

DEVASTATION

The dreadful news of the devastation of the two great cities of Tokyo and Yokohama, with casualties by the hundred thousand, has caused a universal shock of horror.

The disaster seems to have surpassed anything that history records. The earthquake of Messina and Reggio in 1908, with its toll of nearly 80,000 killed, seems to afford the nearest parallel—though one unhappily far short of the present reality.

There must be thousands of Catholics, native and foreign, within the zone of destruction. Since the proclamation of religious freedom in 1884, Catholicism has gone forward rapidly in Japan, and in 1891 its hierarchy was established, with an Archbishop at Tokyo. Mr. Rey, of the Paris Foreign Mission, the work of Catholicism rightly considered, and higher education has been increasingly appreciated of late years by Government and by people alike.

The sorely-stricken Japanese nation will have the deepest sympathy and the fervent prayers of Catholics throughout the world, led by their common Father, the Supreme Pontiff.

We trust that the terrible devastation in Japan may not divert public attention from the devastation that once more threatens Europe.

It may seem at first sight that the events that have been of late unfolded before our eyes, and are still being unfolded, sink into insignificance in face of the tragedy of the Far East. But rightly considered, the moral incidence of the devastation in Japan and of the threatened devastation in Europe is exactly in the reverse order.

In the one case we are face to face with one of those inscrutable decrees of Providence which are beyond the understanding of man, as they are outside his responsibility. In the other case, we are dealing with events for which mankind is directly responsible.

Thus we arrive at the apparent paradox but plain truth, that the deaths of five Italian officers and of fifteen or twenty civilians in Corfu, may mean more for the conscience of mankind than the blotting out even of a whole nation by the hand of God.

And that is exactly the position that results from the news of the past week and of the past few months. Of the new storm that threatens Europe, whatever we may think, we will say but this. If the sort of incidents from which the trouble arose are really to be held inexcusable, save by armies, navies and air forces, then all talk about a League of Nations or any other sort of pacific method of adjusting difficulties is nonsense and had better cease. In that case we are face to face again with the principle that Right depends upon the measure of Might it can summon to its support.

what of the two hundred millions of spiritual subjects of those holy Pontiffs? Have they not a missionary call and a missionary opportunity for the healing of the nations?—The Universe, London, England.

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GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES SELLING WELL

INQUIRIES SHOW WIDESPREAD INCREASE OF INTEREST

Ottawa, Oct. 25.—The Dominion Annuities Branch, Department of Labor, reports a very considerable growth in its business. During September of this year it received 2,705 inquiries, as compared with 800 during the same month in 1922. These inquiries came from all parts of Canada, from people of all ages and conditions.

What is yet more satisfactory is that people are not only making inquiries, they are buying Annuities on a larger scale than ever before. During the first six months of the present fiscal year, that is, from April 1st to September 30th, \$567,000 was received for investment in Annuities. This is over \$125,000 in excess of the amount received for the same purpose during the corresponding period last year. In view of the large number of applications now being received, it seems likely that the amount of business written in 1928 will be well in excess of last year's total, which represented an investment of over a million dollars.

OBITUARY

DANIEL J. KENNEDY

On October 18th, St. Alphonsus parish of Chapeau, Allumette Island, Que., lost one of its oldest and most esteemed citizens. Mr. Daniel J. Kennedy, born July 16, 1849, was a descendant of an ancient Highland Scotch family that emigrated to Canada generations ago and his ancestors were among the very first to blaze a trail through the upper Ottawa valley and some of the first permanent settlers of Allumette Island. In 1870 he married Jennie W. Macdonald of Glenarry stock and eleven children were born of the marriage, ten still surviving. Mrs. John Butler, Mrs. Jas. Ryan, Alexander and Mrs. Andrew Kennedy of Allumette Island; Mrs. Thos. J. Poupore of Chichester; Elizabeth, trained nurse, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Allan and Edward with The Pas Lumber Co., The Pas, Man.; one daughter is a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, Sister Mary Daniel of Champlain Valley Hospital, Plattsburgh, N. Y., and the youngest son Kenneth Joseph, is a missionary priest of the Redemptorist Order, in St. Gerard's Monastery, Yorkton, Sask.

At the solemn funeral services in St. Alphonsus Church, Oct. 17th, the deceased's son, Rev. Kenneth J. Kennedy, C. S. R., officiated, assisted by Rev. J. Loyola Poupore, deacon and Rev. A. M. Renaud, F. P., as subdeacon, and a beautiful sermon was preached by Rev. D. J. Harrington, asking for prayers for the great and good Christian soul that had gone to meet its God.

After the Mass the body was borne to the cemetery by six of the deceased's thirty-three grandchildren and was laid to rest in the same ground that holds his parents and grandparents.

Thoughtful men regret the passing of a type like Mr. Kennedy because of the spiritual loss to our age which has grown so material.

His memory will live as a charitable and upright Christian gentleman and a Catholic father who ever and always set a high standard of morality, piety and good citizenship to his family and parish. May he rest in peace.

DAVID BRENNAN

David Brennan, one of Chatham's oldest merchants, passed away in St. Joseph's hospital on Friday, October 12, following an illness of three months.

The late Mr. Brennan, who was seventy-five years of age, was born in County Fermagh, Ireland, and came to America when fourteen years of age. After a short residence in California he moved to Alpena, Mich., where he conducted a grocery store for several years.

He came to Chatham forty-three years ago and opened a grocery store in King street in company with his brother, John, now with the inland revenue department at Windsor. He conducted this business for thirty years after which he entered the tea business which he has since conducted.

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DIED

CAIRNS.—At Baldwin Road, P. E. I., on August 4, 1928, Augustus Cairns. May his soul rest in peace. O'Neil.—At South Maitland, N. S., Sunday June 10, 1928, Patrick O'Neil, aged ninety-three years. May God have mercy on his soul. TRAINER.—At Charlottetown, P. E. I., on August 31, 1928, Mrs. Henry Trainer, aged twenty-one years. May her soul rest in peace.

Come what may, hold fast to love. Though men should rend your heart, let them not embitter or harden it. We win by tenderness; we conquer by forgiveness.—F. W. Robertson.

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