

peoples of our three countries may lie the realisation of the hope of plain people everywhere that international problems shall be solved by orderly and friendly processes in a world of peace.

Note.—The above Interim Report was signed by the whole of the Commission at Washington on March 5, 1921.
(To be continued.)

Catholics in Palestine

UNJUST PRESS CENSORSHIP.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Monsignor Barlassina, has published a Pastoral Letter, printed in Italian, French, English, and Arabic, dealing with the recent events in Palestine. After having referred to the Pope's protest in the Consistorial Allocution of June 13, he adds:

"The word of the Pope, Beloved Children in Christ, is clear, explicit, and, as usual, faultlessly precise. Yes! a great change has overtaken Palestine. It cannot escape the notice of the most casual observer. Unbecoming modes of dress, unseemly behaviour, amusements that offend against morals, the absence of restraint in many ways, objectionable cinema films, etc., inevitably tend to efface that noble aspect of morality, modesty, and lovable simplicity which was a notable characteristic both of the Christian and Moslem women of Palestine.

"If they whose duty it is to arrest the continuance of such irregularities seem by their inaction to tolerate them, then it belongs to you, Beloved Children in Christ, and to all other upright persons, to stand firm against the wave of a sensual, sceptic, and disastrous modernism.

"When we see that candid, fair-minded men acknowledge and appreciate the paternal interest of the Pope in the welfare of the poor people of Palestine, not less than his earnest solicitude for the preservation of their inalienable rights, around which is woven a long, edifying history of fervent piety, virtuous life, and forbearance, we are amazed that there should be found malevolent critics who indulge in abusive language against his declarations. As faithful children of the Vicar of Christ, we will not fail to raise Our voice in solemn and emphatic protest, trusting that the English nation, which has the loftiest traditions of liberty and justice, will never allow the religious and civil rights of a whole people to be trampled under foot by the intrigues of the few. Our sorrow is rendered all the more bitter by what seems discrimination as against Catholics. With arbitrary and unaccountable procedure, the censor has refused to allow us to publish the text of the Holy Father's Allocution, which we desired to do, without, however, adding any comment. This attitude on the part of the censorship is all the more inexplicable when it is remembered that other newspapers published the same text of the Pope's Allocution. Furthermore, we have in Our possession unquestionable proof that certain Zionist organs were even permitted to level against the Pope epithets of the most injurious and grossly slanderous character, with a view, doubtless, to lessen his prestige and authority. This is an insult which we Catholics feel deeply and keenly resent, and, as it has been circulated unhindered in the public press of Palestine, we deem it our duty to protest. And you, Beloved Children in Christ, will certainly join in that protest, not, indeed, by unbecoming methods of retaliation, but in a way eminently worthy of the sublime faith you profess, namely, by strengthening your attachment to the Holy See, and intensifying your filial love towards our Holy Father the Pope, to whom we offer the sincere homage of our unconditional submission."

The facts about which the Patriarch complains in this passage of his Pastoral Letter are the following:

While the Catholic periodicals were forbidden to publish even the title "The Pope and Palestine," this was allowed to the Jewish paper *Aarez*, which on June 20 gave quite an arbitrary interpretation of the Pope's words. That same paper on June 28 denied the words of Benedict XV. on the moral state of Palestine. And worse, the *Pin-kay* Jewish paper of Jaffa on June 30 was allowed or authorised to write: "The word Justice has become of common use on the lips of Popes, who use it to hide the shame of their actions, and as an efficacious means of deceiving

the populations. . . The Saints of God preached in the churches, creating a national movement inciting to slaughter and to looting, and conspiring with the devil and with the Pope!"

Now the Patriarch formally declares that no priest has ever preached anything of the kind, either in church or out of church.

Return of Miss Hughes to Canada

An Ottawa S.D.L. News letter, under date August 8, to the *North-West Review* of Winnipeg, says:—The Self-Determination for Ireland League of Australia, recently organised by Miss Katherine Hughes, is making remarkable strides despite the many obstacles placed in its way by politicians and Imperial propagandists. In the short period of less than five months, 369 branches were established, containing a paid-up membership of 33,900. These figures are taken from the reports of State secretaries submitted on June 14. Since that date the number of branches have been increased to over 400 and the membership to nearly 40,000.

[The figures here given do not include New Zealand. The provincial district of Otago and Southland alone number 40 branches, with a membership of 6000.]

Commenting on the foregoing, Miss Hughes remarked:

"This splendid showing from a brief campaign of 2 to 4 months must necessarily be most gratifying to all Australian friends of liberty, to the Irish nation and their elected leaders, and particularly to all those who worked so devotedly to bring about these results.

As a visitor aware of the world movement in aid of Ireland I must record with admiration that outside of Ireland itself no better record has been made. Canada's first four months have been outstripped, and even the preliminary work in the United States three years ago. The Irish of Australia obviously still maintain their reputation of being "the finest of the race overseas."

Catholic Congress at Cambridge

THE CHURCH AND THE BIBLE.

Possibly never in its history has Cambridge witnessed such an important assembly of Catholics as that which opened recently (says the *London Catholic Times*). It was the fifteenth centenary of St. Jerome. For three days great dignitaries of the Catholic Church took part in a Biblical Conference.

Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, was present, as also was Cardinal Gasquet, who is head of the Vulgate Commission, and who has come over specially from Rome to take part in the Congress. In addition, a large number of English bishops were present, and a large gathering of laity.

One interesting feature of the Congress was that the various lectures were open to non-Catholics. Commenting upon this fact in the official handbook of the Congress, the Archbishop of Liverpool (Most Rev. Dr. Keating) refers to the suspicion entertained about Catholic scholars in many quarters, a suspicion which "has led to a systematic and undeserved boycotting of Catholic Biblical literature." He adds that it is hoped the discussions at Congress may do something to remedy the grievance.

On the opening Saturday afternoon there was a ceremonial reception to the two Cardinals at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs by Mgr. Scott, rector, while later in the evening both an academical and civic welcome was given to the Congress in the Guildhall.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Mayor of Cambridge extended warm greetings to the visitors.

The Mayor remarked that, being a Protestant, he had some diffidence at first, but he felt he was Mayor of the whole borough and should welcome all sects.

Cardinal Bourne, in replying to the welcome, said that while pursuing their own special object they would also be doing something for higher thought, the general good and general well-being of the nation. It was impossible to say how much religious feeling and religious union in