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The True



Witness

Vol. LVIII., No. 51.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1909

PRICE, FIVE CENTS

RELIGIOUS BELIEF OUT OF POLITICS.

SO SAYS PRESIDENT TO PRIESTS

Important Statement by Mr. Taft at Mission Meeting in Washington.

"It was an important gathering, many practical questions were considered and discussed, and as a result, the missionary movement received a further impetus." Father Martin Callaghan, S.S., of Notre Dame parish, is in Montreal again after attending the fourth annual Mission Congress, which took place last week in Washington. Father Callaghan had been invited to appear before the Congress and read a paper. He accepted Father Elliott's invitation and a digest of the paper is given hereunder. Father Callaghan was the only Canadian priest present at the gathering. The various mission fields of the United States were represented by delegates from the various orders interested in mission work.

Father Callaghan was seen on his return and in an interview with a representative of the True Witness, summarized the congress as quoted in the foregoing.

"President Taft was present at one of the meetings," said Father Callaghan. "He was warmly welcomed by Father Doyle who addressed him as the great 'peacemaker,' and who thanked him for his services to the Church in the Philippine Islands."

The President expressed great admiration for the Church and for the priests and members of the hierarchy whom he had met when undertaking the settlement of the Philippine matters. He was warm in his praise of the late pope, Leo XIII. In closing Mr. Taft made a striking remark which was loudly applauded by the meeting. "There should be no religion in politics," he said. "Keep religion out of politics and let us see to it that the best men secure the posts, irrespective of religious belief."

Father Martin Callaghan, S.S., of Montreal, was one of the speakers at the Congress. He reviewed the conditions that prevail in Montreal, and in discussing the missionary work of this city, said:

"Through my hands passed three thousand non-Catholics, two hundred and sixty of whom happened to be Catholics. It seems as if Almighty God ordained that the Chinese of this continent should be under the special protection of the Virgin Mother of Jesus. Their conversion started eight years ago in Ville Marie. Goon Hoy you was my chief auxiliary. He was in his sixty-second year. I could not but trust him. He was the pink of decency and loyalty. He was intelligent, affable, active and influential. He spoke English tolerably. I made his acquaintance through an elderly and devout Irishman by the name of Patrick Walsh, whom he requested to ask me if I would baptize his son of eighteen. He did ask me and I promised I would. I then asked him why the father did not wish me to baptize himself. In answer he said: 'He will not object, I guess you will have him, too.'"

THE CHINESE CONVERTS.

I appointed the day when the old gentleman called at the presbytery with his son and with one of his employees. He pleaded by word and gesture for his countrymen. He complained that they were ignored and abandoned. He stated that a great many were inclined to embrace Christianity but despairingly puzzled as to the steps they should take. He could testify that they were alive to the necessity of a priest who would prove their friend and guide. "We wish," said he, "to know your religion. I need you will tell us anything. Teach and baptize us. Many, many Chinamen will become Catholics."

After due instruction I baptized him along with the two others by whom he was accompanied. It was he who introduced me to the majority of all those whom I afterwards received into the Church. He picked and guaranteed them. They had emigrated from the region of Canton and were working in laundries. I had them instructed by interpreters whom I directed and superintended. I supplied them with imported catechisms, hymnals and prayer books in their own language. At one of their gatherings, myself with a violin and a priest at the piano sprang an impromptu musical programme which they relished and did not forget. I keep a record of their names and ages written with their alphabetical signs. It was shown to a papal delegate and a French bishop on a trip from China.

A GREAT CHANGE.

The condition of the Montreal Chinese has notably altered. They used to dread any appearance in public lest they might be plagued or insulted. At present, they are less socially ostracized or deprecated. In very truth, they are preferred to any other class of foreigners. Formerly they were monopolized by Protestants. Now they mingle in Catholic

worship. They lift the hands of a priest in passing by, shake his hand or greet him with a smile and bow. They are far from disowning or disguising their faith. They boldly profess it. If questioned as to his religion, a convert Chinaman will answer: "I am not a Chinaman; I am an Irishman. I go to St. Patrick's Church."

A CHINESE BANQUET.

Last year, Catholic Chinese tendered a magnificent banquet served up in oriental style to Bishop Merel who was posted in all the ins and outs of their native country. At the tables sat the Archbishop of Montreal with a score of clergymen. Eighteen Chinamen acted as waiters in a manner which did them credit. The guest of honor mastered the language in which he addressed them and delighted them beyond expression.

Two Chinese lie buried in consecrated ground and one of them had a solemn requiem Mass. Every Chinaman carries the beads and wears a badge. When quitting the city, he is given a letter signed by a priest. On arriving back in China, he is received with open arms by the Catholics, furnished with the best opportunities to learn the Catechism thoroughly and comply with his duties; and instead of being tempted to support the Protestant cause, he inclined to further the Catholic religion to the utmost of his ability. The Chinese converts I had were sincere. They have been grateful and liberal in gifts."

IMMIGRATION CONDITIONS.

In considering the situation of the immigrant, Father Callaghan said: "Immigrants are, if not better off in manifold respects, at least as well off as in their fatherland. They are not debared from any essential whatever. They can live in peace and plenty. If they do not, it is their fault exclusively; and they had rather decamp unless resolved upon amending. Canadian perverts are held in abomination if placed in comparison with the masses adherents, with the outlay of money, the expenditure of energy and the sum of bribery disbursed. Proselytism does not speculate on English speaking Catholics. It does not disremember the lessons of experience. Of a certainty, the venture would be an unpleasant and egregious failure. Proselytizers are after Italian, French and other scamps. They make all the capital they can out of the paltry trophies they succeed in securing and itch in exhibiting. One hundred and fifty thousand Ruthenians have settled in the Western provinces. They are in manifest danger of being Protestantized. They were deceived and spoiled by bad or apostate priests. The Protestants are trying to ensnare them by means of hospitals, schools and missions. The Catholic missionaries are doing their level best to cope with the bristling obstacles they encounter. They are sorely in need of funds."

Foresters in Convention

Montreal Member Chosen as High Provincial Chief Ranger.

Three hundred delegates from Montreal and Quebec were present at Moncton for the convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters, held in that city during four days of last week. On Monday evening the delegates were entertained at a French play put on by local talent in the Grand Opera House. On Tuesday morning the visitors attended Mass at St. Bernard's Church. A sermon in French was preached by Mgr. Lapaille, and one in English by Rev. Father Savage. In the afternoon the first business session of the convention was held, with Provincial Chief Ranger E. A. Grise in the chair. The appointment of committees to present the different matters to come before the convention and the outlining of the general programme of the sessions occupied all the afternoon. A number of telegrams conveying the greetings from states conventions, High Chief Ranger Carmon, Chicago, and others, were read to the convention. Nearly the whole of the evening was taken up with addresses of welcome and replies. Mayor Willett tendered the address of welcome on behalf of the city; Rev. Father Savage, on behalf of St. Bernard's Church; W. A. Walton, on behalf of the C.M.B.A.; James Glynn, on behalf of the A.O.H.; A. J. Legere, on behalf of the Artisan's; Henry LeBlanc, on behalf of the Societe L'Assomption; R. S. Legere, on behalf of the Alliance Nationale; J. H. Corcoran, on behalf of the Young Men's Catholic Club; Hon. F. J. Sweeney, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus; H. H. Melancon and M. Foran on behalf of the local court of Foresters.

Those replying to the addresses were Mgr. Lapaille, E. A. Grise, Provincial Chief Ranger; H. C. McCallum and A. P. Vanasse, chairman of the press committee. After the reception in the hall, the delegates were escorted by St. Bernard's brass band to the M.A.A.A. grounds, where a grand display of fireworks took place. On Wednesday afternoon the visiting delegates were taken on an excursion trip to

Faithful Thousands Make Public Profession.

Annual Corpus Christi Gatherings Participated in by Large Numbers of Montreal Catholics.

Each year a magnificent demonstration marks the observation of the beautiful feast of Corpus Christi. This year was not behind any previous one, and in the bright sunshine of an ideal June day, an immense concourse of the faithful wended its way through Montreal's streets singing hymns of praise as it went. Splendid decorations all along the route testified to the respect cherished in the hearts of the people for the great honor which was to be theirs, that of the Blessed Sacrament passing in their midst.

Very imposing was the sight as the procession left Notre Dame to commence its long march. Promptly

at ten o'clock, amid the ringing of the great Bourbon, blending with the well known peal of bells, His Lordship the Auxiliary Bishop appeared at the main entrance bearing the ostensorium, preceded by altar boys, thurifers, priests in chasubles, seminarians in dalmatics and followed by His Grace the Archbishop, surrounded by his Chapter. Slowly and solemnly this imposing cortege moved along through erstwhile noiseless streets and silent worshippers. On and on they passed until at Laval University a halt was made. A handsome repository had been prepared, there, the work of the Daughters of St. Joseph. The Duvernoy Guard lined up the steps leading to

the altar while the Host was borne to the summit by His Lordship Auxiliary Bishop Racicot, who gave Benediction amidst the glorious pealing of bells from St. James bellry. The little ones from the kindergarten school under the direction of the Sisters of Providence, St. Denis street, in pretty white dresses and wearing crowns were stationed on the University gallery, from which they scattered flowers. Then reforming the processionists returned by St. Denis, Bonsecours, Champ de Mars, Gosford and Notre Dame streets to the Church of Notre Dame where the deafening peal of bells and the sharp word of command to the 65th Battalion Guard, the canopy passed through the great edifice up to the altar which had in almost instantaneous become a blaze of light, while an immense congregation knelt in awed reverence. The Tantum Ergo was then intoned and taken up by hundreds of voices, filled the large church and stirred the hearts of the thousands who had gathered beneath its roof to a renewed faith in, and purer love for the great mystery of the altar, and so amidst clouds of incense the sacred element was again raised aloft over the bowed heads of a reverential throng and the great feast of Corpus Christi, 1909, became a memory.



THE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION. SCENE AT THE REPOSITORY ON THE STEPS OF LAVAL UNIVERSITY, ST. DENIS STREET

PLENARY COUNCIL OF CANADA.

WILL BE HELD IN QUEBEC.

Motive for Convoking This Great Religious Assembly.

His Lordship Bishop Archambault, of Joliette, has just published an important pastoral on the occasion of the next Canadian Plenary Council. His Lordship, after citing the most important theological and canonical opinions upon the Councils, their origin and their necessity, emphasizes the happy influence that these reunions have exerted in strengthening the faith and in developing Catholic works. After touching upon the motives which determined the convoking of a national council, the letter concludes as follows:

"The opening of the first plenary council of Canada will take place at Quebec in the Basilica, Sunday, Sept. 19, next. The archbishop, president bishop, vicars apostolic, prelates and administrators of vacant sees will attend. There will also be present: auxiliary bishops and titular bishops of the province, the mitred abbot of Oka, procurators of absent bishops, delegates of chapters of metropolitan churches and of Cathedral churches, vicars-general, prelates, rectors of Catholic universities, superiors of grand seminaries, provincials of religious orders, theologians and canons.

"His Eminence the Apostolic Delegate, who will preside at the council, will be received, upon his arrival, with all the honor due his dignity. The two days preceding the solemn opening will be occupied in nominating officers and members, in deciding upon the official order of proceedings, discussion and approval of the council's decrees. These decrees, considered by a special commission, will be discussed in the plenary reunion of bishops and theologians, re-examined by the Fathers of Council in convention, sanctioned by them, and finally publicly promulgated in the solemn sessions which will be held each Sunday in the Basilica at Quebec.

"The acts and decrees of this council will afterwards be despatched to Rome and submitted for the examination and approval of the Holy See. These measures dictated in a spirit of prudence, exacted by canonical law, in order to insure the profound study of matter which the council has to treat, are a final word in relation to the teachings of the Church and her law and conform to the general needs of the Church in Canada.

Retreats For Men.

Foundation of New Movement in New York.

The following explains the foundation and scope of a movement in New York City which should exert a far-reaching and salutary influence: Professional business-men and mechanics are to have an opportunity of making spiritual retreats. The object of these retreats is personal sanctification and spread of healthy principles among Catholic laymen in order to combat socialism where it has a hold and to prevent it from starting in new places. The organizers consist of a body of laymen drawn from the Xavier Alumni Sodality and elsewhere who propose forming themselves into a permanent organization to carry on the work.

His Grace, the Most Reverend John M. Farley, has given his hearty approval to this movement. The Jesuit Fathers will conduct these retreats. The initial retreat will be given at Fordham University at the end of June or beginning of July; other retreats will be given from time to time during the year. The retreats will start on Friday morning so that those taking part will hardly have their business or employment interfered with as soon as possible it is intended to secure a permanent home for the giving of retreats.

Voting in Spain.

All qualified Spaniards, except notaries, priests, and those over seventy years of age, are now compelled to vote under penalties ranging from public censure to a fine of 2 per cent. in increased taxation, and for a second offence a man may be declared ineligible for public office. To exercise the franchise is a civic duty, and to neglect it is a civic injustice. It will be interesting, however, to see how a compulsory vote will tell on the elections in Spain.

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Death of Archivist.

A notable figure in the world of ecclesiastical Rome has just passed away in the person of Monsignor Wenzel, Canon of St. Peter's and keeper of the Vatican Archives, who was sixty-eight years of age. Though known in several spheres as a learned prelate and generous benefactor, Monsignor Wenzel was chiefly remarkable for the zeal displayed in his care for the vast range of priceless documents contained in the archives of the Apostolic Palace, where it may be said, he almost lived for several years. On Thursday, May 27, after the celebration of High Mass in S. Maria in Transpontina, the remains of the prelate were laid in the tomb belonging to the Chapter of St. Peter's, to the sorrow of a wide circle of friends belonging to many countries. Amongst the wreaths were several from some of the principal universities in Europe.

SLIGO CHAMPION LOSES ITS EDITOR.

Mr. P. A. McHugh, M.P., died at Dublin after a short illness. He had returned from London feeling very unwell, and, on the advice of his friends, he at once sought medical aid, and was recommended to lie up in a private hospital. Then the illness took a very serious turn, when unfortunately, Mr. McHugh was sub- jected to a stroke of paralysis, and his son, Mr. Eugene McHugh, soli- citor, Secretary of the Sligo Co. Council, was at once summoned to his father's bedside.

There was no more able, eloquent, and strenuous worker in the Nationalist cause since he first entered public life, about twenty years ago, as certainly there was no more amiable, tolerant and kindly Irish gentleman than Pat McHugh, as he was known to his friends and colleagues. He was the proprietor of the "Sligo Champion," a weekly paper of large circulation and great influence in the West of Ireland, and he has been several years Mayor of the town. For many years he represented in Parliament a division of his native County of Leitrim, where he was born fifty years ago, and at the last General Election he was returned unopposed for North Sligo.

WAS FOUND GUILTY.

The trial accordingly took place about a month later, and Mr. McHugh was found guilty. In sentencing him to six months' imprisonment the Lord Chief Justice said that "it must be remembered that this is the first sentence for many years in this country for seditious libel, and that the sentence is not only a punishment but a warning." The Irish Party raised the question of privilege in the House of Commons, but to no effect. They obtained, however, from Mr. Wyndham a promise that Mr. McHugh should be allowed to edit his newspaper and to enjoy the same privileges in its regard as were granted to Mr. Stead at the time of his imprisonment. This concession was interpreted in their own fashion by the Prison Board. An article of Mr. McHugh's handed by him to an official for transmission to the "Sligo Champion" was confiscated, notwithstanding the fact that it had no concern with any of the matters for which Mr. McHugh had been imprisoned. The matter was raised in Parliament, and Mr. Wyndham stated that the prison authorities, while admitting that the article did not bear on the matters for which Mr. McHugh was tried, yet held that its publication would amount to another offence, and accordingly confiscated it, which, as Mr. Dillon remarked, amounted to conferring on the Governor powers of Press Censorship after the South African model.

WAS SENT TO JAIL.

In February, 1901, Mr. McHugh was one of the nine members who took part in the practical protest in the House of Commons against the closing of the debates on the Civil Service Estimates, involving millions of Irish money. The House was in Committee, with Mr. W. J. Lowther in the chair, and on the question being put, after the closure was carried, Mr. McHugh was one of those on the Irish Benches who refused to go into the Division Lobby—then a breach of Parliamentary order. He, in conjunction with his eight colleagues, was accordingly named and suspended and was carried from the House singing "God Save Ireland," the refrain of which was taken up by the other Nationalists present. Later in this same year Mr. McHugh

Ireland's Noble Record.

Writing to the London Daily News, a correspondent says that in thirty-two counties in Ireland, excluding the cities of Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, where crime was of a very normal type, there were only one hundred and thirty-eight indictments, mostly of a very ordinary character. This number works out at only four to a county in thirty-five to each million of population. He asks: "Do the records of any country in the world exhibit such immunity from crime?"