

## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

**Prominent Catholics in Toronto, when Old-Timer was here in 1850—More About the Macdonells and Macdonalds—Charles Robertson, James Stock, Richard Dugdale, Patrick Foy, S. G. Lynn, John Shea, Eugene O'Keefe, Merrick Brothers, Hughes Brothers, and Thomas Devine.**

On account of some errors in my last contribution relating to the Macdonells, I desire to return to a consideration of some members of that great Scottish clan. The Vicar-General, to whom I alluded, was not a Macdonell, but a Macdonald, The Lords of the Isles, who were of that clan, spelled their names both ways, but scholars say the first way is the proper one. The manner of spelling names in former centuries was arbitrary as it is not now, for Shakespeare himself spelled his name in three different ways. Those Macs, however, have spelled their names in more than two ways, hence we have Macdonells, Macdonalds, McDonalds, and MacDonalds. But those different spellings were not enough, it seems, to distinguish them, as they had many Christian names that were the same. Down in Glengarry County, even to-day, they have to apply other appellations, such as "Red Donald," "Black Donald" and "Big Donald," to distinguish them apart. Sandfield's name was not spelled by me as it should have been spelled, as he was a Macdonald instead of a Macdonell. He was not the first Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, as I carelessly stated, but the first Premier. Mr. W. P. Howland, yet alive, possessed that distinction. D. A. Macdonald, brother of Sandfield Macdonald, was the second Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

I should have mentioned that the General Macdonell who was killed in the battle of Queenston Heights when General Brock met his death, was a Catholic of the same old Celtic stock. They were all originally Catholics, but persecution made many of them Protestants.

William J. Macdonell, the late French consul at Toronto, to whom I made reference, had a grandfather who led a romantic life and in Canada was known as "Spanish John." He was a Colonel Macdonell of Scotch-Glengarry, Scotland. He was born in 1728 and in 1740 was sent to Rome to be educated for the Church. His father and grandfather had also been educated there. But this hero took to the profession of arms and saw service in foreign countries, especially Spain. He died in Cornwall, on the 15th of April, 1810, and was buried in the family cemetery at St. Andrew's. His life was published in the "Canadian Magazine" of Montreal many years ago and recently in the "Catholic Record" of London, Ont.

Charles Robertson was another Scotch Catholic of influence, in business in Toronto, in 1850. He was a grocer and his place of business was the north-west corner of King and Nelson streets (the latter now Jarvis street). He was a most excellent gentleman, well educated and exemplary. He was president of the Catholic Institute for a year or two. His wife, I think, was a Miss Fitzgerald before her marriage, the daughter of a lawyer named James Fitzgerald, then living in the town. They had a large family. The eldest son became a lawyer and was one of Toronto's leading oarsmen.

James Stock was an English Catholic of prominence who did a grocery business on Front street, east of the St. Lawrence market. He was

a man of probity and worth and well esteemed by his fellow citizens. He was an alderman at one time in the sixties, for St. Lawrence Ward. He was afterwards a candidate for parliamentary honors for East Toronto on the Reform ticket, when his opponent was the late James Beatty, publisher of the "Leader" newspaper. He was not successful. He married Margaret, the eldest daughter of the late John Shea, a wealthy contractor, and father of Rev. John Shea, who was for a time pastor of the Whitty parish. A brother of Mr. Stock, who resided at Mimico, died but a few weeks ago at a very advanced age.

Richard Dugdale, an English Catholic, whose occupation was that of grocer, was here in 1850. His place of business was on Jarvis street, a little north of King, on the west side of the street.

Patrick Foy, father of Hon. J. J. Foy, was here in 1850, and along with James Austin, founder of the Dominion Bank, carried on a wholesale grocery and liquor business at the north-east corner of King and Jarvis streets. Mr. Foy was very successful. He was a quiet, unassuming gentleman of Irish lineage, who possessed the esteem of his fellow citizens, and whose purse was ever open to help any good cause. Few among our early citizens and business men have left so large and influential a family as Mr. Patrick Foy.

S. G. Lynn, an English Catholic, was here in 1850. He had a large crockery store on King street east, and raised a large family. Mr. Lynn was a devout member of the church and gave a good deal of his time to its service. Like Mr. W. J. Macdonell, he used to look after the boys serving mass in the Cathedral, and wore a surplus inside the sanctuary. His eldest daughter is now Mother Superior of one of our convents. I first made the acquaintance of the late John Mulvey, father of the present Assistant Provincial Secretary, when he was serving as a clerk in Mr. Lynn's store.

John Shea was here in 1850 and long before. He was a member of the St. Paul's congregation. He was a corporation contractor and wielded a large amount of influence. He was a plain, blunt, honest man, with a large heart and an open purse for every good purpose. He was a friend to all religious enterprises and an ardent Irish Catholic. He raised a large family and was the father of Rev. John Shea, who was one of the first pupils of St. Michael's College. His wife was a sister of the late John Wilson, a most excellent Christian woman. His eldest daughter became the wife of the late James Stock; another daughter married Henry McCarthy, an attaché of the parliament house, filling an important office. All the members of the family died young. In the celebrated election of Dunn and Buchanan in 1840 John Shea bore a prominent part, and in later years was a warm friend and supporter of Thos. D'Arcy McGee. After a long absence I greatly miss some of those fine old souls that bore the brunt of many a hard-fought contest, and who often gave me counsel and encouragement.

Eugene O'Keefe was one of our promising young men in 1850 and lived with his sister, Mrs. John Murphy, who kept and owned the Western Hotel, which was one of the best public houses in the city at that time. After Mr. Murphy's death he for some time acted as manager. Mr. O'Keefe was the possessor of a good voice and was a prominent member of the Cathedral choir. His father was an old settler in Toronto and a man of influence. He, too, took a prominent part in the strongly contested Dunn and Buchanan election in 1840, the only time in the history of the city when two Reformers were returned. The Irish element seems to have been unusually active about that time. Mr. O'Keefe is one of the few old-timers who survive and is industrially and financially prominent.

The Merrick Brothers were here in 1850 and resided with their widowed

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mother on Richmond street near Jarvis. The family came from the west of Ireland and was quite respectable. Jeremiah, the eldest, was then clerking with Mr. Peter Patterson, who owned a large dry goods store on King street. Afterwards he started a store of his own on King street, east, opposite St. Lawrence Hall. He married Mr. Patterson's daughter and after a time succeeded Mr. Patterson in his business, taking into partnership with him his brothers James and Dominick, and they flourished extensively for a while. "Jerry" Merrick took quite an interest in politics in a sort of non-committal way. Sandfield Macdonald was his favorite among the leaders. When Mr. McGee came here in the sixties, he was a little shy of him, like a few others, who had "axes to grind." Many years afterwards, when the business went "to the wall," he sought a political position and was appointed sheriff of Stormont County at L'Orignal, where he lived. I learn that the brothers have all deceased. They were nice young men and devoted to their religion.

The Hughes Brothers, merchants, were here in a humble way in 1850. Their first store was on King street near St. Lawrence Hall. The Brothers were Patrick, the eldest, Bernard and John. They were very industrious and pushing. They had the aid of their mother, who was a thrifty business woman. After a time they moved their business to a half-store on King street, near Church, where they did a thriving business in dry goods and clothing, often selling by auction. After making considerable money they started in a wholesale way on Yonge street, and established a large and profitable trade. Patrick married a daughter of Patrick Donohoe, proprietor of the "Boston Pilot," and became one of the principal merchants of the community. At one time he ambitioned to be member of parliament for Niagara. Bernard became the buyer in the foreign markets and John, the youngest, studied medicine and became a doctor. All married well. But in the course of years the business went to pieces and all are now dead.

In my previous contribution I made a brief mention of Mr. Thomas Devine of the Crown Lands Department. I want to enlarge on that. I was well acquainted with that gentleman before the seat of government was removed to Ottawa. In Nicholas Flood Davin's "Irishman in Canada" I find the following flattering but deserved allusion to him:

"Mr. Thomas Devine, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, is a man whose services to Canada it would be hard to overestimate. An engineer who has graduated in the best schools, his maps and plans, made and published since he became Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, displays the highest topographical skill. His field book is one of the best known to surveyors. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a corresponding member of the Berlin Geographical Society and

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from disorder by the wonderful organization which they were bound to maintain for their own protection and by infusing new vigor into the national life. In Ireland, on the contrary, few Normans mingled with the population, which remained apart. It retained its old customs and being farther removed from Western Europe and Rome, the centre of civilization, it failed to keep pace in the march of progress with the sister nation.

The conquest of Ireland by Henry II. and the establishment of the English pale increased the hostility of the original population, while the Reformation made a

**SITUATION IN IRELAND**

Political and Industrial—Eloquent Lecture by Professor Kyle, of Toronto University, in aid of St. Mary's Catholic Literary Society, Lindsay.

On Thursday evening of Christmas week St. Mary's Parish Hall was filled to its utmost capacity with an appreciative audience, who had assembled to listen to an address by an old Lindsay boy, whose brilliant attainments had won for him such signal honors at Oxford, and who is now one of the most popular lecturers in Toronto University and prominently associated with Catholic literary works in the city. The chair was occupied by Rev. Father O'Sullivan, president of the Society, who in introducing the speaker of the evening, congratulated the members on their good fortune in having with them at their initial entertainment one who was associated with the old literary society of the parish, and expressed his assurance that the success that had crowned Professor Kyle's efforts since those days would prove an incentive to the young men to make the best of their opportunities while his words would stimulate them to greater efforts for their own personal improvement and the welfare of the Association.

Professor Kyle prefaced his address by the remark that no apology was needed for discussing the subject he had chosen, in an assembly hall graced by the pictures of such Irishmen as Daniel O'Connell, John Boyle O'Reilly, Edward Blake and his Lordship the Bishop of Peterboro. The subject, he said, was especially timely at the present juncture when a Liberal Cabinet had again been appointed in London, and the Irish Nationalists, under the leadership of John Redmond, holding, as no doubt they would, the balance of power, were destined to play such an important role in the next session of the British Parliament. Everywhere to-day there is a revival of the national sentiment, and here in Canada while we enjoy the blessings of self-government, we see in our midst the steady growth of a strong French nationality, in no way hampered by

**BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY.**

A glance at history, the speaker said, was necessary in order to better understand some of the racial, religious and economic ills of Ireland. He would not, however, dwell upon old grievances, for Anglo-Irish history is for Englishmen to remember, for Irishmen to forget. In a most interesting manner he described the tall, fair-haired Celt and the dark-haired race of short stature that we find intermingled with them, their tribal life under a chief, and the system of common land holding, the suitability of their temperament to the religious life which induced them to readily embrace Christianity, the growth of learning in the Irish schools and the subsequent glorious achievements of the Irish missionaries on the continent.

A lack of organization and internal strife between the different clans retarded progress in Ireland, while England forged ahead in economic, social and political development. Englishmen may not like to refer to the Norman conquest, but to the Normans was in large measure due this stability of English political life; for the Norman kings kept England

of the American Geographical and Statistical Society." Alas, I can neither see that fair face nor hear his vigorous Irish voice again. When I was Secretary of the Irish Immigration Society he made maps for me of the government free grant roads without charge, for he was interested in my work.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

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ant. By the Land Act of 1903 an immense sum was loaned to Ireland by means of which 10,000 tenants in one year secured their holdings. Five million pounds are available yearly, and agreements are far in advance of this amount. The difficulty is that the tenants pay too much, and the poorer ones are obliged to hold on. We may judge of the importance of the land from the fact that there are on the island 200,000 holdings from 1 to 15 acres each. The speaker dwelt at considerable length upon the recent advancement that had been made in

**HOME INDUSTRIES.**

which had been fostered by voluntary associations that aimed at educating the people to avail themselves of the rich natural resources of the country. The result is that Ireland is no longer the distressful land that we picture it but fairly prosperous, and interdependence, which had wrought such havoc and which was in large measure due to a spirit of discontent and lethargy, was being counteracted by the renewal of industry and the new pulsation that was being felt in the national life.

In conclusion, the speaker spoke briefly but enthusiastically of the Gaelic League which aimed at reviving the national language, sports and industries. In 1893 it was comprised of seven members, while it now numbers 850. In 1900 the Irish language was taught in 140 schools. In 1903 it was being taught in 1,300 of the national schools. The people were being given intellectual interests, and the study of Celtic literature and music was raising the intellectual standard of the masses and reviving that national patriotism so beautifully embodied in that classic poem of Mangan's, "Dark Rosaleen."

**VOTE OF THANKS.**

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Dr. Blanchard in his usual graceful style, and seconded by Mr. Emmet Brady.

The pastor, Ven. Archdeacon Casey, expressed his thanks to the lecturer for his eloquent address and exhorted the people to assist in supporting a society that was destined to accomplish such good work among the young men of the parish.

Dr. O'Boyle, Secretary of Ottawa University, who is also an old Lindsay boy, expressed his appreciation of the lecture. What affected him most, he said, was the emphasis laid on the movement in Ireland which has for its motto "Shin fein," which translated means "Ourselves." Outside of the political agitation existed a movement for the extermination of the "sconin" Irishman, the man who was willing to have Ireland a mere western province, a shire—a movement to make an out and out Irish Ireland by building up her industries and her self-respect. At present the leader of the movement, Mr. Douglas Hyde, was on this continent to collect funds to help the League, so that when Ireland should have her parliament and her university she should have a population to use them and a spirit to guide them.

A few words from Mr. Thos. Stewart and Senator McHugh concluded the literary portion of the program, which was still further enhanced by choice vocal and instrumental numbers by local talent.

**Church for Italians in Montreal**

The Italian colony in Montreal, numbering about 800, are to have a church and school house. Ground has been purchased on Dorchester street, near St. Timothy street and work will be commenced in May. About \$75,000 in all will be spent. Father Caramello will be in charge of the parish.

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