

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

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LONDON, CANADA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1919

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THE AGITATOR

By THE OBSERVER

Have you met the professional labor agitator? He is the curse of labor unions today; and he is to be found everywhere you go. One such we met the other day in a public place where there was much conversation. He suggested and insinuated his "advanced" ideas, which had English Socialism all over their face; and he might have passed for merely a pretty strong labor advocate had we not begun to ask questions.

Slowly we drew him out. He expressed dissatisfaction with a certain labor journal; we found it was because that paper did not go far enough. "There's a whole lot of people," he said, "who want a little encouragement." Which, being interpreted, means that labor papers ought to flatter and fool the workmen, and draw for them delusive pictures of what the future has in store for them; and if this is not done, the "advanced" labor leader, such as this man, has no use for them.

We asked him what he thought of Samuel Gompers. It appeared that "Sammy," (as he called him), is what is technically known as "a back number." He doesn't give sufficiently quick action, we suppose; perhaps does not keep in mind the "whole lot of people who want a little encouragement." At all events, Samuel Gompers does not please our agitator.

He talked loudly and at length. His talk was extravagant; but it was couched in phrases which are in vogue among workingmen; and were quite evidently not of his own manufacture. The substance of his remarks was about this: The laws and the courts are made and used for the rich man; judges are put on the Bench to favor the rich man. Labor produces everything. (He forgot that man has never created, and never will create, one ounce of raw material, one tree, one blade of grass.) There is no such thing as profiteering. If a seller of goods can get ten times their value, he is justified in getting it; and so is the laborer justified in getting ten times the value of his labor.

The future of the world will have no place for lawyers, clergymen, or banks; apparently no place for anything but some sort of Socialistic substitute for the Buddhist Nirvana. "What is a profiteer?" he asked, with an arrogant gesture which plainly said: "You don't know?" We timidly suggested an answer; timid with the nervousness the man who has read some things, and studied a little, so often feels in the presence of absolutely self-satisfied ignorance. For instance, we said, the man who buys a cargo of fish for two cents a pound and sells it for sixteen cents a pound. His laughter was loud and long. "By what law is he bound to sell for less than sixteen cents?" We suggested the law of fair-play. His laughter rang out still more loudly. "Fair-play?" and he gave us a pitying glance. "Why is it unfair?" We answered, "It is dishonest." Now, indeed, we felt the full force of his pity. "Dishonest?" "Oh," said we, "you do not see any difference between honesty and dishonesty?"

And now he hedged a bit. "Oh, yes," he said; and he stopped laughing; "I do, idealistically." He meant that there is no honesty in actual life. That is the sort of thing that aggressive, loud-mouthed, ignorant men, who have a smattering of Socialist writings, are preaching all over Canada today. And the worst of it is, that Canadian workingmen in thousands are listening to them. Too many of the men who have made their way into the leading offices in the labor unions are men of exactly this stamp. This man himself has acted as a labor leader, in some matters and on some occasions.

It would be a great mistake to underrate the influence of men of this sort. Their influence is great; and it is most pernicious. Their habit is to supply the place of facts with innuendo and suspicion. They play on the passions of men. Sometimes they are fanatics themselves;

and then they have the force which always accompanies fanaticism; the strong appearance, if not the reality, of earnest conviction.

What kind of a world do they picture to those who listen to them? Not the real world; not public Society as it is. Far from it. The world is had enough; but yet not nearly so bad as they say it is. We asked this man: "Then, if what you say is true, the disputes of capital and labor involve war; dog eat dog; and the devil take the hindmost?" He agreed that that was the only prospect he could see. He admitted the existence of a principle of right and wrong; "idealistically;" (that seemed to be a favorite word of his); but he could not see how it was to be applied to the actual conditions of every day life.

Here, then, we have the "advanced" labor view; which may be summed up like this: The disputes of capital and labor cannot be settled on principles of right and wrong; and that leaves only one way of settling them; get all you can; everyone for himself; and the devil take the hindmost.

What a hopeless, helpless, despairing view of life!

ENCOURAGING SIGN

COAL OPERATORS TO BE INVESTIGATED

Those who like ourselves felt indignant with the evident political manipulation of the Coal Strike issues will read with great pleasure the following announcement of a thorough investigation of the whole coal situation including the operators whose fabulous profits have been vouched for by Ex-Secretary of the Treasury MacAdoo as well as by his successor Secretary Glass.

The reversal of Secretary of Labor Wilson's decision as to wages acceptable to the miners, and the substitution of Fuel Commissioner Garfield's schedule favorable to the regular operators' demands was, in the face of the enormous profits of the latter, one little calculated to enhance the respect for the authority of Government; all the less so when it was notorious that the Cabinet had been dead-locked for days over the matter.

The present investigation being judicial will be, it may be confidently hoped, beyond the reach of political influence.

The Grand Jury investigation, called primarily to deal with charges against coal operators, will cover all phases of the controversy in the coal industry, and will be nationwide in its scope. The statement of government attorneys brought out the fact that the investigation was intended not only to furnish relief in the present coal crisis, but that the Government expected to prosecute all violators of the law and see that they suffer the penalties provided. The Lever law carries a penalty of \$5,000 fine or imprisonment not to exceed two years in the penitentiary.

It was stated that the determination to begin the Grand Jury investigation came as a result of disclosures in the proceedings against the miners' leaders, which, it was said, tended to show that the coal operators, as well as the miners, were in a conspiracy to violate the Lever law. Agents of the Department of Justice started two weeks ago an investigation of alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust law by operators and the evidence collected by them has been added to that offered in previous investigation of the miners.

"The information, at great length, sets out the acts, not only of the defendants, but of others," reads Mr. Slack's statement, "showing that the injunction has not only been disobeyed, but that the Lever act has been and is now being grossly, openly and defiantly violated. Upon the facts in this information being called to the attention of Judge Anderson, he immediately determined to call a grand jury. "It must be clearly understood that the Government intends to ask this Grand Jury indictments for such violations of the law as may be developed before it, and that this is not for the purpose only of bringing relief from the present intolerable situation, but the Government expects to prosecute all violators of the law to the end, and expects to insist that such violators shall suffer the penalty provided by law.

"We shall not only insist that the coal operators are in league with the miners to violate the Lever act, but we shall further insist that the coal operators themselves have combined to violate the criminal provisions of the anti-trust acts passed by Con-

gress, and that they have violated such provisions.

"A most thorough, sweeping, and searching investigation will be made by this grand jury, and all violators, whether they be miners, mine officers, operators or dealers, will be brought to book.

"The time has come, it is here now, to have it determined whether or not the Government of this country rules, or whether lawless people shall have their way—whether this is a Government of law or of a group of men.—N. Y. Times.

OUR IRISH LETTER

IRELAND SEEN THROUGH IRISH EYES

ARMISTICE DAY IN DUBLIN

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Armistice Day which the King of England ordered to be observed by a two-minute solemn silence pause, was in Dublin observed with feelings which George Rex forgot to provide for—a smashing into and turning inside out of Sinn Fein Headquarters by the Military—and a battle royal in the streets between the Anglo-Irish students of Trinity College, and the Irish Nationalist students of the Nationalist University of Ireland—all war hungry heroes whose appetite for action your two minute silences couldn't satisfy.

The military were drawn up in Dublin Castle Yard for the solemn observance—and immediately it was got rid of they were ordered out at the double quick, and fifteen minutes later were smashing in the doors of the Sinn Fein in Harcourt Street. Inside, they first captured a nurse who was attending the janitor's dying wife, then a winsome tylist of sixteen summers (in whom they evidently beheld a source of disaster to the Empire), and finally six live Sinn Feiners, four of them M. P.'s. Charged with being members of an association proclaimed dangerous by Lord French, the criminals—and a great haul of booty—were trundled off in two big military lorries. The Dublin papers made merry over the fact that the foremost lorry, carrying the booty, and guarded by a hundred soldiers with fixed bayonets, displayed such dread evidence of Sinn Fein terrorism as a hand-box, a hunchback basket, a piano, a typewriter, a bird cage, a blackboard, a fiddle, a silk hat, and three umbrellas!—every fearsome item of them positive proof that these traitors are still trucking with the brutal Huns.

In the second lorry, surrounded by three hundred heavily armed guards stood the arrested Sinn Fein desperadoes. To hilarious amusement of onlooking multitude, and the provoking discomfiture of the haughty military officers (who seemed vain as if they had just captured the Kaiser, and whole German military outfit) the criminals in the lorry hailed sarcastic witticisms thick and fast upon their captors. Young Brian O'Higgins, M. P., the poet, who was one of the captives, evoked a particularly provoking long and loud roar of laughter from the spectators when he said: "And now boys, in gratitude for the triumph of Anglo-Saxon liberty and democracy over German militarism and tyranny, let us pause and solemnly bow our heads, for two minutes heavenly reflection."

Another most noted professor of the National University is Dr. Sigerson, the poet and dean of Irish literature—and moreover, a nerve specialist of international reputation, pupil of the famous Charcot. He is also distinguished as the father of a distinguished daughter, Dora Sigerson Shorter, recently deceased wife of Clement Shorter. His second daughter is Hester Sigerson Platt, daughter-in-law of the Cincinnati Platt (the poet), who held the American Chief Consulate in Ireland. The versatile Dr. Sigerson is likewise noted as a collector of Napoleonic relics, and also of miniatures. His latter collection is at present displayed as a loan exhibit in the Dublin National Museum.

COUNT PLUNKETT

The Curator of the Dublin Museum up to the rebellion of 1916 was Count Plunkett—who is now a vice-President and famed exponent of Sinn Fein. The Count was proud of a poet-daughter and a poet-son, the latter of whom at Easter-time 1916, he gave to the four-in-the-morning military squad. The Count, old though he be, felt called upon to quit his peaceful pursuits and step into the gap left vacant by his son's martyrdom. The Count's fighting qualities proved an utter surprise to those who had known him as the gentle and suave man of culture, widely known art critic and great antiquarian. At that time, in fact, he was President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland. For their principles—or might it be said for the principles of their children—both Count and Countess Plunkett, both aged, suffered imprisonment and dread hardships, indignities after Easter 1916.

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE

A highly interesting comparison between Unionist Belfast and Nationalist Dublin is drawn in the fortnightly Review by one of the Anglo-Irish themselves. For they say that he was fed and bred up upon the narrowest of the narrow anti-Irish creed of Belfast. He is Pro-

gress, and that they have violated such provisions. "A most thorough, sweeping, and searching investigation will be made by this grand jury, and all violators, whether they be miners, mine officers, operators or dealers, will be brought to book. "The time has come, it is here now, to have it determined whether or not the Government of this country rules, or whether lawless people shall have their way—whether this is a Government of law or of a group of men.—N. Y. Times.

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essor Longford, the Professor of Japanese in the University of London. He had large experience of both the North and South of Ireland. He says that while Dublin is idealistic Belfast is entirely materialistic. He points to the remarkable and well known fact that while Dublin is honeycombed with bookshops the great and "progressive" city of Belfast has just one! "In Dublin," he writes, "patriotism is a religion. It is nurtured on a refined literary culture, and on a knowledge of the national history which is shared by all classes for a trace of which one may seek in vain in Belfast. The trade of the Dublin bookstores is not so much in modern trash, as in classical literature. The fine arts are eagerly studied in Dublin. And it is not a rash statement to mention that the refinement of soul is reflected in the spiritual faces of the people." This comparison of the "unprogressive" South, with the "progressive" Northeast is particularly interesting in coming, as it were, from the ranks of the enemy. Professor Longford visited Ireland recently, and was shocked to find "that in its most arrogant form Militarism now presses the whole people beneath its iron heel and leaves scarcely a remembrance of constitutional rights and privileges. To find a parallel we must go to Alsace before the War when Zuber was notorious or even to Belgium under Prussian rule."

SEUMAS MACMANUS
OF DUNELM.

Rudely shocked would they have been who founded the College if they could have foreseen every generation of all the generations since, noble products of ignoble Trinity sacrificing themselves to rekindle the fires of liberty that they had thought stamped out forever! And in the present crisis Trinity harbors and shelters an important minority, the most cultured of its denizens. Anglo-Irish by blood, but Irish by spirit, staunchly Protestant in religion, but loving and beloved of Catholic Ireland, who are earnestly striving to redeem the institution from its shameful traditions, and who hope one day to have it worthily standing for Irish liberty against English tyranny.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY MAKING HISTORY

Unlike Trinity College the National University, still very young in years, has been from its inception a great and worthy aid to Ireland. And, though young in years, it has already made history. One of its senators and most worthy professors, Eoin MacNeill, who was the President of the Irish Volunteers, was sentenced to penal servitude for life. He broke stones and picked oakum in the dread penal prison on bleak Dartmoor. One of its lecturers, the true poet, the very beautiful character, Thomas MacDonagh, it supplied as target with his back to a jail wall facing a British military squad at 4 o'clock on a morning of Easter-time 1916. And of professors and students there today it is safe to say that nine out of every ten would covet standing in Thomas MacDonagh's blood-filled shoes when occasion calls again.

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CATHOLIC NOTES

Sixty-eight years ago, Saturday, November 22, His Eminence Desideratus Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines and Primate of Belgium, was born, at Braine-l'Alleud, a few minutes' walk from the battlefields of Waterloo, Belgium.

Sister Mary Louise of the Ursuline Convent at Tiffin, Ohio, is the only licensed woman engineer in that State and one of the few in the United States. Sister Mary Louise has been in charge of the engineering at the convent for the last twenty years.

All Christians are glad to hear that religious services are again held in Rheims cathedral. Mass was celebrated on All Saints' Day at the Blessed Virgin's altar. The damage is not so great as is seemed and plans for the restoration of the wonderful old church are already under consideration.

Rome, November 23.—It has been officially announced that an Apostolic Delegation has been established in Japan to further the progress of the faith, which is now making great strides in that country. The delegate appointed is Monsignor Fumasoni Biondi Pietro, at present occupying a similar office in the East Indies.

In many eastern Catholic schools the teachers have introduced once a week what is called a Catholic press hour. The lesson in religion is made interesting and instructive by requiring the pupils to report on some topic connected with the church and religion that they have read about in their Catholic family paper. The matter is taken up and discussed during the catechism hour, and thus the teaching of religion is given actuality and connected with the events of today.

The Catholics in Pittsburgh have established in the Duquesne University a training course for social workers. It accords to the girls who are at least high school graduates, the opportunity of training for advanced social work. The classes will be in the university school rooms in the very heart of the down-town section of Pittsburgh. Innumerable charitable and social agencies of the city are cooperating, so that those who enter the courses will have not merely the Catholic theory of social service but actual practice work in immediate contact with the cases that are happening every hour in Pittsburgh, which is such a wonderful sociological laboratory.

Dr. Adolf Christen, seventy-seven years old, a leader of the Old Catholic Apostasy in Switzerland in the last century, is dead at his home in Olten. Dr. Christen was President of the Synod in the Swiss Old Catholic National Church, at one time with a large following. Lately he exerted himself to infuse vitality into a fast vanishing movement, which broke up into factions and separate schisms. The dead leader lived to see a Catholic Church erected opposite his own residence to replace the proper church of which Catholics were robbed by the Old Catholics.

On Friday afternoon, November 14, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, on his return to Washington from Annapolis, paid an informal visit to Cardinal Gibbons at St. Patrick's Rectory, Washington, D. C. The Prince was accompanied by Admiral Halsey and other members of his suite. Monsignor Thomas received him at the door and escorted him to the Cardinal's apartments, where he chatted pleasantly with His Eminence. Bishop Shaanan and Dr. Dougherty, rector and vice-rector of the Catholic University, were present at the interview. On leaving the Prince expressed himself as desiring it a privilege to have met His Eminence.

Right Reverend Monsignor Hryniewicki has returned to his episcopal see, Wilno, Poland, from which he was banished thirty-eight years ago by the Russian government. During his period of banishment he has lived in the interior of Russia and later in Lemberg. The aged bishop's first effort was to discover and if possible, take possession of his former residence, but he found it had been completely demolished. When his presence in the city was known he was given an enthusiastic reception by the people who gathered in crowds about the hotel where he was forced to stay, eager to see and to welcome him to his own again.

Baltimore, Nov. 25.—Cardinal Gibbons, Primate of the American hierarchy of Catholic Church, today issued this Thanksgiving message: "We offer thanks to God this year because of the many blessings received from Him during the past twelve months, in particular for the cessation of the World War, and in our own country for the prosperity and peace we enjoy. We thank Him for the spirit of patriotism fanned into a warmer flame in the hearts of our people, and manifesting itself most recently in the resolve to curb effectually those destructive forces which strive to undermine or overthrow the just and wise provisions of our Government."

THANKSGIVING MASS

AMBASSADORS AND CABINET OFFICERS AT PAN-AMERICAN MASS

Washington, Nov. 27.—Government officials, Latin American diplomats, and church dignitaries attended the twelfth annual Pan-American Mass at St. Patrick's Church, where the Rev. J. A. Cunnane of Baltimore delivered the sermon. The ceremonies were in charge of the Very Rev. Edward G. Fitzgerald of the Catholic University.

"We thank God today that we live under a form of Government based upon the principles of Divine justice," said Father Cunnane. "May the Divine wisdom teach the whole population, especially the stranger within our gates, to realize that if they would be worthy of the blessings and accounted as desirable citizens they must all become thoroughly Americanized."

Flags of many nations were used for the church decorations. The Stars and Stripes draped the Stations of the Cross and the pillars, while the standards of Central and South American countries were suspended between the pillars. The colors of the allied countries were spread fan-like from the balcony.

Among those attending the services were Ambassadors and Ministers from Chili, Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Haiti, Salvador, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Panama, and Cuba. General Pershing was present for the army and Admiral Grayson for the navy. Among others present were Secretary Lansing, Secretary Glass, Secretary Houston, and Chief Justice White.

Closing Mass, Mgr. Thomas recited prayer for the authorities and afterward Cardinal Gibbons and Papal Delegate Archbishop Bonzano held an informal reception.