

BENEDICT XV A GREAT STATESMAN IN SUPREME TEST, MANY BELIEVE

Pontiff's Training in International Affairs Exceptional—Expected to Hold Unswervingly to True Middle Course

By EDWARD J. GALBALLY

POPE BENEDICT XV, according to the news dispatches from Rome, is tired to the point of exhaustion from his hard striving to bring peace to the nations at war. This human touch is apt to remind us that the voice that speaks from the Chair of Peter is that of a living personality still, and not of a dead traditional force, call it the Vatican, or Rome, or the Holy See, or by any of the other impersonal terms one sees so often used to denote the spiritual head of the Catholic Church.

War was raging all over Europe during those days in the beginning of September, 1914, when the Cardinals met in conclave for the election of a successor to Pope Pius X. Fifty-seven of the sixty-three members of the Sacred College managed to get to Rome in time for the election. They represented all nations and were assembled in the very heart of embattled Europe to choose the spiritual leader of the 400,000,000 members of what has been called the greatest democracy in the universe. Both sides of the belligerents had guaranteed safe-conduct of the members of this august body. The Italian Government took every precaution for their safety.

Never was conclave held under such tragic circumstances. Armageddon, dreaded for a generation, was come, and the destinies of the greatest society on earth, whose millions of members are to be reckoned among the citizens and soldiers of every country, so that brother now was arrayed against brother in grim battle for their respective causes, were to be placed in the keeping of a new guide. After three days of the utmost seclusion and anxious deliberation these select internationals announced to the waiting world that their choice had fallen upon Cardinal James della Chiesa, Archbishop of Bologna.

He was to be the war Pope, for amid the awful upheaval of affairs at that time the fifty-seven Cardinal electors, thoroughly cognizant of the various national interests at stake, would naturally lean in their choice of the sovereign pontiff to one who, besides his other qualifications, was known to them to be a man versed in international questions and highly trained in the large affairs of State. Accordingly, they singled out for the Fisherman's throne Pope Benedict XV.

Cardinal della Chiesa's name had been hardly mentioned among those whom the newspapers had picked as likely to succeed Pius X. He was and still remains little known to the English-speaking world. For that very reason his recent tender of peace terms to the rulers of the countries at war labored under a certain handicap. Of course, the mediation of the Pope of Rome, no matter what his individuality or known characteristics and ability, carries with it international prestige and commands serious and benevolent consideration in every quarter.

But it is easy to understand that, over and above the strong and widespread opinion that resides in the papacy itself, by reason of its recognized principles and high achievements, there is the attraction that is felt toward the personality of this or that particular pontiff. If Leo XIII, for example, had addressed the message of peace to the warring nations his words would have rung around the world more compellingly than did the forceful utterance of Pope Benedict XV, for all men knew and admired Leo XIII.

Leo's Strong Personality They recognized in that venerable prelate not only the great churchman, but also the seasoned scholar and the statesman of wide vision and courage. It is no wonder that non-Catholics as well as Catholics, appreciating Leo's personal merits for his high office, should have been all the more willing to listen with deep respect to his pronouncements. These had not only the hallmark of the Vatican's moral authority, but also the impress of Leo's personality and intellectual force.

In the same way, too, Pope Pius X was known of all men. His traits and characteristics, according to the flock of anecdotes that kept appearing in the papers concerning him, stamped him as a man of benign charm above everything else. In many ways he was very different from his predecessor. Whereas Leo XIII was a patrician by birth, Pius X was a lowly peasant. Leo, from the beginning to the end of his career, was engaged in the great affairs of State, in his capacity of ecclesiastical agent at the various chancelleries of the Continent. Pius X, on the other hand, was the country curate, the parish priest, the bishop of a diocese and later archbishop, but busy always with pastoral functions; until, to his own surprise, and the world's likewise, he was elevated to the papal throne. Thus, Leo XIII brought the admiration of the world for his brilliant intellectual endowments mainly, while his successor's chief appeal to the good will of men lay in his transparent honesty and goodness of heart.

In the fewest words, that is the impression the world formed of the immediate predecessors of Pope Benedict XV, who, however, is unknown to the generality of men, for their attention during the three years of his pontificate had been absorbed with thoughts of war. And so the world does not yet appreciate his personal aptitude and the long experience in international transactions that has equipped him for the role a man in his position is called on to play in these troublous days.

When we consider Pope Benedict's antecedents, however, and his training in the arena of world interests and political history, not to mention the superior consideration of his merits in churchmanship, we see the wisdom of the Cardinals' choice in calling him to the helm in such a stormy sea. It is of passing interest to note that genealogists find that in the veins of the Pope's family runs both Frankish and English blood; that he himself is Italian through a long line of forebears, and that he descends from a stock which has given both its Dukes to Brabant and its Emperors to Austria. In view of all this cosmopolitanism, and not forgetting his ascendancy of a vast international and supernatural institution, one may fairly expect him to hold the scales of justice pretty evenly balanced between nation and nation.

He was born in Genoa, November 1, 1854, and received his early education in the same city. He was originally intended for the bar, and in 1875 took his doctor's degree in both civil and canon law. His two brothers held high rank in the Royal Italian navy, the elder being Vice Admiral Giovanni Antonio, and the other, Giulio, a retired captain. When the future Pope decided to dedicate himself to the service of the Church, he took up his ecclesiastical studies at the Collegio Pontificio Capranica, one of the most famous and venerable educational foundations in Rome.

Later he made a brilliant course of studies at the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics, the world-renowned training school for the clergy who conduct the international concerns of the universal Catholic Church. He was ordained priest on May 28, 1878, and in 1883 Leo XIII named him Privy Chamberlain, with the title of monsignor. In 1887 he was appointed Secretary to the Nuncio at Madrid, Cardinal Rampolla, who was well known as the right hand of Leo XIII, when that pontiff summoned him to Rome to be his Secretary of State.



LABOR HOPES TO PREVENT STRIFE

Union Men Seek Political Representation—Comment on Current Topics

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Organized labor in the United States has proved its worth. The action of the American Alliance of Labor and Democracy for the election of the Congressmen of this country affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Naturally we labor men feel that such an attitude of mind entitles us to the friendship, support, co-operation and appreciation of the other forces which constitute the foundations of this Government.

Closer contact brings about mutual understanding. If there is a kinder feeling engendered between capital and labor, if both sides develop patience enough to hear the pro and con arguments of the involved propositions which are inherent in the propaganda of each institution, a harmony could probably be established that would conduce to permanent stability in the operation of industry.

Labor wants this understanding. It means much to labor. It means the saving of strife, money, time and oftentimes violence. Labor is determined to get its standing in court. It wants its ideals and policies better understood.

This move is partially expressed in the attempt now being made by several prominent labor men to get elective positions in the magistracy and City Councils. These men are Magistrate William J. Tracy, up for re-election to the minor judiciary as labor's spokesman; Frank J. Schneider, international secretary-treasurer of the Elevator Constructors of America and Canada, of the Forty-third Ward, who aspires to a seat for Common Council; J. Wenceslaus Weller and Robert Smith, of the Thirty-third Ward, who likewise are battling to enter the same chambers. There are many others who are endeavoring to get a chance to state their case in our civic life.

The voice of labor raised in the Legislature, City Councils, the minor judiciary and other pivot positions would be of inestimable value to the general understanding of social, political and economic questions. As matters now stand, organized labor, the spokesman for workmen in general, has little direct representation in the political arena. Let us rub shoulders a little more. Let us swap ideas. Let us get to see that the other fellow is not really as bad as hot impulse and quickened passions lead us to believe. Let us understand each other better.

Organized capital and organized labor have done their bit in the part our country is playing in the world crisis, and sad would it be if after the war clouds vanish the old prejudices of our times were to be revived in the great camps of labor and capital.

Let us get together and reason out our difficulties. FRANK MCKOSKY, Secretary, Central Labor Union, Philadelphia, September 8.

What Do You Know? QUIZ

- 1. Who is Dudley Field Malone?
2. What countries is in both the Orient and the Occident?
3. "Balklava" recalls a glorious military episode. What happened there?
4. The words "Ich dien" are on the Prussian's coat-of-arms. What do they mean?
5. In what country are the provincial divisions known as cantons?
6. Name the European country which controls the African regions known as Eritrea, Somaliland and Tripoli.
7. Where is the Metropolitan Museum of Art?
8. Describe the status which crowns the dome of the Capitol at Washington.
9. What is the name of the island ruled by a monarch?
10. Name a republic in which citizens use titles of nobility.

LAFAYETTE'S VISIT

The great public event of 1824 was the visit of Lafayette. On July 29 the Philadelphia Councils extended an invitation and began to make preparations. Brigadier General Robert Patterson called a meeting of the officers of the First Brigade and an extensive military program was planned.

PRaise FOR CROSSER'S BILL

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Congressman Moore's letter appearing in your issue of September 5 gives a taxation problem—as it appears to the business men and farmers.

Most of the complaints expressed in the article are against the tax bill rather than the issue of bonds; but neither the complaint nor the Congressman offer anything else just as good—for the raising of the necessary war revenue.

LEMMING IN

government in this Commonwealth," can it be granted too soon? In referring to this week's arrest of thirteen women for carrying a banner which read, "Mr. President, it is unjust to deny women a voice in their Government," you say, "It is humiliating to good citizens to see such a woman as Mary Winsor sentenced to a term in jail. Where is there a better citizen than she is, or one more interested in good government than she is? Jail is not the place for her." You are right. She and the other splendid women who have made a fearless protest against injustice and who, for the sake of a principle, have suffered humiliation and imprisonment are just the type of human being that these trying times need.

Finally, you say, "Surely, in an era so momentous as the present one, respect for authority is a virtue and not a crime. Do you mean that respect for authority, whether it be right or wrong, is a virtue? Might not the great mass of the German people, by their indorsement of the Prussian military regime through just such logic as yours?"

We of the Woman's party maintain that women have the right, under a democratic form of government, to express an opinion on public questions as have men. To deny them that right at any time is a monstrous injustice; to deny it in time of war is an almost unthinkable wrong.

To sum up the situation, we are eager to serve our country, but demand the right to serve as free women. Try, Mr. Editor, to put yourself in our place. Imagine you can, how disfranchisement would feel if your being so you are not worthy of the name American.

CAROLINE KATZENSTEIN, Philadelphia, September 7.

A PLEA FOR PICKETING

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Your temperate editorial in yesterday's issue, "Picketing Should Stop," is in marked contrast to some of the unreasonable arraignments of the Woman's party made by other newspapers whose office one's self in the nation's interest confers the right to vote.

You say, "American and other women have won the right to suffrage. I ask, Are they wrong to claim what they have won?" Again, you say, "The right to sacrifice one's self in the nation's interest confers the right to vote." If the right to vote has already been conferred upon women, should the Government withhold it? If it is true, as you say you believe it is, that woman suffrage is a good thing, it is the least we can do for her.

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AFTER THE WAR, WHAT?

THERE appeared in a recent advertisement by Gimbel Brothers the following editorial: "AFTER THE WAR, WHAT?" That was the question asked a month ago. It is still unanswered. What for Philadelphia? What for Philadelphia manufacturers? The answer, to be a real and valuable answer, must be worked out on a basis of profit to the manufacturer and of satisfying returns to the capital that must be employed in making this a city that shall market its own goods.

SWEDEN ON THE BLACK LIST

THE Government of Sweden stands accused of a crime against international honor which in the years to come may prove almost as hard to forgive as the offenses of the Germans. Denunciation of Berlin's duplicity is laid squarely at the door of an irresponsible autocracy; but there is no such excuse as that in the case of the Swedes, who control their own Government. It is difficult to imagine a more dismal treachery than that of a neutral Government using its embassy's cipher code to direct a belligerent's military and naval movements.

PARLIAMENTARY REVOLUTION

KARL KRAMERZ, Czech leader in the Hungarian Parliament and traitor to Teutonism, was sentenced to death two years ago. But it was expedient to pardon him, because otherwise the Bohemians would have risen in revolt. He was sentenced to jail for fifteen years. But still the Hapsburg throne kept tottering, wherefore he is now released, amid the plaudits of his followers. So it is in Germany, too. Speeches that would have meant death two years ago are now commonplace in the Reichstag. All that these parliamentarians need is practice at free speech and a little courage. Presently they should be ready to take a "Tennis-court Oath," like that of the French Revolution, when the deputies refused to adjourn till they had a new constitution.

Revolutions do not always start among the peoples. Two of them started in parliaments, the French Revolution and the English revolt against Charles I, which originated in the defiance which the people's representatives handed to their King. Erzberger, Scheidemann and others of the Reichstag may not get up the courage to follow suit, but you never can tell. Revolutionists are always slow about making up their minds, even the bravest of them. If this were not so we would have revolutions every day.

The people cannot be expected to know much about intent; they can only inspect the goods.

No doubt the politicians want the borrowing capacity of the city materially increased "for strategic reasons."

The Germans told it to the Swedes and the Swedes told it to the Germans in Berlin, and now Argentina will tell it to both of them.

It is a pity that while the leaders are at peace the factions should fight. Besides, if the city were not absolutely satiated with good order, the police would not have time to take part in such trivial affairs as factional rows.

REGISTRATION DAYS

THESE days for registering something more tangible than "kicks" about the high cost of living are upon us. New pupils of the public schools have been registering and the children have shown much less apathy than the grown-ups, many many of whom are, as usual, "putting it off." There are two more days which to qualify as a real, live citizen tomorrow and Saturday.