

PARTIE DOCUMENTAIRE

M. LLOYD GEORGE ET LA SURVIVANCE DU GAËLIQUE

Le Casket d'Antigonish publiait, le 4 juillet dernier, l'article suivant :

In a paper recently received from Scotland, we find an account of the visit made by Premier Lloyd-George to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, and a summary of his remarks on the preservation of the Gaelic language. Mr. Lloyd-George said he was a member, and had been for a good many years, of a Welsh-speaking church. He was brought up in an institution of that kind, where the whole service was conducted in the Welsh language. As an occasional favour to strangers, they permitted an English sermon now and again. When he moved up to London as a member of parliament he sought another Welsh-speaking church, and had been a member of that church ever since. The very name of liberty in the Celtic languages, he said, must have been picked up from the music of the mountains. He was glad to meet an assembly, where, he believed, about three-fourths of the churches they represented, were churches where they still talked the old language, the language in which the Celt expressed his prayer, his joy, his sorrow, his exaltation, his thought about the past, his hopes about the future, his troubles about the world, his expectations of the world to come; the language in which they talked for thousands of years, and the kindred language in which his own kinsmen in Wales had been talking. There were very utilitarian people who asked them in Wales what was the good of this language of theirs. They did not need it for commerce, they could sell cattle in English exactly as they did in Welsh, and they could buy; and, in fact, the language of commerce, business and politics was the great language of the world — the English language. They had everything in it. They had about the greatest literature in the world, and it was a rich language. That was quite true, but it was no reason why they should give up their own. They