

STRANGE RUMORS.

A CRISIS IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

The Revolt of the Radicals—The McCarthys Sticking by the Government—Political Notes.

LONDON, April 7.—The political situation has taken an unexpected turn and the conservatives confidently predict that Parliament will be dissolved within the present month. The Tories may be over-sanguine, but their prediction is by no means an extravagant one in view of the present aspect of things. The Liberals themselves admit that a crisis may be precipitated any day, and after their experience of Thursday, they no longer attempt to conceal their appreciation of their precarious hold upon Parliament.

Of course, any further defeat will involve the resignations of the ministry and the Opposition are looking forward with feelings of the utmost confidence to the next appeal to the country which they believe will result in the return of a Conservative majority.

The normal Government majority of 36 had been reduced Thursday night to 24, through the absence of the Parnellite members, who have recently been spending their time in Dublin, quarrelling among themselves and denouncing the Government's lukewarmness toward the Home Rule question. Three Liberals were also absent and not paired.

This would not have rendered the positions so critical, but the successive divisions taken in the House that night show that the Liberal whips cannot with any degree of certainty rely upon their men responding promptly, if at all, to their summons. From the 24 mentioned the Government's majority dropped to 18 through absenteeism, then to 15 and was finally wiped out in the division on the East London Water Bill.

The Liberals made great outcry of dissension over the action on the part of the McCarthys, but this was disproved by an analysis of the voting, which disclosed the fact that the McCarthys stood by their guns and that the dwindling majority was caused by the abstention of the Radicals from taking part in the division. The ratio of the vote of the McCarthys exceeded that of the Liberals.

The discontent of the Radicals has so nearly reached the point of revolt that the Government is extremely unwilling to take the risk of seeking a majority on Mr. Henry Dalziel's motion to abolish the veto power of the House of Lords. Fearing to test the sense of the House on this question, the Government have practically wiped out Mr. Dalziel's motion by appropriating the day set for its consideration to discussion of the private members' bills and Government business. This change in the programme will be made on motion of Mr. John Morley. A very large majority of the Liberal members are eager for immediate action against the House Lords and earnestly desire to obtain a decisive expression of opinion on the subject on the part of such as will support the Government, but the ministers are not so eager. Just now they are anxious for delay and will make every effort to secure it.

Last night Sir William Harcourt and Mr. John Morley were very active in canvassing the House in this matter and endeavored by private conversation to induce the irreconcilable Liberal members to submit to the waiting policy of the Government and acquiesce in the shunting of Mr. Dalziel's motion until some more opportune time. Instead of meeting with any success in their campaign, Messrs. Harcourt and Morley were met on all sides with the Radical ultimatum that the time must be given to the anti-Lords' motion, and given in the very near future, too.

The Conservatives are watching their chances in the defection of the Radicals, a chance which they believe will not be long stayed. Their whips are active, energetic and untiring. The normal Conservative voting strength in the House has been considerably augmented by the attendance of members who are seldom seen in their seats and besides this a full force of Unionists are on hand ready to assist in snatching victory from the Liberals on any division that may catch the Government napping or find them without a majority.

If the Government is unsuccessful in arriving at some clear "entente" with the Radicals before Monday, when Mr.

Morley's motion to appropriate the day set for debate on Mr. Dalziel's anti-Lords motion to other purposes will be discussed, the defeat of the Government on the division on the question is probable. The abstention of the Radicals from voting will be sufficient to give the Opposition a majority and there is now no likelihood that the Radicals will vote to delay the anti-Lords motion.

The fidelity of the McCarthys in adhering steadfastly to the Government continues unimpaired, despite their internal feuds, and has excited a great deal of favorable comment even from the Opposition members, who are forced to admire their consistency.

THE GOVERNMENT SAFE.

LONDON, April 9.—The floors and galleries of the House of Commons were packed with members, diplomats, peers, and others this evening when Sir William Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer and the leader of the Liberal party in the House, arose to move the resolution of which notice was given last week by Mr. Morley. Sir William Harcourt reminded the House that a large number of Government bills required attention, and that there was also a large amount of important administrative business awaiting the consideration of the House. He did not desire to deprive members of the opportunity to discuss their private bills, but it was absolutely necessary, if the ministerial bills were to obtain due consideration, that the time devoted to private bills should be limited to Friday evenings.

Mr. Balfour said the Government itself, in his opinion, would be more likely to misuse the time of the House through its proposal to appropriate the whole attention of Parliament at an early stage of the session and practically shut out all private bills. This was a proposal, he said, which members on both sides should resent.

John Redmond said if the Government had the confidence of the House their supporters would be justified in giving up what the ministry had asked for; but he wanted to know what business the Government intended to carry to the front. Would the Evicted Tenants' bill have precedence, he asked, or would it even have second place?

John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, said the Evicted Tenants' bill would be kept in the front line of legislation. The Government would not play with a question it was pledged to carry through. (Cries of "Hear, hear.")

Mr. Chamberlain said, regarding the private bills, that it was, as a rule, the biggest bore that got the first night. He had no objection to depriving members of some of their private bill time, but he disliked to give some of that time to the Government, as he had no reason to suppose that the Government would make any better use of the extra time than if it were devoted to private bills. The Government had already wasted an immense amount of time on Home Rule, but they had not the courage to appeal to the country on that question. They rather sought to relieve their position by working two Queen's speeches into their variety programme. (Hear, hear.)

Sir William Harcourt's motion was carried by a vote of 268 to 244, a Government majority of 24.

TOOK THEIR FIRST VOWS.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre last week received the first vows of the following young ladies, who are entering the order of the Sisters of Providence:—M. Clementine Auclair, Ste. Anne de Stukley; M. Evelina Savoie, Ste. Ursule; M. Anne Trudel, Ste. Ursule; Eugenie Edouardina Lambert, Ste. Ursule; Herminie Carriere, Ste. Scholastique; M. Angelina Hebert, Montreal; Julie Anais Lozeau, Montreal; M. Philomene Zerilda Leveil'e, Ste. Anne des Plaines; Delphine Normandin Lavigne, Montreal; M. Henriette Clotilde Gadbois, Williamstown; Josephine Georgiana Cote, St. Germain de Rimouski; M. Genevieve Valentine Roy, Berthierville; M. Regina Villeneuve, Montreal; M. Eliza Vaillancourt, Yama-chiche; M. Delmina Simard, St. Ambrose de Kildare; M. Rosa de Lima Lefebvre, Suncook.

"BROKEN KNIFE" IS DEAD.

Michael Tewatasariake, or "Broken Knife," as the name implies in English, the last pure-bred Iroquois of Caughnawaga, is dead, at the age of over eighty years. All the other Indians of Caughnawaga have more or less Scotch or French blood in their veins.

DEATH OF A FRIEND OF MGR. FABRE.

The Archbishop of Montreal has lost a life-long friend, and a former class-mate, at the French Seminary of Issy, in the death of M. l'Abbe Le Rebours, Cure of the Madeline, in Paris, who died on Tuesday last. His Grace received a cablegram announcing the death of this priest, who was one of the most prominent members of the French clergy. The Abbe was a friend of Canada and always took deep interest in its progress. Mgr. Fabre was his guest on all his visits to Paris, and made him an honorary canon of St. James' Cathedral. The deceased declined the honor of being appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Cardinal Guibert, and later in turn Bishop of Soissons, Versailles and Nancy. He was 72 years of age. A memorial service was chanted here for the repose of his soul on Tuesday, at the Cathedral.

SPRING ART EXHIBITION.

The fifteenth annual spring exhibition of the Art Association of Montreal will be held from April 23 to May 19, in the Association's gallery, Phillips square. Prizes will be awarded for figure, portrait, seascape, landscape and water color paintings, etc., for which all artists resident in Canada or Canadian artists studying or residing abroad may compete. A special prize of \$200 will be awarded to the picture obtaining the greatest number of votes of visitors attending the exhibition.

COLONIZATION.

The General Colonization Society held its weekly meeting on Saturday afternoon, Mr. J. R. Rolland in the chair. It was resolved to secure elaborate plans of the various northern townships for the benefit of intending settlers. The members complained of the Department of the Interior in not putting more energy into the work of settling this part of the Province. The Society hold that European immigration having fallen off considerably the Government should second the efforts of the Society to secure the repatriation of French Canadians in the United States. Applications have been received from some three hundred families anxious to settle in the new districts. Mayor Blanchard, of Lachute, left with some settlers on Saturday and another batch are going from this city on Wednesday. The Rev. Cure Moreau, of Ste. Agathe des Monts, writes that there is room for three hundred families in Archangebeault township. The local Government have opened a new road to this place.

THE WEEK'S MORTALITY.

There were 129 interments in the city cemeteries last week, 107 in the Catholic and 22 in the Protestant cemetery. Scarlet fever caused 22 deaths, consumption 13, bronchitis 8, and pneumonia 9.

There were 18 patients in the Civic Hospital on March 31; admitted during the week, 10; discharged 4; died 1; remaining in hospital on April 7, 23.

There were 24 patients in the General Hospital on March 31; admitted during the week, 15; discharged, 1; died 2; remaining in hospital on April 7, 36. The General Hospital was so full on Saturday that two patients had to be taken to the East End Hospital on Moreau street.

HOT LUNCHESES.

When the Board of Protestant School commissioners met yesterday morning they were in receipt of the opinion of Drs. James Stewart, Blackader and Armstrong on the question of hot lunches for the scholars. The doctors are strongly of the opinion that the school children should have a warm lunch or dinner, and sufficient time to take it. They must not only repair the wear and tear resulting from their studies, and almost incessant activities peculiar to their age, but they must also grow, and at the same time develop all their youthful and immature tissues into a higher and more perfect organism. Cold luncheon, usually eaten too quick, often lays the foundation for indigestion, dyspepsia and nervous derangements, which may remain with them for years. It was also suggested by the physicians that if possible the boys' school hours should be four per day, say from nine to one during five days of the week, and if that proved to be impracticable, during x days. The

girls' session, from nine to two, was greatly disapproved of as too long. There should be provided ample time for lunch.

C. M. B. A.

A NEW BRANCH INSTITUTED.

At Arthabaskaville, Que., on April 6th, Mr. Charles Dupout Herbert, District-Deputy, of the Canadian C.M.B.A. Relief Association, established a branch of the relief Branch, No. 227, of Canada.

The following were elected officers in the new branch:

Chaplain, Rev. E. Grenier, Priest; President Louis Rainville, P.S.C.; First Vice-President, Rev. O. Milot; Second Vice-President, J. N. Gastonguay; Corresponding Secretary, Henri Laurier; Assistant Secretary, Oscar Pepin; Secretary-Treasurer, Henri Pepin; Finance Secretary, I. B. Ouellet; Trustees, Rev. O. Milot, J. E. Methot, J. B. Ouellet, Hector Pepin and Clovis Baril; Chancellor, Dr. E. T. Belleau.

BRANCH 26.

The regular meeting of Branch 26, C.M.B.A., grand council of Canada, was held at Glenora hall Monday evening, and was very largely attended. Among those in attendance were President A. T. Martin of Branch 229; First Vice-President F. X. Payette, of Branch 229; Grand Deputy Finn, Chancellor Feeley, Treasurer A. D. McGillis, Financial Secretary Robert Warren, Brothers W. D. Selby, Joseph Goad, T. E. Stevens, A. Brogan, N.P., Wm. Thos. Ryan, Owen Tansey, W. G. Delaney, B. Lancy, L. E. Simoneau, Thos. Smallshire, Joseph O'Toole, Frank Collins, F. G. Thurgood, John Walsh, T. J. Kavanagh, Thos. Fitzgerald, J. Kennedy, Jas. Milloy, John Hoolahan, J. A. Hartenstein, Wm. Palmer, Jas. Callahan and F. Evans. President P. Reynolds occupied the chair. The usual reports were submitted by the secretary, Bro. J. J. Costigan, and were approved. Five new members were initiated and several applications were received and balloted for. Several matters of importance were discussed. It was unanimously resolved that an open meeting be held on the fourth Monday of April, and a committee, composed of Grand Deputy Finn, Chancellor Feeley, Brothers John Walsh, B. Tansey, L. E. Simoneau, O. Tansey and Thos. Fitzgerald, were appointed to make the necessary arrangements. On the motion of Grand Deputy Finn, seconded by Brother A. Brogan, N.P., a vote of condolence was passed to First Vice-President Corcoran on the death of his wife, the daughter of Brother M. Haynes. Addresses on the good the association was doing were made by several present, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

MGR. LAROCQUE'S PASTORAL VISITS.

Mgr. Larocque, Bishop of Sherbrooke, has arranged his pastorals of the various parishes of the diocese, to extend from May 28 to July 7, as follows:

May—St. Philippe, Windsor, 28, 29, 30; Ste. Bibiane, Richmond, New Rockland, 30, 31. June—Ste. Anne, Danville, 1, 2, 3; St. George's, Windsor, 3, 4, 5; St. Hippolyte, Wotton, 5, 6, 7; St. Camille, 7, 8, 9; St. Joseph, Ham., 9, 10, 11; St. Adrien, Ham., 11, 12, 13; St. Anges, Ham., 13, 14, 15; St. Fortunat, Wolfestown, 15, 16, 17; St. Julien, Wolfestown, 17, 18, 19; Ste. Luce, 23, 24, 25; St. Romain, Winslow, 25, 26, 27; St. Gabriel, Stratford, 27, 28, 29; St. Olivier, Garthby, 29, 30, July 1. July—St. Janvier, Weedon, 1, 2, 3; St. Adolphe, Dudswell, 3, 4, 5; St. Louis, Westbury, 5, 6, 7.

DISGRACEFUL.

Under the heading "Shame," La Presse of Saturday tells the following story: "Last evening, about six o'clock, a group of men with sinister countenances and equivocal looks, and who seemed to be watching with fear all the points of the horizon, could have been seen coming out of a building that is not a hundred leagues distant from the Presse. Those men had evidently been doing something wrong. In their midst stood an unfortunate being decently clad, supported by his companions, and walking towards a carriage. This poor fellow was dead drunk, or under the influence of a powerful narcotic. This ignoble spectacle is not so uncommon as people think, and honest citizens are asking how much longer the police will tolerate the def of gamblers that disgraces St. James street.