

R's, but to those who wished to advance further they taught Latin, Greek and the sciences. Some who came out were great classical scholars.

Edmund Rice was debarred from founding a religious order because the Relief Act of 1791, which granted certain concessions to Catholics, also contained a clause forbidding the establishment of any religious association or order. This was not repealed until 1892, when a further penal section against religious orders or associations was inserted in the new act. Because of those discriminatory laws the Order of the Irish Christian Brothers, I know you will be shocked to hear, continued to be an illegal institution until the year 1922.

However, Edmund Rice looked around for dedicated men, imbued with the same lofty ideals and enthusiasm and devotion as himself, and opened the first school in Waterford.

Times and ideas were changing. The old order was changing, and men were becoming imbued with the thoughts and ideas of liberty and democracy. The American War of Independence and its successful conclusion had an effect on the political thought in England. The rising tide of nationalism, starting in the new sovereign United States, and spreading to the Canadas, together with the victories of Napoleon in Europe, had brought a bigger idea of democracy in England and led to a more conciliatory attitude and tolerant policy on the part of the British Government toward Irish Catholics.

Edmund Rice took advantage of this, and with the approval of his bishop decided to form the members of his small community of teachers into a society consecrated by vows to the service of God and religion. In 1808 the Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Ireland was informally founded. Twelve years later by a brief of Pope Pius VII, the Congregation was formally established and Edmund Rice became its first superior.

The development of the Order was rapid and its schools spread over Ireland. In 1822 at North Richmond street in Dublin, the cornerstone of the great O'Connell School was laid by the celebrated Daniel O'Connell who referred to Edmund Rice, who was now Brother Edmund Rice, as "the patriarch of the monks of the West".

In 1875 the Order was first introduced into Newfoundland. The previous year the Order had been introduced into Australia, and the first school on the North American continent was opened in New York City in 1906.

In my native city of St. John's there are three schools which have been carried on for nearly a century. The first was my old school of St. Bonaventure College which

opened in 1875, and shortly thereafter there were St. Patrick's Hall School and Holy Cross School. Although this is a Catholic Order, a very large number of boys of various Protestant denominations have attended these schools.

The total number of Brothers in Canada is 140, and there are about 10,000 pupils attending their schools. There are twelve schools in Canada now: two in Vancouver, one in Victoria, one in Montreal, eight in Newfoundland.

The first school on the mainland of Canada, apart from Newfoundland, was at Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is St. Mary's College, where in the distant past one young Harold Connolly learned the rudiments of culture and absorbed the beauty of the English language so deeply that he has often delighted one of the great legislative houses of the world with this oratory, pouring forth his Ciceronian periods with Demosthenic force, vibrant with the musical modulation of his voice. If he is here today, let him speak.

An Hon. Senator: He is temporarily absent.

Hon. Mr. Higgins: What life could he put into the subject! And with what thundering voice and thrilling accents he would talk "of sunshine and of song and summer days when he was young".

This reminds me that one can become poetical on an occasion like this, but one must use doggerel when dealing with mundane subjects like, for instance, bankruptcy.

The Order extends throughout five continents. There are now 3,500 Brothers teaching 137,000 boys in Ireland, England, the United States, South America, South Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. There are 38,000 boys attending 94 schools in Australia.

The purpose of this bill is to form a Canadian Provincialate. At the present time there is one Provincialate for the whole of the North American continent, with its headquarters in New York. This bill sets out the formation of a Canadian Provincialate with its head office in the city of Montreal or such other place within Canada as the corporation may decide.

I draw your attention now to section 3 of the bill which sets out that one of the objects of the Order is to establish and maintain orphanages. I am sorry I did not get information on this point, but I know of one orphanage in New York, and I know there is one on the outskirts of my native city, St. John's, which has been carried on since the 1890's and cares for about 300 orphans.

The bill contains the usual sections dealing with the incorporation of religious and other such bodies, and section 3 sets out that the