

tion of May Day. All of this goes to show that recent events have had the effect of moving the Centre Party nearer the Conservative position. But the Centre is an admirably disciplined party, and is united not on a class basis, but, in the last resort, by religious ties. That is why it would appear unlikely that it will seriously diminish in strength.

The most active party of all at present is the Democratic. Its leaders seem bent on increasing as far as possible its representation in the national Parliament, and should its very vigorous propaganda have the result of bringing large numbers of additional voters into its ranks, it may easily secure the balance of power which has hitherto been held by the Centre. In any case it is most decidedly a party to watch. In foreign policy it seems genuinely anxious to pursue a policy of tactfulness towards the Allies, and one of its principal mouthpieces, the *Berliner Tageblatt*, criticised in strong terms the unwisdom of the recent German note asking for an increase in the German Army, holding that it had the appearance of wishing to take advantage of the differences which were supposed to exist between the Allies. The party leaders also appear to be firmly opposed to the old *Kontinentalpolitik*, or conciliation with France on the basis of opposition to "Anglo-Saxondom," which recent discussions have revived among South German Centre Party leaders and, above all, in the *Vossische Zeitung*, whose editor, Georg Bernhard, was the persistent advocate of the "Continental policy" during the war. As far as domestic politics are concerned, the Democrats, like the Centre, appear to have moved to the Right and to be anxious to emphasise their differences with the Social Democrats. Standing for the Republic and utterly opposed to any reaction, they are also firmly resolved to maintain the principle of private ownership. Their success or failure will be a measure of the strength of *bourgeois*, middle-class opinion in Germany.

TOUR OF THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA AND JAVA.

His Excellency the Most Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Cattaneo, Apostolic Delegate to Australia, has returned to Sydney after an extended tour of the vast Commonwealth of Australia, and during the week he graciously granted a representative of the *Catholic Press* (says that journal of August 12) some impressions of his travels. Since he left Sydney some months ago, his Excellency has covered over 11,000 miles. He has visited all the principal cities of the Commonwealth. He has penetrated to the very outskirts of civilisation and studied and investigated the spiritual resources and circumstances of almost every remote centre of the great island continent.

And it is a glorious and most consoling message that his Excellency brings us after his long and fatiguing sojournings throughout the great spaces of Australia. "I am deeply impressed," he says, "with the wonderful Catholic fervor and zeal of the people of civilisation, or in the lonely little hamlets buried in the bush, I found the same fervor of faith, and the same loyalty and devotion to the Holy Father. It was indeed an edifying and consoling experience for me."

It was in the golden west that the official visitations of the distinguished prelate really commenced. Previously he had visited, and been welcomed in a worthy and fitting manner, the principal towns and cities and rural districts of the eastern States. Now, however, his Excellency was breaking new ground, as it were, and travelling over territory where scenes and experiences, entirely different to those of other parts of Australia, are to be encountered.

The Goldfields.

"The residents of the twin cities of the goldfields, —Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie—gave me a very enthu-

siastic welcome, which touched me deeply," said his Excellency. "They had made great preparations for my welcome. They had arranged everything very beautifully, and every day that I spent there was a day of real enjoyment.

"One of the events which impressed me most of all during my visit to the west was the general Communion held on Sunday, April 25, when 1200 men received the Blessed Eucharist in a body, and subsequently assembled in the courtyard of the Christian Brothers' College for the Communion Breakfast. It was, indeed, a beautiful sight, and an event that I consider was the most important at which I assisted during my visit to Perth.

"I paid a visit, too, to New Norcia, where I was much interested in the work of the Benedictines. It was here that I first came personally into touch with the Australian aborigines.

New Norcia and Geraldton.

"From New Norcia I went to Geraldton, where I received another fine reception. I was very much impressed with their beautiful cathedral, which is still in course of completion, though, of course, it is now open for worship. When completed, it will be a very beautiful and imposing edifice indeed. From Geraldton I went to Carnarvon and Broome, the great centre of the pearling industry. I remained there almost a month, and thus I was afforded an opportunity of learning first-hand the real life of Australia in localities far removed from the big centres of civilisation. Here, as elsewhere, I had many edifying experiences of the sound spiritual conditions prevailing. I found much to interest and enlighten me, too, in the great pearling industry for which this locality is famed. It was all very interesting to me, indeed.

"From Broome I travelled in the little mission steamer, named Gerardo, 100 miles north to Beagle Bay, where there is an aboriginal mission conducted by the Pallottini Fathers. It is a real Catholic mission, and I found myself living in a real Catholic atmosphere all the time I was there.

"The native boys and girls were very intelligent and bright, and readily imbibed the spiritual instruction imparted to them. It was wonderful and inspiring to see the evidences of their faith and spiritual fervor. I remained a whole week among the natives, and every day we had every kind of religious ceremonies."

Beagle Bay to Java.

Continuing, his Excellency smilingly recalled the fact that during his stay at this place he was afforded every opportunity of studying aboriginal life and customs. He saw native corroborees, wherein the blacks with their lithe, sinewy bodies painted in the most weird and fantastic fashion, executed their wild dances whilst chanting their strange war songs. His Excellency was a spectator at foot races, mule races, and exhibitions of boomerang and spear-throwing.

From Beagle Bay his Excellency travelled to Java, and his impressions of that island are highly interesting. "What impressed me mostly," he said, "when going from Australia to Java is the fact that it is totally different in every respect to the island continent. Its area is only one-fiftieth of that of Australia yet there are 34 millions of inhabitants. Every inch of the land is cultivated. There you see the richest vegetation that is to be found anywhere in the world. There is not an inch of land that is not covered with crops or vegetation of some kind or another. They grow, especially, tea, rice, coffee, and tobacco. In Java I found again that the work of the Catholic Church is of a very fine and progressive character. Not only amongst the white colonists, but among the native Javanese people the Catholic religion is very progressive.

"I had the opportunity and joy to give Confirmation to 130 native converts. Intellectually, I found them very quick and intelligent. I took the opportunity of visiting their schools whilst I was in Java,