

**"THE IRISH QUESTION."****St. Gabriel Branch of the Irish National Land League.**

Lecture by J. D. Purcell, Esq., M.A., B.C.L.

St. Gabriel Academy was crowded Thursday evening on the occasion of the lecture delivered by Mr. Purcell on the "Irish Question," and under the auspices of the Irish National Land League. The speaker, who was warmly received, never failed to interest his hearers and to excite their enthusiasm. He said:—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have always considered it to be the duty of every Irishman, and of the son of every Irishman, to assist any cause which may, either directly or indirectly, reflect credit on the time-honored race to which it is our proud distinction to belong. Such being the case, when kindly invited by the St. Gabriel Branch of the Land League to lecture under its auspices on behalf of the cause, it was with pleasure that I responded to what I considered the call of duty, a call to which no one pretending to have any sympathy with Ireland's wrongs could turn an unheeding ear. (Applause.) For if ever there was a time when every Irishman should raise his voice, proudly declare his adherence to the cause, and do all in his power to promote a successful issue, it is now when the cause is a just one, when the time is propitious, when the means are legitimate and when the object is such a noble one as that of the Irish National Land League. (Loud applause.) Ireland is admittedly one of the most fertile countries in the world, but notwithstanding this fact, famine is, so to say, chronic in the land. This has been accounted for in various ways. Let us then consider what are the causes which have reduced Ireland to this state, for she was not always thus. No, for penetrating the mists of antiquity, we find that at a time when surrounding nations were plunged in the darkness of ignorance and barbarism, when education, refinement and civilization were to them empty names, when the only laws recognized were those of force, we find that Ireland was the recognized centre of civilization, especially distinguished as the seat of cultured intellect and the favored home of learning, and famous as the repository of all that was grand and beautiful in the arts and sciences. The speaker, after a graphic description of Ireland's prosperity in those days, quoted from Montaigne, Moshier, Hallam and other well known authorities establishing Ireland's supremacy in those early times. The country was at this time governed by the Brehon laws, which contain all the elements and were probably the source whence our modern constitutional law was derived. McGee, in his history of Ireland, and Sir Henry Maine, in his "History of Early Institutions," tell us that under the Brehon laws the Irish farmer was the owner of the soil which he tilled, and thus it would seem that the Land League, in their effort to obtain a peasant proprietary, are simply endeavouring to restore the ancient system of Land tenure. (Cheers.) Such was the recognized system of Land tenure when, in 1171, Henry II. invaded the country. Then began that long and dreadful struggle, which eventually resulted in completely depriving the people of the land, without granting any compensation. The land was then disposed of in three ways. It was given in large estates to the favorites of the existing monarch; it was sold to English and Scotch colonists, and the price went into the Royal treasury, and it was offered gratuitously to foreign emigrants on condition that they should not allow the Irish ever to become owners of the land either by purchase or in return for their services, and that they should do their utmost to drive the Irish out of the country, and thus was finally established the existing system of landlordism. The people being deprived of their land, the nation was next reduced to intellectual bondage and to commercial ruin by English acts of Parliament. Six centuries of legislation such as this produced their inevitable results, and in 1780 Ireland was a nation of dependents—a nation of paupers, four-fifths of the population possessed of no rights which the other fifth was bound to respect; their religion proscribed; without representation in Parliament; looked upon with scorn and contempt by those who lived in luxury on the proceeds of their toil; yet it was matter of surprise that there was discontent, ignorance and poverty in Ireland. This feudal system had resulted all over Europe in placing the people in the power of the upper classes, but the revolutions of the American and French revolutions were the first sounds of the death knell of feudalism and class ascendancy, and Ireland hearing the joyful sound, once supreme effort to rend asunder the chains of centuries was made under Grattan and the volunteers, and the legislative independence of Ireland was an accomplished fact. (Cheers.) From the year 1800 dates the work of redemption; a herculean work was to be done; an entire nation was to be brought back to national existence, and a herculean presented himself to do that work in the person of the illustrious Daniel O'Connell. He determined that the rights of the people to representation in Parliament; their right to worship their Creator according to their conscience; their right to education; their right to live and prosper in their native land; in fine, their rights as free men, living in a civilized country, should be granted and respected; and the curtain fell at the close of the first act in the drama of Justice to Ireland, by the granting of Catholic Emancipation in 1829. (Loud applause.) This first instalment of justice obtained, the great work of educating the people began; but the great impediment has ever been the existing system of land tenure, for the children of the farming population, owing to this system, are, as a class, debarred from the benefits of education, owing to the fact that on the majority of estates in Ireland it requires the work of every man, woman and child to pay the rent and maintain their own existence. Moreover, the majority of the tenants are tenants at will; i. e., tenants at the will of the landlords, who are liable at any time to have their rents raised, and to be evicted whether they pay their rents or not and who in addition can by law receive no compensation for any improvements they may have made on their buildings. Now, what hope is there for a people so situated, what means have they of educating their children and enabling them to compete with the rising generations of other countries? What incentive to increased industry is there, when the only reward of their toil is an increase of misery? What motive of ambition for their

country's welfare can they have, when they have no stake in the country, but find themselves toiling without hope in their native land, and see the proceeds of their toil going to support those who have made life a burden to them? A people so situated can find but little charm in life, and John Stuart Mill forcibly defined the position of the tenants when he said "that the Irish tenant was the only human being in existence who had nothing to gain by increased industry and nothing to lose by increased idleness." But the evil does not stop here, Ireland deprived of her industries and manufactures leaves the people dependent of the soil for existence. So long as the seasons are good the tenant can live, but not save any money, and when the crops fail there is a famine, and instead of a due allowance being made the annals of '48 and '49 show us that at those times the evidences were most numerous. Then the giant victims of hunger were seen with their glaring eyes, their sunken cheeks and their bluish lips quivering with agony, there were seen old gray haired men and women lifting their palsied hands and shivering voices to heaven in a vain appeal for food; then was it when strong men, weeping women and tender children were crying aloud in their agony and despair, that the landlords (they who alone were responsible for this state of things) came, not to comfort, not to bring food to the dying, but demanding their rent accompanied by their process servers and crowbar brigades, and when they could not obtain their rent, they caused the starved and fever-stricken victims of their inhuman greed, of their relentless rapacity to be thrown out of doors in midwinter to die like dogs on the roadside. (Hisses.) In '79 famine again visited the country, but a change for the better had taken place among the people, and they declared that as after a trial of 700 years the landlord system had not only resulted in practically annihilating the many for the benefit of the few, but had moreover, blighted the prospects of the country as a nation that they owed it to themselves as men, that they owed it to their families as parents, that they owed it to their country as subjects to put an end at once and forever to a system so wanting in justice and so completely at variance with the fundamental principles of social freedom and national progress. (Cheering.) The Land League then came into existence and its agitation at length forced the Government to promise a remedy in the shape of a Land Bill, which, it was hinted, would satisfy all demands by establishing a peasant proprietary. The Land Bill became law, and to compel the people of Ireland to accept it, the Land League (which had directed the attention of the Government to the existing evil), was suppressed and declared an illegal organization and the leaders imprisoned. Why was this? because the Land League speaking on behalf of the agricultural class had declared that the Land Bill was a failure, for the reasons that it did not provide for the establishment of a peasant proprietary as promised, and because unsatisfactory and weak as the Bill was when it left the House of Commons for ratification in the House of Lords (I should rather say the House of Landlords), it was short of all its redeeming features, viz., the amendments of the Land Leaguers when it left that august Assembly. It is claimed that the Land Bill grants a fixity of tenure for 15 years; now this is a good provision, but the benefit is a very limited one, for it provides that all tenants in arrears cannot receive the benefit of the Act until all arrears of rent are paid. Now, owing to the depression of the last few years, those in arrears form a very large proportion of the tenants, and consequently, those most in need of protection, are in no way benefited by the Act. Neither does the tenant under the Act receive compensation for his improvements, owing to the House of Lords rejecting the Land League amendment. It also excludes from the benefit of the Act all agricultural labourers—a class numbering 400,000 and their families—and it further excludes all tenants holding under existing leases, no matter how stringent the provisions of those leases may be. The Land Bill is practically an enactment for the extension of monopoly in land, for though it provides that if the landlord is willing to sell, and that three-fourths of the tenants on his estate are willing to buy, that Government will furnish a portion of the purchase money. These conditions are very unlikely to happen. For it is not the interest of the landlord to sell, and he cannot be compelled to do so; and as the tenants in the past have been unable to do more than keep body and soul together, the tenants on the majority of estates will be unable to purchase their holdings. The speaker, after referring to the American competition, touched on the decisions so far rendered by the land courts in Ireland, claiming that notwithstanding the reductions obtained the tenants would be in no better position, owing to the fact that they have to pay their own costs, which in many instances are as greater than the reduction in rent obtained, and also because, owing to the rejection of the Healy amendment, the landlords have the power to appeal the cases to higher courts, as has already been done in 80 per cent. of the cases so far decided, which practically makes the contest one between a rich man and a poor one, in which the former is sure to win. The "no rent manifesto" was most opportune, and notwithstanding the declarations of the English press it is neither communistic or dishonest, for the order which issued from Kilmacshannon was simply to pay no rent until such time as the leaders were released, i. e., until such time as the constitutional liberties of the people were restored, in fact it was issued on the same principle as the order of "No representation no taxation," issued to the people of America 100 years ago. (Applause.) After dwelling at some length on the proceedings of the Chicago convention, the speaker brought an eloquent discourse of two hours' duration to a close, terminating a brilliant performance as follows:—Now that the crisis has arrived let Irishmen at home remember that ultimate success depends upon their firmness their resolution and strict adherence to the command of their leaders; let Irishmen in Canada demand that the people of Ireland should receive the same privileges that we enjoy and to which they are equally entitled, and let all friends of oppressed humanity, all believers in the doctrines of equal rights raise their voices in a loud demand for justice, and before the mighty torrent of their indignation the crumbling barriers of landlordism will be swept away and in their place will rise a great, a prosperous, a regenerated Ireland. Loud applause followed, during which the speaker resumed his seat. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Mr. Purcell for his very able address.

**Answer This.**

Did you ever know any person to be ill without inaction of the stomach, Liver or Kidneys, or did you ever know one who was well when either was obstructed or inactive and did not ever know or hear of any case of the kind that Hop Bitters would not cure? Ask your neighbor the same question.—Times.

**IRISH CATHOLIC REPRESENTATION**

MR. JOHN O'DONOHUE'S REPLY TO ALD. RYAN'S LETTER.

In last week's *Irish Canadian* Mr. John O'Donohue replied to the letter by Ald. Ryan on the above question in the previous issue of the same journal. After sketching the history of the "Catholic League," Mr. Donohue goes on to say:

"With a view to facility of reference to what Mr. Ryan says I have thrown into paragraphs the statements deserving notice. They are Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. No. 1. In the palmiest days when the Catholic League was on a 'boom' I was never a member nor did I ever sympathize with its objects. This, I believe, is quite true, for in the first place when in '71, '73 and '73 at the 'boom' Mr. Ryan had not, I believe, arrived in Canada. He could not, therefore, have been a member, as membership was limited to Ontario. The Protestant press and people of Ontario might make the same declaration as Mr. Ryan. Should the Catholic League, for that reason, not exist? If no organization or combination for or in the interest of Catholics shall exist without the approval and sanction of the Protestant press and people, the sooner all Catholic organizations, the Church herself included, draw up stakes the better. The League had the sanction and approval of the Hierarchy of the Church, and I would fain hope that this, if nothing else, should have restrained Mr. Ryan from making the attack he has chosen to make upon the League. When Mr. Ryan will have laid the experience, and have resided as long in Ontario as the gentlemen who formed the League, when Mr. Ryan will have a better knowledge of the politics and parties in Ontario, he will think and write differently.

"Mr. Ryan's reference to religious combination for political advantages or the spoils of office, being injurious to the good feeling which ought to exist and obtain amongst all denominations, is simply sound without sense. Does not Mr. Ryan know that all the political parties are, by one society or other bound together for the spoils of office? Mr. Ryan is too innocent to live in this country, if he does not know this. What may I ask Mr. Ryan is the adhesive substance that binds either of the great political parties in Canada to-day? What principle of cohesion? Let Mr. Ryan answer this without fear. His answer must be: Power and Pelf. Mr. Ryan was altogether too innocent when he said that such a combination on the part of Catholics might lead to a like combination on the part of Protestants, 'who had never before combined.' Does not Mr. Ryan know that where Protestants are, as Catholics are here, in the minority, they are combined, as in the Province of Quebec? What is the Protestant Alliance or League in that Province? 'Never before combined.' Let Mr. Ryan consult the Constitutional Act known as the 'British North America Act,' section 80, and he will find how effectively the Protestants combined to maintain the political representation of the Protestant minority in that Province. By that enactment the limits of the electoral districts represented by Protestants were made unalterable, save by a majority of their representatives. The power was by this Act taken from the majority of the representatives of Quebec, and reposed in the Protestant majority representing those districts. The districts so guarded against any innovation by the majority of that Province are: Pontiac, Ottawa, Argenteuil, Huntingdon, Mississquoi, Browne, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, town of Sherbrooke, Compton, Wolfe, Richmond, and Megantic. This enactment was a special protection thrown around the Protestant minority. Will Mr. Ryan point out any such enactment for the Catholic minority of Ontario? It cannot be found. It does not exist. Why? Simply because the minority in Ontario were without representatives in the House or in the Government. Then, because the Catholics of Ontario combine to enquire the reason of their ostracism, and to insist upon political equality. Mr. Ryan is pleased to call them tools. There was much more need of protection in Ontario than in Quebec, for there the Protestants are more than represented by Catholic liberty—and I am glad of it—while here scarcely any Catholic can be elected, owing to the religious prejudice of Protestants.

"Sec. 3. All Mr. Ryan says in this is mere theory. Why, England declares Ireland is governed by equal laws to those she has; but this is a mere delusion, a deception, and a fraud. So is Mr. Ryan's theory. Equal laws! This is not true. The Protestant minority in Lower Canada have representation, and secured to them against the Catholic majority in that Province. The Catholic minority of Ontario have no representation, and were given no security. Equal laws, says Mr. Ryan, who quotes Hon. Alexander Mackenzie in support of his position:—'Not alone religious toleration but religious equality.' This would be appropriate if we were discussing religious questions; but I fail to perceive its application to the question of political representation. Save to give credit to Mr. Mackenzie, it is a fifth wheel to a coach. In the present connection it demonstrates nothing.

"Mr. Ryan waxes warm as he proceeds. He makes the declaration that he is 'not and never was a sympathizer of Catholic representation in the public affairs of this country.' Since the attainment by this colony of responsible Government the two great parties have recognised the principle of class and sectional representation, and more than that, of Irish Catholic representation. The practice was found to work so well under the Union that it has ever since, with rare exceptional periods, obtained. In the Dominion Cabinet, by whatever party formed, there sat successively Drummond, Allyn, McGee, Kennedy, and O'Connor. The former leaders of Mr. Ryan's party pledged themselves to Catholic representation which means, after all, but minority representation. Mr. Ryan's present leader, I think, approved it in his 'disturbing' speech at Aurora. Whether Mr. Ryan drifting. Has Mr. Ryan knowingly ignored a practice so long in use in Canada, or has Mr. Ryan gone back upon his past and present leaders? I would counsel his friend, Mr. Ryan, that he has been trending danger ground. He should remember the story of the two stools. It may be that the practice of minority class and sectional representation ever since the attainment of responsible Government, has been pursued in error. It may be that the long line of Canadian statesmen ever since have been in error. It may be that all the Parliaments, Governments, combinations, and leagues have been in error, and that only now appears the man, 'more than sage' to proclaim thus far, and no farther. Byron said of a distinguished Irishman that—

'Nature made but one such man, And broke the die in casting Sheridan.'

All, I think, must admit if Byron had now to write he would give nature credit for two such men.

"The leaders of Mr. Ryan's party promised by written pledges to 'secure Catholic representation in the House' and in the Government, and even went so far as to point out the constituencies. The Conservatives, without any pledges, took warning lest they should lose the Catholic vote. Both parties on this occasion vied with each other as to which should bring out the larger number of Catholic candidates in the approaching elections. This resulted in having returned to the Local House some twelve or thirteen members from the Catholic body. This was done through the League which Mr. Ryan now condemns. His efforts, too, were recognized—and can never be ignored, whatever party may be in power—in placing a Catholic in the Cabinet. The benefits which flowed to the Catholic populace were easily observed. Not the least of them is that the contact of our representatives in the House and in the Government, with the other representatives of the Province, has blunted the keen edge of prejudice and moderated in our regard the bigotry and prejudices which, when we were unrepresented, assailed us everywhere. I am of opinion that the League was of great service; and until parties on both sides learn to treat us as citizens, irrespective of creed, the Catholics of this Province should keep that organization in active existence. All other people have organizations of one kind or the other—the whole of them more or less opposed to us. The Catholics alone are as grains of sand, to be picked up and carried away by one party or the other for its own purpose in attaining power to their own almost utter exclusion. Mr. Ryan would have this state of things continued. I would not; and therefore have made the declaration, that any man or party subscribing to Mr. Peter Ryan's declaration against Catholic representation deserves the unswerving opposition of every Catholic. I believe if all my countrymen and co-religionists in Ontario to-day were before me they would give this my declaration their unanimous approval, and Mr. Ryan's their unqualified condemnation.

"I find difficulty to divine the cause that provoked Mr. Ryan to condemn the League and Catholic representation. Had I not known Mr. Ryan, his thorough abnegation of self, his extreme modesty and want of assumption, I should endeavour to disclose the real purpose for which the letter was written. Had it been written by any other man having political aspirations, I should guess the purpose—would say he intended to be a candidate for Parliament, desired the constituencies being strongly Protestant, to show how little Catholic he was, and how much in accord his views were with those of Protestants, for the purpose of ingratiating himself in their favor, and secure for himself their confidence and support—knowing, and truly and well knowing, that the less Irish and the less Catholic he seemed, the better would be his chances of success.

"I have had no mind to say, and trust in this letter have said no word personally offensive to Mr. Ryan; but the position I held and hold in the Catholic League, and with my countrymen and co-religionists, to say less would, I feel, have been a dereliction of duty.

"I am, Mr. Editor,  
'Your obedient servant,  
'J. O'DONOHUE.

The public are cautioned against imitations of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer, and to be suspicious of persons who recommend any other article as 'just as good'; many of these they make a little more profit upon, but which have no qualities in common with the Pain-Killer. 8-2

**IRISH CATHOLIC REPRESENTATION.**

(To the Editor of The Globe.)

Sir,—I regret that Mr. John O'Donohue, in his letter to the *Irish Canadian* of last week and copied in your issue of yesterday, did not confine himself to discussing the question of sectarian political organization and representation on its merits without devoting so much attention to me, since the public are not concerned with my motives in expressing my reasons for disapproving of Catholic combinations for political purposes or Mr. O'Donohue's motives in organizing the Catholic League, and I regret it the more because the frequent use of my name in his manifesto renders it necessary on my part to refer to him more frequently than I desire or the merits of the case demand. Mr. O'Donohue states his belief that I was not in Canada when the League was in active operation. I cannot say when it reached its culminating point, but I was here when the Beatty-O'Donohue election took place, and if the League was not then an institution I think the President should explain. I was also here when the famous Marlborough House meeting took place, and declined an invitation to be present, and which I have always understood was composed of the most active and prominent members of that organization under the presidency of Mr. O'Donohue himself. His statement that the Hierarchy of the Province gave the League their sanction and approval is no doubt correct, but Mr. O'Donohue knows with myself that Catholic representation or the principles of the Catholic League are not matters of religious dogma, and I am not bound to coincide with the opinion of even so exalted a body as the bishops of the Province on a political question, and I am astonished to see him (good soul) leaning on the Church in a discussion of this kind and attempting to drag it in to stand sponsor for his idol.

The astounding declaration of my friend that 'any man or party subscribing to the declaration of Mr. Peter Ryan against Catholic representation deserves the unswerving opposition of every Catholic,' is very emphatic and certainly intended to be tragical in my case. A little blue-fire would have added very much to the effect, and I regret no opportunity was afforded of using it.

All I contend for is that men should be elected to represent the people in Parliament on political grounds and personal fitness alone, the religious belief of the candidates being no concern of the electors.

Does Mr. O'Donohue ask more, or does he object to this? Surely not, since he cannot expect any constituency to elect a Catholic for no other reason than that he worships God in a certain way. No one can regret more than myself when a party candidate is defeated on account of his religious belief, and though I believe many such instances have occurred on both sides, yet I would ask any candid and intelligent Catholic if he thinks combination on our part would cure the evil. I rather think it would intensify it, and therefore prefer to see Catholic electors associate with the Conservative or Reform party as they are individually disposed and their political convictions dictate. By such conduct only can we stand the equal of the non-Catholic portion of the community, and retain our just influence with both parties as citizens. Though a Reformer in politics I am in no way afraid of the present Ottawa Government introducing any legislation hostile to Catholics. Prudence and policy apart from the

love of justice, which is not monopolised by any one party, would forbid it, and though we may not have a large number of Irish Catholics in Parliament from Ontario I don't look on myself as being unrepresented, nor am I in the least dread of being worse saw than my Protestant neighbour.

I do not desire to enlarge on Mr. O'Donohue's account of the Catholic League or its operations, except to say that nearly every Catholic with whom I have conversed on the subject look back on it as a game of political see-saw between a prominent Catholic Conservative on the one side, and Mr. O'Donohue, then a Reformer, on the other, the former as the agent of the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, bargaining respectively for the sale and delivery under certain conditions of the Catholic vote of the Province, but which I think was as free as the vote of any portion of the community.

If just cause ever existed for the establishment of the Catholic League it still exists. Why has the President allowed it to slumber so long? or has its mission been fulfilled now that so many of its old leaders have been provided for? He makes a very strong and candid statement that all political parties are bound together for the spoils of office, power and pelf. Does he include the leaders of the Catholic League? If so it explains the changes in the politics of some and the contemplated changes in others, and we need trouble ourselves no longer speculating on the reasons which led to certain acrobatic performances in the election campaign of 1878. In writing my former letter, as in this, I am contending for the individual freedom of every elector to vote as he is disposed without being considered to be the chattel of a decrepit political organization that seemed to have scarcely had existed till it disappeared, and is now supposed to be dead and buried, with no hope of resurrection; in view of which, coupled with Mr. O'Donohue's principles being plainly stated on one side, and mine on the other, I beg to decline any further correspondence on the subject. Yours, truly,  
PETER RYAN.

Toronto, Jan. 11, 1882.

The most miserable man in the world is the dyspeptic, and dyspepsia is one of the most troublesome difficulties to remove, but BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS always conquer it. It stimulates the secretions, regulates the bowels, acts upon the Liver, aids digestion, and tones up the entire system. Trial bottles, 10 cents; large bottles, \$1.

**ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.****OPENING OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.**

THORONTO, Jan. 12.—At three o'clock this afternoon, His Honor Lieut.-Gov. Robinson opened the Ontario Legislature with the following SPEECH FROM THE THRONE:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

It is with much pleasure that I once more bid you welcome to the metropolis of the Province, and that I can congratulate you upon the encouraging circumstances under which you assemble for the performance of the responsible duties with which, as the representative of the people, you have been put in charge.

**THE PUBLIC REVENUE, &c.**

The public revenue for the year has considerably exceeded the amount estimated. The year has been one of general prosperity, the result of the late abundant harvest, the revival of trade in other countries, and the consequent demand for the products of our fields, forests and mines; and the recent census has shown that the population of the Province has, in the last decade, increased by nearly 300,000, and amounts now to nearly two millions, notwithstanding the number of our people who, from various causes, have, during several years past, left the Province.

**THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE.**

I regret that since your last session no progress has been made towards a recognition of the right of the Province to that extensive portion of its territory, our title to which, notwithstanding the award of the distinguished arbitrators appointed by the two Governments, the federal authorities have continued to dispute. The grave, practical evils resulting from the dispute have, since your last meeting, been greatly increased by an Act of the Federal Parliament transferring to the Province of Manitoba, so far as relates to Provincial jurisdiction, the claim of the Dominion to the most valuable part of the disputed territory, including our organized municipalities south and east of the height of land. While the Bill was before the House of Commons I addressed to the Federal Government a despatch protesting on behalf of Ontario against this part of the intended Act. A copy of my despatch, with other papers relating to the territory, will be laid before you.

**PROTECTION OF RIVERS AND STRAITS.**

I regret that I have to refer also to the disallowance of the Act of last session for protecting the public interest in rivers, streams and creeks. The competency of the Legislature to pass the Act was not questioned, and the Act was disallowed mainly upon the ground that the Minister of Justice did not approve of the mode or the extent of the compensation which the Act gave to owners of property affected by the Act. The correspondence on the subject will be laid before you. The object of the Act is of such importance, as well to those engaged in the lumber trade as to the Province in general, and the duty of asserting the right of the Legislature to deal accordingly to its own judgment with all matters within Provincial jurisdiction is so urgent that a bill for the same purpose as the disallowed Act will without delay be submitted for your renewed consideration.

**THE LAW OF INSURANCE.**

I congratulate you that recent decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have set at rest all question as to the right of the Provincial Legislature to legislate in matters of internal trade, and in particular, on the law of insurance. Some further provisions seem now necessary in order to render effectual the legislation which had for its object the security of uniform conditions in fire policies, and I invite your attention to the subject. I regret that the right of the Province to be properly represented for want of heirs was unanimously maintained by the highest courts in Ontario and Quebec, and acquiesced in by the Federal Government.

**THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.**

I congratulate you on the general favor with which the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the agricultural resources and requirements of the Province has been received by all classes interested in agriculture. I have anxiously considered what further means may be em-

ployed to aid this great industry and to promote the welfare of the population engaged in it, during recent years. In Great Britain and other European countries, and also in the United States of America, and in the Australian Colonies of Great Britain, great advantage has been found to result from the collection of statistics. A measure to secure like advantage to this Province will be submitted for your consideration.

**AGRICULTURAL & ARTS ASSOCIATION.**

I have also to recommend to your consideration such charges in the law respecting the Agricultural & Arts Association as may increase the usefulness of that organization and bring its operations into harmony with the present needs and circumstances of the country.

**MARKET FEES.**

A bill respecting market fees will again be submitted for your consideration.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

Other measures which will probably be laid before you and to which I invite your attention, are a bill for amending and consolidating laws respecting line fences, ditches and water courses. A bill to provide by a general law for the construction of water works in cities, towns and villages; a bill providing for the crossing of railway tracks by streets and roads; a bill for the inspection of boilers with a view to affording some additional security against explosions. A bill to make provision for maintaining and promoting the public health. A bill for simplifying the laws concerning real property and conveyancing. A bill to remove some defects in the law of evidence. A bill to place on a more satisfactory footing the law certain libel cases, and a bill to facilitate the establishment of free libraries.

**TIMBER LICENSES.**

It having become necessary in the interests of settlement and revenue to place under timber license a few Townships lying to the south of French River and Lake Nipissing, in Parry Sound and Nipissing districts, the timber trade last year afforded a favorable opportunity of selling at public auction right to cut fine timber in these Townships, covering the limited area of 1,321 square miles, and it is gratifying to know that the result was most satisfactory, the sale having, among other advantages, increased the available means of the Province by nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars besides adding to revenue the annual rent to which purchasers are liable, and the dues on the timber which they may cut.

**THE COMMON SCHOOL FUND.**

In consequence of circumstances not within the control of either Government, the accounts between the Province and the Dominion are still unsettled. The money coming from the common school fund for local improvements in counties in which the land that produced the fund are situated has not yet been received by the Province. In view of the prolonged delay I recommend the payment of the principal of about \$125,000 to the counties interested out of the consolidated revenue of the Province in anticipation of the receipt of money from the Dominion.

**THE NEW PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS.**

The subject of constructing new Provincial Buildings adequate to the growing requirements of the Province and the necessities of the public service has continued to receive my attention during the past year. Much more time than had been expected had been consumed in procuring the necessary modifications to be made in the plans received previously to your last session and in preparations of the specifications. This preliminary work has now been completed. Tenders have been called for, and the result will be communicated to you.

**THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**

The public accounts showing the receipts and expenditure of the past year, and the estimates of moneys required for the services of the current year will be laid before you. The estimates have been prepared with every regard for economy consistent with the public interests.

**CONDOLENCE.**

I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without expressing in my own name, and in that of the people of this Province, the grief and indignation which, in common with the whole civilized world, we felt at the horrible and unprovoked murder of the late honored and lamented President of the United States. By no community was President Garfield's death more sincerely mourned than by the people of Ontario.

In now dismissing you to the onerous and important labors in which for some time you will be engaged, I desire to express the hope that your deliberations and decisions will, as on former occasions, be such as to manifest your wisdom and your patriotism and as will contribute to the continued development of our great Province and to the increased well-being of its inhabitants.

If you are suffering with a cold do not fail to try HAYWARD'S PECTORAL BALSAM; it is daily relieving its hundreds throughout our Dominion. It is pleasant and palatable.

**MASSACRE OF FRENCH MISSIIONARIES.**

THROU, Jan. 13.—Three French missionaries have been murdered near Oasis Ghadames, in the Desert of Sahara. The chief assassin is said to be a Caid, of Ghadames, who was concerned in the massacre of the French exploring expedition under Col. Flatters' near Assima, in February last.

**Consumption Cured.**

Since 1870 Dr. Sherar has each year sent from this office the means of relief and cure to thousands afflicted with disease. The correspondence necessitated by this work becoming too heavy for him, I came to his aid. He now feels constrained to relinquish it entirely, and has placed in my hands the formula of that simple vegetable remedy discovered by an East India missionary, and found so effective for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Diseases; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Its remarkable curative powers have been proven in many thousand cases, and actuated by the desire to relieve suffering humanity, I gladly assume the duty of making it known to others. Address me, with stamp, naming this paper, and I will mail you, free of charge, the recipe of this wonderful remedy, with full directions for its preparation and use, printed in German, French or English.—W. A. Noves, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y. 16-1300w

This is probably the original of that dialogue between Captain Corcoran and Sir Joseph Porter, K.O.B. Grattan was once asked by a religious friend, "Do you say your prayers?" "Never," replied the great Irish orator. "What never?" said his horrified examiner. "Well, hardly ever," answered Grattan.