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TWO VIEWS ON MUSSOLINI

On page one in this issue of the RECORD we reprint two Canadian editorials on Benito Mussolini, the Prime Minister of Italy. The two are in arresting contrast.

The Globe recognizes the fact, which is as outstanding as a mountain in the midst of a plain, that the overwhelming majority of all classes of the Italian people honor Mussolini with a confidence seldom or never given so wholeheartedly to any statesman by his fellow countrymen. "Throughout the whole of Italy, in every city and town and village in the country, he is accepted as a political and economic saviour, destined to unify the people and lead them through their present perils and difficulties to a great national future."

In this connection we may quote from an article by Senator Count Cippico in the New York Times. He asserts vigorously that Fascismo does not rest on force but most emphatically on the "consent of the governed" among all classes of the population. And he gives this concrete instance by way of proof :

"I remember coming from Geneva to Vicenza last September (i. e. 1924) in order to meet Mussolini and some Cabinet Ministers who were there for the day. It was at a time when the opposition press campaign displayed its greatest bitterness. I found myself near the Italian premier, surrounded by thousands and thousands of people who had listened to his speech. As soon as the speech was finished, the surging wave of the multitude broke the lines of blackshirts and Minister. surrounded all of us. I saw Mussolini lifted to the shoulders of delirious throngs and made the hero of a tremendous demonstration.

'The day after at Geneva I asked my colleagues of the foreign delegations if either Mr. Ramsay Mac-Donald or M. Herriot, leaders of the socialistic and radical parties of their respective countries, could ever experience such an immediate and unprotected contact with the crowd. The same scene has hap- To pened throughout Italy both in the north and in the south-everywhere here Mussolini has brought the

conclusion that many writers comglorification, almost the deification, of the means. Even if the use or abuse of these means should defeat the very end for which they were Richard Washburn Child, some-

time American Ambassador to Italy. later travelled from country to country in Europe, "in an attempt." democracy was succeeding in Europe or why it was failing." He wrote a series of very interesting articles embodying the results of his observations. He tells us that in human nature." 'today there is a tremendous tide of

ger for a strong and capable leader. for a dictator if you will. "Do you believe," he quotes a big industrialist in Germany as asking, "that the mass has the passion to be possessed of passion to govern? You are mistaken. The passion of humanity is to be well governed." "After all." writes Mr. Child. 'the power of a dictator who has the will of the people behind him is not far removed from the power of a prime minister who happens to have an overwhelming majority. Both can dictate to a parliament. To the specious objection that Baldwin is the free choice of the English people and Mussolini obtained power by force of the Fascisti militia, he says: "The truth between social classes, together with taken. remains that both men have been a high respect for morality and given great powers because one people by election and another by

spontaneous, direct action, approved at the time by the great majority, have had the instinct for strong administrative government and have followed that instinct." almost into a religion. We have A striking proof of this is despatch from Paris this morning. Inquiries were made in the Cham-

ber as to the financial policy of the new Government. "I am the policy of the coming Government was the reply of M. Briand." Substitute Mussolini for Briand

and it would give cold chills to a lot of people.

The Free Press scornfully tells of ous and happy at home as well as Mussolini's Socialist days, of snobs and snobbery, of sycophants and parasites. The tone of the whole article betrays a somewhat startling and unaccountable feeling of enmity toward Italy's Prime

Take the concluding paragraphs "The pinnacle is a dizzy one, but it has its parallel. There were those in ancient Rome who complained of the great dictator, Julius, when he had climbed to today. similar heights :

He doth bestride the nar-Like a Colossus : and we petty men Walk under his huge legs and peep

graves. "The recent outbreaks against THE CATHOLIC RECORD

mined that a blaze of glory shall at pletely lose sight of the end in the all points beat upon the career of reads : the man to whom Italy has com-

> Mussolini responsible. "This quick change of front," says the Free Northern Ireland, and one, who

as he said himself, "to find out how of a desire to tear down rather than wishes of the inhabitants, so far as to build up the fabric of Italian may be compatible with economic imperialism, is a commentary on and geographic conditions, the the character of Mussolini himself boundaries between Northern Ireand also upon traditional tendencies | land and the rest of Ireland, and

As a comment on all this it will from the editorial in the Globe : "He boasts his plebian extraction mission."

and ruthlessly disregards class distinction in carrying out his program of national restoration. The laborer is the basic unit of his the precise terms, word for word, system, and every citizen, to fit into in which the Boundary between his scheme, must serve in the Germany and Poland in Silesia was capacity for which he is best adapted. provided for in the Treaty of "His is a plan for binding indissolubly together the whole people and inspiring them with ideals for the supremacy of the State, through which the prosperity and happiness of the individual will be assured. geographic conditions. And, in his opinion, no such assur-

ance can be hoped for without the stimulation of all the energies of the nation through collaboration case of Ireland no plebiscite was

religion. "Imperialism !" We have heard the word spoken with respect, even with a reverence that was almost religious. Indeed we have heard

been exhorted to "think imperially." But imperialism in connection with Italy and Mussolini seems to be a different sort of thing. If not Northern Ireland without its own sinister it is silly. But perhaps it

Free Press writer's contemptuous contrast of Mussolini, past and present. If ardent desire and tireless work to make Italy united, prosper-

respected abroad be "imperialism" then Italy has committed to Mussolini "the charge of reconducting her into the paths of imperialism." The two articles on Mussolini which we have been discussing and

contrasting, as well as innumerable other references, have suggested the desirability of dealing at some length with the career and accomplishments of this most interesting figure in the public life of the world

> Just now we want to emphasize a fact, an outstanding fact, an incontrovertible fact; and that is that Mussolini-call him Prime Minister, dictator, tyrant, savior

ourselves dishonorable of his people, or anything elsegoverns Italy because it is the

will of the Italian people that

" Provided, that if such mitted the charge of reconducting address is so presented, a commission who do not detest their doctrines, account as yet resulted to the consisting of three persons, one to and suggests the popular confidence Empire. This continual drivel For this sin, if it be a sin, of his be appointed by the Government of of the English people in the admin- about saving the Empire is a trial instituted it is 'reactionary' even to biographer the Free Press makes the Irish Free State, one to be istration of the law is not what it to the patience of men of common appointed by the Government of was fifteen years ago, when mem- sense. This monopolistic patriotism the Catholic Herald with distinction Press, "on the part of a man of not shall be chairman, to be appointed battalion of the Grenadiers in Lon- and will probably continue to be his editorship the paper became

for the purpose of the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, and of this cynicism about democracy." And he be sufficient to place in juxta- instrument the boundary of Nortellsalso of the almost universal hun- position the concluding paragraphs thern Ireland shall be such as may hands if ordered to enforce the law citizens. be determined by such Com-

It is well to note that the terms in which the Boundary Question was referred to a Commission are

chancellor." Versailles. The paramount consideration in both cases was to be "the wishes of the inhabitants." Incidentally this consideration

might be modified by economic and In the German-Polish case a pleb-

iscite was taken to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants; in the activities has been begun.

Northern Ireland truculently refused to be bound by the second degree by the Government and peopart of Article XII. While taking advantage of the privilege granted in the first part Craig's Government refused to appoint a Commissioner. morning mists before the rising apostles of imperialism exalt it During the sitting of the Com- sun. mission Northern politicians continued to hurl defiance at the Commission and the British Government if an acre should be taken from consent. More recently forecasts which began as follows : is introduced only to round out the of the finding of the Commission were printed in Belfast papers and The only flag for Canada at Queenslikewise in the ultra-Unionist press of England. These forecasts were ominous, indicating that in violation Brave Brock looked up the rugged of the spirit and letter of the Treaty

Northern Ireland was to be given all and more than its most truculent spokesman claimed. Three or four weeks ago the London corres-pondent of the Manchester Guar- Canada? The King Government dian wrote : "There is not the slightest doubt that all these forecasts have originated from Belfast

and that they have been intended to influence the Commission." Discussing the motives of the Belfast Government in broadcasting these forecasts the Guardian correspondent writes

"The psychology of the propaganda seems to be that if you can only forecast a report sufficiently unjust to the Free State it may create in the minds of the Commissioners a feeling that this is what is expected of them, and that therefore they will incline that way. I should

The second part of Article XII. acts of the Communists who were Australia, New Zealand and sentenced yesterday to imprison-South Africa have flags of their ment, says there are few people own and no damage has on that foremost, the most brilliant and bers of Parliament circularized a is a scandal to our political life, and exceptional ability, and under don, inciting them to mutiny in the such until Canadians begin to exceedingly popular and developed was not a great while ago suspected determine in accordance with the interests of the Conservative party. appreciate the humor of having a into an authoritative organ of public The Guardian continues: "The certain body of people in this opinion. . . field-marshal took a hand in the country assume that they are the optimist, with the supreme gift of dirty work of seducing the soldiers only people in Canada who love from their duty."

phesied, as some of the sanguine by going through some sort of in the paper which he edited. What Communists do now, that the army process become politically refined he thought he said plainly and would break in the Government's and purified above all their fellow- mercilessly, with little or no where the law was extremely distasteful to his own party.

"Lord Carson boasted that 'the army is with us.'

Lord Carson was made a judge. Lord Birkenhead was made a lord

movement against the Communists' party emblem.

If the Manchester Guardian's

handed iustice is shared in some ple of England then the threatening clouds which lower over Anglo-Irish relations will be dissipated as the

FLAG FLOURISHING BY THE OBSERVER

On October 18th, the Toronto

"The Union Jack.

ton Heights 118 years ago. The only flag for Canada today.

height And planned a bold attack.

No other flag shall float said he Above the Union Jack.' "What did the King Government

appointed a committee to select substitutes for the Union Jack as the flag of Canada.

Now, it is no part of our business to defend or to attack the King Government or any other government ; but we are committed both by duty and inclination to the exposure and the destruction of silly while political partisans for political ing criminals costs the United and partisan reasons and ends make States three times as much as it claim to a monopoly of patriotism. | costs to run its Government. Mr. For the credit of Ontario it is Charles W. Theim, manager of a surely time that this sort of cam-"drive" for \$225,000 by the New paigning should be consigned by Jersey Protestant Council of Religsheer force of public ridicule-if ious Education, calling attention in reason and logic do not suffice for an address last summer to this the purpose-to endless oblivion. extraordinary anomaly, reminded It does not require, surely, a very his hearers that the people of New high degree of understanding and Jersey and of the nation had to foot intelligence to perceive that real this huge bill. "It is," he said, "cheaper to invest money in the patriotism is seldom vocal, but is inclined to be silent. A clever character-building process of rewriter, now dead, once made a ligious education than to build striking application of Scott's jails and reformatories to protect lines, "Lives there a man with soul us from the results of our neglect." so dead, who never to himself has The increasing diversity of opinion said, this is my own, my native or "views" on religion, and the land ?" impossibility under such circum-"Aye," said he, "who never to stances of striking a mean accepthimself has said"-to himself, mark able to all does not seem to have you, not to every passer-by whose occurred to him. At the same time attention he could secure for a the chaos that has resulted from moment by yelling at him from a the fundamental tenet of Protesthouse top. The true patriot whis- antism-the thing that it really pers his patriotic thought to him- stands for-the right of every man self, and it animates his life and his to formulate his own creedactions ; but beware of the man renders it helpless in such a juncwho makes himself hoarse in pro- ture as Mr. Theim rightly laments. claiming his love for his flag and his country. The great poet knew better the real gist and substance of patriotism-"who never to him-

their native or adopted land and 'Lord Birkenhead gleefully pro- are true to it ; as though they had

> claims to super-patriotism almost always synchronize, in their ex- endorse every word of this testi-

the periodical need of certain against him (for undoubtedly such

that it would be childish optimism patriotism is the last refuge of a to expect that such causes would be scoundrel ; but that is not saying without their effect and suggests the whole of it or the worst of it. that the good name of British crim- A few scoundrels might occasionalinal justice is not altogether safe in |y take refuge under a cloak of to its expatriated countrymen and the hands of the present home patriotism without doing as much their descendants all over the secretary, Sir William Joynson- harm to a country as is done by the world. Having read of this in the Hickn, under whose department the continual misuse of the flag as a

One cannot help suspecting that one reason why some people are so ideal of British fair play and even- bitterly opposed to Canada's selecting a flag for herself, as the other great British dominions have done. is that the new Canadian flag would lend itself less readily to the misuse In pursuance of this kind office, a which has so long been made of the large consignment in individual Union Jack in the campaigning of

> The Union Jack represents the three kingdoms of England, Ireland and Scotland. There is no reason in the world why, at the present stage of Canada's constitu-

tional development, she should not have a flag of her own.

NOTES AND COMMENTS THERE IS an organization in Scotland called the Protestant Defence Institute, before which a clerical gested that Pawtucket.

member recently read a paper on "What Protestantism Stands For." For four centuries almost this has been an eager subject of enquiry. An enquiry as to what Protestant. ism falls for might yield better re-

sults-Higher Criticism, Modernism or, in some quarters, undisguised rationalism, for example.

AMERICAN CITIZENS with the welfare of their country at heart are shams; and there is not in the poli- much exercised over what a contical history of Canada a sham more temporary calls the "enormous worthy of being exposed and de- growth of crime" within their stroyed than the utterly silly sham borders and are urging the need of by which the flag is flourished in the religious teaching as the only effecface of Ontario electors whenever tive means of curbing it. The task they are about to go to the polls, of suppressing crime and supportDECEMBER 5, 1925

"FATHER GILLE," says the Catholic Leader of Bombay, "was the vivacious Catholic journalist in India, and the ban against his return is a severe blow to the cause. He was an undaunted expression and humor. Outspoken. spirited, active, and bursting with ideas, he found full scope for them reverence for established custom." It is noteworthy, though not sur- Those in other parts of the world prising, that these extravagant (and he has readers even in Canada) acquainted with the Herald will treme manifestations at least, with mony. At this distance the cabal classes of politicians for votes. A there was) is difficult to under-

> THE EDINBURGH Weekly Scotsman has for several years been in the habit of mailing packages of heather local press, writes a Pawtucket. R. I., correspondent of the Edinburgh journal, certain members of the Knights of Columbus in Rhode lsland arranged with parties in Ireland to undertake a like service for Irishmen in that state, by mailing to them parcels of shamrocks. boxes arrived at Pawtucket last March. When opened by the customs officials each box was found to contain a small bettle of good old Irish whisky, bearing a request that the recipient drink same to the health of the sender. This, of course, was a contravention of the Volstead Act, so the whole consignment was returned to Ireland, minus the liquid which was confiscated. As to what became of the precious fluid no one seems to know. Some shameless individual sug-

BISHOP GEDDES AND ROBERT BURNS

Editor, CATHOLIC RECORD Referring to the very interesting paragraphs which appeared in THE RECORD a few weeks ago in regard to the friendship existing between Bishop Geddes and the poet Burns, it may interest many of your read ers to know that we have, in the Detroit Public Library, a copy of the 'Geddes Burns.'

When Burns first visited Edin burgh, in the fall of 1786, he met Bishop Geddes, according to Chalmer's Life, at the home of Lord Monboddo. A sincere and intimate friendship apparently resulted, and Burns, a year later, in one of his letters to Mrs. Dunlop, mentions Bishop Geddes as "the est cleric character I ever saw, a Roman This is surely Catholic. high praise from Burns, who had many friends among and had received many kindnesses from prominent Presbyterian divines. The first Edinburgh Edition of Burns' poems was issued during the winter of 1786-67, and among the subscribers, through the kindly offices of Bishop Geddes, were the Scotch College at Valladolid, The Scotch College at Douay, the Scotch College at Paris, the Benedictine Monastery at Ratisbon and the Scotch Benedictine Monastery at Maryborough. Later on, it appears that when Burns was leaving Edin burgh to make a tour of the Highlands, he borrowed from Bishop Geddes the latter's copy of this First Edinburgh Edition, promising that he would jot down in it any of his compositions made during the trip which he would consider worthy of his friend's perusal. Under date of Feb. 3, 1789, he wrote a long letter from Ellisland, near Dumfries, addressing it to

general elections. Telegram published an article

The Guardian concludes by saying great Englishman has said that stand.

charm of his great personality. If this is not consent of the governed, I wonder what government in the world is based on consent."

The Globe heads its editorial "Mussolini, the Dictator"; and it says that "the new State which he is creating on the ruins of the old constitutional system is essentially despotic in character. But it is a despotism which makes an appeal primarily to the patriotism of the people, and especially to the youth of the country. It is an appeal for discipline and work on the part of the individual as his contribution to a great national movement to make Italy powerful and prosperous. And it is all the more effective in that the people still remember the conditions which prevailed at the close of the War, and which threatened the land with anarchy and ruin.

That is it, precisely. We must remember that "the old constituwhich was foiled by the police; we tional system" was in ruins before Mussolini touched it. Dictator. of euphemism. But let that pass. Mussolini may be : it all depends on our definition of terms. But Dictator or Prime Minister he is the turned by flattery, a charlatan head and front of the Italian Government by the will of the Italian people. What government in the oriental luxury. A biographerfound But Article XII. gave to Northern civilized world today is more truly that the name Mussolini was one of Ireland the right to contract out of 'democratic' in any true and real distinction in the fourteenth cen- the Free State by presenting within sense of that much abused term ? | tury. As everybody knows this is a month an address to His Majesty The forms of democracy, universal no unusual trait of biographers. to that effect by both Houses of suffrage, representative govern- We may have read the life of some Parliament of Northern Ireland. ment, and the like, were intended great Englishman whose biographer Then follows the second paragraph primarily to save the people from did not "dig and delve" into the of Article XII. which qualifies and oppression by irresponsible author- ancestry of his subject; but at limits the right conferred on Nority, by giving the people the means the moment we do not recall a thern Ireland in the preceding whereby they could voice their will. single one. However, the Free paragraph. Northern Ireland pre-One cannot read much on the sub- Press scornfully notes that this sented to His Majesty such an ject without being forced to the biographer of Mussolini is "deter- address.

Signor Mussolini reveal such men in he and none other shall do so. And the Italy of today."

row world

about

find

The great Julius is, of course Julius Casar who, by his conquest of Gaul, became the foremost man in the world. He extended Roman civilization to Western Europe and of the governed. later to England. And the bedrock

on which the Christian civilization of Europe rests is the civilization of ancient Rome. Julius was truly The daily press carries despatches great. His name will ever live because of his achievements and their permanent results. But the Free Press, if we may take the meaning that seems obvious, the Free State representative, placed admires the great Cæsar's murderers? And then, apparently with grim satisfaction that the breed has not died out, tells us that "the writing conferences between reprerecent outbreaks against Signor sentatives of the Free State, Ulster Mussolini reveal such men in the and British Governments are being Italy of today." held with the view to coming to

"Outbreaks !"

some settlement by agreement. Referring, presumably, to the In order to get a clear conception cowardly plot to murder Mussolini, of the question in issue it is well to reread the Article of the Angloconsider "outbreaks" as a triumph Irish Treaty under which the Commission functions. This clause of The Free Press insinuates that the Treaty constitutes the Com-Mussolini is a snob whose head is mission's terms of reference. The Treaty was made between drunk with power, who lives a life of England and Ireland-all Ireland.

think myself that the psychological those alarmist defenders of democeffect on the Commission-though I racy should not ignore, or obscure, believe there is none-would be or by insinuation deny this patent exactly the contrary, and that the fact. For it is good democratic more Belfast publishes a Belfastdoctrine that governments derive made boundary the more the Comtheir just powers from the consent missioners would be driven to disappoint Belfast. I hope that the Free

State side will not fall into the THE BOUNDARY QUESTION same error.'

And he adds that the plain, public and legal duty of the Commissioners that are gravely disturbing, not to is to ignore all such attempts to say ominous, with regard to the influence their decision and "to outcome of the Irish Boundary Commission. Professor Eoin MacNeill. draw the boundary between Northern Ireland and the Free State his resignation as Commissioner in mainly 'with regard to the wishes the hands of the Free State Govern. of the inhabitants' of the Border ment and it was accepted. At this areas."

The resignation of Professor MacNeill is not reassuring ; indeed it is profoundly disturbing ; but, pending the outcome of the negotiations now going on, we can only hope and pray for the best. The worst is appalling to contemplate. The Manchester Guardian is the finest type of newspaper published anywhere. It embodies the best English traditions and is fearlessly

loyal to them. This morning's paper carries the following Canadian Press despatch. Though not directly pertinent to the present native land." Irish difficulty, few readers will fail to see its relevancy. It must be borne in mind that one of the indictments on which the Communists were found guilty was that of inciting to mutiny. The incitement to mutiny over the Home Rule Bill will be remembered by most of our readers.

while admitting the illegality of the some other flag over it in Canada.

self has said, this is my own, my There is never much satisfaction in trying to dissect a shadow ; and the false patriotism of some Ontario

politicians is very shadowy when one tries to get a squeezing grip on it for the purpose of letting light and air through it. It is hardly substantial enough to put one's hand on. But take for a moment this humbug about the Union Jack

Rev. Mr. Geddes, Care of Dr. Gregory, St. John St., Edinbr Wt. a Book.

In the letter he addresses the Bishop as "Venerable Father," and after referring to their intimate friendship, tells of his marriage and settling on the farm, with a heart. to heart acknowledgment of his failings in self-reproaching, manly phrases, speaks of his prospects and plans for future writings, mentions the return of the book and the new poems he had written in it, and ends with the following paragraph :

Worthy Sir, "That acquaintance, with which you were pleased to ablest writers in that far-off ont-nost of the British Empire. Father to challenge : for with whatever unconcern I give up my transient connection with the merely Great and word has just been received in Calcutta that he is not to return. (those self-important beings whose intrinsic worthlessness is often concealed under the accidental advantaking in Rome on his way, and it tage of their birth), I cannot lose was there that the mandate came to Learned and the Good without the him that he was to remain in Europe. bitterest regret.

AMONG THE Catholic papers in English of the present day the Catholic Herald of India, published in Calcutta, occupies a foremost

place. For some years it has been under the editorial supervision of Rev. Albert Gille, S. J., who had come to be recognized as one of the post of the British Empire. Father Gille sailed for Europe in June last, and word has just been received in He had begun the return journey,

The despatch reads : The Manchester Guardian, Liberal, and the alleged intention of flying