

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.50 per annum. United States & Europe—\$2.50

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Advertisements for teachers, situations wanted etc. 50 cents each insertion. Remittance to accompany the order.

A proved and recommended by Archbishops of Canada and the United States, the Catholic Record is published weekly, except on Sundays, and is the only Catholic newspaper in Canada.

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In Montreal single copies may be purchased from J. Milov, 841 St. Catherine street, west.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1917

THE DUTY OF THE PRESS

The press of Toronto played the part of an accomplice when it allowed to appear in its columns a deliberate falsification of the Quebec situation by two English journalists.

That the yellow gossip of such stupid bigots could so readily get a prominent place in the press of Toronto, shows how much the journalism of that city has lapsed from the high purpose of newspaper ethics.

Any journal that foments jealousy, suspicion and malice between the two great races in Canada during the present crisis does so at the cost of national unity and betrays the fiduciary office it holds towards its readers of cultivating and spreading amongst them the virtues of truth, justice and charity.

The press being the contributor and guide of public opinion, we can see to what extent it has abused its responsibility and forfeited its trust from the following Canadian Press Despatch:

"London, Eng., July 11.—Saturday Review editorially says it is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that there is a rift within Dominion life which, unless firmness is shown by the Lloyd George and Borden Governments, may easily widen into something disastrously like civil war."

"Without in the least interfering with Canadian domestic politics we may be permitted to regret the cleavage caused by this difference of opinion over conscription. More particularly as it seems to accentuate the racial and religious differences which it always has been the supreme object of statesmanship to avoid."

Here a threat is uttered invoking the Imperial government as well as our own, to apply coercion to Quebec just as if Canada were no more than an English shire, or was still seated in the go-cart of dependent, colonial infancy.

With Catholic Austria a Comrade-in-Arms with Protestant Prussia and Catholic Belgium dying in defence of the claims and ideals of Protestant England and infidel France and with Italy breaking away from the Triple Alliance to join her forces with the Allies it is difficult to see how religion can be smuggled into the present embroglio at Ottawa. As well say

that Bilingualism is a religious question as to say conscription is.

In view of the fact that the enlistment of Catholics in Ontario more than favourably compares with any other denomination, the charge that the Church, whether in Quebec or elsewhere, has not been in practical sympathy with the Cause of the Allies is on the face of it reckless, vicious, and untruthful.

London Truth writes of the crisis at Ottawa with more open-mindedness but with hardly less ignorance. It says: "London, July 11.—The political crisis in Canada which conscription has brought about is surely one of the strangest of War ironies."

In its superficial knowledge of this vexed question it saddles the whole opposition to conscription upon Quebec, whereas it is Dominion wide. Every member at Ottawa knows that conscription would be lost on a referendum. The question is, therefore, more than racial, it is constitutional.

It may be well to remember aenent this question that Quebec is rather late taught in the doctrine of Imperialism. Even Ontario only learned the imperial dialect a score of years ago.

"The Globe, in its editorial columns, has constantly pointed out that in a country such as Canada conscription is an impossibility, and that no responsible statesman of either party, capable of forming or leading a Canadian War Ministry, would propose compulsory service. Nor has the Borden Government to do more than it has done to assist volunteer recruiting."

Up to our own generation people lived in imagined security as long as Canada was not geographically attacked. It would appear that this is yet the position of Quebec. With this in mind the press should desist from its veiled threatening and tart lecturing, it should on the contrary

practice the art of soothing and reconciling. Without the assistance of French-Canadians, Canada will not be able to drink the hemlock of conscription. A plenary rejection of the Bill by them would jeopardise the peace of the Dominion for years to come and loosen every stone in the edifice of Confederation.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Not because it is London but because the results here are typical, so far as English Separate Schools are concerned, we think it well to call attention to the work our schools are doing as evidenced by the common and impartial test of the departmental examinations.

Statistics compiled from the results as published in press and from Minister's report for 1916:

Table with 6 columns: School Type, Enrolled, Average Attendance, Candidates, Successful, and Percentage of Successful Candidates. Rows for Public Schools and Separate Schools.

(a) Percentage average attendance of city schools in 1916 were: Public, 70% enrollment; Separate, 73%. This accounts for the changes of relative percentages in columns 5 and 6.

There are also 5 Separate school pupils and 20 Public school pupils who will secure High School Entrance Standing under the Departmental Farm Employment Regulation. Including these—and they should be included—the above table would read:

Table with 6 columns: School Type, Enrolled, Average Attendance, Candidates, Successful, and Percentage of Successful Candidates. Rows for Public Schools and Separate Schools.

Separate School Honors, 28 or 56% of Public School Honors, 124 or 31%.

The honor of leading the city in the Examination again falls to a Separate school pupil, Merlyn O'Donnell, of St. Mary's School. The London Public School Inspector is quoted as saying: "Certainly I am pleased with the showing; it is excellent, and I am delighted."

As will be seen by referring to the table given above, the Separate schools of London lead the Public schools in some important respects. For some places the list of successful Entrance candidates is published in the order of their standing. It is not so done in London; but in this respect the honors taken are their own eloquent comment.

We have been told of the survival in some places of the notion that a high percentage of successful candidates is regarded, in itself, as a matter of congratulation. So that a teacher who sends up ten candidates and passes all of them is thought to be doing better than one who sends up twenty and passes fifteen. This is not only stupid but mischievous in the extreme. It is the reason for one or more of the abuses which impel some thoughtful educators to advocate the abolition of the written Entrance Examination altogether.

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There is not a doubt in the world that the emulation between Public and Separate schools has had a vital influence for good on both. Indeed this important fact was noted by Edgerton Ryerson half a century ago.

Educational progress in Ontario has been nothing to boast of in the last twenty-five years; but if it were not for the stimulating effects of the rivalry between Public and Separate schools the existing evidences of dry rot would be much more pronounced.

We distinctly remember the time when from platform and pulpit, as well as in the press, the enemies of Separate schools branded them as inferior, and triumphantly pointed to the conclusive evidence of the results of the High School Entrance Examinations.

Now we want our Separate school teachers to do a great thing for elementary education in Ontario. We want them to reduce the average of Entrance candidates, and to increase the proportion of the average attendance who write every year. Progress has been made along these lines, but conditions are yet far from satisfactory.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

ACCORDING to the Echo de Paris, the Germans had from the outbreak of the War to the end of 1916, destroyed 1,800 churches in France and Belgium. The greater number of these have been irreparably ruined and abandoned.

ONE OF THE undesigned results of the War, as a consequence of restoring or replacing of the churches destroyed, is the impetus given to the study of Catholic liturgical art. Under the auspices of Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, a new association along these lines, the "Society of Friends of Liturgical Art," has been formed.

A KINDRED movement has made its appearance in England also. In issuing their new edition of the "Day Hours of the Church," Messrs. Burns & Oates, Limited, have appealed to the laity for that support which is absolutely necessary if they are to succeed in their important undertaking of performing the same good office for other liturgical books for popular use.

THE CHANGE in public opinion in England in regard to the drink evil may be seen in the following excerpt from the London Spectator, at once one of the most moderate, most conservative and most influential of English weeklies. The War has changed many things, but in none has the change been more radical than in regard to the traditional national beverage, beer.

"What is notoriously by far the most expensive sort of waste in the country?" asks the Spectator. Drink.

"What is the one unnecessary item in our national consumption by comparison with which everything else

shrinks into absolute unimportance? Drink.

"What is the one article by means of which, or refusing which, the people have it in their power to turn the scale against or in favour of our arms? Drink.

"What is the one article of consumption which reduces efficiency among our industrial army? Drink.

"What is the one article of consumption which causes 90% of the troubles that harass Provost-Marshal and the military police? Drink.

"What is the one article of consumption which is a distillation from food deliberately destroyed? Drink."

PROTESTANTISM has apparently persuaded itself that war or no war, it must pay tribute to its founder, Dr. Martin Luther, on the approaching four-hundredth anniversary of his defection from the Faith of his fathers.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

"THE GROUND in front of our lines covered by the dead bears witness to the violence of the battle and the sanguinary defeat of the enemy." In these words the French official report sums up the defeat of a new general assault delivered by the Germans yesterday morning on a wide front along the plateau before Craonne and Vaucouleurs, north of the Aisne.

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PETROGRAD FRANKLY admits a reverse on the Galician front in the northern portion of the ground which has become familiar through the recent drive in the direction of Lemberg. At a point some twenty miles south of Brody and between the Zerezh and Zlota Lipsa Rivers the Germans pushed forward in a series of persistent thrusts.

cusson, refused. East of Brzezany the enemy troops also took a number of trenches from the Russians, and a foe advance west of Halicz is also recorded. To what extent the defection of the troops has spread is not known. It may have a very serious effect on the whole situation, and utterly cripple any further attempts on Brussloff's part to advance either toward Lemberg or the Carpathians for a time.

THE THREATENED attempt to assassinate the ministers of the Russian Government, which, it was stated recently, had been plotted by the Germans, has not been long in developing. War Minister Kerensky is the first man to be attacked.

CANADIAN TROOPS holding the front between Avion and Lens have established a post well to the north of any hitherto occupied, according to a despatch from Mr. Stewart Lyon, correspondent of the Canadian Press. This new post, he says, is only fifteen hundred yards from the heart of Lens.

SPIRITISM

THE question of communicating with the spirits of the next world has its first definite reference in history in the scriptural story of Saul and the Witch of Endor, but in the form in which it is popularly understood in our day it dates from 1848 when the two sisters, Mary and Margaretta Fox brought it before the public of New York.

It is brought home to us at this time with special force for two reasons, on account of the book on the subject by a prominent English scientist, and of the recent condemnation by the Holy See, an Englishman, Sir Oliver Lodge, an Englishman distinguished in the realms of science published a book called "Raymond," which consists of revelations made to him through mediums by his son who had been killed in the War.

When the study of communication with spirits through a medium was in its infancy, people of education were accustomed to smile at the pretensions of those who gave performances, but in recent years the matter has assumed an importance which demands consideration.

"It is an indisputable fact that the strongest pressure which has been brought to bear on the British Government today to grant Home Rule to Ireland—and make it real, honest and substantial Home Rule—has come from the younger men active in politics in England and in all parties in England.

"But, Mr. Malone," I said, "distressed as Ireland is by factions, do you believe that a really honest effort is being made to gather together a convention really representative of

THE IRISH QUESTION

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND AS WE HAVE IT IN CANADA WILL SATISFY IRISH AMERICAN SENTIMENT

By Henry N. Hall, in the N. Y. Sunday World. Dudley Field Malone, the Collector of the Port of New York, is one of the younger Americans of Irish blood who have made their mark in national politics.

"When President Wilson, in his historic address to the Congress on April 2, called upon the United States to fight for the ultimate peace of the world and the liberation of its peoples, for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their own way of life and obedience, that the world might be made safe for democracy, he assured the realization of Ireland's century-old desire for political freedom.

Dudley Field Malone, Collector of the Port of New York, who on several occasions has acted as the personal representative of the President and whose sturdy Americanism has made him one of the leaders of the Democratic Party in State and Nation, was telling me of the hope which he cherishes, in common with thousands of other Irish-Americans, that the Irish National Convention, soon to meet in Dublin, will be able to settle the Irish question. He continued:

WHY HOME RULE BILLS FAILED

"One reason why Home Rule legislation has failed in the past is principally because it has been English legislation which the House of Commons would have forced upon the Irish people. Some of the Home Rule bills have been inadequate, perhaps the latest offer of Home Rule with six counties of Ulster left out was the worst. That was hopeless. A witty Irishman aptly described it as an attempt to foist half a Parliament upon three-quarters of a people. That is not the way in which the Irish question can ever be settled. It can be settled only by Irishmen, not Irishmen inspired by hatred of England, but by Irishmen inspired by love for Ireland—men who are unquestionably Irish and who yearn and long for Irish nationality and Home Rule.

"Not only the Irish question got to be settled by Irishmen, but in the settlement of no great principles of democracy must be respected. They are: first, that the will of the majority must ultimately prevail; second, that the rights of the minority must be adequately protected. It is of vital concern to the success of the Allies' struggle for world freedom—a struggle in which the United States is destined to become perhaps the most potential factor—that the plans for the establishment of democratic self-government in Ireland be made broad gauge with the true foresight of generous statesmanship. How is this to be accomplished?"

"Ireland, for the first time since 1801, is to have an opportunity to speak through her chosen representatives, provided that the leaders of the present British Government mean what they say and back up their promises by appropriate action. Some men will say that Ireland's historical experience scarcely warrants the assumption of the integrity of England's purpose; but I for one will not judge of the motives of the England of today by the unspeakable acts toward Ireland of English statesmen in the past. We in America want to believe that the Irish National Convention will be a real convention, with no strings tied to it.

YOUNG MEN FOR HOME RULE

"It is an indisputable fact that the strongest pressure which has been brought to bear on the British Government today to grant Home Rule to Ireland—and make it real, honest and substantial Home Rule—has come from the younger men active in politics in England and in all parties in England. The younger men in British politics do not want their country to remain under the stigma of denying justice to Ireland when Irishmen are fighting so bravely in defense of the ideals of democracy for which England stands today. It is the new generation which will solve this old problem.

"The one great thing, the only thing indeed that can assure success to the convention, is that the British Government forego any attempt directly or indirectly to control its members. There must be no hand-picked delegates and the convention must be free from the domination of the County Councilman as well as from the domination of the Catholic or Protestant clergy. It must be a real convention of real Irishmen, with representatives of all classes of the country's social and religious and industrial and economic and political life."

"But, Mr. Malone," I said, "distressed as Ireland is by factions, do you believe that a really honest effort is being made to gather together a convention really representative of