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**To Excavate Roman Catacombs
An Appeal To American Catholics**

The Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology is preparing to excavate more of the ancient Roman catacombs wherein so many thousands of the early martyrs were buried.

The Roman catacombs are truly the treasure ground of our holy Faith. They are filled with monuments and inscriptions and paintings which prove conclusively the antiquity of the holy doctrines which we profess today.

During three centuries of bloody persecution, our ancient brethren of the Faith assembled in these underground caverns to celebrate the sacred functions of Catholic worship. There on the tombs of martyrs the priests offered up the Sacrifice of the Mass. Around these tombs, deep under-ground, they hewed out of the soft sandstone their churches and chapels. Many of these churches and chapels have been re-excavated by the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology instituted by Pope Pius IX. There in most cases, the ancient altar still stands. There, too, are found many beautiful frescoes representing the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist.

The Pontifical Commission has already explored, excavated and repaired many miles of the catacombs-galleries. They have yielded a rich harvest of ancient historical materials on the Sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church in general.

The outside world is already confused by the force of this unmistakable evidence for the antiquity of Catholic Faith and practice. But the vast extent of the catacombs remains still to be explored. It is supposed that the galleries of the catacombs, if put end to end, would be one hundred and fifty miles in length. These galleries contain a very large number of churches and chapels. Undoubtedly they will yield rich materials in further evidence of early Catholic teaching.

The Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology has already done wondrous work in excavating the ancient catacombs. A score or more cemeteries have been excavated and repaired. Those of St. Callixtus, St. Sebastian, Domitilla, and St. Agnes are the most important. Here the Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated again at certain times on the ancient altars. Hither great scholars and simple pilgrims flock to view and study the ancient testimonies of our holy Faith.

Before the war the devoted faithful of Europe contributed generously to this pious work of love. It is a work that appeals especially to the heart that is devoted to our holy Faith. It is a work of love for those great heroes and heroines of the Faith, the countless array of early martyrs.

Now the devoted ones of Europe are reduced to poverty; they are unable to continue their generosity. Hence the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology turns to great and generous America where sturdy Catholic Faith makes hearts strong and devoted. The honor and merit of furthering this work so dear to the heart of our Holy Father, Benedict XV., will belong to the noble hearts of Americans. It will be their pride and their joy to have brought to light the great monuments that prove so clearly the antiquity of our holy Faith.

We implore the hosts of holy martyrs to bless and prosper our generous and devoted brethren of America.

THE PONTIFICAL COMMISSION
OF SACRED ARCHAEOLOGY.
By its secretary,
MSGR. CARLO RESPIGHI.
Given at Rome, the Feast of St. Prudentiana, May 19, 1919.

Under Bolshevik Rule

Prominent among the horrors of peace is the case of the Russian manufacturer forced to run his factory under Bolshevik control. As P. L. Guercken, formerly a prominent Russian business man, summed up the troublesome situation before a recent meeting of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City, "the workmen have all the rights, with no responsibilities. We have no rights whatever, except responsibility." Even responsibility is being taken away, it appears, as the Russian factories shut down for various reasons that are more or less rooted in Soviet control. It is Mr. Guercken's optimistic belief, however, that the Russian workmen are awakening to "the utter impracticability of their dream" of Communist control in production, and that they will soon welcome "in a new spirit the efforts and direction of brains and experience, and the domination of economic laws." He is quoted in the New York Journal of Commerce as to recent and present conditions in industrial Russia, to this effect:

"Generally speaking, on the eve of the first revolution in 1917, Russian industries were fairly well established and running at maximum capacity. Wages were high and there were few, if any, labor troubles. Immediately after the revolution, workmen committees were organized in all factories, sending delegates to the so-called Council of Workmen Deputies, demanding 100% increase in wages and the elimination of control on the part of employers, work managers, superintendents and foremen.

The Workmen Committees were not in a position to enforce their own orders, as the workmen frequently dismissed the committees and organized new committees, and, during the period of the Provisional Government, Bolshevik propagandists were carrying on a systematic campaign to undermine the less radical Menshevik party. They based their plea for support on the promises of the immediate cessation of the war, the immediate summoning of the Constituent Assembly, which was afterward dissolved by the Bolsheviks, the abolition of private ownership, the control of all industrial enterprises by the workmen themselves, and the socialization and nationalization of banks, industries and trades.

This decree also applied to life-insurance policies. Private ownership of houses and estates was abolished, such houses and estates became municipal property without any indemnity to the owners or stockholders. All trading enterprises, domestic as well as foreign, with the exception of the co-operative societies, were decreed state monopolies. No private citizen or corporation was allowed any right to participate in trade transactions. To conduct all these monopolies, thousands of councils and committees were created with new officials at high salaries. Thus Russia was transformed into a socialistic and communistic state.

The company in which I am a director operates a large copper-rolling-mill, also a cable and wire factory. By the autumn of 1918 these factories were run at no more than 10% of their normal capacity. Markets did not exist, and the Workmen Factory Committee, seeing that the factory would be forced to close, urged the Government to place orders to keep the factory running...

The result of the Bolshevik decrees and their attempt to establish a complete communistic and socialistic organization can have only one end—the complete destruction of industry and transactions in Russia. These decrees, even before I left Russia, could not resist the natural laws of life and economics

which they violated. That the inevitable result of the Bolshevik experiment in Russia will be the gradual modification and elimination of their decrees is indicated by my own experience.

Our mill was employing about eight thousand men and women, located one hundred miles from Moscow and about fifteen miles from a town. The mill had been in existence for fifty years—the staff of workmen being largely made up of peasants from surrounding villages with 15% of professional workers coming from industrial centers. Under the Bolshevik decree of workmen control of the factory, the following labor organizations were formed: Local Soviet or Workmen and Soldier's Council, Professional Trade Union Factory Committee, Welfare Committee, Sanitary Committee, Union of Clerks and Foremen, Union of Engineers, Union of Workmen Employed More Than Fifteen Years, Food Supply Committees, and Staff of the Red Guard. None of the committees did any work but drew their full wages, thus creating heavy additional expenses. Frequently the entire day and evening were given up to committee meetings. There was no time left for the committee to carry on any business.

As the managers and owners of the plant we remained at the plant in a difficult position. The workmen had all the rights with no responsibility. They had the support of the physical force of the Government, the Bolshevik laws and the state machinery; we had no right whatever, except responsibility. Our arms were those of moral and intellectual force, experience, knowledge and education. Step by step we began to teach the elementary laws of economics. Our aim was first to reduce the staff of workmen and then shut down the mill. We finally received the consent of the workmen to dismiss 75% of the staff and then shut down the mill entirely. It took four months to bring the workmen to this point.

At the end of that time the workmen realized certain fundamental concepts:

1. That the mill could not be run unless there was a distribution of its products and an inflow of raw materials.
2. That a valueless paper currency could not be taken in exchange for valuable manufactured products.
3. That the workmen's committees could not operate the plant.

After they had realized these facts, the majority of the workmen insisted upon closing the plant. At the present time 75% of all plants in Russia have shut down. The number of idle workmen is enormous.

The interesting fact of this experience of eight months in Bolshevik Russia is that the workmen are turning away from Bolshevism to milder forms of socialism, and even away from socialistic ideas entirely. The great difficulty in working with them was their ignorance. Many of the members of the committees with whom we gradually became good friends were good-natured and intelligent, but without experience and training. The direct representatives of the Bolshevik Government were either crooks, if clever, or very stupid.

The economic failure of Bolshevism lies in its inability to carry out its promises and the fact that it did no constructive work. The greater part of the working classes are opposed to the Bolsheviks. The Bolshevik faction even became suspicious of the workmen themselves and deprived all workmen of arms of any character.

My conclusion is that the workmen in Russia have realized at last that executive officers are not only men having the privilege of sitting in good offices and drawing salaries,

but they are also men with managing ability, knowledge and experience, and the ability to foresee the effect of economic laws. I believe that in the future some form of collaboration between labor and capital will be necessary and practicable."

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL
(Special for St. Peters Bote.)

—Statistics show that Protestants are three times as parson-ridden as Catholics are priest-ridden. The very truth of the matter is that, as Longfellow once put it, this country is not priest-ridden, but press-ridden, — a condition much more deplorable than the suggested alternative.

—The apostate is seldom content with his own apostasy: he is, on the contrary, the most violent and unscrupulous of proselytizers. He has evil things on his side — strong and malignant powers. He is astute and plausible as only the lapsed can be. All his old knowledge of grace and holiness is perverted and used to new ends.

—Many a person chases after happiness like an absent-minded man, hunting for his hat when it is in his hand or on his head.

—Wise guidance in wishing means real accomplishment in willing and doing. An uncontrolled trend to self-centredness has made many a man of highly trained intellect a menace to his fellow-beings. Experience has shown again and again, that a man may be an intellectual giant, and yet fail as a member of society, because of personal trends and desires which he has not been taught to control and overcome.

—The things a man is going to do, put no money in his pocket.

—Poverty is the only luxury the rich can't afford.

For Farm and Garden

Winter Rye.

Winter Rye is a crop of growing importance in Western Canada. Last year the acreage seeded to this valuable crop was estimated at no less than 123,500 acres.

From a forage standpoint this crop has two advantages: It will provide green pasture in the spring long before any other crop is ready, and in years when drought and hot winds reduce other crops to a partial or total failure, winter rye will usually have made sufficient growth before the damage is done to provide a profitable crop of hay. In this way the feed situation for the farmer is often saved, and winter rye becomes a sort of emergency crop. Although rye hay is not as good quality as oat hay, it nevertheless makes a very satisfactory forage if cut at the proper time or just as the plants are heading out. If the year proves to be a moist one, two crops of hay may very often be taken off. If sufficient forage is in sight from other sources, the crop may be allowed to ripen seed.

Once in a while the rye crop will suffer from winter killing, but this is rarely the case if care is taken to obtain a northern grown seed of a hardy variety to sow early enough to prevent too close pasturing in the fall. North Dakota No. 959 and Saskatchewan are hardy varieties.

Rye should be seeded about the first ten days of September at about one bushel per acre on land that contains sufficient moisture for an even germination. The crop will stand some pasturing in the fall and spring if the soil is left to hold an ample covering of snow, the latter being an advisable precaution against winter killing.

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