

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Snap Shots by an Agent

The progressive town of Barrie is beautifully situated on Kempenfoldt Bay and already has a population of nearly six thousand. It is gratifying to find in a place like this, possessing as it does, excellent business advantages, that many of the leading mercantile houses are conducted by Catholics who are active and energetic citizens.

Very Rev. Dean Egan, the parish priest, is one of the most popular men in this region. Besides St. Mary's church there is a convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the flourishing Separate School of which they are in charge. The school, which was only completed last year, is a handsome two storey brick structure and a credit to the Catholic people and to the town. Father Egan is happy in having the assistance of a fine choir in the services of the Church. It is under the efficient direction of Mr. O'Mara. On Sunday the 9th inst the choir had the services of Miss Long of New York, formerly of Pickering, who contributed a solo at the Offertory and another at vespers in the evening.

In Barrie there is also a live branch (No. 57) of the C.M.B.A., and a more sociable lot of fellows would not be found in a day's walk over the mountain. At the regular meeting on the 10th President Maguire was in the chair, and Mr. Coffey, the delegate to the convention, gave an extensive account of the proceedings at St. John. One of the stalwarts in this section is Mr. Thomas Ward. Mr. Ward is an Irishman out and out and had his house searched in 1866 during the Fenian troubles.

In leaving Barrie one carries away pleasant recollections and hopes to return and renew acquaintances. Twenty-two miles farther north is the town of Orillia, on the shore of Lake Couchiching, a place which has the reputation of being perhaps the prettiest and liveliest town in the northern district.

Judging from the way the people turned out on Tuesday evening the 11th, to welcome their victorious Lacrosse Club, on their return from Peterborough, it is evident the town is very much alive, the town band, torch-light procession by the Bicycle Club, speeches by several prominent men of the town, the irrepressible small boy with tin horns, etc., completed the programme. Here we also find Catholic men conducting the leading business establishments in their respective lines; and that they are successful and retain the confidence of their patrons is beyond question. The church of the Guardian Angel, (Rev. Father Duffy in charge) occupies a fine location. Adjoining it is the presbytery and in the immediate vicinity the Separate school, a very efficient one, engaging a staff of four teachers. An enterprising branch of the C.M.B.A. is also well established; I have heard the members of this branch highly spoken of previous to my visit. I also can add my testimony to their good qualities in saying that a visiting member will receive fraternal greeting from the Orillia Branch. M.

Miscellaneous.

Sir Terence O'Brien, the Governor of Newfoundland, who is at present in London, says that a majority of the people of the colony, though loyal to the empire, would, if compelled to choose, prefer a union with the United States to a union with Canada.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre has appointed the following vicars:— Messrs. J. A. Cloutier, Lanoraie; A. Champaux, La Pointe Claire; N. Ferland, Contrecoeur; E. Brien, St. Jean Dorchester; E. Lamoureux, St. Roch de l'Acadian; J. Thibaudau, St. Elizabeth du Portugal; J. H. Mongeau,

St. Charles de Montreal; A. Trachomontagne, P.S.S., chaplain of l'Hotel Diou; J. Leveille, P.S.S., chaplain of the Cong., N.D.; J. A. Thibeault, P.S.S., chaplain of the Grey Nuns; G. Glappin, P.S.S., assistant chaplain at the Hotel Diou.

The other day the Minister Crispi was in his study when some business call or other necessitated his going out of the room for a short time. When he returned he would have sat in his chair save that it was not where he imagined it to be. The instantaneous result was that the Minister was severely shaken by falling to the floor. He was for a little time stupefied, but soon called for his servant to lift him up. He has slightly scratched his neck and head. He had to absent himself the next day from the funeral of General Durando, at which he was to have attended. The report then got abroad that Crispi had seriously injured himself, but he contradicted it the next day by making a public appearance at the Palazzo Braschi.

Lord Rosbery is so far alive to the gravity of the situation in which the Liberal party now finds itself that he intends before the House reassembles to make a public declaration of his policy in reference to the Lords. The speech will be made in Edinburgh and as there is not there a hall large enough to hold the crowd, the party managers have let the contract for a building which will hold 10,000 people. So far as can be learned the speech will deal with the Lords in very quiet fashion, not going the full length to which the Radicals would press the leader of the party, but it will be menacing enough to make the Peers understand that if they intend to persist in balking the expressed wish of the electorate they must be prepared for an agitation which will deprive them of the voto power.

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