Mgr. Langevin Speaks on National Dignity—The Celebration of St. Jean Baptiste Day Gives Archbishop an Opportunity to Exhort French Canadians-Should Uphold the French Language.

(Free Press, June 23)

The St. Jean Baptiste Association of St. Boniface honored its patron saint yesterday with great pomp. The street parade and religious demonstration in the morning was a fine display of the popular sentiment of the old town and the picnic on the college grounds in the afternoon, favored as it was, by the weather, was a very successful and enjoyable affair.

Shortly before nine o'clock in the morning the brass band "La lyre" became the nucleus of the procession before the city hall, the offices of which were closed for the day. By the time that the march began there were a couple of hundred in the ranks, including a delegation of the sister society or Winnipeg, headed by its presiding officers, Messrs, Gelley, Dumoulin and Arseneault. Under the orders of Messrs F. D. Pambrun and Phillippe Coutu, marshalls, the procession marched to the residence of President Bernier, and thence to the Archbishop's palace where it was joined by the ladies and the clergy in surplice and vestments. The faithful thus entered the cathedral, which had been specially decorated for the occasion with the pontifical colors, British and French colors and banners of the Sacred Heart, the latter being specially prominent throughout the day. Special seats were reserved near the choir for the presiding officers, the officers visiting, Mayor Turenne, Mr. Horace Chevrier, M.L.A., and a few others. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Father Dugas, with deacon and subdeacon and the choir rendered an elaborate musical programme. Patriotic Sermon and Address

The sermon of the day was delivered by Rev. Dr. Trudel, secretary to the archbishop, who spoke briefly but eloquently on the ancient alliance between the French Canadian people and the Catholic Church. Every nation aspired to happiness, and the Church contributed to the happiness of the French Canadians by assisting them in material progress in educational work and in developing the moral qualities of the race. Therefore they had been a happy people. But recently they had been attacked in those things which they held dearest. Their language had been abolished; the spirits of darkness had struck at the schools to deprive the children of the moral training. To face these attacks they must form the resolution to be united, to walk hand

in hand with their clergy. The day When the French Canadian people separated from their clergy would see the

end of their hopes as a nationality. At the close of the Mass the St. Jean Baptiste society presented its homages Do you ever set a pain there? Love of country, it said, was a sentiment deeply rooted in the hearts of every well bred people, to whom it in-Spired lofty ideals. Every truly worthy nation must feel the need to sing of its heroes, to give voice to its hopes. More than any other people the French Canadians must feel deep emotions in looking back to the cradle of their nationality on account of the religious influences which surrounded it, the dangers which threatened it, the bravery with which it was protected and the miraculous manner in which it was saved. In memory of divine protection they wished on this day to present their homages to their first pastor. They wished to preserve union with their clergy, without whom their nationality would be endangered. The horizon of their nationality was now broadened in the formation of the west. The rights of each must be defined and respected, if harmony was to reign. Yet it seemed as if when this rich inheritance is to be divided, the inhabitants of the soil must conceal themselves if they would have peace. A storm is brewing, the Holy Church is violently assailed. His Grace could rest assured that they would not be unworthy of their ancestors; they pledge

Heart. Mgr. Langevin' Reply In reply Mgr., Langevin said he appreciated the sentiments contained in the address because they breathed the spirit of pride, of Christian pride. religion and to serve the Church well the best value. people must have a care of their dignity. It was indeed true that the Church had been at the birth of the Men's Tailoring - Ladies' Tailoring. glasses—and fewer!" was the blunt French Canadian race and had nurtured l

ed him all their energies, and would re-

main true to the banner of the Sacred

it in trying circumstances. What the FLAG IN MOURNING Church had done for the race did not lessen the glory of the national heroes who have attained distinction in every sphere of activity. No voice could ever be too eloquent to praise their merits, and that was the reason why their descendants should be proud according to Christian spirit. They should not submit to attack without protest. They had reason to be proud of their past, and the Church approved of patriotism. That sentiment was rendered holy when Christ wept over the misfortunes which we've to overtake Jerusalem, his country. Patriotism, however, did not consist merely of a display of flags and oratory; they must defend the institutions which were the essence of their nation. It did not mean that they should depreciate other nations, because it was a part of national dignity to respect others. But if they did not love their own traditions, if they did not adhere to their institutions, who would defend them? They must learn to vindicate their rights, and he was afraid they were lacking in this respect. Warming up to his subject, His Grace

> "Why should we not take a solemn resolution on this day, not in connection with the use of French as our official language, but for its use in the every details of life? Why should we, right here in St. Boniface, have signs and other advertisements that are not French? Why should we continue to patronize those who get our money when they refuse to advertise in French? There is a neglect which signifies that we have not enough pride—the pride that is founded on Christianity. We must take the resolution to have French honored wherever it has the right to be. It is not a secondary matter, it is of capital importance. We are invaded by immigration from all parts, but we are the only people who have special rights. We need not fear expressing that. We are not loyal to England only when it is advantageous to us; we have, when need be, shed our blood in her defence, to uphold her flag. That flag owes it to us that it was respected in many cases. We have neither excuses nor explanations to give; we need not parade our loyalty; our past speaks for us. But at times I have been tempted to drape the British flag in mourning from this pulpit of St. Boniface when our liberty was assailed, when it failed to protect our rights as (Continued on page 6)



to Mgr. Langevin in a lengthy address. If so, do you know what it means? It is a Backache.

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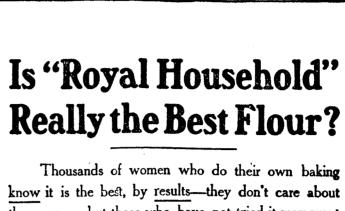
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