have been fruitfully costly. It is asserted that the Germans left 3,000 dead on the field as the price for the small advance made. Generaloffre seems to be content to stand on the defensive still at Verdun, leaving to the Allied armies on the Somme the work of smashing the German front. The only military operation reported in the Paris official statement is the bombing of the German city of Mulheim with many shells of large calibre, in reprisal for the bombardment of the open city at Luneville on June 25.—Globe, July 15.

TO know how to pardon, it is but necessary to remember that one is man.—St. Ambrose. Purity of heart is nothing less than the impress of divine beauty.—St. Gregory of Nyssa.

THEY WERE grand men those early French and other non-English-speaking missionaries who laid the foundation of the great Church in the United States as we see it to-day. Flaget, Cheverus, Matignon, Bruté, Negot, to mention only a few. Father Gallitzin takes rank with these, and his memory and theirs must ever remain a precious possession to American Catholics. They thought nothing of the material fabric as contrasted with the living temple in the souls of men, and they reared a generation of Catholics who were able by the purity and consistency of their lives to live down the hateful spirit of prejudice and Know Nothingism which sought to banish their Faith from the land.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE British army of the Somme, after less than forty-eight hours of artillery preparation, has broken through the German second line of defence along a front of about four miles, and now holds all the second line positions between Bazentin le Petit and Longueval, both inclusive, as well as the Wood of Trones. In the wood were found and relieved a hundred men of the Royal West Kent Regiment who had been surrounded by the Germans during recent fighting, and had gallantly held out for forty-eight hours.

The new positions were fiercely attacked by the enemy during the day. At the third attempt the Germans recaptured the village of Bazentin le Petit, but were at once driven out again, and the whole village is once more in the hands of the British. Many prisoners were taken by General Haig's army, which attacked at 3.25 in the morning, and was favored by weather conditions that blew the smoke of the bombardment and the bursting shells over the German positions and interfered with the work of their artillery observation officers. It is probable that the losses of the Germans were greater than those of the British troops, for the enemy was driven from his trenches in the first rush and had to fight in the open during the remainder of the day.

The success gained with such machine-like precision proves that General Haig is the right man in the right place. No premature dashes in the taking of positions that cannot be held. His artillery equipment is of course, enormously greater than that with which the Neuve Chapelle and Loos offensives were attempted, but artillery alone would not enable him to reap the fruit of victory. The British infantry is clearly in the grip of a firm disciplinarian, who expects his officers and men to perform the duties laid upon them, but not to advance without instructions into positions that have not been prepared for assault. One German line of defence between the Allies and their immediate objectives—Peronne, Bapaume and Comblies—and this line is reported to be less formidable than the two already captured by the French and British. The hope that the war of trenches, which has lasted for almost two years, may shortly become a war of rapid motion in the open fields of the Somme Valley has been greatly strengthened by the events of the past two weeks. This much can now be said with assurance, in view of the advances made by the armies of General Foch and General Haig—that the German front can be driven in at any selected point. Next week's operations may prove that it can not only be forced back, but pierced and disrupted by the Allied armies.

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