

Dangerous Experiments in Taxation Reform.

Churches in British Columbia Oppressively Burdened.

Deplorable Development in Paradise of Tax Reformers.

No one will deny the advisability of changes for the better in our system of taxation. In fact, the consciousness of the necessity for such a change is so strong that many who are otherwise calm in their judgment and deliberate in their decisions have fallen in line with radical tax-reformers, the Single-Taxers, and the like. Eagerness for improvements has blinded many to the dangers which needs must follow in the trail of some of these systems, and, when the awakening comes, the evil has frequently become well-nigh irremediable.

British Columbia, and Vancouver in particular, have frequently been designated as a sort of paradise of the tax-reformers who stand on the basis of single-tax principles. When the Single-Tax agitation was rife in Missouri in 1912 the Equitable Taxation League sent out quantities of propaganda literature in which that section of Canada was designated as one of the districts in which the new taxation system had proven its merits (For a Greater and Better Missouri by Just Taxation, p. 13). And the opponents of the amendment rightly referred, in various pamphlets, to Vancouver and British Columbia. The example of that section was made the subject of propaganda literature in many instances, — so much so that in May 1914 Consul General R. C. Mansfield found it advisable to submit a report published in the Daily Trade and Consular Reports, in which he advanced proofs discrediting the many exaggerated statements concerning the prosperity which was alleged to have come over British Columbia along with (or in consequence of) the Single Tax.

As far as the interest of the Catholic church is concerned, this much is certain: Catholics have suffered gravely in consequence of this "reform-measure." Writing to "The Casket" (Antigonish, Nova Scotia) a Catholic lawyer of that city calls attention to the ruinous tax placed on church property in British Columbia in the following manner:

"Mr. Editor:—The Legislators of the cities of British Columbia are apparently of opinion that religion is no longer a human necessity; otherwise it is hard to understand their outrageously oppressive taxation of Church property in that province. Repeated protests from the Church authorities have had absolutely no results. It may seem impertinent for a mere "Easterner" to so speak, still we are vitally interested. We remember that we had something to do with the colonizing of the West. We were proud of our Western heritage and we wanted to develop it. What is more, we invested from time to time very considerable sums of hard-earned cash in that province for which we expected a return and which, in many cases, we are still expecting. Moreover, several Eastern prelates and a number of other clergymen have gone West, and their condition has been, for the past few years, practically intolerable, because the churches in the Province of British Columbia are taxed beyond all reason. The result has been that these religious leaders have had to make appeal after appeal to the people of the East in order to save their churches and church property from being put under the hammer.

Is it the part of wisdom for the people of British Columbia to continue to mulet religion and "hold up" the people of the East and thus discourage the sending of men and money into the Western country? The people of British Columbia should not forget that they are already indebted to the East for large sums in interest on investments, whence absolutely no return has been received, which investments, by reason of taxes, are a positive burden to those who made them.

It might be well for the governing bodies in British Columbia to take note that the people of the East—who are God-fearing people—have no sympathy with the taxing of churches. The future promoter from the West is very likely to be told, when he comes East to solicit investments and immigrants, that we have had enough of the West and its methods.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space. Yours truly,

ALLAN MACDONALD, Barrister."

Mr. MacDonald's letter states an actual condition; coming from a member of the bar and a man living at a distance the letter has the weight of an objective statement, unbiased by local prejudice. Information proving the correctness of the facts on which the Antigonish barrister bases his complaint has come to us also from missionaries laboring in Western Canada. The vital point in the situation is briefly this: While we recognize the need of reform in our system of land-taxation, we must prudently weigh proposed remedies before endorsing them. The situation in British Columbia is the outcome of a series of dangerous experiments.

C. B. of the C. V.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

The fifth biennial meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities held at the Catholic University, Washington, September 15 to 18, was attended by nearly five hundred delegates from thirty States. In point of attendance, of enthusiasm and of the quality of papers read, the Conference far surpassed any preceding one. The program dealt almost exclusively with the social problems arising out of the war.

Among the topics discussed were the Housing of Workers in munitions and ship building centers; the work of the Home Service Section of the Red Cross in relieving soldiers' families; the Administration of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Act; Maintenance of Labor Standards in War Time; Child Welfare; and Delinquency.

Catholic Activity in War Time was the subject of three interesting papers. Bishop Shahan dealt with "The Patriotism of Catholic Charity." Reverend John J. Burke of New York described the work of the National Catholic War Council and of the Knights of Columbus. Rev. Ignatius Smith, O. P. of New York told of what Catholic women were doing to aid in the prosecution of the war.

The Superior Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held two important meetings.

At the concluding session of the Conference an enthusiastic vote of thanks was extended to the Catholic Press for its work in making known the work of the Conference to the Catholic people of the country.

Funeral of Cardinal Farley.

Bishop Hickey's Eulogy.

More than 10,000 persons, including 1,000 priests, attended the final funeral service of Cardinal John M. Farley Tuesday morning in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. With the American and Canadian cardinals participating and Pope Benedict's official representative in the United States acting as celebrant, a pontifical requiem mass was conducted. After a service lasting fully four hours, the body of the prelate was lowered in a crypt beneath the altar of St. Patrick's, where it will rest beside the bodies of Cardinal McCloskey and Archbishops Hughes and Corrigan.

The mass and the processional that preceded it made a brilliant spectacle. Into the great auditorium of the cathedral, sombre in its drapings of purple and black, and with no relief except the red, white and blue of an American flag stretched across the organ loft, fully 1,100 men marched from the cathedral college nearby. The varied garments of the marchers, from the black and white of priests and seminarians to the red of the cardinals, with the khaki and blue of British and American army and navy officers and the gray-blue and green of French and Italians, formed a kaleidoscope of color under the lights of altar candles and electric clusters.

A band escorted the procession and played a dirge as the official attendants at the funeral filed into the church. When the Cardinals flanked by a party of archbishops appeared, the musicians played "The Star-Spangled Banner." Then the organ pealed forth, the doors of the cathedral were closed and the mass was begun.

Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston and Cardinal Behin, of Quebec, occupied a trio of canopied thrones at the right of the altar. Opposite, on the throne used for sixteen years by Cardinal Farley, as Archbishop of New York, sat Archbishop Bonzano, Apostolic delegate at Washington. Between them twenty archbishops and bishops and half a hundred monsignori occupied places of honor. An altar built especially for the occasion accommodated upwards of 1,000 priests and monks.

The sermon, delivered by Bishop Hickey, of Rochester, reflected the international character of the funeral service. The preacher urged "our nation's need of a solid foundation of victory" in the great war "to assure the rights of free peoples." He declared that "the great agency of the Catholic church had stood behind the President in the country's patriotic and relief movements" and said that "foremost among the leaders in this cause was Cardinal John Farley of New York."

Bishop Hickey eulogized the dead prelate as "a true leader of men, simple in his manners, a personification of 'faith, hope and charity,' a master in administration and in gathering about him zealous and efficient priests for the management of this greatest diocese in the world." Though born in Ireland he said, Cardinal Farley had spent almost all his life in New York "and often had shown his abiding confidence in the morality and general worth of the city, so that the great love of its people for him, as exhibited here to-day, is not surprising."

Forty Hours Devotion Closes.

Dansville, Sept. 24.—The devotion of the Forty Hours closed Sunday in St. Mary's church with Rev. Edward Eschrich of Rochester, in charge of the services, which included a sermon, a processional, benediction and Te Deum. The devotion opened last Friday morning and was well attended, despite the bad weather.

Rev. Francois Bantim, Congregation of La Salette, Vicar Apostolic of Betafo, Madagascar;

Rev. Michael T. Madden, of Phelps, Dead.

Phelps, Sept. 24.—The funeral services over the remains of Rev. Michael T. Madden, rector of St. Francis Church, who died suddenly while reclining in his chair by his library table, Tuesday evening, will be held at 10 o'clock Friday morning in St. Francis Church, this village. Right Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of Rochester, assisted by priests of the diocese, will celebrate Pontifical High Mass. The body was removed from the parish house to the church on Thursday and will lie in state before the altar. The Office of the Dead was sung by the priests at 7:30 o'clock on Thursday evening. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre cemetery, Rochester.

The death of Father Madden, who although apparently of robust nature, had been subject to attacks of acute indigestion for a long time, was received in profound sorrow by his parishioners and the entire community in which through his kind-heartedness and jovial disposition he had made many friends during his nine years pastorate of St. Francis.

Father Madden was born in Rochester about 68 years ago. He received his early education in that city, after which he entered Seton Hall, N. J., to prepare for the priesthood. At Seton Hall he received the degree of master of arts. His theological education was completed at St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, N. Y., and he was ordained on January 11, 1874. His first assignment was as assistant rector at St. Mary's church, Rochester, then he became pastor of the Scottsville church, and in 1881 was transferred to Trumansburg, N. Y., where he remained as pastor of St. James Church for twenty-nine years. From Trumansburg, Father Madden came to Phelps, as the successor of Rev. George V. Burns, now pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Rochester.

Father Madden was a member of Ithaca Council, Knights of Columbus. His only surviving relatives are two sisters, the Misses Julia and Agnes Madden, of Rochester.

Bishop C. W. Currier Dies Suddenly On Train.

Baltimore, Sept. 24.—Bishop Charles Warren Currier died on a train Monday evening when on his way from Waldorf, Md., to this city.

Bishop Currier had been in apparently good health and confirmed on Sunday at Waldorf, Southern Maryland.

He was pastor of St. Mary's church, Washington, D.C., before being named bishop of Matanzas, Cuba, in 1913. He was long active in Indian mission work, and was a member of the national bureau of Catholic Indian missions.

Several years ago he resigned from his Cuban charge because of ill health and had been living in Washington.

The body was brought to this city.

Blessing Graves in Calvary Cemetery

Canandaigua, Sept. 24.—Rev. M. J. Cluney of Honeoye Falls will deliver an address in connection with exercises for the blessing of graves in Calvary cemetery next Sunday afternoon. School children will form a procession at St. Mary's church and march to the cemetery where they will sing appropriate hymns.

Save Coal.

In an attempt to help yourself and your country by saving coal this winter, remember, that moisture in the air of your rooms will waste and increase health. The furnace and hot water or steam heater are about alike in the vicious dispositions to furnish "dry air" and they can all be improved by the introduction of some modern humidifying device that will cost less than the amount saved by their introduction.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 543 Lexington Ave., New York City

The Propaganda has appointed Rev. Auguste de Clercq, Belgian Foreign Missions, Vicar Apostolic of Upper Kasai, Belgian Congo, Africa;

Rev. Nicholas Gonzalez Perez, Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Vicar Apostolic of Fernando Po;

Rev. Pierre Rossillon, Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Coadjutor to the Bishop of Vizagapatam, India;

Rev. Louis-Barlassina, Pastor of St. John Lateran, Rome, Auxiliary Bishop to the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

POPE BUILDS CHURCH IN THE CONGO.

Pope Benedict recently received in audience the Right Rev. Father de Hemptinne, O. S. B., Prefect Apostolic of Katanga, in the Belgian Congo, to whom he gave the generous contribution of ten thousand dollars for the building of a new church at Elizabethville which was planned in 1914, and which had to be postponed on account of the war. It is all the more urgently needed now on account of the development of the region largely through American enterprise.

FRANCISCANS REACH THEIR NEW POSTS.

A few weeks ago a little company of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary left New York for the foreign missions. Some were destined for China, some for India and one for Japan.

A letter has just come from Sister Mary de St. Marc, saying that she has arrived at Biwasaki, Japan, after a safe and not too rough voyage. Her companions kept on their way to their more distant posts.

Biwasaki is a leper settlement and the Franciscan nuns have charge of a numerous colony. The work needs no description, as its very name implies its difficulties. Sister St. Marc must now shut herself away from the world and minister to the wretched victims of leprosy, but the heart of the true missionary rejoices in such sacrifice.

ABYSSINIA ENJOYS PEACE ONCE MORE.

The Capuchin Bishop of Abyssinia, Mgr. Jarousseau, writes from his episcopal seat at Harar:

"I am happy to be able to send only the best of news from our dear Abyssinia. The days of trouble have been succeeded by comparative peace, and while the sky has not yet completely cleared we suffer no special discomfort."

"Thanks to the good will of the present regent we have been able to restore the station at Daga Dina, which the Mussulmans destroyed in their insurrection of 1917. This unfortunate mission suffered much. Five Christians were massacred and most of the huts burned. Now the huts have been rebuilt and the Christians are seeking the missionaries, anxious to practise the religion for which they suffered so much."

A LETTER FROM MGR. MOREL.

A letter from Archbishop Morel, of India, gives us a little idea of the busy life he leads, now preparing bricks and tiles for a new schoolhouse and again instructing a class of fifty little Pariahs in Catechism. He says many of these children are very ignorant. The following answers given His Grace by a little girl will show what patience has to be exercised in educating these poor heathen children in the simple truths of our Holy Faith:

"Have you a soul?" "No." "Is there any difference between you and a monkey?" "No." "Did you ever come to church?" "No." "Did you ever say one word of prayer?" "Never." "What do you do all day long?" "Look after pigs."

Late News of Ireland

Carlow.

Most Rev. Dr. Foley, C. E., son of M. Foley, J. P., Co. Carlow, Leighlin, and nephew of Most Rev. Dr. Foley, has been unanimously elected engineer to Ballinglass No. 1 Council in the room of the late J. O. Ramsay.

At Castledonevan (Drumleague) Aeridheacht, Rev. J. Coakley, P. P., presiding, a full program was gone through without interference.

A double drowning fatality was reported in Midleton from Corkbeg, Cork Harbor, the victims being Harry Pears, 21, and Ellen Cox, 18.

A committee of ladies of the Women's Confraternity of the Holy Family, Midleton, are to present Rev. F. Murphy, P. P., Glantane, who was for sixteen years their Spiritual Director, with an illuminated address congratulating him on his promotion to the pastorate of Glantane.

Rev. Joseph O'Sullivan, Adm. Barryroe, Timoleague, has died in a private hospital in Dublin. He was son of the late C. O'Sullivan, Glaumbaek, Rosscarbery.

John Barry, Rabem, a veteran Nationalist, has passed away.

The Feast of St. Dominic was celebrated with special ceremonies and devotions in St. Savary's Church, Dr. Dominick street. A very large congregation attended high mass at 12 o'clock. Very Rev. Father Stephens, O. P., in the course of an impressive panegyric, mentioned that the first House of the Order was established near Church street, Dublin, in 1224, three years after St. Dominic's death.

The Peter's Pence contribution from the diocese of Dublin this year amounts to over £2,000, which, we believe, constitutes a record.

Canon O'Riordan, P. P., V. F., Linstowel, visited John McKenna, Chairman, Kerry County Council, in Belfast Jail.

Most Rev. Dr. Mangan left £2,483. He left £20 per annum to his former housekeeper, Elizabeth Lewis, and to his housekeeper, Kate McCarthy; £50 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; £25 for Masses, certain books and vestments to his successor, and the residue of his estate in trust for food and clothing for the children attending the schools of the Presentation Convent, the Convent of Mercy, and the Presentation Brothers, Kilmurry.

Rev. R. Davana, C. C., St. Michael's, Limerick, has entered Galabog Novitiate with the object of becoming a Jesuit. A native of Limerick, he was president of the Temperance Society and very popular.

Died—August 3, at Galtee View House, Knocking, Robert Walsh, aged 73. Interment at Emly.

Married—July 31, at St. Joseph's Church, Limerick by Rev. M. Broughton, New Zealand Mission, John, second son of the late Edmund Buckley, Rathlone, Tipperary, to Julia (Sheila), daughter of Thomas and Mrs. McGowan, Cappanora.

A beautifully designed monument to their late beloved pastor, Rev. J. M. Murphy, P. P., subscribed for by the people of Berlaban, has just been completed.

Married—July 31, at Parish Church, Carrick-on-Suir, by the Rev. Father Devery, Adm. Philip Hayes, Limerick, to Nellie, youngest daughter of the late John Synnot, Carrickbeg, Carrick-on-Suir.

The Provincial of the Dominican Order has appointed Rev. R. Keane, O. P., Newbridge, to St. Saviour's, Waterford.

The reception took place at the Sacred Heart Convent, Ferrybank, of Miss Nona Furlong (a religion Sister Mary Conice), second daughter of Edmund Furlong, Jerpoint Church, Thomastown.