intra-State contests and is known, on the market, as the “First Premium” cheese throughout the country. Amid this new prosperity the Gentilly parish has, under the able supervision of Father Thiel­lon, built the present large presbytery, known as “the White House of Gentilly,” and erected during the past year (1915) the beautiful brick church of gothic architecture, with artistic stained glass windows and furnishings, to the value of $35,000, practically free from all indebtedness. This indicates the good financial condition of the Gentilly people, due mainly to their loyalty to their old pastor and church. It is well known that the spiritual condition of the parish has far exceeded its material progress.

THE MARAIS COMMUNITY, ITS EARLY PERMANENT SETTLEMENT, ITS PROGRESS, AND ITS PRESENT CONDITION.

One of the very best districts in northwestern Minnesota is what is known as the Marais Community. It is one of the oldest settled districts in Polk County and its local history is most interesting. It has been well described in an address by Peter Allan Cumming, a son of one of the first settlers of the Community, before the Civics Club of the University of North Dakota and printed in the Grand Forks Herald of February 27, 1916. In part Mr. Cumming says:

“In the year 1871 two middle aged Scotchmen, William Fleming and Robert Coulter, accompanied by T. L. McVeety, migrated to Northern Minnesota in search of government land. While camping one night upon the banks of the Red Lake river, seven miles from the present city of Grand Forks, they discussed the possibilities of the district in which they were stopping. After examining the soil in the morning and taking into consideration the possibilities of a nearby town and the prospects of good transportation, they decided to settle there. These gentlemen formed the nucleus of the present Marais Community. For a few years they were the only settlers. During this time they underwent many hardships, for they were forced to draw all their provisions with oxen from St. Cloud. Soon the Hudson’s Bay Company established a post at the present city of Grand Forks, and thus eliminated many hardships. As a consequence of this, settlers streamed into the Northwest, and the real development of the country began.

FIRST PERMANENT SETTLERS.

Perhaps there were temporary settlers on the Marais a hundred years ago, for the trappers and fur hunters were here at that time, but we are not certain that this is true; we are only certain that if white men lived here in “the long ago,” they did not remain long and their occupation was unimportant. Just across the river on the North Dakota side is the English Coulee, called by the early Frenchmen in this quarter “La Coulée Anglais.” Reliable accounts of the olden time say that this coulee was so named because, more than a hundred years ago, an English family, that of a trader or an employee of the Hudson’s Bay Company, were murdered at this point, where the family were living. The names of these martyrs of civilization have not been preserved. The first permanent latter day settlers of the district, who have reclaimed it from wilderness and made it to “bloom and blossom as the rose,” may be, in part at least, named here, according to so high an authority as Mr. James Cumming, who has long lived here. The very first were Wm. Fleming and Robert Coulter, who settled in what is now the Marais Community in 1871. These are the “two middle-aged Scotchmen” previously referred to. Fleming was born in Glasgow; Coulter was a Scotch-Canadian, but his father was a native of Glasgow. Later in 1871 came T. L. McVeety and David Nisbet, two other Caledonians. In 1872 came James MacRae and Archie MacRae; in 1873, James Nisbet; in 1876, Robert Nisbet and Joseph Robertson; in 1877, James Robertson, David Morrow, James McDonald, Donald McDonald, and Duncan Bain; in 1878, J. A. Hannah; in 1879, James Shanks. All these men were either Scotchmen themselves or the descendants of Scotchmen.