

# AMERICA

## A CATHOLIC REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Vol. I.

APRIL 17, 1909

No. 1

### CONTENTS

#### CHRONICLE.

New York's First Cathedral—France—Reform of Finances in Germany—New President of the Centre Party—The British Budget—Italy's Political Program and Cabinet—First Plenary Council of Canada—No Canadian Dreadnought—The Canadian House of Commons—Newfoundland's Cabinet Crisis—Russia—Woman Suffrage ..... 1-4

#### QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

Editorial Announcement—Rebuff to the Orleans Lodges—Red Cross Messina Funds Not Used to Proseletyze—Blessed Jeanne d'Arc—Catholics and Socialism—The New Premier of Newfoundland—Emily Virginia Mason ..... 5-11

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

General Situation in Italy—Result of the Recent Elections—No Danger of Anti-Clerical Movement—Italy's Position in European Concert—The Case of Padre Murri—An English Outlook—Death of Bishop Johnson—Meeting of English and Welsh Bishops—England and Germany—By-Elections—Paris—The Late Postoffice

Strike—Accusations Against M. Simyan—Heavy Loss to Business Interests..... 13-15

#### EDITORIAL.

The Guadalajara Trouble—The Facts in Prof. Schnitzer's Case—Dr. Patton and the Pope—Strong but Not Extreme—Patriotism and Religion in France—The Tariff Issue..... 16-17

#### LITERATURE: BOOKS.

The Maid of Orleans (Poem)—Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc—The Maid of France—Jeanne d'Arc—The Catholic Who's Who and Year Book—Catholic Foot-steps in Old New York—Supplementa Editioni Decimae Septimae Compendii Theologiae Moralis—Fouard's Life of Christ—Jeanne d'Arc's Coat of Arms..... 18-20

#### EDUCATIONAL.

Religion in Indian Schools—Fifth Annual Report, Reverend Superintendents of New York Catholic Schools—The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching—The Status of Gaelic in New University of Ireland—Catholic German Students' Societies..... 21-22

#### SCIENCE.

Farthest South—A Novel Form of Telescope... 22

#### ART.

Exhibition of the Academy of Design—Der Tabernakel einst und jetzt—The Illuminated Roll of the "Exultet"—Exit the Dolls ..... 24-25

#### ECCLESIASTICAL NEWS.

#### PLATFORM AND PULPIT.

Rev. M. Sheedy, D.D., on Socialism—Bishop Dougherty's Appeal for Parochial Schools... 24

#### OBITUARY.

Rev. Joseph H. Slinger, O.P.—Rev. D. V. Phelan—Francis Marion Crawford..... 26

### CHRONICLE

**New York's First Cathedral.**—More than local interest is attached to the very notable celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of old St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, which will begin on April 23. While the sacred associations of what is to Americans a venerable antiquity cluster about old St. Peter's, in Barclay street, which was built nearly a quarter of a century earlier, the glory of a sacred pre-eminence, long possessed, will for generations of Catholics to come hover over the hallowed precincts of old St. Patrick's. Were historical records wanting, the choice one hundred years ago of Ireland's Apostle as the patron of the cathedral church would point unmistakably to the nationality as well as to the active faith of the early worshippers on Manhattan Island. In 1808, Father Anthony Kohlmann, with the aid of his fellow priest, Father Benedict Fenwick, the future Bishop of Boston, opened a school in Mulberry street in a house opposite St. Patrick's, and in June of the following year these pioneer priests began the erection of the church which was to serve for so many years as the cathedral of the new diocese. Kohlmann the Austrian and Fenwick the Marylander appropriately selected as patron of the new church the apostle of the land whose children formed the bulk of the growing Catholic population. Besides the other distinguished bishops who have been associated with the sacred edifice, it was here that Bishop Hughes and his successor, the first American Cardinal, John McCloskey, were consecrated, and from this place

they accelerated the marvelous development of the great see over which they presided with so much credit to themselves and so much edification to the Catholics of their own diocese and of the country at large.

**France.**—A special cablegram from Paris to AMERICA, under date of April 14, 1909, announces that many bishops have invited their people to decorate and illuminate their house-fronts next Sunday in honor of the beatification of Jeanne d'Arc. Contrary to the newspaper reports circulated in the United States, there is no truth in the rumor that Archbishops Mignot and Fuzet are to be disciplined. No meeting of the French hierarchy will be held in Rome; and it is absolutely false that Austria has communicated to the Vatican a protest against the holding of such a meeting.

Sixty-five French bishops and four thousand French visitors have arrived in Rome for the ceremonies of the beatification of Jeanne d'Arc. No consistory is foreshadowed for the nomination of cardinals.

Cardinal Andrieu, Archbishop of Bordeaux, suppressing the diocesan association, substitutes therefor centralization at the Archbishop's house with penny subscription for the maintenance of public worship.

The Archbishop of Sens publishes a letter protesting against the confiscation of his Grand Seminary, which the government wants to transform into a house of detention for fallen women.

The Socialist Congress thinks it should leave to members the free expression of their religious opinions, and refuses to enter into alliance with the radicals.—DENNIS.

**Reform of Finances in Germany.**—With the disappearance of the war clouds from the horizon of European politics, the attention of the nation is more undividedly directed to the reform of the financial system of the Empire. The necessity of such a reform is generally granted. The people are also resigned to the fact that the reform will include a considerable increase of the taxes. Rates are urged on tobacco and wine, gas and electricity, and also on advertisements. It seems probable that the tax already levied on beer will be increased and the inheritance tax extended to wives and children. The matter is rendered more difficult by the provision in the constitution of the Empire that all direct taxes must be reserved to the states, the central government being allowed to impose indirect taxes only.

Chancellor von Bülow is resolved to carry the reform by the votes of the so-called Bloc parties, and without any dependence upon the votes of the Centre. The newspapers of this party complain that all amendments proceeding from it are infallibly rejected, and this is conceded by the opposite parties. The "Bloc," on the other hand, is itself in no very smooth working condition. It comprises too many heterogeneous elements. The leaders of the so-called "Little Block" are trying to bring about a compromise which will re-unite the "Bloc-Brothers" and make them submissive to the Chancellor's wish.

As a result of the slow progress of the reform, rumors were frequent that Chancellor von Bülow was going to resign and the Reichstag to be dissolved. As either event would ensure a veritable upheaval in German politics, the persistency of the reports shows how deep is the excitement among the people.

**New President of the Centre Party.**—Catholic papers report that the Centre Party of the Reichstag has chosen Baron George von Hertling to succeed Count Hompesch as President of the Party. Besides having a record of nearly thirty years' service in the Reichstag, Baron Hertling is favorably known as a university professor and author of several important works. He began his career in 1867 as "Privatdozent," i. e., unsalaried lecturer in the University of Bonn. A strong opposition to the Vatican Council and later on "Kulturkampf" tendencies swayed the then teaching body of the University. While other "Privatdozenten" were soon promoted to the rank of professors, young Hertling, who was known as a staunch Catholic, had to wait thirteen years before this well-merited honor was granted to him. His talents and ability were better appreciated in Bavaria. In 1882 he accepted the position of "ordinary" professor of philosophy in the University of Munich. In 1891 he was made life member of the Bavarian House of Lords. And then the Berlin authorities who had so long slighted him began to recognize his excellent qualities. From 1898 to 1902 Baron Hertling represented the German Government in the transactions with the Holy See for the establishment of a faculty of Catholic Theology

in the University of Strassburg. His meritorious services in this commission won for him a high Prussian Order, and the Pope distinguished him by the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory. Von Hertling is also one of the founders and most active members of the Görres-Society, the purpose of which is to encourage, direct and materially subsidize enterprises of Catholic scholarship.

His prominence in the Centre Party is evidenced by his unanimous election to the presidency, the members of the party voting for him by acclamation. There is, according to the *Germania*, a general conviction "that under Hertling's leadership the party will continue the great traditions of its great past."

**The British Budget.**—The by-elections and the clamor for a larger navy are not the sole sources of worry to the Cabinet. The calculation of the British national revenue for the fiscal year 1908-09, which official returns issued on March 31 made possible, enables one to grasp the difficulty facing the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his preparation of the budget. According to the official returns, the national revenue is nearly \$25,000,000 lower than the revenue of the preceding year, and \$7,500,000 lower than the estimate made by the Chancellor. Two elements will add to the burden of the current financial year—old age pensions, estimated to require \$43,750,000, and an increase of \$13,750,000 in the cost of the navy. The total expenditure of this year will be about \$62,500,000 higher than that of the year just closed, and with last year's actual deficit to reckon, Mr. Lloyd-George has prepared in his budget a statement for an estimated deficit of \$65,000,000.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer may choose to draw upon the sinking-fund, but it is inevitable that proposals for new taxation will be advanced. In this event increased license duties will undoubtedly be levied, and an income tax taking a large proportion from big incomes may be looked for. There is talk, too, of a new land tax. But while the budget proposed by Mr. Lloyd-George may make much financial history in England during the current year, budget secrets are invariably well kept in the land across the sea, and until the Chancellor himself shall have spoken, his plans can only be matter of conjecture.

**Italy's Political Program and Cabinet.**—*La Tribuna*, a ministerial, though not a monarchical paper, is of the opinion that the recent elections have shown that the Italians as a people are unfitted for the use of the ballot. Italy is neither France nor England—it has no parliamentary traditions. The ballot may be very good as a law; but laws are of no avail unless they go hand in hand with *costumi*; "Libero il voto" is good in theory, but when ballot-boxes are overturned and broken open how are the votes to be counted? Moreover, personalities and local interests weigh more in elections than the interests of the State. Nevertheless, the issue before

the electors was the increase of the army and Italy's position among foreign powers. The answer of the country was that the army and navy must be strengthened, and present alliances maintained. The recent Servian affair has shown that the *Triplice* is the strongest factor in European affairs to-day. Italy must prepare, not for offense but for defense. Activity in the arsenals and ship-yards of the country must be increased, yet in such a way as not to give any power reason to resent such activity.

And thus the load of militarism on Italy's back is once more added to. Things have altered very little since an Italian Deputy, nearly twenty years ago, said to René Bazin: "Our security, perhaps, and certainly our pride, require us to go on imitating our neighbors."

Signor Giolitti has been through so many cabinet crises that one more will not matter. His reputation for stubbornness may, however, keep his unpopular cabinet together for a long time. All his ministers are unpopular with one or other section of his supporters: Tittoni, because of his Balkan policy; Casana, because he shows vacillation in the War office; Mirabello, because of weakness in the navy; Rava, because he speaks too much and does too little; Cocco-Ortu, because he coquettes with new plans and schemes, yet does nothing solid for agriculture; Schanzer, because he has not carried out promised postal reforms; Bertolini, because he is too autocratic; Orlando, though a good jurist is politically inconsistent; Lacana has failed to farm the revenues properly; Circano has shown he knows nothing of finance. Giolitti's answer to all criticism and all demands for the removal of this or that minister is, "I have chosen him. If he is unfit the fault is mine; if he goes I go also"—and seemingly there is no one to take Giolitti's place.

**First Plenary Council of Canada.**—More than five years ago the project of having a plenary council in Canada was communicated to the hierarchy by the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Sbarretti. Work was immediately begun in preparation for these great church assizes: theologians, chosen by the various archbishops, met in Ottawa in March, 1904, and drew up a rough draft of the decrees to be submitted to the proposed council. Now at length these arduous preparations have borne fruit. It is officially announced that the Holy Father has granted permission for the holding of a Plenary Council. Final instructions concerning its convocation have been sent by the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation of the Council to His Excellency the Most Rev. Donatus Sbarretti. The Council will meet in the historic city of Quebec, the Mother See of Canada, in August of this year. The welcome news has been received with great gratification by all the Catholics of the Dominion.

**No Canadian Dreadnought.**—The Dreadnought agitation, begotten of the excitement produced by Mr. Asquith's discovery of Germany's naval activity, had spread to Canada, when Mr. Foster attempted to pour

oil on the troubled waters of tempestuous patriotism by moving "that Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of the responsibility and financial burden incident to the suitable protection of her exposed coast line and great seaports." Mr. Foster's speech was fluent and persuasive, but very moderate. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in very good form. In lofty and patriotic language he declared his admiration for British institutions and his resolve to make every sacrifice to maintain them. While feeling, even more deeply than Mr. Foster, that the British Empire was a necessity to the onward march of modern civilization, he could not accept the exact wording of the resolution, and proposed an amendment which, without urging immediate action, yet affirmed Canada's willingness to take up its share of the Empire's burden. Mr. Borden, leader of the Opposition, followed in a temperate and conservative strain and practically endorsed the stand taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The House unanimously adopted Mr. Foster's motion as amended by the Prime Minister and Mr. Borden.

The *Toronto Mail and Empire*, the chief organ of the Conservatives, is not at all pleased with this decision. In its issue of the 5th inst., it says editorially:

The colorless, spiritless resolution passed by the House of Commons cannot be the end of the matter. A resolution addressed to this particular crisis ought to be prepared and passed without delay—a resolution, that is, declaring for the contribution by Canada of the cost of at least one Dreadnought. In his noble speech on his own resolution—introduced weeks before the present naval situation was made known, and having particular reference to the better protection of our own coast fisheries—Mr. Foster stated that the Opposition was prepared to support the Government in offering the price of a Dreadnought or any other contribution to the Imperial navy. Let the Government side go as far, and the House will declare itself in a manner worthy of the representative chamber of the chief of Britain's daughter States.

**The Canadian House of Commons.**—On April 2, in the Canadian House of Commons, ex-Judge C. J. Doherty moved a resolution calling for a sweeping investigation of all the spending departments. This motion was so carefully worded that it elicited from the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, high praise for the dignified parliamentary style in which it was couched, although he did not admit Mr. Doherty's premises, and still less did he approve his conclusions. The debate was proceeding very smoothly when Mr. Foster, one of the most prominent and influential members of the Opposition and a master of sarcasm, flouted the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, giped at the heads of other departments, accused Holiday, Drolet and McAvity of stealing money from the public treasury. Sir Wilfrid replied: "I have only this to say to Mr. Foster: that, having now spent a long life in the public service, I never had a man suggest that I profited by the people's money." Then pandemonium reigned for a time in the House. Finally,