

HAMILTON SEPARATE SCHOOL.

Annual Report of Inspector Donovan to the Trustees.

The following report has been presented by Inspector Donovan to the Hamilton Board of Separate School Trustees:

GENTLEMEN—I beg leave to inform you that I have just completed an official inspection of the schools in your charge, and that copies of detailed reports of same will be forwarded to you in a short time from the Education Department, Toronto. Meanwhile a brief, general commentary may be found interesting. The buildings, seven in number, are in general remarkable for proper construction, ample size and fine appearance. This description is especially applicable to St. Mary's School, which, in all particulars is one of the best schools in the province. The old St. Thomas and St. Vincent Schools are handsome structures, and seem to be placed in exactly the right places. The main building in the St. Lawrence district is quite up to the mark, and it is hoped that the frame house now in use will soon give place to a more suitable structure. St. Patrick's School, the patriarch of the city, still creditably holds its own in spite of well nigh forty years conflict with time and weather. The play grounds for some schools are abundant, and for all are as ample as can be expected in city schools.

The class-rooms, almost without exception, are of the regulation size, commodiously arranged, well provided with facilities for light, heat and ventilation. I must request you, however, to be on the alert to meet the sudden arrival of cold spells, such as we have recently experienced, otherwise many of the rooms will be uninhabitable during the best part of the day. Besides being generally comfortable, the rooms are made pleasant and attractive by many neat decorations secured by the teachers themselves, with due regard for the beautiful, which is characteristic of the female sex. Furniture of the most approved quality is fully supplied throughout, except, perhaps, in matter of blackboard accommodation, of which it is hardly possible to have too much. There is no library attached to any school, but the long established library in St. Mary's parish has been wisely made free of access to all the school children. The teachers, of course, have their own private libraries in their private establishments. St. Mary's Hall, adjoining the Cathedral, is kindly allowed for school assemblies, which are regularly held and form an excellent feature in the system. While city water is in all premises, it is not in every case sufficiently protected against weather, and must be often entirely unavailable. The closet accommodation is all that can be desired for comfort, convenience and decency; but as an obstruction in the pipes is easily made and evolves serious consequences, it is advised that special attention be given to the care of these requisites.

The number of pupils steadily increases. I found it amounting to full 1,400; but in all probability it is greater, as the intensely cold or stormy weather existing during the two weeks of my inspection was an obstacle to the attendance of small children. The local superintendent, Rev. J. H. Coty, who is always on hand, is in better position to give complete figures. The schools of St. Mary's district contain the greatest number. St. Lawrence comes next, while those of St. Patrick, St. Thomas and St. Vincent are about numerically equal. It is a matter of gratification to know that your schools furnish comparably little work for the truant officer. This speaks well for the attractive power of the schools—their

discipline, order and management. Thorough teaching and tactful government, and school associations having the nature of cheerful happy homes, together form an almost infallible remedy for truancy, and do more to minimize all other kinds of absenteeism than all the average measures ever put into practice.

The theory of good classification—one form, one teacher—is fully observed and practiced. In a few cases where the numbers permit, the form is divided into two sections, each under its own teacher, thereby increasing the facilities for fine work. The distribution of the pupils is admirably equable. The average of 40 (1,400 pupils to 35 teachers) is really the number in charge of most teachers—the chief exceptions being naturally the two extremes, the senior fifth which is less than the average. The school in every district (one excepted) is a complete school, i.e., has the four regular forms in operation, and promotes pupils wishing to take up commercial and high school work to the La Salle Institute for boys and the Sacred Heart School for girls—both in the St. Mary's district. I am glad to notice that for some time back promotions have been made on the basis of the pupil's record for the whole term and not on the result of the pupil's final examination alone. When the reports come in from the department you will notice some important suggestions for the division and transposing of certain classes. Premature promotions should be carefully avoided.

The staff of 35 teachers is composed of Christian Brothers, Sisters of Loreto, Sisters of St. Joseph. They are earnest workers, have full knowledge of professional methods and are thoroughly imbued with the progressive spirit of the age. Besides the credit due them for the success that attends their efforts, we must give these ladies and gentlemen our special admiration for devoting their life-long labors, without personal remuneration, solely to the welfare of the rising generation. The particular standing of every teacher's class in the various subjects of the programme was duly noted. As these details are numerous and as you will have every opportunity of examining them in the particular reports above mentioned, I need not go into specifications. It is enough to state that the classes as a body are quite up to the educational standard, that your schools are amongst the first in the Province, and that they are steadily going ahead. The system is complete in itself, in all the essentials of accommodations, equipments and teaching abilities, and there is no need of outside assistance for the completion of your pupils' education. Congratulating you on this satisfactory state of affairs, and wishing your schools continued success.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
CORNELIUS DONOVAN,
Inspector.

It was decided at the recent meeting of the Archbishops in New York to take up the Papal collections of '92 and '93 in February next, to make a special effort, and to cable the result to the Pope in time for the celebration of his jubilee.

A dispatch from Atlanta, Ga., says that Mrs. Edgar Thompson, the daughter of the late Senator Ben Hill, of Georgia, with two children, have been received into the church by Vicar-General Keily. The Hill family has always been regarded as one of the sturdiest Protestant families in the State.

The "Sunlight" Soap Co., Toronto, offer the following prizes every month till further notice, to boys and girls under 16, residing in the Province of Ontario, who send the greatest number of "Sunlight" wrappers: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$6; 3rd, \$3; 4th, \$1; 5th, to 14th a Handsome Book; and a pretty picture to those who send not less than 12 wrappers. Send wrappers to "Sunlight" Soap Office, 43 Scott St., Toronto, not later than the 29th of each month, and marked "Competition," also give full name, address, age, and number of wrappers. Winner's names will be published in the Toronto Mail on first Saturday in each month.

Draft of Home Rule.

The newspapers of Monday morning contain the following of the new Irish Home Rule Bill. We publish it herewith, leaving our comments for next week:

The power to enact laws on the following subjects among others is retained by the Imperial Parliament: Treaties and other relations with foreign states; the imposition or any legislation relating to duties of customs and duties of excise as defined in the act. A sub-clause retains to the Imperial Parliament control for five years over land legislation.

The Irish Legislature is restricted from passing any laws respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or conferring any privilege, or imposing any disability on account of religious belief, or abrogating or derogating from the right to establish or maintain any place of denominational education, or denominational institution, or charity, or prejudicially affecting the right of any child to attend a school receiving public money without attending the religious instructions at that school. The Queen retains the same prerogatives with respect to summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the Irish legislative body as she has with respect to the Imperial Parliament. The Irish legislative body can continue for five years, and no longer, from the day on which it is appointed to meet.

The Executive Government of Ireland is to continue vested in her Majesty and to be carried on by the Lord Lieutenant in behalf of her Majesty.

The ninth clause of the bill relating to the constitution of the Irish Legislative body says it shall consist of a first and second order, but instead of providing that the orders shall deliberate together as in the bill of 1886, it provides that they shall sit and vote separately, thus constituting two distinct houses of the Legislature. If the result of the voting brings the two orders into collision, then the question at issue is to be referred to a joint committee of both Houses. If the question still remains undecided through inability to agree, then the question at issue may be referred to the people. The new bill thus provides for a popular referendum.

The tenth clause, Parliamentary representation, provides substantially the same as in 1886. An important new clause provides that 103 members of the Imperial Parliament shall be elected by the existing constituencies. These members shall vote on all questions reserved by the Imperial Parliament from the Irish Legislative body, and may also sit in the Irish Legislative body if elected thereto, as well as in the Imperial Parliament.

The annual contribution of Ireland on account of the national debt is reduced to £733,000; army and navy, £233,000; Imperial civil expenditures, £55,000; Royal Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police, £500,000; for reduction of the national debt, £180,000. These are great reductions from the bill of 1886.

Duties of customs and duties of excise collected in Ireland are to be applied to Irish charges, and any excess applied as part of the public revenues under control of the Irish Government. The Irish Land Commission is to remain in existence until all charges payable out of the church property in Ireland are fully paid. Subject to any existing charges in the church property such property shall belong to the Irish Government.

It shall not be lawful for the Irish Legislative body to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address, or bill for the raising or appropriation for any purpose of any part of the public revenue of Ireland, or of any tax, duty or impost except in pursuance of a recommendation from her Majesty, signified through the Lord Lieutenant.

The exchequer division of the High Court of Justice is to continue to be a court of exchequer for revenue purposes and any vacancy occurring in the court is to be filled by her Majesty on the joint recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

The Dublin Metropolitan police is to continue subject to the Lord Lieutenant for a period of five years, or until the Irish Administration will guarantee that an adequate local police system has been organized. The Royal Irish Constabulary while it exists is to continue subject to the control of the Lord Lieutenant, but the Irish Legislature may provide for the establishment and maintenance of a police force in counties and boroughs in Ireland under the control of the local authorities.

There is an entirely new clause, 22, which gives the Crown the right to veto all bills of the Irish Legislature, and gives Irish representative peers the right to sit in the House of Lords at Westminster, and vote on all Imperial questions. The functions of the Lord Lieutenant are the same as in the bill of 1886, and the judiciary is to remain for five years under the control of the Imperial Government, then to pass under the control of the Irish Government. Other provisions are similar to bill of 1886.

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