

and in the interview from which we first quoted, he delivers himself thus: 'I do not believe, however, that the next attack will be entirely a naval one, but that it will be accompanied by a debarkation of troops. This aspect also does not cause any anxiety. We have near at hand an army powerful enough to repel any invasion. The Turks are well supplied with munitions of war, as the enemy will find out when an attempt is made. If we are striving to maintain contact with Europe it only is because the manufacture of armaments is not so well developed in Turkey as in the Central European countries. Outside her effectives Turkey could put another 500,000 men into the field if provided with proper munitions. You may rest assured that tranquility reigns in Constantinople. A few may be timid, but the majority are courageous, and the more the enemy attempts to test that courage the more we shall rejoice.'

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So much for the German view, and for German predictions. Turning to the actual facts, as recorded in the cables, we find that already Von der Goltz's anticipations have been rudely falsified. The landing force has not only obtained a footing, but is now firmly established in what is described as an unassailable position. 'The troops now occupy such a position,' says Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, 'and are so thoroughly entrenched that all the Turks in Thrace and Gallipoli could never turn them out.' The British have captured Sedd-ul-Bahr; and the enemy positions are being steadily and surely enveloped. 'Correspondents estimate,' says the cable, 'that 3000 prisoners were taken in addition to the losses. The enemy, strongly entrenched in commanding heights on the western extremity of the peninsula, are surrounded by the allied troops. Several positions were taken at the bayonet point, drawing in an enveloping circle. The Turkish defence is weakening under the warships' artillery, and the ultimate capture of the positions is certain.' The end is still a long way off, but this is surely an important and inspiring beginning, one which, as Mr. Lloyd George remarks, will stand as one of the finest feats of arms in history. It is gratifying to know that in this gallant work the New Zealanders and Australians have borne a conspicuous and glorious part. All the London papers lavish warm encomiums upon them, which are epitomized in the following glowing tribute from the *Westminster Gazette*: 'The extraordinary difficulties in the way of landing were overshadowed by the Australasians' dash and determination. They suffered severely, but it is doubtful whether any other troops in the world would have carried through successfully such entirely individual operations. We may well be proud of the men from a daughter country. It is no exaggeration to say that 'our boys' have won undying laurels, for themselves and for their country, and we would be wanting alike in justice and in gratitude if we failed to place their achievement proudly upon record.'

CATHOLICS AND BELGIAN RELIEF

As we mentioned last week, the unworthy and utterly uncalled-for aspersions made by the Rev. A. Macdonald, Presbyterian pastor at Otautau, in regard to an alleged failure on the part of Catholics to do their duty in assisting the movement for sending relief to the distressed Belgians, were submitted to Mr. J. A. Johnstone, Chairman of the Belgian Relief Collecting Committee, with the request that he would make an official statement regarding the facts. Mr. Johnstone has addressed a direct personal communication to the Otautau minister, stating the incontrovertible facts, and expressing the hope that that gentleman will withdraw the absurd and utterly groundless charge. We have been kindly supplied with a copy of the letter, which we have pleasure in placing in full before our readers:—

'DUNEDIN, May 5, 1915.

'Rev. A. Macdonald, Otautau,

'Dear Sir,—My attention has been brought to a paragraph appearing in the *Otautau Standard* of 20th April, in which you are reported to have made a charge

against the Roman Catholics of not supporting the Belgian Relief movement as they should do, and I have been asked to place the facts before you.

'Ever since the war broke out I have taken an active part in the collecting of subscriptions for the various relief funds, and to date there has actually passed through my hands the following amounts collected at Roman Catholic churches throughout Otago:

Dunedin	...	...	£134	15	0
Lawrence	...	...	86	0	3
South Dunedin	...	...	55	0	0
Gore	...	...	48	3	0
Mosgiel	...	...	20	5	6
Milton	...	...	13	3	6
Riversdale	...	...	12	12	0
Port Chalmers	...	...	11	15	9
Omakau	...	...	11	0	0

£392 15 0

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'In addition, there was a large donation from a Roman Catholic body included in the total funds raised here at a large patriotic demonstration on Trafalgar Day. I forget the actual amount as it was merely included in the total, but I well remember the special donation coming along before the meeting.

'I also understand that over £60 has been paid into the Otago Central Fund by the Roman Catholics of Ranfurly, and over £50 has been collected at the churches in Oamaru.

'I have been chairman of a committee that organised various country meetings throughout Otago, and at two of these—Lawrence and Milton—the local Roman Catholic priest took a seat on the platform and did splendid work in inducing the members of his Church and others to make donations.

'At present the ladies of Dunedin are working a large house to house monthly Belgian Relief collecting scheme, and in three of the largest districts the work is being organised by Roman Catholics, and it is only fair to state that these three ladies are the best workers we have, and, no doubt, they are being well supported by many collectors who are Roman Catholics.

'As far as Otago is concerned, the Roman Catholic Church as a body is certainly assisting more than any other Church. The next best are the Baptists and the Methodists, and as far as the Presbyterians and Anglicans are concerned, they are doing practically nothing.

'In mentioning these facts I make no criticism, but I do hope that you will now see your way to clear the charge you have made against the Roman Catholics as far as Otago is concerned.

'Yours faithfully,

'J. A. JOHNSTONE,

'Chairman, Belgian Relief Collecting Committee.'

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This official and authoritative communication speaks for itself. The Rev. Mr. Macdonald had said that 'so far no Catholic movement in our own district or Dominion had manifested itself': the Chairman of the Belgian Relief Collecting Committee, than whom no man in Otago is in a better position to speak, replies that 'the Roman Catholic Church as a body is certainly assisting more than any other Church.' We hope, for his own sake, that the Otautau minister will be manly enough frankly to withdraw his foolish statement; but whether he does so or not is really a matter of little consequence. Mr. Johnstone's official and authoritative communication is the final and unanswerable reply to a reckless and ridiculous charge, which had not a particle of foundation, and which ought certainly never to have been made. We have only to add that the figures given above have to be supplemented by a further donation of £50 from Ranfurly, and by the very handsome contribution of £37 from the Riverton parish.

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