

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—The Result of the Elections

The result of the Belgian elections is that the *status quo* is maintained except at Nivelles, where a Liberal has won a seat, thus reducing the Government's majority to six. Such figures as are at present available show a considerable increase in the Socialist vote.

CANADA—Catholics in the Western Provinces

The increase of the general Catholic population in Western Canada is surprising. Fifteen years ago there were but 29,000 Catholics in the diocese of St. Boniface. At the present moment (says the *Catholic Times*) there are 133,000. The priests have increased in number from 76 to 235; the churches with a resident priest from 35 to 104; the communities of teaching Brothers from one to four; the convents from 14 to 30. The fine College of St. Boniface (French and English), under the Jesuit Fathers, grows in importance year after year. We are indebted for these particulars to those two excellent Catholic publications, the *Winnipeg North-West Review* and *Les Cloches de Saint Boniface*. Besides these papers, the priests and people of Winnipeg forming the 'West Canada Publishing Company,' print every week a German and a Polish Catholic newspaper. Father Cordes, O.M.I., is the founder and managing director of the company. He has almost completed his arrangements for the publication of another weekly journal, a Ruthenian gazette, for which an Irishman in Winnipeg has promised Archbishop Langevin a large subscription. The progress further West, namely, in the civil Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, comprising the dioceses of Prince Albert and St. Albert, would no doubt be shown to be equally remarkable, if statistics were available. The Redemptorist Fathers, who serve the church at Brandon, in Manitoba, are now building a church at Yorkton, in South Saskatchewan. Yorkton is central for about 5000 Polish and Hungarian Catholic colonists. The missionaries of La Salette are opening a school-chapel at Fillmore. The number of secular and regular priests is now very large in Western Canada, where until lately almost the only priests were those devoted missionary Fathers, British Empire. We have known how to appreciate, We read that when Father Leduc, O.M.I. (now V.G. St. Albert), went to Edmonton, in Alberta, 43 years ago, there were in all that country only four mission stations, with five priests and eight nuns. Priests are numerous now in Alberta, and there are at least eight different Orders of nuns working there.

ENGLAND—The late King's Generosity

As an evidence of the late King's sympathy with the Catholic faith, it is interesting to recall the fact that his Majesty once gave a donation of £50 towards the building fund of the church at King's Lynn. Owing to some defect in the foundations it was found necessary to rebuild the church. His late Majesty, on hearing of the circumstances and knowing that many of his guests from Sandringham attended the church from time to time, sent his subscription to the building fund, thus manifesting his interest in and appreciation of the work carried on there.

The Holy Father's Sympathy

The following is a copy of the Holy Father's letter to the Prince of Wales when the news of King Edward's death became known at the Vatican:—'Sorrowfully pained on learning the death of your august father, King Edward VII., whose great and noble qualities as Sovereign of the British Empire We have known how to appreciate. We with Our whole heart share in the sorrow of the Royal Family and of the whole English nation, and We beg her Majesty Queen Alexandra and your Royal Highness to accept the very sincere expression of Our deep condolence.— Pius PP. X.'

GERMANY—Preparations for the 'Catholic Day'

Among German Catholics attention is centring upon the preparations being made for the *Catholic Day* (*Katholikentag*) to be held in Augsburg, in Bavaria, next August. Begun in the revolutionary days of 1848-49, they have been during the past sixty years a principal means of cementing the union of Catholics in Germany and of strengthening their courage and faith. Year after year they have grown in importance and enthusiasm, and the inhabitants of the city of Augsburg are already planning to make the present year's congress surpass all of its predecessors in imposing splendor.

ROME—An Aeroplane in the Vatican Gardens

The London *Universe* states that the Holy Father was present on June 1 at an aeroplane flight in the Vatican gardens. The flying machine was the invention of the parish priest of Spoleto. The trial was the first made in the presence of the Holy Father, and was completely successful. His Holiness warmly congratulated the inventor.

St. Patrick's Church

Along with the two churches built in Rome during the past year in quarters that have sprung into life since 1870

a third will be finished, it is expected, within the next twelve months by the Irish Augustinians. Since St. Patrick's Church was recommenced some eighteen months ago splendid progress has been made with the building. Owing, however, to the strike of the stonemasons of the city of Rome, it is apprehended that the work will be thrown back somewhat, as the general body of the men have remained on strike for a considerable time, and seem in no way inclined to withdraw their demand for shorter hours. Still, it may be possible to make up for lost time, since it is decided to push the building of the church with renewed vigor as soon as the strikers have resumed labor.

Pilgrimages

A large pilgrimage of Germans residing in the United States, which has been promoted by the Central German Association (says a Rome correspondent, writing under date May 16), was received in audience last week. After allowing all present to kiss his ring, the Holy Father listened to addresses read by Monsignor Eis and by Father Weyland, of Jersey City, to which he graciously replied, and then blessed the pilgrims and the various good and great works they represented. A large assembly of pilgrims from Piedmont awaited the Supreme Pontiff in the Consistorial Hall on May 11, led by the Rev. Father Assons, who asked the Pope's blessing on those present and also on a pilgrimage about to go from Piedmont to Venice, where they hoped to sing a solemn 'Te Deum' in St. Mark's on June 2, in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Pope's birthday. Thus we will prove, said the good priest, the sincerity of the children of Catholic Piedmont; prove that we are with You, Holy Father, in docility and obedience, in fervor and zeal in works, with You in prayer, with You in joys and in sorrows. His Holiness, much moved, thanked the pilgrims, encouraged them in their noble works, and imparted to them all and to their distant dear ones the Apostolic Benediction.

UNITED STATES—An Old Diocese

Since the Spanish-American War (says the *Catholic Times*) the island of Puerto Rico has been United States territory. Only lately several of the dioceses of America have been celebrating the hundredth anniversary of their foundation. But the centenary committee just formed at San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, is preparing to celebrate next year the four hundredth anniversary of the institution of the See by Pope Julius II. on August 8, 1511. There is only one older diocese in the New World, that of San Domingo, founded by Pope Paul III. in 1508. When the See of San Juan de Puerto Rico was founded in 1511 the Spaniards were just making good their hold of the mainland of America, and the island bishopric had jurisdiction also over the 'Terra Firma.' The centenary celebrations will remind the world that the Catholic Church is the oldest institution in America, where also its children outnumber by millions the adherents of any other Christian community. As a preliminary to the celebration the venerable Cathedral Church of San Juan is to be thoroughly restored, and the centenary committee, under the presidency of the Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Jones, has arranged to compile and publish in Spanish and in English the records of the diocese.

The Dignity of Labor

Speaking to a Confirmation class at St. Joseph's Church, Baltimore, recently, Cardinal Gibbons said:—'Above all, my boys and girls, be industrious. It is an honorable thing to work, and honorable and industrious work is what has made this great nation. Never be ashamed to work, and always be ready to do your share when the time comes. Men alone should not be industrious; women also must be industrious, and the working woman always commands and should demand much more respect than the idle woman.'

New York Cathedral

It has been finally decided by Archbishop Farley that he will be able to arrange for the consecration of St. Patrick's Cathedral some time in October. There has remained for some years a debt of 800,000 dollars necessary to be paid before the cathedral could be consecrated. The entire cost of this notable cathedral, esteemed one of the finest of modern church edifices, is to be somewhere between 3,500,000 and 4,000,000 dollars, including the price paid to St. Peter's Church Corporation for the plot of ground upon which St. Patrick's Cathedral now stands. Nearly forty years have passed since the foundation work and the beginning of the structure of the cathedral proper demonstrated that the old St. Patrick's Cathedral in Lower New York, which for many years was the home of the Bishop of the diocese, was to be established upon Upper Fifth avenue not far from the Central Park plaza. About thirty years ago the cathedral was so far completed, roofed in, that it was possible to begin to hold services in it. It seemed, however, to offer almost staggering problems to the communicants and members of the parish. The architects had planned a cathedral to last for ages, always to remain an admirable specimen of modern architectural beauty of design. The twin spires, which of themselves cost a large amount of money and furnish one of the most gratifying of the architectural features of New York City, might have been cut down, thereby saving a large item in the cost of