

## VICAR-GENERAL CORBET SOUNDS WARNING NOTE

### Talks on Separate School Matters and Recalls Story of Past—Deprecates Action in Defiance of Properly Appointed Educational Authorities.

Cornwall, Jan. 8.—The Standard of yesterday contains the following:

In the course of his remarks at high mass, New Year's Day, after conveying his greetings to the congregation and referring to the war clouds in Europe where the situation had not improved in the direction of peace, for which the church exhorted its members to continually pray, Very Rev. Father Corbet, V.G., at St. Columban's church here, referred to the fact that the Presentation Brothers, who constitute the male teaching staff in the Roman Catholic separate schools here, had secured the necessary teaching qualifications for this province, after a very arduous course of study and training at the Kingston model school; and this said the speaker, was a matter of much satisfaction both to them and to all. They now possess the necessary certificates, and are no longer subject to any question or criticism as to teaching by favor or suffrance. He had originally hoped that an examination would have sufficed without the necessity of many weeks' attendance at a training or model school, but conditions in connection with separate schools in this province during the past few years compelled the Educational department to insist upon a preparatory course. The agitation carried on in certain sections both within the province and without under the name and guise of religion, had so intensified public feeling that the department, much as they admired the qualifications of the brothers, obtained at the highest universities and educational institutions in Ireland, were obliged to insist upon the cold, strict letter of the act being complied with. The difficulties under which the schools had been conducted for the past few months had now been happily overcome, and the brothers were now on the same secure footing as other qualified secular teachers.

#### Early Catholic Education.

Education, the speaker said, was a matter of vital importance in the province as elsewhere. The first reference to Catholic education in Ontario dates back to the days of the Very Rev. Father Alexander Macdonnell, afterwards first Bishop of Kingston. An extract from a letter written by that prelate shortly after being made bishop, was translated by the deputy superintendent of education for Ontario, upwards of thirty years ago, and read as follows: "After receiving the Prince Regent's thanks for my own conduct in defence of the province during the late war of 1812, the colonial minister, Earl Bathurst, increased my own salary, and sent orders to the executive government of Upper Canada to pay so much (in the aggregate \$1,000) annually to a certain number of clergymen and teachers that I was to recommend."

That the existence of Catholic teaching in Ontario had in these early days the royal sanction is evidenced by the voluntary action of the Prince Regent. (Afterwards George IV.) doubtless taken upon the advice of his ministers. This fact is further borne out by the following passage from a letter from Archbishop Cleary, of Kingston, at a much later date, wherein, he says, in a letter to the Toronto Catholic Register, in October, 1894:

"Bishop Macdonnell raised two regiments of Scottish fencibles from amongst his own people, and led them forward, and cheered them on by his presence and bravery in several battles with the enemy in eastern Ontario. This profoundly touched the hearts of the statesmen in the foreign office in London, and in the governor-general's citadel in Quebec, so much so that in token of high appreciation, he received from the king a pension for life, which was afterwards doubled and then quadrupled and made hereditary in perpetuity by his successors in office, after he had become Bishop of Kingston."

Bishop Macdonnell, therefore, not only received \$1,000 annually for the maintenance of Catholic priests and teachers, but also, in recognition of his great personal service to the crown, he received a personal salary, afterwards doubled and quadrupled.

#### SOFTENING THE BLOW.

##### How German Post Office Notices Victim's Relatives.

Berlin, Jan. 8.—The German post office is to spare the feelings, so far as possible, of the families of soldiers who have fallen in battle, when mail matter, non-deliverable for that reason, is returned to the sender. Hitherto it was the custom to stamp on the letter or package merely the word "fallen," and send it back home to check the relatives with this harsh brevity. Now the military authorities have been directed to use the words "fallen on the Fatherland," or "fallen on the field of honor."

In still another way the authorities are trying to soften the blow of death notices from the front. Hitherto this was attempted only in country districts, where the returned mail of the fallen soldier was handed over to the local authorities or the

which was eventually made hereditary to the See of Kingston.

#### Further Examinations.

After the death of this illustrious prelate, which occurred in January, 1840, efforts were made from time to time to put Catholic schools upon a still more substantial and enduring basis. These efforts culminated in 1863 in the introduction of an act, during the administration of the late Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, by the then Hon. Richard Scott, which embodied the provisions of the Separate Schools Act substantially as they exist to-day. This act which had the sanction of the bishops of both Upper and Lower Canada, and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were then known, and was passed by large majorities, and its preparation and enactment were under the supervision of Very Rev. Angus Macdonnell, V.G., of Kingston, delegated by the Ontario and Quebec bishops to frame and supervise the passing into legislation of the act in question, and to secure such addition to and modification of the original measures as would best meet the needs and requirements of the schools, a task in which he was faithfully and ably assisted by Rev. Father Cazeau, the secretary to the Archbishop of Quebec.

This enactment was acceptable to the bishops of both Upper and Lower Canada at that time, and was satisfactory legislation to them inasmuch as it embodied, with some modifications possibly, all which they had for many years contended for.

One provision of this enactment to which no objection whatever was then raised has recently been the subject of strenuous objection in certain sections of the province, and among certain classes of the supporters of the schools. This section reads as follows:

"The Roman Catholic separate schools, with their registers, shall be subject to such inspection as may be directed from time to time by the chief superintendent of education, and shall be subject also to such regulations as may be imposed from time to time by the council of public instruction for Upper Canada."

When the speaker himself attended separate schools, as he did before his college and seminary courses, an inspector came annually to visit the schools, inspect the registers, etc., and no question was ever raised as to his right, or as to his religious persuasion. The inspection was always performed in a tactful and kindly way, and all possible respect was shown to teachers and pupils, and by them in return; neither was there ever any interference in matters of religion. During a recent visit to Ireland less than three years ago, he had closely investigated the manner in which educational institutions of a religious character are supervised and administered that such a visit and inspection by government inspectors, both Catholic and Protestant, and that there has never been any objection raised thereto, or any ground for such objection as there has been no interference whatever in religious matters.

#### Public Disapproval.

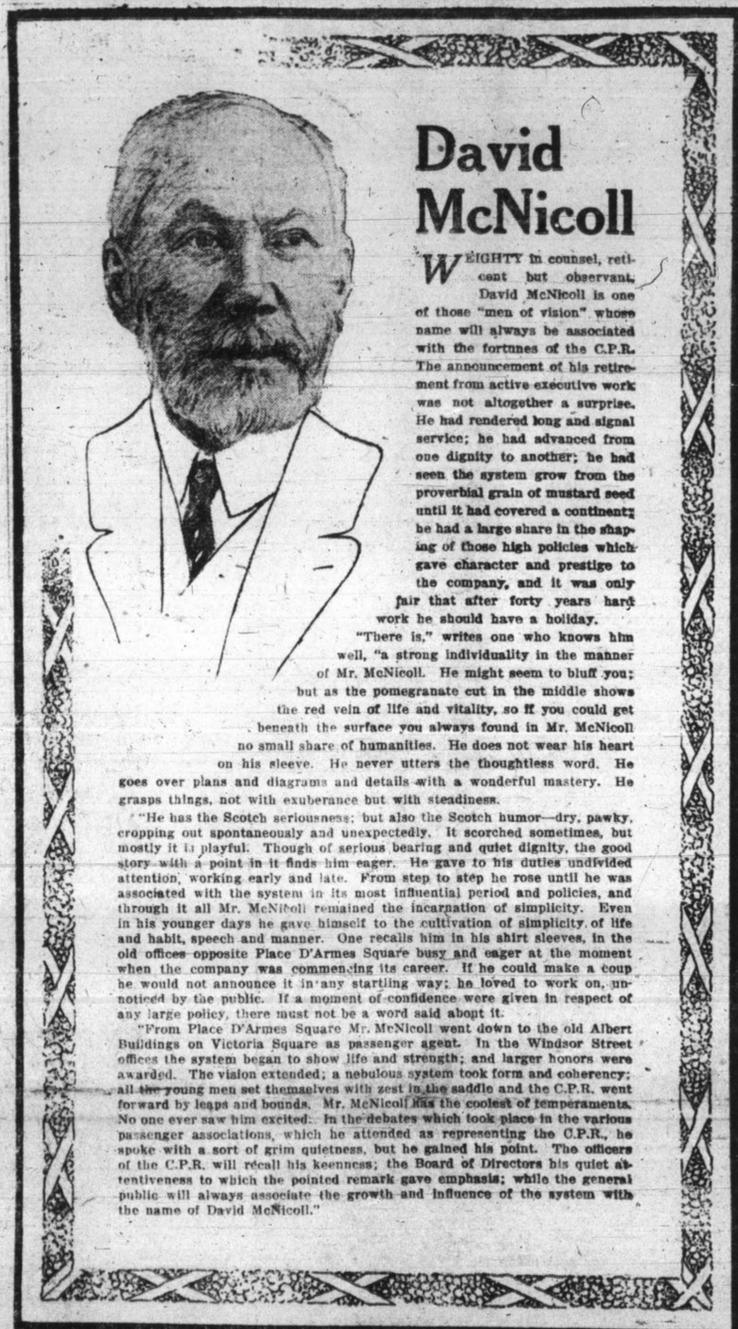
The agitation carried on in certain quarters, and the rejection of the government's envoy, by refusing to permit his visit and inspection is a serious and unpleasant matter for the government and that in a province where only from 7 to 9 members are Catholic in a house of upwards of 110 members. There has as yet been no public disapproval of the flagrant violation of this clause of the Separate Schools Act; yet this violation may not go on indefinitely with impunity.

The government may not long or meekly endure such defiance and affronts with patience, so that the supporters of the system who are satisfied with its workings should not be without anxieties as to consequences which may follow the ill-advised opposition to the government's regulations by a certain section of the population, under the misnomer of a "religious" grievance. Silence at times was wisdom, but it was not necessarily so under all conditions, and he felt impelled, as a duty, to sound a warning note.

#### KAISER'S MIND IMPAIRED.

Refuses to Undergo Operation—Clamor To Go To Front.

Copenhagen, Jan. 8.—The Kaiser is mentally impaired by the strain under which he has been suffering since the war began, and constant friction exists between him and the German general staff. This statement is made by an American engineer who has just reached this city after a two and a half month's residence in Berlin. Plenty of brains and muscle make almost any proposition look easy.



## David McNicoll

WEIGHTY in counsel, reticent but observant, David McNicoll is one of those "men of vision" whose name will always be associated with the fortunes of the C.P.R. The announcement of his retirement from active executive work was not altogether a surprise. He had rendered long and signal service; he had advanced from one dignity to another; he had seen the system grow from the proverbial grain of mustard seed until it had covered a continent; he had a large share in the shaping of those high policies which gave character and prestige to the company, and it was only fair that after forty years hard work he should have a holiday.

"There is," writes one who knows him well, "a strong individuality in the manner of Mr. McNicoll. He might seem to bluff you; but as the pomegranate cut in the middle shows the red vein of life and vitality, so if you could get beneath the surface you always found in Mr. McNicoll no small share of humanity. He does not wear his heart on his sleeve. He never utters the thoughtless word. He goes over plans and diagrams and details with a wonderful mastery. He grasps things, not with exuberance but with steadiness."

"He has the Scotch seriousness; but also the Scotch humor—dry, pawky, cropping out spontaneously and unexpectedly. It scorched sometimes, but mostly it is playful. Though of serious bearing and quiet dignity, the good story with a point in it finds him eager. He gave to his duties undivided attention, working early and late. From step to step he rose until he was associated with the system in its most influential periods and policies, and through it all Mr. McNicoll remained the incarnation of simplicity. Even in his younger days he gave himself to the cultivation of simplicity of life and habit, speech and manner. One recalls him in his shirt sleeves, in the old office opposite Place D'Armes Square busy and eager at the moment when the company was commencing its career. If he could make a coup he would not announce it in any starting way; he loved to work on, unnoticed by the public. If a moment of confidence were given in respect of any large policy, there must not be a word said about it."

"From Place D'Armes Square Mr. McNicoll went down to the old Albert Buildings on Victoria Square as passenger agent. In the Windsor Street offices the system began to show life and strength; and larger honors were awarded. The vision extended; a nebulous system took form and coherency; all the young men set themselves with zest in the saddle and the C.P.R. went forward by leaps and bounds. Mr. McNicoll was the coolest of temperaments. No one ever saw him excited. In the debates which took place in the various passenger associations, which he attended as representing the C.P.R., he spoke with a sort of grim quietness, but he gained his point. The officers of the C.P.R. will recall his keenness; the Board of Directors his quiet attentiveness to which the pointed remark gave emphasis; while the general public will always associate the growth and influence of the system with the name of David McNicoll."

#### OVER THE RAID VICTIMS.

##### Archbishop's Oration Recalls Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Scarborough, England, Dec. 26.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—The funeral oration over the bodies of those killed in the recent German naval raid on this city was delivered by the Archbishop of York, because of its dignity, simplicity, and brevity, the newspapers compare it to Lincoln's Gettysburg address. He said:

"Grief, sympathy, indignation, all of them sincere and overflowing—these are the emotions which bind us together to-day. But they will move us, not to more distress or excitement or alarm, but rather to a more quiet and determined resolution that we, to whom an experience so strange and terrible has come, will not fall our country at this time of need."

"We shall be only the more eager to prove by our steadiness, our calmness, our determination, that we are ready to meet the calls which at this solemn time our country makes upon us. These men and women and children whose loss we are assembled here this morning to mourn, will not have died in vain. Their death brings to us in this country at a time when perhaps we have some need of it, a quick, vivid sense of the dread realities of war, not in order that they should prepare us to steel our hearts for the inevitable sacrifices which a great war demands."

"I am sure that this death of those who shared the life of this town with you will move, as perhaps nothing else could have moved, the heart of the manhood of this north of England to see that the cause for which they suffer will be the more eagerly, and with more self-denying chivalry taken up and carried through by the strength of the men who remain."

#### SEEK EQUAL FREEDOM.

##### Alberta Indians Resent Being "Treated Like Children."

Calgary, Jan. 8.—Representatives of five Indian tribes of Alberta met in convention on the Hobbema reserve this week and arranged to send a delegation to Ottawa asking for a modification of the Indian act, which would give them equal freedom with the white man except in respect to liquor restrictions and collective land ownership. After thirty-five years steady progress in arts of civilization the Indians claim through their spokesman, Rev. John McLaughlin, that the government should cease to treat them like children. Among other things, the Indians want to establish a paper in their own language to keep them in touch with passing events. They also gave \$1,200 to the government for war purposes.

It's a poor argument that has to be fortified by ridicule.

#### POLAND A VAST MORASS

##### Austrians Blame Weather For Failure of Their Offensive.

Berlin, London, Jan. 8.—The correspondent of the Tageblatt, in a despatch from the Austrian headquarters, says: "Simultaneously with the cessation of the Russian offensive southward in the direction of Neu Sande, the Austrian offensive in Russian Poland came to a standstill. This was due less to force of arms than the unfavorable weather conditions. Much rain has fallen, resulting in a thaw which has converted the whole country into a vast morass. It is physically impossible to bring up heavy artillery, without which the Russian position along the Nida river is not capable of being forced."

#### A NEW DISEASE

##### It Is Caused By a Quick-Drying Varnish.

London, Jan. 7.—A new liver disease caused by a quick-drying varnish and to which varnishers and polishers may be subject, was discovered here by Dr. Bernard Spitz-bury and Dr. Wilcox, the eminent pathologists, in an autopsy upon a workman, who had been employed at the Hendron aircraft factory. This varnish is composed of benzene, ether, methylated spirit, benzene and other ingredients. Rats subject to the vapor, said Dr. Wilcox at the inquest became drowsy and developed an extensive liver disease. The workman's death was due to syncope from disease of the liver, caused by the action of "techloro-ether."

#### SPECULATOR IS BARRED.

##### Government Will Only Buy Horses From Owners or Farmers.

Ottawa, Jan. 8.—A militia memorandum reiterates the department's decision that horses will not be purchased from liver barns or wholesale dealers. The aim is to purchase them direct from the farmer or owner and to bar speculators and dealers. In this way the farmer and the government should get a good horse at a fair price. These are the laws as laid down by the department and followed by Col. A. B. McEae, remount commissioner, and P. Burns, who succeeded him as general remount commissioner, by A. H. Newton, who will look after Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and George Headley, who will look after Alberta. The world is full of foolishly self-made martyrs.

#### RAILWAY ALONG THE BALTIC.

##### Stockholm, Sweden, Jan. 8.—The railroad circling the Gulf of Bothnia, the northern extension of the Baltic Sea, was virtually completed yesterday. Up to the present time there had been a gap of ten miles over which passengers from Stockholm to Petrograd had to drive. Now this distance has been reduced to half a mile.

#### Contracting Firm In Trouble.

Montreal, Jan. 8.—The C. E. Deacon Company, Limited, capitalized at \$500,000, one of the largest contracting firms in Canada, is in liquidation following a winding-up order granted on the application of the Structural Steel Company, Limited, creditor for the sum of \$100,000. It is said that assets will exceed liabilities.

#### Seizing All Copper Available.

London, Jan. 8.—The Kaiser is being as keen on the acquisition of copper as was Napoleon when he removed all copper from the tombs and edifices in Utrecht cathedral. Throughout Belgium all articles made of copper, including pumps, door knockers and bells, are being seized and sent to Germany.

#### British Rioters Fired On.

The Hague, Jan. 8.—General N. Bosboom, minister of war, replying to an interpellation by Socialist Deputy Troelstra regarding the recent rioting among the British soldiers in the internment camp near Zeele, said that the Dutch guards were forced to fire on the rioters to prevent prolonged resistance. Folly is the fertilizer that makes wild oats grow.

#### T. P. O'CONNOR-INDIGNANT.

##### Says Cardinal's Arrest Is a Brutal Act of Clumsy Policy.

London, Jan. 8.—T. P. O'Connor, M.P., expressed great indignation at the arrest of Cardinal Mercier. "It is shocking if by no means surprising," he said, "but I cannot help thinking that it is one of the brutal acts of clumsy German policy which will recoil at the head of that country."

He also said that it was an object-lesson and confirmed the charge that Germany had provoked the war with the desire of destroying by the most ruthless force the numbers of the "small nations of Europe."

#### TURKEY MUST ABANDON PLAN

##### Smashing Blow by Russians Fatal to Ottoman Ambitions.

London, Jan. 8.—The crushing blow the Russians appear to have dealt the Turks in the Caucasus and the further advance of the French in Alsace on the road to Mulhausen continue to hold the foreground in the war news in the absence of any other important developments east or west.

It is felt in England that the reported rout of the Turks invading the Caucasus, with the defeat of their plan to seize the Russian fortress at Kars, gives the Ottoman forces such a set-back that the much-discussed invasion is now virtually out of the question; at the same time the pressure on the Russians at least has been so far relieved as to preclude the necessity of withdrawing Russian forces from the Polish and Galician fronts for service in the Caucasus.

#### SWISS VIEWS ON PROTEST.

##### Vital Interests at Stake When Car-goes Are Halted.

Berne, Switzerland, via Paris, Jan. 8.—The United States' note to Great Britain concerning delays to American commerce has been welcomed by the Swiss newspapers, which in their editorial comments express the opinion that the United States government is acting in the interests of all neutrals, and especially Switzerland. The hope is expressed that the American note will meet with the fullest success. It is asserted that it is most important to Switzerland that the American export trade be not restricted, for Switzerland depends on the United States for the greater part of her supplies of wheat, corn, cotton, copper and petroleum.

#### Many Belgian Priests Shot.

Paris, Jan. 8.—The Belgian legation issues a note detailing the cases in which the Germans have shot Belgian priests. Father Clerck, according to the note, was arrested on August 31st, accused of shooting German soldiers, and was dragged by his arms along the pavement until he declared that he preferred death. He then was shot. He was eighty-three years old. About ten priests were killed in the Liège diocese, the statement says; three were shot in the Tournai diocese, and many were brutally treated.

#### Messages Transmitted Free.

Ottawa, Jan. 8.—An arrangement has been made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph whereby telegrams to and from the militia department, from the war office to the Canadian high commissioners, in connection with casualties can be handled free. Notices of such casualties to next of kin in Canada will also be handled free. Relatives will be allowed to ask for information as wounded soldiers through the militia department to the extent of three messages.

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#### HAD VIEW OF BATTLE

##### ATLANTIC-LINER DIRECTLY UNDER BATTLING AEROPLANES

Airmen's Awful Hazard—Passengers and Crew of Vessel Did Not Learn Result of Duel Until They Reached New York.

New York, Jan. 8.—Nine passengers and the crew of the Atlantic transport liner Minnehaha, which arrived yesterday from England, are the first persons to reach this country who witnessed the German aeroplane raid which was aimed at London, but which was repulsed by British airmen, on Christmas day. The Minnehaha lay directly beneath the fighting aircraft. There was a dense fog and the Minnehaha, which had left London on Christmas Eve, had been compelled to anchor near Sheerness. The passengers and crew were bored and grumbling, and there was little Christmas spirit aboard. But the mist began to clear soon after midnight, and, just as the river banks became visible, the ship sounded from the shore the blast of a bugle and an instant afterward the shrill siren of a warship, followed by the sound of guns.

Through the clearing mist, some one caught sight of a German aeroplane favoring head, and instantly every eye was turned toward it. Presently a second appeared out of the haze. They were travelling at great speed, headed toward London, and about them shells were bursting like firework bombs. It seemed as though the aeroplanes would slip the safety of the sea, when suddenly three British aircraft darted into view from the shelter of a heavy cloud bank. They were swifter than the Germans and they raced after them, intent, apparently, on climbing to higher altitudes, from which they could drop bombs on the enemy. The Germans saw them and circled. The British craft circled, too, and dodged this way and that, striving to get above the Germans and at the same time keep out of range of the German fire.

Each instant it seemed to the watchers aboard the Minnehaha that the aeroplanes must come tumbling down, for they doubled and twisted at seemingly impossible angles, and several times pieces of burning shell struck the German craft. The latter at last gave up the fight and, pointing out to sea, made off at full speed. They passed directly above the Minnehaha, and after them raced the British craft. In an instant, all five aeroplanes were out of sight.

To-day the Minnehaha's passengers were eagerly inquiring for news as to the outcome of the battle wondering whether the Germans had escaped or had dropped into the sea.

#### THE HOW AND WHY.

##### Of the Control of the Seas By Britain.—Churchill's Initiative.

London Observer. "When the Kaiser laid his first plans for our final overthrow he never reckoned with one who came later to his opportunity, but whom we ourselves have long regarded as a powerful and original genius of our age, Lord Fisher.

"Lord Fisher reconstructed and revolutionized the navy in the face of vehement and perhaps inevitable antagonism for the direct purpose of meeting the German danger when it came. He effected that mighty concentration in home waters which brought low the Kaiser's earlier hopes and now holds the German fleet suppressed, pending its resolution to stake all on battle.

"Lord Fisher developed the submarine service and wireless. Through the Dreadnought type he aimed, not at bulk and tonnage, but at a crushing preponderance of gunfire.

"Backed by Mr. McKenna's more reverberating credit it must be remembered that, extreme Radical though he was, he staked his political life for the navy—Lord Fisher secured the famous Eight which formed the core of our battle strength when war broke out.

"When he retired it was understood that he would be recalled in the hour of crisis.

"In the meantime Mr. Churchill, a civil administrator of tireless ability and vigor, bore the main brunt of carrying on the work, and was then the only man strong enough to sustain it. He continued in all main respects the spirit of the Fisher regime.

"His influence upon some matters—for example, the fitting services—was more than a continuation. It was creative. Mr. Churchill showed stroke after stroke of courage. He disregarded all convention when he appointed the young admirals now in command.

"All arrangements were made in view of the contingency of war, especially for the utmost speeding up at need of new construction.

"Finally, the grand fleet was mobilized by one act of memorable decision. The German dream of a surprise attack was shattered.

"From the first day of war, Britain, under Mr. Churchill's naval administration, seized and asserted—with the modern navy Lord Fisher, above all, had planned and inspired—that absolute mastery of the sea which the Germans for nearly five months have never dared to challenge."

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