

DEATH OF THE POPE

THE LAST HOURS

LYING-IN-STATE IN ST. PETER'S

CANDIDATES FOR SUCCESSION

From Our Own Correspondent

ROME, FEB. 10

The Pope died at 5.31 this morning. Several times during the last of the 17 years of his Pontificate he had shown by the words he used in addressing pilgrims and visitors how earnestly he longed for release from a life which circumstances had rendered burdensome and full of grief. He prayed God constantly, he told them, to set "this old and weary labourer free." Yet he must have hoped that he would be spared to celebrate, as he was to have done on Sunday, the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the Lateran Treaties, which coincides with the seventeenth anniversary of his own Coronation, and to deliver the address which he had prepared to the assembled Archbishops and Bishops of Italy.

This was not to be. A slight cold, caught a day or two ago, set up a catarrh which imposed too great a tax on his heart. The two attacks which took place yesterday afternoon left him greatly weakened, and although he appeared to be passing the night satisfactorily, there was another crisis about 3 in the morning, and thereafter it was clear that he could not survive long.

LAST SACRAMENTS

About 4 o'clock the Pope himself asked that the Last Sacraments should be administered to him, and this was done by his chaplain, Mgr. De Romanis. By this time Cardinal Pacelli (the Papal Secretary of State), Cardinal Caccia Dominioni, various prelates of the Papal Household, the Governor of the Vatican City, and Count Franco Ratti, the Pope's nephew, had joined the little group of doctors, attendants, and penitentiary monks who had been watching in the sick room during the night. At 5 o'clock the Pope was given oxygen, but without effect. He was still conscious, but when Mass was read at his bedside he could do no more than raise his hand or nod his head to give the responses. Half an hour later he gently breathed his last.

When a Pope dies the responsibility for the Holy See and its actions passes to the College of Cardinals. It cannot exercise the authority of the Pope, but it has to see that his prerogatives are in no way abused, exercising thus a sort of trustee-

ship, and at the same time to provide for the temporary administration of the Holy See for essential purposes until a new Pope has been elected.

CARDINAL PACELLI

Its head during this period is the Cardinal *Camerlengo*, or Chamberlain. He, whose office during the Pope's lifetime is purely an honorary one, now becomes a personage of immense importance. Through the foresight of the late Pope the post is filled now by Cardinal Pacelli, already holder of the most important office in the Vatican Administration, that of Cardinal Secretary of State.

His first duty as soon as Professor Milani, the Pope's private physician, had found life extinct, was to establish the death in the more formal manner prescribed by tradition. Kneeling beside the bed, he drew back the veil from the face and in a loud voice called the dead man three times by his baptismal name, *Achille*, at the same time tapping his forehead gently with a silver mallet. Thus satisfied, he was able to declare: "The Pope is truly dead."

This done and the penitentiary prayers recited, Cardinal Pacelli received from the Pope's finger the so-called Fisherman's Ring, one of the chief symbols of the Papal authority, and proceeded to put into effect the various provisions prescribed by centuries of tradition for the interim period when one Pope's reign has closed and another not yet begun.

THE RING BROKEN

The first thing is to terminate the functioning of the Papal authority as such, for it is a cardinal point in the tradition of the Holy See that without a Pope nothing in the nature of policy can be undertaken. Hence the Fisherman's Ring is broken (a new one being made for the new Pope) and the matrix with which the Papal Bulls are sealed is defaced. This was done by Cardinal Pacelli in the presence of the assembled officials of the Papal Chancery.

He then summoned the so-called General Congregation, which consists of the three heads of the Cardinal orders—Bishops, Priests, and Deacons—who with him constitute a provisional administration to carry on the essential business of the Holy See until a new Pope has been chosen. When the four meet they sit together in a row under one baldachin to emphasize their unity.

Their first duty was to announce the Pope's death to the King of Italy and the Italian Government, and to send out the news to Papal representatives throughout the world. In the course of this afternoon they received the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See in joint audience to receive their condolences.

The first meeting of the Sacred College, which represents the Parliament of the Holy See, whereas the General Congregation stands for the Cabinet, has been called for to-morrow.

LYING-IN-STATE

Meanwhile on his plain iron bedstead the body of the Pope had been clothed in a white woollen soutane, with the Cardinal's scarlet cape trimmed with ermine about the shoulders and the head covered with the scarlet cap also trimmed with ermine which is familiar in old Papal portraits. Great candlesticks were set at the four corners of the bed and four Noble Guards in scarlet and gold with drawn swords took up their posts beside it.

All the morning visitors defiled through the room and stopped to pray for a few

wenden

moments, while the penitentiary psalms were constantly chanted by attendant priests. First came all the Cardinals present in Rome in order of importance, then other high dignitaries of the Papal Court, and in due course all those persons connected in one way or another with the Vatican. Among the first visitors was the Pope's sister, Donna Camilla Ratti.

About 4 this afternoon the dead Pope's body was removed to the Sistine Chapel and placed on a high catafalque draped in red and gold. It will remain here for three days, before being dressed afresh in pontifical robes, placed in its coffin, and removed to the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Peter's, where, guarded by soldiers of the Italian Army, it can be seen by the public. To-day the visitors were confined to members of the Roman and Papal nobility and the Diplomatic Corps.

SIX ON GUARD

It was a deeply impressive scene. Twelve candles burned round the catafalque, on which lay the quiet figure with its hands crossed over a simple wooden crucifix. Six men stood in vigil beside it—two Swiss guards of the Pope's own bodyguard, their hands resting on their halberds, then two of the Privy Chamberlains in black and white ruffles, and at the head two of the Noble Guards in black frock-coats with decorations. The lighting was dimmed, but this served only to emphasize the magnificence of the frescoes on walls and roof.

The crowd filed slowly by. The priests as they came up gave their rosaries to a priest in attendance, who stepped up to the catafalque and allowed the beads to touch the dead Pope's hands before handing them back to their owners. It was noticed that as the crowd issued from the Chapel most of its members, in particular priests, bore smiling faces and seemed content at the thought that the Holy Father had been released from his troubles and had passed from this world.

HOW THE NEWS SPREAD

Rome to-day has been under the spell of the Pope's death. The people of Rome throughout the Christian era have been proud of being citizens of the Eternal City, and as such have a keen interest in their Pope. News that the Pope was dead was known to most citizens long before the special editions of the newspapers were on sale. Through servants, market-women, and errand-boys it spread from household to household all round the city, and flags at half-mast were hanging from the windows before breakfast-time. Later on people seemed to be buying and reading the newspapers, in which there was little except news of the doings at the Vatican all through the day.

From early in the morning the Piazza and Basilica of St. Peter's had attracted larger crowds than usual. Under the dome people stood fascinated, watching workmen dismantling the drapery and decorations which had been prepared for the anniversary ceremony on Sunday. During the morning priests in thousands trooped to St. Peter's to attend the Mass of Intercession which was celebrated for the dead Pope, the brightly coloured robes of the students of the various Seminaries

mingling with the sombre black. The swarthy faces of Asiatics and Africans were noticeable in considerable numbers. Later towards evening the crowds in the Piazza became thicker still and seemed more under the stress of emotion. Many people knelt on the flagstones in silent prayer or looked sorrowfully up to the windows of the Pope's private library, which overlooks the Piazza.

It is announced that the Italian Court will go into mourning for eight days and the Italian Government have contributed their meed to the mourning of the city by ordering that all theatres, cinematographs, and schools shall remain closed to-day and on the day of the Pope's funeral. Signor Mussolini telegraphed to Cardinal Pacelli:—

The death of the Pope of the Conciliation shows the Church and the Italian nation into mourning. Interpreting the sentiments of the Italian people, I send to your most reverend Eminence and to the Sacred College the deep condolences of the Fascist Government as well as my own.

THE SACRED COLLEGE

The date for the opening of the Conclave which will elect the new Pope has not yet been fixed. Originally it had to meet within 10 days of the death of the preceding one. This rule was altered by Pius XI shortly after his Coronation in order to give more time for the American Cardinals to arrive. On the occasion of his election Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, was unable to reach Rome in time. Under the new rule the Conclave is to be held not fewer than 15 days after the Pope's death, but not later than 18. This being so it should meet before the end of the month.

The Sacred College now numbers 62 members, of whom 35 are Italians and 27 foreigners. The latter include six French, four German, and three Spanish Cardinals. Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Belgium, Portugal, England (Cardinal Hinsley), and Eire (Cardinal MacRory) each have one. That concludes the list for Europe. Cardinal Tappouni, the Patriarch of Antioch, who is a Syrian, stands by himself as the sole other representative of the Old World. North America has four Cardinals, including Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, and South America has two.

THE NEXT POPE

Already speculation is beginning about who will be the new Pope. The most favoured candidate is Cardinal Dalla Costa, Archbishop of Florence. He is a man of saintly character and conspicuous piety, and corresponds to the ideal of a non-political Pope which seems to be favoured by most Italian Catholics. He would also fit the title *Pastor Angelicus*, which is the attribute assigned to the new Pope in the so-called "Prophecies of St. Malachi."

St. Malachi was a twelfth-century Irish monk. Whether he was responsible for the list of prophecies attributed to him seems doubtful, but the list has been well known since the sixteenth century and it contains a motto for each Pope, including eight who have not yet been chosen. Some of them, such as *Religio Depopulata*, for Benedict XV, the war-time Pope, and *Fides Intrepida* for Pius XI, are apt enough.