

AUSTRIA-BAVARIA
UNION REPORT BASELESS
EFFORT TO DISCREDIT
CATHOLICS

By Dr. Frederick Funder
An alleged scheme calling for the separation of Bavaria from the German Empire for the purpose of uniting it with Austria to form a great Catholic Empire in Central Europe, has been taken quite seriously by the Berlin correspondents recently and it is reported that the plan has received some credence in America. Those who have disseminated predictions to the effect that this plan was to be put into operation within the near future have credited its origin to France. It is represented that the separation of Bavaria from the Empire and its union with Austria would weaken the present central government to such an extent that the newly created Catholic State in the South would overshadow the Protestant North. This was held up as something that would be pleasing to France.

The alleged project has offered an opportunity to discredit the Catholics by making them appear to the friends of Germany as traitors, conspiring with France against the German Empire. By adding the intimation that the Catholic element is monarchist at heart and is planning to set up a Catholic Wittelsbach Empire in the heart of Europe, all steps have been taken to make the free thinking democracies of both hemispheres shudder at the thought of Catholicism.

OLD ANTAGONISM STILL EXISTS

The writer has investigated the situation touched upon in these reports and has spent the last few weeks in a place near the Bavarian-Austrian frontier. There, all those who believe in the possibility of a union between Austria and Bavaria could have witnessed a very astonishing spectacle. Every Sunday, when the young Bavarian peasants come from the Austrian frontier to drink the cheap Austrian wine, to which they are not accustomed—the Bavarians drinking only beer at home—the different inns along the boundary are the scenes of violent rows. At the first provoking word uttered by a Bavarian, he is seized by the Tyrolese and thrown out into the streets—together with chairs, tables, and other movables. The Tyrolese and the Bavarians never were on very good terms. Their mutual antagonism has lasted for hundreds of years and is still existing regardless of what the politicians may have to say to the contrary.

It is true that many articles have been published and many speeches have been made urging a union between Bavaria and the Austrian provinces of the Tyrol, Salzburg, and Upper-Austria, but the Church had nothing to do with this movement. For a short time France entertained hopes of seeing Germany weakened by this means, but it is now realized that those who would like to see a union between Bavaria and Austria are chiefly German Nationalists and they do not have the reputation of promoting Catholic interests.

FRANCE IS NOT SO SHORTSIGHTED

On the other hand to charge the French Government with being interested in promoting the idea of a Catholic Empire in central Europe would be equally absurd. France would not have definitely settled her diplomatic relationship with the Vatican. Indeed, if France ever had entertained any such plan as the one now being attributed to her, she must have long since abandoned it. It is now generally recognized that Bavaria is linked to Germany by so many ties of common interests that even in the case of a separation from the German Empire, its union with Austria to form a Separate State would be only temporary. Bavaria in its new form would soon return to Germany, thus incorporating Austria also in the Empire. Everyone knows that an increase in German territory is one of the things France has been most energetically opposed to.

UNION IMPOSSIBLE

It must also be considered that even the movement referred to has always been confined to a proposal for the union of certain Austrian provinces along the Bavarian frontier with the latter country. Austrians are very well aware that a union of all of Austria with Bavaria is an impossibility. Never would Munich agree to give up its supremacy in favor of Vienna. And Vienna, twice the size of Munich and the center of an older independent political and cultural tradition, could hardly be expected to accept Munich's supremacy. Even without other impediments, the divergent interests of these two cities would form the strongest kind of opposition to a union between the two States.

Then, too, even the German Nationalists in Austria are not unanimous in favor of joining Bavaria. Their apprehension has been that such an increase in Bavaria's power might shake the established structure of the German Empire.

Bavaria herself, on the occasion of the conflict caused by the "Law for the Protection of the Republic" which passed the Berlin parliament, has proved her firm intention to remain a part of the German Empire. There was a time, in Austria, on the contrary, when

endeavors for a union of the whole State with Germany, not with Bavaria alone, were strong, under the influence of the desperate condition of the country, as mutilated by the peace treaty of St. Germain. But these efforts have become of no consequence, the geographical situation of Austria as well as of Germany excluding every idea of bringing about this union against the will of the powers.

FUTURE OF AUSTRIA

Austria's future, it is true, is still uncertain. Should Chancellor Seipel and the Austrian Government, under the leadership of the Christian-social party, succeed in their plan to reestablish Austria, then it will remain an independent State. This rests upon whether or not the foreign countries will supply financial means to establish order in Austria's monetary affairs. Should this plan not succeed, as is still to be apprehended, then Austria either will disappear, being divided among the neighboring States—Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Italy and Hungary, or, perhaps the customs and currency systems of Italy will be extended over Austria. In any case there is not the slightest probability that those predictions, announcing the foundation of a new Catholic Bavaro-Austrian Empire in Europe will come true. Those who conspire against the European peace are found in another camp than among the Austrian and Bavarian Catholics.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 24.—The Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, St. Peter of the noble family of Nolascio was born in Languedoc about 1189. Early in life he made a vow of chastity and gave his vast property to the Church. Encouraged by a vision of the Blessed Virgin he and his confessor, with King James of Arragon established the order of Our Lady of Mercy for the redemption of captives. Pope Innocent XII. established the feast day of gratitude.

Monday, September 25.—St. Firmin, Bishop and martyr, was a native of Pamplone in Navarre, initiated in the Christian faith by Honestus, a disciple of St. Saturninus of Toulouse, and consecrated Bishop by St. Honoratus, successor of St. Saturninus, in order to preach the Gospel in the remotest parts of Gaul. He preached in Agen, Anjou, and Beauvais and set up his residence at Amiens. There he received the crown of martyrdom.

Tuesday, September 26.—Sts. Cyprian and Justine, martyrs, in early life Cyprian was devoted to the black arts of magic and to idolatry and astrology. Being impressed by the strength of character of a Christian lady, Justina, he embraced the Faith and when the persecution under Diocletian broke out both he and Justina were martyred.

Wednesday, September 27.—Sts. Cosmas and Damian, martyrs, were born in Arabia and educated in Syria. They became noted for their skill in medicine and practiced their profession without taking any fees. Under the persecution of Diocletian they were apprehended and after many tortures were bound hand and foot and cast into the sea.

Thursday, September 28.—St. Wenceslas, Martyr, was the son of a Christian Duke of Bohemia but his mother was a pagan. He was educated in the Faith by his grand-

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mother, Ludmilla. His mother attempted to seize the government when his father died and formed a combination with her second son, Boleslas. Together they persecuted the Christians and fought against Wenceslas who had managed to retain possession of a large part of the territory. He was murdered treacherously by his brother, while praying before the tabernacle at midnight on the Feast of the Angels, A. D. 938.

Friday, September 29.—St. Michael the Archangel, the captain of the armies of God, the type of divine fortitude, the champion of every faithful soul in strife with the powers of evil. He led the heavenly hosts in the conflict which led to the overthrow of Lucifer. Ever since the coming of Christ he has been venerated by the Church as her special patron and protector.

Saturday, September 30.—St. Jerome, doctor, was born in Dalmatia, A. D. 329 and was sent to school at Rome. After distinguishing himself by his brilliancy in his studies he obeyed the call of God, making a vow of celibacy, fled from Rome to the Syrian desert where for four years he learned the lesson of divine wisdom in solitude, penance, and prayers. He was recalled to Rome by the Pope and given the task of revising the Latin Bible which was to constitute his noblest work.

Holdings of 1922 Victory Bonds who have decided to exchange their maturing bonds for new bonds carrying the same rate of interest, under the proposals of the Minister of Finance, which are now being advertised, would do well to surrender their bonds at once, rather than delay until September 30 approaches. When the bonds were first issued in 1917, the 1922 maturity was a favorite with small investors, many of whom were buying bonds for the first time. Consequently, there are many, many thousands of individual holders and it would be a great help to the banks and the Department of Finance in carrying through the conversion expeditiously, as well as a convenience to the holders themselves, if they would turn their bonds into the banks as early as possible.

MARRIAGE

ROCHE-MAHONY — On Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1922, at St. John's Church, Weston, by the Rev. Father Kelly, Mary Agnes, youngest daughter of Mrs. Alice Mahony, 1849 Weston Rd., to Louis M. Roche, Kitchener, Ont., son of John Roche, Tilley, Alberta.

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DIED

DONNELLY.—At St. Joseph's Hospital, London, on Wednesday, September 20, 1922, John, dearly beloved husband of Mary Donnelly, Funeral from the family residence, 226 William street, on Friday morning at 8.30. Requiem High Mass at St. Mary's Church at 9 o'clock. Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery. May his soul rest in peace.

TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED teacher for Catholic Separate School at Massey, qualified to teach in Senior Class in English and French. Salary \$900. Good boarding house five minutes walk from school. Apply at once to Rev. D. P. McMenamin, P. P., Sec. S. S. Board, P. O. Box 12, Massey, Ont. 2283-7.

SECOND class professional teacher wanted for P. S. No. 4 Raleigh, in village of Fletcher, on M. C. R. Small school, about 20 on roll. Convenient to church. Duties to commence Sept. 4. Salary \$240. Apply to Clarence Gleason, Sec. Treas., Fletcher, Ont. 2283-4f.

TEACHERS wanted, holding second class Ontario certificates for Catholic Separate schools, Fort William, Ont. Salary \$800 per annum. Duties to commence September, 1922. Apply to G. P. Smith, Secretary, Room 11, Murray Block, Fort William, Ont. 2280-4f.

TEACHERS wanted for province of Saskatchewan—principals and assistants—experienced, well qualified teachers. Information free. Apply Box 332, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2291-4.

WANTED position as organist by experienced lady in a town or parish where there could be a music class. State salary. Address Box 339, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2291-4.

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WANTED
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WANTED position as organist. Have had seven years experience teaching vocal and instrumental Music and Latin, also experienced on pipe organ. Address Box 355, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2291-2.

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WANTED for city position at Niagara Falls, Ontario, girl or young woman for general housework. Would consider two sisters or friends, one to act as cook general, the other as nursery housemaid. Woman with daughter under eighteen preferred. Excellent home. Apply stating salary and giving references to Box 25, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2291-4f.

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