

4. The governing body of the Union will consist of (a) an international Council made up of bishops and priests and laymen in equal numbers, presided over by a Cardinal to be nominated by the Pope. (b) There will be also a National Council for each country, similarly constituted. The International Council will direct the general policy of the Union. The National Council will direct the local organisation, keep it in being, and extend it and assist the International Council in deciding local methods of action.

5. The times of meeting and place will be decided by each Council as circumstances may demand.

6. The International Council will consist of delegates, one ecclesiastic and one layman, chosen by each of the National Councils. The I.C. will elect its own officials.

7. The National Council will consist of three bishops and three priests chosen by the bishops of the country, and of six laymen chosen by the majority votes of the heads of the various organisations that join the Union. The National Council will elect its own chairman and officials.

8. Each Council will draw up its own standing orders.

Your readers will observe that it is not my plan to create new bodies specifically for the object of the Union. We have, as I stated previously, numerous bodies which may be described as the 'pick' of the faithful of both sexes. My hope is that these associations will join the Union, each in a body, and that their existing machinery will carry out the work of the Union under the direction of the National and International Councils. For example, let us suppose the Catholic Young Men's Societies—bodies which should form the Household Guards of the Church—decide to join the National Union. Then through their officers they will keep the registry, collect the subscriptions, and receive and publish the instructions from the headquarters of the Union; all such bodies exist as isolated regiments at present, all that is wanted is some central staff to issue the orders of the day—battle in defence of the Church and how to fight it with all arms in action.

I think the constitution of the two Councils is simple and effective. It secures in the first place immediate touch with Rome by having a Cardinal as president of the Union. Then by the composition of each Council there is secured the co-operation of the laity and the guidance of the clergy.

The secretary of the Standing Council of the Irish Episcopate did me the honor of forwarding the following letter:—

Bishop's House,  
Queenstown.

The Episcopal Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops, which met on the 17th inst., and considered the statement of the Rev. P. J. Dowling, C.M., setting forth the proposed constitution of an International Catholic Defence Union, directed the secretary to reply 'that, while they approve of the object of the proposed Union, especially of an International Catholic Press Agency, they cannot approve of the detailed proposed constitution of the Union till it has been submitted to and approved by the Holy See. The Episcopal Committee do not approve of the proposal in Section (c), namely to introduce concerted action in regard to commercial business.'

ROBERT BROWNE,  
Bishop of Cloyne,  
Secretary.

24th January, 1911.

It is a source of great gratification to me that a body whose decision will be so widely accepted and venerated has approved of the principles of the Union. I am sorry that there is exception taken to what I consider a very strong feature in the programme, concerted action against the commerce of a country that attacks the Church. The keynote of my scheme is that of defensive war, and I think there are few theologians that would not allow the blockade of an enemy's posts and the harassing of her commerce in a defensive war. The least we can do is to knock the weapons out of our enemy's hands. I think that we fail

to grasp the fact that we are the objects of a war, a most relentless war, which aims not at subjugation but at extermination. The battle cry of the Continent! Mason is 'Ecrasez l'infame.' However, I shall be well satisfied if the other points of the programme are carried out, and it would be only an act of prudence to sacrifice this feature of the scheme if such action would save the general plan.

Your readers will now see that we possess a great advantage in approaching Rome for the confirmation of the constitution of the Union in having the approval of the Irish Bishops for its principles. I am certain, too, that in the Church of Australia, of the United States, of Canada, and South Africa, the fact of this approval of principles will rouse renewed interest in the Union.

The next step will be the humble approach to the See of Peter. As soon as possible the constitution of the Union will be submitted to the Pope, and if he gives his approval and blessing the hour is not far distant when the enemies of the Church will hear the tramp of the International Guards marching into battle line.

I must thank several friends for subscriptions towards the initial expense, somewhat considerable, of working up the Union.

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