

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.50 per annum... Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, L.L.D.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND THE OTTAWA SEPARATE SCHOOLS

During its recent session the Ontario Legislature passed an Act giving the Minister of Education altogether unprecedented discretionary powers with regard to the Ottawa Separate Schools.

Appeals to passion and prejudice by Orangemen on the one hand and French Canadian extremists on the other have unfortunately tended to create a false impression as to the real question in issue.

"May I take this opportunity," writes Senator Belcourt, "to say that in my judgment the bilingual question is purely of a linguistic and not religious character, and so far as I am concerned it will remain a question of language and not of religion."

However, the fact that their dishonest tactics are repudiated by the intelligent men of their own party will not shame certain French journals into abandoning the broad appeal to prejudice contained in the charge that Irish Catholics are allied with the Orangemen against French Canadian co-religionists.

"Here," writes T. P. O'Connor, "for the first time in modern history, Catholic and Protestant bands marched side by side, and on the same platform there appeared Catholic priests, Protestant rectors, Presbyterian ministers and a Belgian priest, while the whole town turned out to cheer the Irish Fusiliers."

French Catholics of Quebec, for good or ill, are out of their language from the rest of the country, indeed from the rest of the continent. It is, perhaps, quite natural that they should desire to perpetuate as far as possible Quebec conditions in other provinces by segregating their people in French speaking communities.

With such widely differing points of view, with ideals of Catholic education so diverse, it is not surprising that French and English Catholics should fail to agree when obliged to use the same schools.

"Every Separate School in Ottawa," continues the judgment, "is closed, 7,000 or 8,000 boys and girls are without means of obtaining an education, and the vicious and perhaps criminal habits which some of them will inevitably acquire in a life of idleness will probably never be shaken off."

It is sometimes assumed that it is solely in virtue of giving financial aid to Separate Schools that the government has the right of inspection and regulation. This is by no means the case.

"The Roman Catholic Separate Schools (with their Registers) shall be subject to such inspection as may be directed, from time to time, by the Chief Superintendent of Education, and shall be subject, also, to such regulations as may be imposed, from time to time, by the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada."

The utter disregard for this section of the Act, and the open flouting of the authority of the Department of Education by the Ottawa Separate School Board are notorious.

The "Act respecting the Board of Trustees of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of the City of Ottawa" merely re-enacts Section xxvi. of the Separate Schools Act and protects the English teachers from spiteful dismissal or reduction of salaries by requiring the written approval of the Minister of Education in such cases.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Act in question is merely a special provision to meet the exceptional requirements of a special case. Some such provision had to be made or the Government had to confess its incompetence to manage the educational affairs of the province; to acknowledge itself powerless when its authority was flouted and the regulations of its Department of Education derided.

AS SEEN BY A CONVERT

THE CHURCH AND A VISIBLE HEAD Sir Samuel Evans, who presides over the Divorce Court in England, has fallen foul of the Anglican Church Times because a few days ago he delivered himself of what that organ terms a gratuitous opinion of English Catholicism.

Sir Samuel might appropriately retort that Anglicanism is of itself an obvious and ominous example of what the Church on earth would become if it had no earthly or visible head. Indeed, he might fittingly point to the larger example provided by Protestantism as a whole.

"Travel Talks" is the modest title of a work that we have found entertaining as the most perfect novel. As the Globe's able reviewer so aptly reminds us, "this book is no mere casual account of the transient impressions of a tourist through the scenes and peoples described."

The Epistle of St. James, because it is a standing refutation of the most important part of his un-Christian teaching? But many Protestant "scholars" go even further than that—they deny the Lord Who bought them.

"TRAVEL TALKS" BY DEAN HARRIS

The number of Canadian Catholic writers in English is so small that the appearance of a new volume by one of our own authors should be a noteworthy event to the Catholic reading public.

more than succeeded, and students of the future will utter his name with a benediction. He has rescued from oblivion priceless chapters of history Long after the very name of the primitive inhabitants of the Sonora, Arizona and lower California has faded from memory, when even the very face of nature will have undergone a change, will we turn to the pages of "Travel Talks" for a picture of the things that were.

Of the author's style we will say but little, knowing that but little is necessary. To eulogize the Dean's phraseology would indeed be gilding the lily. Ruskin has not written more melodiously.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

REFERRING to the exclusion from the mails of such papers as the Menace the amiable editor of the Christian Guardian opines that "any bill aiming to exclude newspapers which contain bitter attacks upon the adherents of any religion would be certain to affect many Catholic journals both in the United States and Canada."

A SINGLE Catholic parish in Scotland—St. Joseph's, Dundee—has contributed close upon seven hundred recruits to the Army on the Continent. This is a record scarcely rivalled outside of the great metropolitan centres, and is more eloquent than columns of mere verbal declamation could be as to the quality of Catholic patriotism.

AN ITALIAN paper—the Corriere della Sera of Milan—recently commented editorially upon the investigations which within the past few months have been carried on by the German Government with a view to determining the exact amount of food necessary for the average individual to maintain reasonable health and strength, as well as the actual amount that has been consumed per capita in Germany in the past.

WE ARE indebted to the Edinburgh Scoteman for a translation of the Corriere's article, and as everything bearing upon the great conflict is of universal interest just now, it may be worth while summarizing the Italian estimate of the food situation in Germany. It has already transpired from the investigation that there has in the past been an excess of consumption over the real need of fully sixty per cent.

NOW, THE Germans, he proceeds, have been informed of two facts—viz: that hitherto they have consumed more than was good for them, and that, secondly, according to that standard they have to go short in the immediate future.

already been acted upon. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper are all being legislated for, and in particular, minute instructions have been issued for the benefit of housewives, teaching them how to proceed when boiling potatoes, peeled and unpeeled. And so on, ad infinitum.

A MERE cursory acquaintance with the German character and with the high and mighty spirit of the war lord will suffice to appreciate the galling nature of what, were times normal, would be petty and extremely humiliating restrictions.

WE HAVE recently been reading some interesting particulars of the excavations which for some time have been carried on at Ostia, the seaport of ancient Rome.

THE LATER excavations have lain between the Theatre and the Temple of Vulcan and have resulted in the uncovering of the Republican Decumano, or chief street; the locating of a number of shops; the placing of the Imperial Forum; and the unearthing of two important groups of houses of the Middle Empire.

THE SHOPS, which are situated to the east of the Temple of Vulcan, are situated at a depth of 6½ ft. lower than the Imperial City. It is to be regretted that fuller information is not given as to the character of these shops.

IN A FINE street, 16½ feet wide, running parallel to the Decumano, are to be found two groups of houses with their second floor still standing. The thresholds of these houses were about a yard above the level of the street, and were reached by an outside staircase of which traces have been found.