

Mr. Zeph. Malhot, resident engineer of the Dominion department of public works, is examining the Assiniboine River between Winnipeg and Brandon to see if it can be straightened out. The river is so tortuous that it covers 300 miles between the two cities, while the distance over the C.P.R., which is not quite an air line, is only 132 miles. Mr. Malhot also intends to dredge and deepen the river bed. This straightening and deepening would also reduce the danger from ice jams and floods in the early spring.

Ten men were severely burned last Saturday in New York by the explosion of the gasoline tank of an automobile, just as the machine was being taken to a repair shop. By pouring water on the burning automobile the firemen caused another explosion more serious than the first. Blazing oil was hurled in all directions and several more bystanders were burned.

The Paris-Madrid automobile race, which began last Monday, had to be called off on account of six deaths and very many woundings produced by it. No attempt was made by the French police or military to control the crowds. On the stretch of eight kilometers south of Chartres there were from 5,000 to 10,000 people and from 500 to 1,000 cars. Count de Talleyrand-Perigord, president of the Middle European Automobile Association, says he regards it as madness to drive along streets or roads at more than 30 kilometers (19 miles) an hour. In the part of the race just run, from Paris to Bourdeaux, the first machines often went at the rate of a hundred kilometers (62 miles) an hour.

Sixteen little girls made their First Communion last Sunday morning in the chapel of St. Mary's Academy. Rev. Father Frigon, O. M.I., celebrated the Mass at eight o'clock and preached a touching sermon on the Blessed Eucharist. During the impressive ceremony, while the innocent little maidens were ranged before the altar rail in flowery wreaths and spotless white garments, the convent choir rendered beautifully Raga's Regina Coeli, Notre-Pere, "One Hour With Thee," and Miss Rose Simpson played a charming violin obligato. The First Communicants were the Misses Sybil Marquis, Jean McIntyre, Evelyn and Helen Champion, K. Bawlf, S. Beecher, C. Driscoll, L. McPhillips, E. Dewitt, K. Gallagher, E. Gildey, M. Honan, K. McKenny, F. Sherman, K. Shirlock and A. Guinan.

At High Mass in St. Mary's last Sunday Rev. Father McCarthy urged all enfranchised Catholics of Winnipeg to register as prescribed by law. He asserted that it is not only a great privilege to have the right of voting in a great commonwealth, it is a duty of the Catholic as a Christian and a citizen to let his voice be felt in public affairs as his conscience directs him. He referred to the severe persecution of the religious orders in France now being carried out, and he pointed to the fact that such conditions might have been obviated had the Catholic citizens of France taken advantage of their franchise. The Reverend Father might have added: "and had they voted as Catholics." For we were told lately by a newly arrived French priest that he knew a parish in France where, though almost all the men are faithful to their Easter duty, they nevertheless elect a representative who attacks the Church.

On Thursday, the 28th inst., at 7.30 a.m., seven boys made their First Communion in the chapel of St. Boniface College, after a three days' retreat preached to them by the Reverend Rector, Father Hudson, S.J., The First Communion Mass was said by Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., who spoke to the young lads on the importance of making that great day a starting-point in the service of God. The names of the First Communicants are: William and Charles Beecher, Frederick Bawlf, Neville Kavanagh, Harry Russell, Jacques Bertrand and Joseph Beaudoin. They were confirmed the same afternoon at 5 by His Grace the Archbishop of St.

Boniface, who exhorted them to fidelity to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

The children of St. Mary's parish will make their First Communion next Sunday.

A pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, St. Norbert, next Sunday at 2 p.m. from St. Boniface and 1.30 p.m. from Winnipeg, will be headed by the Most Rev. Archbishop, who will return with the pilgrims by the 5 p.m. train.

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LEO XIII. AND THE PEOPLE.

Father Yorke in the San Francisco Leader.

Leo XIII. has attained the years of Peter and these years have been full of good works. He stands today the most beneficent, the most majestic figure in the whole world. He is the only potentate known to history who, though overthrown and a prisoner, can draw the mightiest monarchs of the earth to seek audience at his gates.

No one imagines for a moment that kings or emperors pay such visits for benevolence sake. Kings and emperors are always about their own business and policy rules their comings and their goings. William and Edward are both like the mother of the sons of Zebedee seeking for something. What that is we may not see clearly now; but no man that understands the ways of government doubts that the uncle and nephew had very good reasons for paying a compliment to the visible head of the Church.

The meaning of it all is that the Pope has power. He stands for the greatest moral influence that the world knows. He has the Church solidly behind him. When he speaks with authority the world performs must listen. There are those who lift up their voices against his, but their day is gone. They could prevail only when the children of the household were divided. But now as of old in Clermont when the voice of Leo rings out to the world the children of the Cross give with one accord the answering cry that drowns all the reclamations of the enemy. "God wills it, God wills it."

It may be asked how it is that in spite of all its apparent reverses the Church has grown so strong. We must seek the answer in that quality with which the Holy Ghost endows her, namely, her indefectibility. This is an active principle that keeps her true to the old moorings, holds her fast to principle. Having spoken the word of the Lord in faith or morals she can never recede from her word. The nations may rage and the princes devise vain things, but she is unmoved. This is the secret of her strength. Truth can never be rooted out. It is of the nature of things and as long as she is rooted and founded in truth her enemies come against her in vain. It was the "non possumus" of Pius that made possible the triumphs of Leo.

There is a time to speak and a time to be silent; a time to be gentle and a time to be severe. The circumstances of his time forced the kindly Pius into an attitude of defiance towards all the powers of Europe. The circumstances of the times forced the more stern Leo into methods of conciliation. But this must be ever borne in mind; only the strong can afford to be gentle, only the secure can afford to conciliate. This strength and this security come only when the world recognizes that there are certain bounds which under no circumstances can be passed, that there are certain principles which can never be forsaken. A Presbyterian Assembly fears and trembles when it undertakes to revise a creed be-

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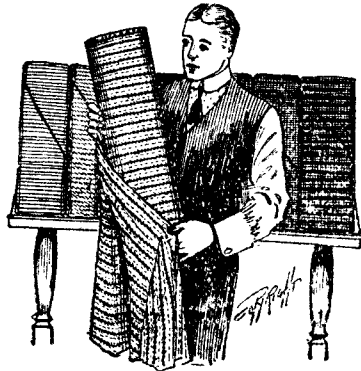
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cause no one is sure where the revision will stop. A Pope can afford to re-organize a hierarchy because he knows his creeds can never need revision.

The power of Leo XIII. in the world then arises from the fact that not only is he a moral force, but that he is a moral force that cannot be bought or bullied. The Pope is the shepherd of the flock, and he faces the wolves and the wolves have learned sense enough to know that it is a waste of energy to kill him, because, though the individual dies, the Pope never dies. They may try their diplomacy upon him, whether it be the ancient and reliable diplomacy of the old world or the pick-handle variety which General Taft invented, but the result is the same. The law of the Lord abideth forever, and though the Pope will yield everything that makes for the advantage of the Church; once he comes to that law, there is no more yielding. There he stands and churches may fall and millions be seduced, but he cannot move. "The heavens and the earth shall pass away, but My word shall not pass away."

It is also an advantage of our times that the Pope has been brought more in touch with the people, and that the people understand his benevolence towards them. He has recognized the strength of democracy and he has not been afraid to warn it and to instruct it as he oft had instructed and warned the aristocracy. The people are his children as well as kings. The same moral law binds majorities that binds individuals. The same moral law binds the employer as well as the employee. If democracy is to live; if labor is to have its rights, the first condition necessary is a recognition of duty. When God loses His right in this world the rights of the people quickly follow. In his great encyclicals these are the eternal prin-

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ciples that Leo has laid down. At the time it may be the full significance of his pronouncements may not be appreciated, but the ever varying condition of things prove and test them and show that they are applicable to every case and solvent of every difficulty.

Again and again he has insisted on Catholics shouldering their civic duties. If morality is to rule the State it must be because the people are moral. If the good citizens neglect their part, infallibly the bad citizens will capture the government. This is a truism with us here in America, but in European countries unaccustomed to democracy the lesson is not known and will not be learned. If to-day in France the Church is in such a

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