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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1917

A SERIOUS STATE OF THINGS

A Canadian press despatch from Montreal prominently displayed in our papers is of a nature more mischievous than alarming. Joseph Begin in La Croix advocates the withdrawal of Quebec from Confederation and the setting up of an autonomous Lower Canada yet subject as at present to the British crown. In some of the headlines this paper is openly declared to be "the Organ of the Priests." As a matter of fact La Croix occupies a very insignificant place amongst the minor papers of Quebec, and is in no sense the organ of the clergy. In the same number that carries the article which the Canadian Press Association has spread broadcast over the country, La Croix requests its subscribers, who are three, four and even eight years in arrears, to pay up; and invites sympathizers with his views to subscribe at reduced rates three or even six years in advance to relieve the financial strain. The representative of the Canadian Press in Montreal knows or ought to know the standing of La Croix. Instead of a line or two telling the truth in this respect many are led to believe that it is "the organ of the priests."

While deprecating the exaggerated importance given to the eccentric Mr. Begin and the misleading inferences suggested by the widespread publication of his article, it is not too much to say that it may properly be regarded as a straw which indicates the direction of the wind.

Of much graver import is this extract from La Patrie:

"Several newspapers are asking if the profound divisions existing today in this country do not put confederation in danger. It is true that a great unrest exists in Canada at the present time, and that the antagonism between the two races becomes more intense from day to day. The Eastern Provinces, and especially Quebec, are no longer in unison with the West.

"The mentality of the West and the East differs very considerably, while the newspapers printed in English refer to our province, our people, and our clergy in imprudent and insulting language. As a matter of fact, since the beginning of the War the sheets in the Province of Ontario, without distinction of party, continue to cast upon us the most insulting epithets, while no one in authority has seen fit to call halt to this flow of hate and malediction. The situation, therefore, we repeat, is grave, much graver than people in certain quarters seem to believe."

We have grown so accustomed to the tone and language of some of our papers when Quebec is in question that we may easily fail to realize the effect on French Canadians. And we must remember that it is precisely the bitter and insulting items that are most likely to be reproduced in the French press; just as it is the most unrestrained and exaggerated expressions of resentment on their part that are surest of reproduction in our papers. Party politics, of course, help to fan the flame in both cases. There is nothing new in all this. In the elections of 1861 we read in Pope's Life of Sir John Macdonald: "A determined effort was made to defeat Mr. Macdonald in Kingston. The old cries of subservency to French and Catholic influences received new life from the Orange difficulties of the previous year which had affected Kingston."

Fifty-six years ago the familiar appeals to racial and religious prejudice could be described as "the old cries!"

It may, perhaps, be both interesting and instructive to inquire what light Canadian history throws on the

"old cries." Sir John Macdonald's biographer tells us this:

"Ever since his acquaintance with public affairs Mr. Macdonald had been alive to the impossibility of carrying on a Government against which the French Canadians were unitedly opposed. . . . In 1846 he urged upon Mr. Draper the wisdom of meeting the French half way. . . . The general election of 1847-48 confirmed him in this view, and thenceforward he was more than ever careful to cultivate friendly relations with the French party."

The very intimate relationship existing for many years between Sir John Macdonald and the author of his Memoirs lends importance to this testimony as to this great statesman's real estimate of French Canadians as freely expressed in private:

"He rarely missed an opportunity of dwelling on their many excellencies of character, their moral and law-abiding disposition, and their conservative ways; while the quiet pastoral life of Lower Canada had for him a perennial charm. . . . Often have I heard him say that he had no patience with those persons who, absolutely ignorant of everything pertaining to Lower Canada and its people, affected, when speaking of French Canadians, a tone of contemptuous dislike."

Could he revisit the glimpses of the moon the poor man's patience would be subjected to greater strain than ever, especially if he were to read the papers and listen to the ordinary Sunday interpretation of the gospel of peace and good will so far as French Canadians are concerned.

Another extract:

"I refer to those issues of race and religion which periodically threaten the peace of Canada. It must be apparent to the most careless student of Sir John Macdonald's history, that British and Protestant though he was, at no time in his career had he any sympathy with that fierce intolerance of everything French and Roman Catholic which at the present time is abroad in the province of Ontario."

It may be necessary to remind the casual reader that the Memoirs from which we quote were published in 1894.

One further quotation may have its bearing, and its utility also, at the present time:

"While thus united by the political traditions of many years to Lower Canada, whose inhabitants he viewed as a quiet, moral, law-abiding, tolerant people, Sir John Macdonald was by no means blind to the defects of the French character, chief among which he placed a predisposition to fall a prey to demagogues, and an extreme sensitiveness on matters affecting their race."

No thoughtful Canadian can view with equanimity the conditions existing at the present time between the two races which make up Canada's population. The glimpses of our past history which the foregoing quotations afford have their lessons and their warning for the present and the future. It is not good sense, good patriotism nor good politics to perpetuate the stale and sterile "old cries" that have served—and ill-served—the reckless purpose now of one party, now of the other, at one time in Ontario, at another in Quebec, sometimes in both together. State they certainly are, and if not sterile, fruitful only of those things which disturb the peaceful development of Canada, and menace the stability of Confederation. And it is not by any means politicians alone who are guilty of fomenting this dangerous strife but those from whom, by their calling and education, Canada has a right to expect better things.

THE NORTH AMERICAN TEACHER

Many excellent teachers find helpful suggestions for the practical work of the class room in educational publications devoted to the technical work of teaching. Some of these are not only technical but specialized for the books in use in the schools. The North American Teacher, of which the second number has reached our desk, is a Catholic publication of this kind. While it covers much the same ground in much the same way as the secular journals of the same class, there is a distinct advantage to Catholic teachers in having such an aid to their work published under Catholic supervision. For even in methods far-reaching principles are sometimes involved.

It is too early yet to judge whether the new journal will go much

further than this; but we may venture to express the hope that its imitation of its secular contemporaries will not be too servile. There is room, in addition, to bring encouragement, comfort and fresh points of view to the Catholic teacher. It may be hoped, also, that some of the meticulous care that is lavished on addition, subtraction and vulgar fractions may be extended to the methods of teaching religion.

In the meantime we are glad to bring the new venture to the notice of our Catholic teachers who may, if they will, exercise a very considerable influence in making it realize their ideal.

BEGINNING AT THE WRONG END

Commenting last week on the aspiration for an all-embracing Lay Union as the basis of Catholic activities in many spheres, we were not in the least agitated by any fear that much time or energy would be wasted on chimerical projects. Rather was it sought to combat a peculiar mentality, found more or less everywhere, which, under the guise of unusual zeal, belittles everything in actual existence in order to extol some vague and impossible ideal of what ought to be.

A case in point is a letter from an intelligent priest commenting on Father Gallagher's article in the Ecclesiastical Review. Father Durward says: "As Father Gallagher notes in his very excellent article in the January issue we have not one Catholic monthly of real excellence. And we have no English Catholic daily."

So far as the monthly is concerned no one who reads the best of secular magazines will hesitate for a moment to hand The Catholic World to an educated non-Catholic friend with the full assurance that he will find it equal to the magazines he has been accustomed to hold in high esteem. If we should like to see it better still, each and every educated and every thinking—the terms are not always convertible—Catholic may contribute something to the fulfilment of that desire.

As for that English Catholic daily, it is a sort of obsession with certain Catholics whose zeal outruns their thinking on the subject. The daily newspaper is bought for the news. If the daily newspapers of this continent are not Catholic neither are they Protestant, any more than the theatres are Protestant or the mail order stores or the insurance companies. Some of them are owned outright, many in part by Catholics. Catholic writers are found in all ranks of journalism. So large a proportion of their constituency is Catholic that it is not good business either to distort or suppress Catholic news or to misrepresent Catholic views. There is seldom any deliberate misrepresentation of Catholic doctrine or practice or of the Catholic attitude on any important matter. Besides the indirect influence exercised by the Catholic reading public on the tone of the daily press it is possible, often easy, to bring direct influence to bear in eliminating objectionable features as is admirably set forth and illustrated by Father Graham in the Ecclesiastical Review for May. Is it not significant, also, that while certain Catholics complain of the "Protestant" press, the ultra-Protestants emphatically assert that "Rome" has already captured the daily papers and given them a distinctively Catholic tone.

But there is another very practical consideration that must be taken into account. The daily newspaper, being bought for the news, has a strictly limited sphere of action and influence. The dailies of Toronto are not read in Ottawa except by an infinitesimal portion of the population. Even London does not read the "Hamilton papers. From the very nature of the case the daily newspaper is exclusively a local business. It is idle, therefore, to talk of the millions of Catholics dispersed throughout the Continent as possible or prospective buyers of the Catholic daily paper. One might as well, when one is at it, count up the Catholics of Australia, New Zealand, India, Ireland and Great Britain who read newspapers in English.

Another consideration is not less important. The news is gathered and distributed to the newspapers by various news agencies in all parts of the world. A Catholic daily owned and edited by Catholics would have either to depend on these agencies or establish its own. In competition with agencies supported by

thousands of papers the latter alternative would be impossible. Indeed it would be easier, cheaper and more feasible to establish and maintain a Catholic news agency with worldwide ramifications, which would supply the secular press with Catholic news.

The case we are discussing is another example of beginning at the wrong end. If a Catholic daily is necessary or desirable—and we are far from questioning this—there is nothing in the world to prevent such large centres of Catholic population as New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and many others from having one in each place. But the way to begin is to support and extend the influence of the existing weeklies until they can be assured of a constituency that will demand and support a daily edition. The RECORD is not published in any such centre as would justify the remotest hope of such a future for itself. Our view is, therefore, wholly disinterested.

Until the mentality to which we have referred readjusts its views it may continue with a harmless sort of megalomania to advocate what an old professor used to call "large ideas," but they will not exercise any great practical influence in the direction of their dreams.

The parable of the grain of mustard seed still retains some value as a subject of meditation.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE WORKING of the Lord's Day Act in the hands of an ignorant or narrow-minded official is seen in the arrest in Toronto a few days ago of an eleven-year old Jewish girl for handing out without charge over her father's counter a pinch of salt to a neighbor.

THE LIFE story of one of Canada's wealthiest men, Sir William Macdonald, who died in Montreal the other day, may be summed up in six paragraphs extracted from a lengthy obituary in the Montreal Star:

"Sir William Macdonald, multi-millionaire tobacco merchant and manufacturer, chancellor of McGill University, founder of Macdonald College, and princely benefactor of education generally, died at his residence, 449 Sherbrooke street west, on Saturday afternoon, after a long illness. He was in his eighty-seventh year."

"He was born at Glenaladale, near Tracadie, in Queen's County, P. E. I., in 1831, and received his education at the Central Academy in Charlottetown, also obtaining his business training in that city under the late Hon. Daniel Brennan."

"He was the youngest son of the late Hon. Donald Macdonald, some time president of the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island, and of Ann Matilda Brecken. His father was a son of Capt. John Macdonald, the eighth chief of the Clan Macdonald of Glenaladale in the Highlands of Scotland, who came to the New World and after founding the Scottish settlements at Tracadie, Scotch Fort, Glen Finnan and Fort Augustus, in Prince Edward Island, served with distinction in the American Revolutionary War as a captain in the 84th, or Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment."

"He left Prince Edward Island in 1854, and coming to Montreal, commenced business as an importer and general commission merchant. Subsequently he embarked in business, as a tobacco merchant and manufacturer. In this he achieved great success, gradually building up his great works in Montreal, the most extensive in that line of business in the Dominion. When asked by the chairman of the Tobacco Commission in 1902 who his competitors in business were, Sir William said, amid laughter: 'My conferees, you mean. I don't think I should say I have any competitors.'"

"Sir William was a millionaire many times over. He was probably the richest man in Canada and his fortune is estimated at not less than twenty million dollars."

"The Macdonalds of Glendale, from whom Sir William was descended, were Roman Catholics, but early in life he withdrew from the church and did not join any other religious body."

"The funeral will take place from his late residence on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to Mount Royal Cemetery, where cremation will take place."

THAT SIR WILLIAM was an eminently successful man, as the world reckons success; that he made good use of his wealth on the whole; and that in McGill University and kindred institutions he has left splendid monuments to his name, the above paragraphs succinctly show. The fact that from all his princely benefactions to public institutions, those under Catholic auspices were rigidly excluded, and that all his life long his heart was steered against the Faith for which his fathers had endured bitter persecution and gone

cheerfully into exile, need not be dwelt upon here.

THERE ARE, however, two clear-cut definitions of the word "success." That Sir William Macdonald had achieved the one in full measure no one will question. But to what extent he fell short of the other, the story told by the Star of the shipwreck of his faith in his early manhood; of his apparently life-long estrangement since then from religious influences of any kind; and of his death, as the Apostle expresses it, "without God and without hope in the world," is equally manifest. No "storied urn or animated bust" can make up for a loss like that.

REFERRING to the deportation of Belgian workmen which the German authorities have been carrying out so ruthlessly in that much-tried land, the Nation suggests as a solution of the underlying motive that Von Hindenburg is simply preparing for the inevitable retreat. As there seems no other obvious reason why Belgian workmen should not serve the interests of their conquerors as well at home as in Germany, we may well see in deportation a measure with a military purpose behind it. A hostile population on the line of retreat would be a peril which no general could disregard. And Hindenburg is not the man to be influenced by considerations of humanity where the interests of his army is concerned. Civilization has a long reckoning to make with him, and an additional atrocity or two can in his eyes probably not add to it.

NO MORE beautiful or more truly practical project for commemorating the fallen in the War has been devised than that embodied in the new St. Michael's Guild for Caldey, which, with the approval of the Bishops of England and Ireland, has been founded by the well-known Catholic novelist, Mrs. Egerton Castle. The idea is to provide Masses for the Dead of the Armies by means of donations which will go to the maintenance of the monastery on Caldey Island, North Wales. For seven hundred years before the "Reformation," the Benedictine life flourished there, and now, through the wonderful conversion of a whole community of Anglican monks, which event is fresh in the memory of all, Caldey is once more a Benedictine possession, and a centre from which Catholic influences will emanate to work for the restoration of England to the Ancient Faith.

THE TENURE of the new Catholic community on the island is, however, anything but secure, and there is danger even that the property may have to be sold. Catholics have not as yet come forward to replace the Anglican benefactors whom the monks lost by their conversion, and since the transference of their allegiance they have led a rather precarious existence as regards material requirements. This is no doubt due to the War, which has diverted so much from other channels. Yet the War has but intensified the need of the community as a centre of prayer and intercession for England. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mrs. Egerton Castle's project has already met with much encouragement and no little success. It should appeal not only to the Catholics of England but of all English-speaking countries, and of all the Allied nations, as it has no restrictions as to nationality in regard to the souls of the Soldier Dead.

NOTED SOCIALIST A CONVERT

On Holy Thursday at the Jesuit Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, New York City, there knelt at the Communion rail for the first time a man who had been prominent in the ranks of the Socialist party. He was Frank Urban, well known to Socialist audiences of the great East Side as an open-air lecturer. Mr. Urban, we read in the Catholic Convert, had no trace of any Christian heritage. Both his parents were Socialists, and he was brought up without religion at all. He seems to have been led to inquire into Catholicism by reason of having been accustomed to read Catholic periodicals in order the better to be able to combat what they had to say. He was thoroughly versed in the monistic philosophy of which Karl Marx was the great exemplar. His was as near an "intellectual conversion" as it is ever possible to define one. He sought out the Rev. R. H. Tierney, S. J., editor of America, in a spirit of inquiry as to the teachings of the Church on Socialism. It was as a result of their conversations that Mr. Urban finally asked to go under instruction. And it was Father Tierney who received him in Passion Week.—The Catholic News.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

GERMAN FORCES are now withdrawing from the positions which they occupied after the Messines battle. To what extent this retirement will be made is, of course, not yet known, but apparently it is already considerable. Correspondents at Headquarters in France, in despatches last night, say that it is extending farther southward.

GENERAL MAURICE, in his review of West front operations, rather depreciates the importance placed upon results of the explosion of one million pounds of high explosives preceding the attack at Messines. He states that it was certainly an aid in the attack, since it caused something like a panic among the Germans, and permitted the British to get through the first lines more easily, but he is inclined to give the artillery and air-men greatest credit for paving the way to the success. He has toured the section since the attack, and declared he found "every dugout, every observation post, every trench and every machine gun emplacement smashed" by the artillery. This means, he says, very heavy German casualties.

ONCE AGAIN the Hindenburg line in France figures in the despatches, the British yesterday having captured portions of it northeast of Bullecourt, overcoming sharp resistance on the part of the foe and inflicting heavy losses. News of this latest advance received last night followed upon the official report of a new advance made on Thursday evening in the Messines sector, an advance aided by a German retirement over portions of the ground. The two separated sections of the British front, with so short a time between each blow, are further striking indications of the manner in which the initiative has passed to the Allies. In any event General Haig is wiping out many salients, straightening his line, and beating the enemy out of positions of his own choosing.

IN BELGIUM the British campaign, already auspiciously opened, gives promise of developing, in conjunction with the advance to the south, into by far the most important of the war to date. The Germans, in their announcements of yesterday, admit that they made not only a "retirement," but add that they were pressed back by the British between Hollebeke and the River Douve and southwest of Warneton. The retirement was due to the constant pressure of the British Second Army, under direct command of General Plumer, which, following the Messines Ridge battle, pressed the foe into an impossible position, leaving them no alternative but that of fighting a losing battle with the waterways at their backs. The British attack was on a front of about seven miles, from Klein Zillebeke south to the River Warnave. During the attack the Germans lost 150 men, one howitzer gun and a number of machine guns. The small loss of men indicates that the foe was fighting a rearguard action. The loss of the howitzer shows that he was hard pressed for time. Correspondents at British Headquarters, while speaking cautiously of the situation, still hint that the retreat of the Germans will be continued for some distance, as there are no natural height positions for defence for some distance back. It is to be noted that if the British are able to maintain their advance in this sector it will have a very direct and important effect on points farther south, where the struggle to eject the foe from Northern France is in progress.

THE TORPEDOING of a British armored merchant cruiser in the North Sea illustrates the dangers of maintaining the blockade of Germany which, while not spectacular, is a necessary work in bringing the Germans to the end of their resistance. Considering the amount of patrol work that the British ships have had to perform, the losses have not been heavy, and the navy's grip on the enemy is tightening rather than loosening with the passing days.—Globe, June 16.

CHURCH GAINS 50,000 CONVERTS ANNUALLY IN UNITED STATES

The annual number of converts to the Catholic Church in this country ranges anywhere between 40,000 and 100,000, declared the Rt. Rev. Denis J. Dougherty, Bishop of Buffalo, at a meeting of the Converts' League in the auditorium of the club-house of the Knights of Columbus, Buffalo, recently.

"That means, therefore," Bishop Dougherty continued, "that we have every year added to the Catholic Church at least 50,000 converts, and it is needless to say that, as a rule, those who join the Catholic Church first of all join it from sincere conviction, and, secondly, that they are a credit to the Church which they join. We are proud of those to whom God gives the gift of faith."

It is true that although we receive so many converts into the Church every year, there is also some leakage; but it is a notorious fact that those who leave the Catholic Church seldom or never leave it through conviction, but almost in every case because of some self-interest. Cardinal Gibbons, who is a man of varied experience, has stated publicly that during his long life, in which he has been thrown in contact with so many classes of people, he never yet found one who left the Catholic Church through conviction of its being a false religion.

"Now, since we annually receive into the Catholic Church in this country so many and such distinguished converts, it is natural that some organization of these converts will be of supreme importance both to them and to the Catholic Church itself. This, therefore, is the chief motive for the foundation of this league: First, the general benefit to the Catholic Church; second, the special benefit to converts themselves."

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

WILLIAM REDMOND'S DEATH EXERCISES PROFOUND INFLUENCE

WAR WILL END VAST FORTUNES AND ABYSSAL POVERTY IN ENGLAND

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1917, Central News)

London, June 16th.—The hope expressed by William H. K. Redmond, brother of John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, who was killed in action in Belgium last week, that his death would save Ireland, may prove more true than even he expected. Already it has exerted a remarkably softening influence upon the irascibility of the Ulsterites and also in various other directions; even the Presbyterian and Anglican ministers are vying with the Catholic clergy in tributes to his memory.

The last time he appeared in the House of Commons, his close cropped gray hair and thin figure revealed, as perhaps nothing else could have done, the three years of hard training he had undergone and the hard warfare he had been through. Nothing, however, could induce him to return home, though he could have done so any hour that he wished. Nor would he ever consent to accept a "soft" job at the front as was repeatedly urged upon him.

Although he was a severe and relentless critic of some of the mistakes which interfered so disastrously with Ireland's splendid temper towards the War in its opening months, he never for a single moment wavered in his attitude toward the issues at stake, and never hesitated in expressing his opinion regardless of what that opinion was. To the very last moment he was firmly convinced he was fighting for, and facing death in the true interests of Ireland.

As to what will be the result of the election necessitated by his death, it is too early as yet to forecast, as Clare always has been a restive county. Dublin, where the death of Cotton makes another vacancy, is fairly secure, as all the enemies of anarchy and insanity, regardless of party, are gradually joining together in a common effort to save Ireland.

One of the many things that has felt the influence of the death of William Redmond is the coming convention for the proposed settlement of the Irish Home Rule question. Public opinion which last week was, in a great measure, extremely pessimistic, has veered around almost completely. It had been feared that the meeting of Orangemen at Belfast might make impossible demands, such as the re-construction of the entire composition of the convention as proposed by the Government, because of some declarations beforehand which pledged the gathering to the acceptance of the Ulstermen's full demands for a partition of the six counties. These apprehensions are largely discounted now.

The real unadulterated truth is that America's intervention suddenly transformed the whole situation. President Wilson's speech, coming as it did at a most opportune moment, gave at one blow the coup de grace to the whole irreconcilable attitude by putting the rights of small nations so much to the front and thus presenting England with the alternative of either liberating Ireland or taking a radically different attitude from that of her most powerful ally.

Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty, contributed greatly to the reasonableness of the Orange attitude and he showed his zeal for a settlement of the question by going over to Belfast in the midst of his tremendous anxieties of watching the submarine campaign. With him, as with many other men, the War fever in the sense of its gigantic perils and solemn issues, has produced an entire change of view and perspective. This in many respects is one of the most notable and remarkable results of the War.

It may truthfully be said that all the old party shibboleths and groupings have disappeared in the graves of Flanders, France and Gallipoli, never to be resurrected again. Socialistic ideas have spread throughout the country with extraordinary rapidity. Everybody is seeking a solution of the old troublesome question of the relations between capital and labor, a matter that was given little or no thought by the great mass of the people before the War.

It is certain that at least some system of co-partnership will be offered most workmen and wage earners at the close of the War, as it is apparent that any system conducted along the old lines has vanished even from the most narrow-minded conception of the future. Old England of vast fortunes on one side and vast abysses of poverty on the other is disappearing.

The outlook on the War itself has changed extraordinarily of late. The recent British victories on the