



International

POPE PIUS XI

Pontiff chosen his Secretary of State immediately after election.

Achille Ratti was born at Desio, not far from Milan, nearly sixty-five years ago. His father, Francesco Ratti, the director of a silk factory, was not a rich man, but fairly well-to-do, and gave all his children a good education. A lad of deep piety, Achille studied for the priesthood.

Nature gave him large physical, mental, and spiritual size. Born within sight of his beloved Alps, he found a natural and favorite exercise in mountaineering. Indeed, he became known throughout Europe as a famous mountain climber. He climbed always without a guide and often found himself alone, having outdistanced his fellows. He can boast of having celebrated mass at a greater altitude than has any other priest. Among his books is a comprehensive account of mountaineering and Alpine adventure.

His scholarly tastes led him in the

direction of teaching, and he taught in the seminary at Milan. Later he was placed in charge of the Ambrosian archives and library there. His successful supervision caused him to be summoned to take charge of the Vatican Library. When he left Milan for Rome, one of his old friends prophesied: "You are going away with a black hat. You will return with a red hat. In time you will reach the white hat."

Dr. Ratti had accepted the Vatican appointment on condition that he might be permitted to return to the north every alternate month to visit his aged mother. Later Benedict XV was heard to remark that Monsignor Ratti had done more remarkable work in his alternate months of library labor than his predecessors had done in continuous service.

Monsignor Ratti remained at the Vatican until assigned to Poland (1918) as Visitor Apostolic, and later Nuncio. At that time Poland was torn with the

estrangements from religion brought about by Communistic propaganda, emanating from Bolshevik Russia. It was the Nuncio's task to counteract the spread of this radicalism, dangerous alike to the State and the Church. He succeeded. He cemented his influence by remaining quietly at his post in Warsaw when the other diplomats were leaving, and also by his efforts on behalf of the destitute Polish children orphaned by the war. When he was called back to Milan as Archbishop nearly a year ago, he had changed Polish political and moral decline to Polish patriotic fervor; he had changed spiritual decline to the kind of spiritual mountaineering which his physical mountaineering taught him how to apply.

His services won for him the Cardinal's red hat last June at the so-called "Sacred College" of Cardinals, presided over by Benedict XV.

As did Pius X, so Pius XI will bring to the Papacy the vigor of one born on the slopes of the Alps. But Pius XI is not a peasant, as was Pius X; nor is he a noble, as was Benedict XV. He comes from the middle class. Like Benedict, he was elected to the Papacy at an earlier age than the average, and, also like Benedict, he had been a Cardinal but a few months before becoming Supreme Pontiff. But, unlike Benedict, the new Pope has not spent most of his ecclesiastical career in the diplomatic services of the Vatican. While for many years Benedict had the advantage of working under Leo XIII's great Secretary of State, Cardinal Rampolla, Cardinal Ratti's only diplomatic mission was his service in Poland.

As soon as the two-thirds vote for Cardinal Ratti had been verified, Cardinal Vanutelli, Dean of the Sacred College, approached Cardinal Ratti and asked him, in accordance with custom, if he accepted the election. The new Pope answered: "Since it is the will of God, I must obey." Then the canopies over the Cardinals were lifted down one by one until only that over the new Pontiff remained. This was done to show that the whole Conclave rendered obeisance to the new head of the Church. Cardinal Vanutelli then asked Cardinal Ratti what pontifical name he chose, and the reply was, "Pius XI." Cardinal Ratti was then escorted to the robing-room, where he discarded his vestments and put on the Papal robes. The new Pope returned to the Sistine Chapel, where the Cardinals, according to their rank, kissed his feet and hands, after which the Pope received them in embrace and bestowed upon them his first apostolic benediction. But the wider benediction was to follow.

The new Pontiff will not be a Cardinal's Pope, though the Cardinals elected him. He will, instead, be, we believe, a true Holy Father to all Roman Catholics—and, it may be, if not a father at least a religious influence to some who are not!



# IN THE TROPICS FOR PLEASURE AND DUTY



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## THE PRINCE OF WALES BAGS A TIGER IN THE JUNGLE IN NEPAL, INDIA

The Prince's hunting party has succeeded in laying low a huge tiger in his native haunts. The Prince himself is on an elephant at the extreme right of the picture



Kadel & Herbert

## GOVERNOR-GENERAL WOOD MAKING A TOUR OF INSPECTION IN A SMALL TOWN IN THE PHILIPPINES

General Wood, it is reported, is investigating conditions not only in the cities but in the smaller towns and villages of the Philippine Islands, in preparation for a report to President Harding