

A Danger to Luxemburg.

MANCHESTER, May 8. Right Rev. Louis C. Casartelli, Bishop of Salford, has issued an important statement to the Catholics of the Allied countries regarding the fate of Catholic Luxemburg. The statement is as follows:

The following brief paragraph, which is going the rounds of a part of the press, generally in an obscure corner, will probably have passed almost unperceived and unappreciated.

Paris.—It is confirmed that the American command has conveyed to the Luxemburg authorities the desire expressed by the Entente that the plebiscite on the country's future, to take place shortly, should be postponed to a later date. It is felt that a plebiscite of the kind of government the people of Luxemburg intend to have in future, and the eventual reunion of Luxemburg with a foreign power might raise complications at present which it would be preferable to avoid.

Yet by every Catholic, and I venture to add especially by every American Catholic, it ought to be read with the greatest alarm and even indignation. What is the issue? The little Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, with an area slightly less than that of Derbyshire and a population the same as that of Nottingham, is practically the last thoroughly Catholic nation and State, sovereign and independent, left, at least in Europe. At the beginning of the war it was on the very first night suddenly and silently overrun by the mighty German Army, without warning or power of resistance, and held down helplessly by the same ruthless power till the collapse of Germany and the welcome entry of the Allies. The Luxemburgers, whose hatred of Germany and the Germans long antedated the War were all along in sympathy and aspirations on the side of the Allies. Many thousands of their young men got into France and enrolled themselves in the French Army, fighting valiantly for the Allied cause. There was an "Oeuvre des Soldats Luxembourgeois au Service de la France" which had a branch office in London.

And what has the armistice and the prospective peace brought this gallant, patriotic, Catholic little people? The prospect of the loss of their liberty and independence. And that—apparently—on the part of the Allies! It may seem hard to believe, but there is little doubt that the present deplorable crisis is owing to the machinations of an anti-clerical, Masonic and Socialistic combination of forces, working against the dynasty and against religion. The fate of the ex-Grand Duchess Adelaide is instructive. During the war constant attempts were made to blacken her character as a pro-German. Her unpopularity with the radical and socialist bloc in Parliament dated from some years before the war, when she strove hard, as long as she constitutionally could, to prevent the passing of an anti-religious education bill. Since the war she sacrificed herself for her country and abdicated in favor of her sister Charlotte in the hope of peace. Unfortunately the Bishop of Luxemburg, Monsignor John J. Koppes, a valiant champion of religious education, died, last November 29, and the See has not yet been filled up, so that the Catholic Luxemburgers have no ecclesiastical head to champion their cause before the world. All impartial observers declare that the vast majority of the people are passionately attached to their independence and freedom from foreign rule as during the last eighty and more years. They are not, and wish not to be, German, French or Belgian—but just Luxemburgers. To quote Mr. H. C. Bailey, writing in the Daily Telegraph (January 10, 1919): "All Luxemburg stands together for independence. The events of the last four years have

only strengthened the desire of the little State for complete freedom. Whatever the flag, Republic or Ducal, autonomy is its blazon."

The outcry for a republic and against the dynasty was certainly engineered by the anti-religious element in the country, with outside help. Still, the form of government is a secondary one; the people want first and foremost to keep their autonomy. Meanwhile, two tendencies are showing among the Allied Powers—one in favor of the absorption of Luxemburg into Belgium, another in favor of her annexation to France. I am not speaking of a mere customs' union but of the extinction of autonomy.

Now, on President Wilson's policy, accepted by the Allies, who has the right to decide the future of a nation however tiny, however insignificant? Surely, on the principle of self-determination, the nation itself. So the Luxemburg Chambers decided upon the democratic step of a referendum, called in the extract quoted a plebiscite. There is little or no doubt what the result would be: Certainly in favor of autonomy, most probably also of the dynasty. And so the mighty "Quadriviri" (as the Italians style them), step in and (prophudor!) through the agency of the command of the democratic and liberty-loving Americans, intimate that the plebiscite must be put off until the fate of the little nation has been decided beforehand by the Entente! The paragraph is so worded in its last sentence, as to suggest most disingenuously that the plebiscite might be cast in favor of an "eventual reunion of Luxemburg with a foreign power," whereas everybody knows that it is just this catastrophe that the referendum would avert.

If this gross act of injustice to a small Catholic people is really to be perpetrated by the might of the Entente, it will surely be a blot on the coming peace and endow Europe with a new Alsace-Lorraine. At least Catholics, and especially English, Irish and American Catholics, though powerless to avert so great a wrong can utter a solemn protest, in the sacred names of religion, justice and peace against the outrage. One feeble voice at least shall be raised, even if unheeded and unheard, inspired by over forty years' knowledge, admiration and love for the gallant little liberty-loving land, the patrimony of St. Willibrord. — The Tablet.

United States News

WASHINGTON.—The American naval seaplane, NC-4 arrived at Lisbon, Portugal, on May 27th, at 4:01 p.m., Washington time, being the first to cross the Atlantic by air. The ship made the distance from Ponta Delgada, Azores, to Lisbon in 9 hours and 44 minutes, making her actual flying time in crossing the Atlantic from Newfoundland 26 hours and 41 minutes. The NC-4 left Rockaway Beach, L. I., on May 8, but started on the actual flight across the Atlantic from Trepassey, Newfoundland, on the evening of May 16. Its official flying time is as follows:

Rockaway Beach to Halifax (540 miles), 7 hours and 47 minutes; Halifax to Trepassey (460 miles), 8 hours and 59 minutes; Trepassey to Horta, Azores (1,300 miles), 15 hours and 18 minutes; Horta to Ponta Delgada (150 miles), 1 hour and 44 minutes; Ponta Delgada, Azores, to Lisbon, Portugal (786 miles), 9 hours and 44 minutes;

The total distance covered is 3,136 miles. On its arrival in Portugal the NC-4 was greeted by the cheers of the crowds on the water front, the shrieking of whistles, and the ringing of bells. The flyers were received by the President of Portugal and other officials on board the U. S. S. Rochester. — On May 31, Commander Read in airplane NC-4

reached Plymouth, England, having made the distance of 700 miles from Lisbon in 7 hours and 46 min.

—Appropriation of \$1,200,000,000, in addition to \$500,000,000 already provided, for use of the railroad administration during 1918 and 1919 was requested by Director General Hines. The estimate reveals an operating deficit of \$236,184,940 during the calendar year and of \$250,000,000 during the first four months of 1919.

—The House passed a deficiency bill authorizing appropriations of \$39,615,000 for allowances due May 1st and June 1st to about 700,000 families of soldiers, sailors and marines, \$3,000,000 for delayed civil war pensions, and \$2,429,500 for administration of the war risk insurance bureau.

—Repeat of the "Daylight Saving Act" is to be incorporated in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill. —Senator Phelan of California announced he would introduce in the senate a measure for the repeal of the wine and beer restrictions in the food control act as recommended by the President.

—Amendment of the Sherman anti-trust law so that the telegraph and telephone companies can operate a joint service after the wire properties are released from government control was urged before the Senate Interstate Commission, by Newcome Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph Co.

PHILADELPHIA.—Governor Sproule of Pennsylvania has vetoed an act passed by the state legislature to prohibit the teaching of German in the schools. In his message the governor informed the legislature that he had considered the measure well, from patriotic as well as from practical and educational viewpoints.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Lieut. Omer Locklear, formerly with the air army, gave a demonstration which is said to be one of the greatest in the annals of flying, of catching a dangling rope ladder from a second airplane and climbing into the craft from which it hung. The feat was done at a height of 2,500 feet. He has leaped from one plane to another in the air before, but never made an ascent from one plane to another.

NEW YORK.—The general political impression here is that Chas. M. Schwab, the steel master, stands an excellent opportunity of receiving the Republican nomination for the Presidency.

—Daredevil Max Schreyer, the cyclist, who missed his leap from a steep decline into a tank while performing for the benefit of the Salvation Army, died in a hospital here from his injuries.

MARINETTE, Wis.—The year-old child of William Wartick, residing on a farm near Wausaukee, was drowned in a pail of water. The mother was washing when the little one toppled in head first.

SIoux CITY, Ia.—The Iowa Federation of Labor, in convention here, indorsed President Wilson's recommendation for the repeal of war-time prohibition.

EMMETSBURG, Ia.—The prize Duroc boar Joe King, Orion, has been sold for \$7,500. The boar was purchased two years ago from an Ohio herd for \$1,500.

DALLAS, Texas.—Returns covering practically one-half of the vote cast in the election on constitutional amendments indicate that the advocates of woman's suffrage won out.

Foreign News

JUAREZ, Mexico.—There will be a meeting of all the revolutionary leaders of importance from all parts of Mexico at the camp of General Garrara, insurgent leader in the state of Nuevo Leon, on the border line between the state and Coahuila May 31, it was announced here on May 30.

LIMA, Peru.—Six persons were killed and 20 wounded in the rioting and fighting which took place here as a consequence of the strike. Martial law has been proclaimed in Lima and Callao.

LONDON.—Right Hon. Austin Chamberlain, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the house of commons his intention to ask authority to issue a new loan on June 2nd.

—A strike of policemen in Liverpool and some other provincial cities is threatened. The Metropolitan police of London are debating on the question while the men at Liverpool have already voted to stop work Monday midnight.

—An official handbook has been issued by the Overseas Settlement Board, which contains much information in regard to the openings for settlers, rates of wages, cost of living and facilities for the occupation of land in the Dominion. A similar handbook has been prepared for women.

—Harry G. Hawker and Lieut-Commander McKenzie Grieve, two airmen who started in an attempt to fly across the Atlantic from St. John's, Newfoundland, have been picked up at sea and landed in Scotland. Both men were in perfect health. It is officially announced by the admiralty that the aviators were picked up in latitude 50-20 longitude 29.30, having alighted close to the little Danish steamer Mary, owing to a stoppage of circulation in the water pipes between the radiator and the water pump.

—Thousands of discharged soldiers and sailors out of employment armed with stones and other missiles, marched toward the House of Commons. They came into conflict with the police barring the approaches, and were scattered. Later they marched toward Buckingham Palace, but the demonstration broke up before it reached the palace. In Hyde Park and throughout England demonstrations were held by discharged soldiers and sailors demanding work.

—In the house of commons Dr. Kellaway stated in connection with the governmentscheme for the development of oil resources of the United Kingdom, oil had been struck at Hardstoft, Derbyshire. It rose rapidly to 400 feet, and boring had to be stopped in order to prevent flooding. The oil was good quality.

—A serious uprising is reported in Southern Kurdistan, where the gendarmerie has been defeated. It is reported British troops there are in a serious position. The British army in Mesopotamia is taking steps to overthrow the tribesmen.

—A building used as a barracks by the occupation troops at Ludwigschafen has been destroyed by fire. 40 soldiers perished and a hundred were injured, according to a Central News dispatch from Berlin via Copenhagen.

DUBLIN.—The Sinn Feiners have decided to make the first real test of the "independence of the Republic of Ireland" in refusing to pay the income tax imposed by the British Government.

PARIS.—Three nurses attached to the American expeditionary force were killed May 25 in an automobile accident at Chateau Thiery.

LUXEMBURG.—Pres. Wilson has advised the government of Luxemburg to submit views concerning the immediate future of the grand duchy.

—On the market at Ettelbruck heavy draught oxen brought 4,000 to 4,500 francs recently, milch cows 900 to 1,350 francs. At an auction in Berschen horses brought 4,500 to 4,800 francs, cows 1,500 to 1,800, and young pigs 90 to 125 francs.

NAPLES.—On Apr. 17 an explosion of munitions occurred here. The victims, Italian soldiers and Austrian prisoners, number 7 dead and 30 seriously injured.

KIEL.—In the munitions depot of Friedrichsberg near here, an explosion occurred on Apr. 16, which caused great material damage; 40 to 50 persons were injured and several are dead.

TOKIO.—16,000 persons were killed or injured in a volcanic eruption in Central Java on May 20.

St. Boniface's Life Work.

After St. Boniface (his feast is celebrated on June 5th) had determined to give his whole life to God for the propagation of the holy Faith he first went to Friesland which is the present Netherlands or Holland. After laboring there three years, the unfavorable political conditions forced him to leave this field of endeavor. But he had become acquainted with St. Willibrord, the Apostle of Holland and Luxemburg, and no doubt gained many useful experiences for the future. He returned to England in order to thank once more his brethren in the cloister for their great love. And there he at once prepared for a last and definite departure. The abbot of his monastery Wynbrecht, his fatherly friend, had died, and the monks wanted him for their abbot. But Bishop Daniel of Winchester interfered in his behalf. St. Boniface, then still called Winfried, received from him a letter of introduction to the Pope, because he wished to come under the direct supervision of the highest ecclesiastical authority before again beginning his missionary labors.

The belief in the primacy of the Roman Church was at that time particularly strong in Anglo-Saxon England. Besides Boniface had himself experienced how unreliable is the protection and assistance of the lords and nobles of the world; for the death of Pipin of Heristal, that powerful Frankish prince, was the chief cause of the downfall of the Friesian mission, which Pipin had protected against the open and secret persecutions of the Friesian chief Radbod. This experience certainly contributed to intensify his wish for a closer union with an enduring power and authority.

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