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Editorial

Christmas

As the Christmas of 1925 approaches, we anticipate the happiness that it will surely bring—the same that it has brought to us in the past, that it has brought to men down through the ages, the self-same joyous feelings of love and reconciliation experienced on that first great Christmas morn, when the angels of God, encircling the crib of the Infant Saviour, delivered the message, “Peace on earth.”

In the hurry and turmoil of our daily life, we do not take time to realize the true and full significance of Christmas; and it is only when the great festive season approaches that we go back in spirit, place ourselves among the lowly shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem

and follow the light which leads them to the stable where lies the new-born Babe, the expectation of ages, the fulfillment of the Divine promise. In Him we see the obliteration of the dreadful abyss existing between God and man; we see there the Son of God Himself who has chosen to become our brother, and has given us Heaven for a heritage.

When we consider, then, that we are the object of a love so unbounded as to cause such a condescension on the part of God, we are truly happy, and feel strong and secure in the universal brotherhood with Christ.

What a host of pleasant memories, too, flood the mind at this season—memories of past Christmases spent at home in company with our friends, and especially those of childhood, when Christmas was that day of days to which we ever looked forward with fervent longing.

Christmas means also to the college student a reunion with his family and friends who are rendered even more dear by his short separation from them; and great are the sentiments of joy and gladness depicted on his countenance as he exchanges with them his Christmas greetings.

Cardinal Begin

In the death of Cardinal Begin which took place last July the Catholic Church is called upon to mourn another of her prominent members, and Canada, one of its greatest churchmen.

The late Cardinal Begin was born at Point Levis, Quebec in 1840; in 1862 he went to Rome to study theology and was ordained priest there a few years later; he then returned to Canada, and, for a number of years, was a member of the teaching staff of Quebec Seminary; in 1888 he was made Bishop of Chicoutimi diocese, and in 1891 became coadjutor to the Archbishop of Quebec, to whom he succeeded in 1898.

The great honours conferred upon him was a fitting tribute to a prince of the Church so worthy of esteem and love. He was an accomplished man—ornamented with the most amiable natural virtues, enriched with a great variety of human knowledge, filled with most fervent piety, and ever zealous for the welfare of the Church and of humanity.

This great pastor of souls was always an arduous labourer in the interests of the Church, and, during the twenty-seven years that he was in charge of the archdiocese of Quebec, seventy parishes were founded and one hundred and eighty new religious institutions were established.

The great amount of work attached to his position as Archbishop of such an extensive diocese did not prevent him from writing, and, among other works, he wrote books on "Infallibility," "The Rule of Faith" and "The Veneration of the Saints."

Looking back on his long life of piety, labour and success, Cardinal Begin could well exclaim with St. Paul, "I have fought the good fight."

Island Prosperity

Since the close of the Great World War in 1918, the natural post-war depression has been experienced almost universally. We, on Prince Edward Island, have felt it, and this is accountable, in no small degree, for the great emigration from the Province since that date. Of course many of our people would not have gone away, had they realized that the difficulties confronting them here were not confined to our country alone, but also existed abroad; and, in the course of a few years, conditions would become normal, and our Province would again be prosperous.

The largest part of our population are farmers, and, for the last six or seven years, the markets for agricultural

products were so poor and uncertain that it was only with difficulty, and the practice of strictest economy that one could make his income measure up to his necessary expenditure. This autumn, however, we see a great change; the material for which it was hard to find a market, even at a very low price, is now in good demand, and in some cases, the price is two or three times as great as before. The returns the farmer gets for everything he sells are sufficiently good to compensate him for his labour in producing them, and he does not feel that he has had his work for nothing.

Among the different branches of agriculture, seed potatoe growing is becoming yearly of more importance, due to the Potatoe Growers Association. The price of potatoes this year is exceptionally high, an account of the scarcity in the United States and Central Canada; but even if this were not so, the quality of seed potatoes grown here is such that they demand a market and a price at any time.

This rapid increase in the price of farm products indicates that the depression, due to the War, is practically over; and there is no doubt that in a few years our vacant farms will be reoccupied, and the population of our province will become even greater than it was in 1914.

Queen Alexandra

On November 21 of this year the entire British Nation was plunged into grief when it became known that Queen Alexandra had passed away at her residence at Sandringham, Norfolk.

The late Queen, at the time of her death was in her eighty-first year, and during sixty-two years of this long life she has held an important position in our Nation. Besides this she was a woman who by her strict sense of duty, shrewdness and tact, nobleness of character and kindness to the poor, endeared herself to all with whom

she came in contact, and demanded the love and admiration of her people, to whom, in her death, she leaves a memory that they will long cherish.

Queen Alexandra was by birth a Danish princess, the eldest daughter of Christian IX of Denmark and was born on December 1, 1844. She made her first appearance in England in 1863 as wife of Edward, Prince of Wales, heir to Queen Victoria. She soon won the hearts of the English people who rejoiced at her connection with their Royal Family. At the close of the long and eventful reign of Queen Victoria by death in 1901, Edward VII with his wife Alexandra succeeded to the throne as reigning King and Queen. After a short and peaceful reign of ten years, the King died on May 6, 1910; and for two years after this date the Queen lived in retirement. At the accession of her son, our present monarch, King George V., Alexandra became the Queen Mother, which position she held in the hearts of the people in the evening of a long, beautiful and eventful life.

Even at her advanced age, the Queen was still healthy and active, and great preparations were being made at Sandringham House for the celebration of the eighty-first anniversary of her birth, when everything was suddenly changed by the sad and dissappointing news of her death.

“Red and White” takes this opportunity of extending to the faculty and students of St. Dunstan's University, also to its advertisers and subscribers a very Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Better to die ten thousand deaths,
Than wound my honour.

—Addison