

Catholic scholarships, tenable in Catholic secondary schools and covering boarding expenses where necessary, are now offered to the pupils of all schools, whether private or public. The Government of the Orangeman is ready, apparently, to go to any lengths of injustice where we are concerned, and once again it is evident that the only use for Catholics in this country is to provide "missile troops" when a war is on, and the members of the conventicles of bigotry are shirking their duty. Just as public school-teachers boycott Catholic boys who beat them at athletics and football, so a P.P.A. Government boycotts Catholic boys who win scholarships in fair competition against all comers. Notwithstanding the favor shown to the State system our schools are more than able to hold their own against them in education as well as in sport, and our people recognise that fact and prove their recognition of it by their generous self-sacrifice. Another example of that generous spirit is now evident in the determination that boys who win scholarships shall not go without them even if the Government is ready to boycott them. What Dunedin has now done we are sure all the provinces will do shortly, and once more we will prove to the bigots that the only result of their attacks is to fortify our people and make them more determined to maintain intact and efficient a truly Christian system of education fit for the children of parents who really believe in God and in a future life. Some timid people say at times that the Government will end by suppressing our schools. The British Government tried that often in Ireland and yet Ireland is triumphant to-day. The Government that tries it in New Zealand will break itself against the determination of our people as certainly as waves break against rocks.

#### Professor Pringle on Bigots

During the course of an address on the League of Nations, in the Burns Hall, on August 4, Professor Pringle said:

"I have heard no one in Dunedin say anything against the League of Nations except a gentleman who preached a sermon on it one Sunday evening a few weeks ago. Although other utterances of this gentleman were fully reported in the papers, for *some strange and obscure reason* no report of his denunciation of the League of Nations was permitted to appear in the press. Had it been I should have felt it my duty to draw public attention to the numerous errors and misstatements of historical facts which his address contained. I should not refer to his so-called arguments, but I am informed that they carry weight with a certain section of public opinion. All that I have to say in answer to the partisan account he gave of the League of Nations is this. After a war in which by the practically unanimous assent of the British Empire we have been engaged with the help of two great Catholic States of the Continent of Europe in curbing the power for mischief of the great Protestant State of the Continent, it is both puerile and fatuous to denounce the League of Nations because in it we sit cheek by jowl with the representatives of Catholic States. Ladies and gentlemen, it is nauseous to me, it is nauseous to all right-thinking people when religious differences are dragged into the political arena, especially at this exceedingly critical juncture, when it is vitally necessary for all men of good will to present a common, if not united, front against the forces which, if unchecked, will destroy our civilisation and our liberties. I say shame on the man or woman who to achieve a party triumph, does anything to divide the forces of Christianity in their support of international solidarity and friendship."

The Professor's words are a well-merited castigation for the blatant sectarian strife-mongers who are permitted to tour the country and calumniate Catholics, living and dead. We understand that a local parson replied to the Professor and tried to defend his friend. That he is a friend of the organiser of strife and that he was named with

him in the series of Auckland challenges concerning the P.P.A. filth is enough about him. The editor of the enlightened paper that finds two columns for the falsehoods of the calumny monger ought also take his whipping at the hands of the Professor. No doubt the same wise editor, who has no space for lectures on Ireland but finds columns for calumnies against Irishmen and Catholics, might be able to explain by what economy the attack on the League of Nations was kept out of the press. The itinerant parson, with his repertoire of Maria-Monk and Chiniquy fables, is not a whit worse than his journalistic friends, the day-lie men, who, with a few noble exceptions, accord to him the publicity and notice which they refuse to decent and respectable citizens. It is an old saying and a true one that birds of a feather flock together. The public opinion of decent-minded persons repudiates the falsehoods and the suppressions of the day-lies just as sternly as it denounces the ravings of a horsewhipped parson.

#### In the Abyss

*Pacilis descensus Averni* sang the Roman poet, and never a truer word was written by the "lord of language," Mantuan Virgil. We have gone down the hill for five years and when we take stock of our present condition the only consolation left is the thought that we have fallen so low that we must be near the bottom. Lord Bryce tells us that our hired politicians are lower in mind and manners than their predecessors of thirty years ago: secular schools achieved that for us. Observation tells us that our press is a disgrace to manhood and that its chief function seems to be telling lies and suppressing the truth: the general corruption of morals made that possible. Sad experience tells us that the finances of the Dominion are in such a state that it is hopeless to expect persons so poorly equipped as Nosworthy, Anderson, and Massey to steer us safely among the rocks: politicians bound to bosses and bigots brought that upon us. Look around to-day and find if you can one ray of hope on the horizon. Our railways are worn out and the old cars compare unfavorably with fourth class in Germany. Efficient steamer services are a thing of the past. The regular boats between Wellington and Greymouth have gone; there is hardly ever a steamer sailing between Dunedin and Auckland; sailings to Australia are fewer than ever and fares higher than ever. Mr. Massey has undone much that was done by Mr. Seddon and Sir Joseph Ward. But as long as he has the P.P.A. behind him the welfare of the Dominion is clearly only a secondary consideration, and he can make his gesture of contempt for the people with impunity. Is there any consolation in recalling that a people gets the sort of government it merits? Is there any comfort in remembering that if we are badly off England is ten times worse? Her Cabinet Ministers have become synonyms for liars; trafficking in Marconi shares and other shady transactions are associated with their names; a maddened populace is barely held down by sheer weight of arms and a revolution is drawing nearer and nearer. Great Britain owes America the fabulous sum of \$4,196,818,358, or about one and a quarter thousand million pounds. She is unable to pay even the interest on it, and she has been spending millions making war on women and children in Ireland. Her starving and unemployed inhabitants walk the roads in millions and grow more dangerous as time goes on. Her brutal treatment of Ireland, her shameless violation of her pledges, her sacrileges and arson and murders have aroused to fierce anger the people of America, of France, of Italy, of Russia, of Norway, of Denmark. She stands alone like an outlaw and a leper and all point to her the finger of scorn. She is told that she has committed outrages and crimes ten times worse than those she invented about the Germans; she is compared to the Russia of the cruel Tsars; her statesmen are likened to Abdul the Damned. Her own papers—the *Manchester Guardian*, for instance—say that she deserves what she is getting and that the world has a perfect right to pelt her with dead cats and rotten eggs. This is the Britain that invited mothers to send their sons to die for the

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