

The True Witness

AND  
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,  
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, Feb. 16, 1877.

CALENDAR—FEBRUARY, 1877.

- 16th—Crown of Thorns. Hotel Dieu founded in Montreal 1664. Dr. Kane, Arctic explorer died.
- 17th—Feria. Michael Angelo, died 1563. Habeas Corpus suspended in Ireland, 1867.
- 18th—First Sunday in Lent. Canada settled by the French 1534. Vermont admitted to the Union.
- 19th—Feria. Bishop Loras, Dubuque, died 1853. Galileo born 1564. Public Science Department McGill College. Florida ceded to the United States 1821. Martin Luther died 1546.
- 20th—Feria. American Independence acknowledged 1783.
- 21st—Ember Day. Armistice of Paris 1871.
- 22nd—St Peter's Chair at Antioch. George Washington born 1732. Know Nothing Convention in Philadelphia 1856.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Our readers will notice that we have secured a correspondent in Ottawa, and expect to be able to continue his services during the session.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

To-day we publish a letter received from the Department of Agriculture in reply to our articles on the Immigration Question. In order to place the matter fairly before our readers we republish our article of the 26th ult., and the reply of the Government side by side:—

TRUE WITNESS, Jan. 26th.

(1) Is it true that the Protestant agent in Orange Ulster has practically unrestricted power to send emigrants to Canada?

(2) Is it true that he is the only agent in Ireland who is thus empowered?

(3) Is it true that sums of money have been spent by the Dominion Government in advertising in Ulster, and none at all in the remainder of the Country?

(4) Is it true that the agent, who was stationed at Catholic Cork, has been sent to London?

(5) Is it true that the agent who was stationed in Manchester has been sent to assist Mr. Foy in Belfast?

(6) Is it true that Mr. Larkin, the agent stationed in Dublin, has no power of directly sending out emigrants, but that he has to wait instructions from London?

(7) Mr. Larkin says that there is no partiality shown to Orangemen to emigrate to Canada, and that he is invested with as much power as his more Northern confrere. But how does he prove it? Since when has Mr. Larkin possessed *carte blanche*, to pick and choose the class of emigrants he thought most eligible for emigration?

(8) Has the MacKenzie Government shown partiality in encouraging Orangemen from the North of Ireland to settle in Canada?

(9) As for Mr. O'Leary's arguments they are beside the question. They do not reach the point at issue at all, and are in every way wide of the mark. We cannot accept as an argument against our allegations, "that the Mayor of Montreal is a Catholic, that we send two Catholics to the Dominion Parliament, and that a large number of merchants are Catholics," or that our people have by their own strong arms and iron wills built for themselves a local habitation and a name. What argument is it to say that there are French Catholics in the Ministry, or that the largest contractors of the Dominion "are men who profess the Catholic creed." That is not the question at all. We care not if Mr. MacKenzie and every one of his Ministers were Catholics the issue would still, in our opinion, stand just where it does. If Catholics have, by their energy and their brains, won fame and fortune, in this country, then they have only themselves to thank. It is only what they have done in every country on the face of the globe, where they have had a fair field and no favour. It is to themselves and themselves alone that they are indebted for whatever they possess. They have, too, often won distinction and power against the current of hostile legislation and bitter ascendancy. But all this is beside the question.

(10) Is the immigration of Orangemen unfairly encouraged? That is the point at issue, and to its solution we intend to keep in view the facts which bear upon it, and which bear upon it alone. Our mission is polemical and not political; and whatever we do, is done in the interests of our Church, and not in the interests of party. But it behoves us to be vigilant, and in obedience to this policy we would ask a few more questions; questions too calculated to reach the truth.

(11) We have already said that Mr. Foy received \$500 from the Ontario Government for the purpose of spending on advertising in Ulster, while only \$200 was spent in the remainder of the country. We ask now, what was done with this money? What was the character of the advertisements and pamphlets on which this \$500 were spent? Were they Orange or Catholic?

(12) We assert on good authority that they were Orange, and that bigotry was appealed to and many of the wretched incentives which have raked up the scourge of religious feuds found a refuge in their pages.

(13) Yes we have reason to know that some at least of that \$500 was spent on injudicious publications—that contained letters written from Canada and promising the Orange immigrants a right loyal reception. Nay, they even went so far as to say that many of the Indians in the Dominion were good Orangemen as well! We believe all this is true. Our authority is good and until it is refuted, not by vague sentimentalities about the positions we hold, but refuted by hard facts—we shall regard it as proved. Can Mr. Foy deny it? He had authority to do as he pleased—and he did so. We do not say Mr. Letellier was aware of this. We do not say that Mr. MacKenzie sanctioned it, or the Ministry knew of the publications at the time of their issue.

(14) But they must have known of them since, and with what result? They have simply sanctioned the procedure, by perpetuating the policy of their predecessors, in allowing Mr. Foy to continue in the position he holds and exercising all the power he wielded under the administration of Sir John McDonald.

(15) As to the "assisted" passages, the mischievous individual authority given to Mr. Foy is in itself an evil. This system has worked from the beginning, as a one

sided measure. In Ontario the result has been particularly remarkable.

(16) In the official report for 1874 of the agents of the Ontario Government in Ireland, Mr. Murphy, the Ontario agent in Cork, writes: "The round about system pursued in reference to forms of application for assisted passages, is in my opinion, highly objectionable, and detrimental to emigration from Ireland. I had extreme difficulty before the 1st of May in procuring these forms from the Dominion office in London. Several applications I had to refuse and in case of others I had to borrow forms. Valuable time is thus lost, and when at length the forms are received from London, three, four and sometimes five or six days, before a warrant is received. In many cases there is not sufficient time to notify the parties of the granting of the warrant, and endless confusion and disappointment ensues."

(17) Again, Mr. C. J. Shell, the agent of the Ontario Government in Dublin, in his report for the same year, says:—"At the outset I applied for a supply of assisted passages warrants to the then acting agent for the Dominion, as in the previous year I had on many occasions experienced difficulty in procuring them, especially during the busy season. I was informed that my application could not be complied with until the late Mr. Dixon's successor had been appointed. I renewed my application in due time without effect. Thus, although I was known as the Agent of the Ontario Government I had no more power in issuing tickets to emigrants than a country village steamship agent, a circumstance which did not tend to begot the confidence of those to whom I was holding out special inducements. I beg to submit that the Ontario Agent in Dublin should be empowered to issue a reasonable number of assisted passage warrants at his discretion during the busy season instead of being compelled often, on the eve of the sailing of the weekly steamer, to apply to London, and wait three days for return of post. The Dominion Agent at Belfast has, from the outset exercised the discretionary power to the convenience and advantage of those with whom he has been brought in contact."

Thus the Belfast agent then, as now, had all the power; orange Ulster all the advantages, and Catholic Ireland was thus deprived of the facilities which were extended to the orange few. In view of these facts, it is useless to platitudinize to us, "about our position in Canada." After all that can be said we have neither the power nor the influence which our position and our numbers make us entitled to, and it becomes us to see that our interests are not ignored, nor our liberties usurped by a system of "settlement" as dangerous to our position, as it is destructive to the State.

Here then are both sides of the Question. Side by side, we place our charges against the Government, and the official denial of nearly all we have written. This is only fair. So far however, the advantage appears to be on the side of the Minister of Agriculture. But it is only for a moment. Our time is coming. The battle is not half fought yet. In the first place then we deny that our charges have been refuted. Not one of our assertions has been proved to be untrue. Nay our position is strengthened by the official denial we publish from Mr. Lowe. We not only hold our own but we gain new vantage ground, as we shall show. Let us then take the questions as they come.

Questions No. 1, 2 and 3—Mr Lowe says that there are several agents in Ireland all vested with the same power. We deny it! We deny that there are three agents, or even two agents, in Ireland at all. The Government of the Dominion has but one "agent" in Ireland, and that agent is Mr. Foy, the Protestant who is stationed in Belfast. The rest—Mr. Larkin to wit—are "special" agents, and we will prove that the "special" agent is not vested with the same power as the "Agent" of the Dominion.

We can prove this from the blue books of the Minister of Agriculture. Let us take one at random—the book for 1874. What do we find? We find that Mr. Foy exercised powers which do not appear to have been given to any of the "special" agents in Ireland. In his report for 1874 Mr. Foy says: "By your authority I published early in the spring 10,000 copies of a pamphlet entitled 'Canada the Land of Homes,' in which I gave the letters of immigrants to their relatives and friends in this Country;" and further on he says. "I attribute my success mainly to those pamphlets, which I have had published for the past four years, strengthened no doubt by the fact that I am well known to the people and that my relations and friends are deeply interested in this Country." Now we flatly deny that Mr. Larkin or any of the "special" agents ever possessed such authority as this. Where did the money come from to pay for these 40,000 pamphlets? What "special" agent received such assistance. Not one! Nay Mr. Larkin has never since his appointment sent a report to the Government of the Dominion. His name does not appear in the blue books. He is a mere "special," and the fact of his reports not appearing in the same book with that of Mr. Foy, in itself shows that Mr. Larkin is not as important a personage as the agent in Belfast. This fact answers the 1st, 2nd and 3rd replies. Mr. Foy printed and published "by your authority" Minister of Agriculture, 40,000 pamphlets. We assert again that none of the "special" agents, were thus empowered, and thus "sums of money have been spent by the Dominion Government in advertising Ulster and none at all in the remainder of the country?" But we will be told that Mr. Talbot was a "special" agent, and that he sent a report for 1874 and that he also distributed printed matter in Cork. Yes but it was printed matter supplied by the Government, and not written by Mr. Talbot himself. Mr. Foy, wrote, printed, and published, what he thought best, while Mr. Talbot was forced to distribute the material he received from the head offices in London. There is a vast difference in the two cases. Besides Mr. Foy had assistants. He tells us that he "has assistants at present in a central point for the counties of Cavan, Louth, and Monaghan, supervising the circulation of pamphlets, posting of placards &c." Thus Mr. Foy appointed "assistants" throughout the North. No "special" agent had any such power. While "Cavan, Louth, and Monaghan" had "assistants" appointed by the "Agent," the remainder of Ireland was left to two men, who had no power to appoint assistants, because they were "special" or in other words "inferior" men. The one possessed discretionary power the other did not. The one was master, the other was simply man.

Answer 4—Mr Lowe denies that the (special) agent in Cork was removed to London. What! No agent removed from Cork to London! Mr. Talbot's report for "December 26, 1874" was written from "29 South Mall, Cork, Ireland" and commenced by saying "I beg to forward my annual report for this year, and trust it will meet your approval. I entered upon my duties in the South of Ireland early in January last, and having opened an office at the above address, &c., &c." He was thus agent in Cork during 1874, and Mr. Lowe admits, in his second answer, that Mr. Talbot "is now a clerk in the London office."

Answer No. 5.—Mr. Lowe says that the agent who was stationed in Manchester was not sent to assist Mr. Foy at Belfast. Well, we allow the reply. We plead hear-say for that question, but for that question only. Mr. Lowe has been wrong about Mr. Talbot, and he may be wrong about the Manchester agent. We find some fault, too, with Mr. Lowe when he says that "Mr. Foy would have serious objections to any person going into his field. Dr. Taylor told me two or three weeks ago that he wanted to give a lecture in Belfast, but Mr. Foy threw so much cold water upon it he had to give it up." Such nonsense! We confess our astonishment at reading such language. The servant becomes the master. His preserve must not be invaded. It is surely unbecoming of Mr. Lowe to write thus in fear and trembling of Mr. Foy. We knew the "agent" in Belfast was powerful, but we had no idea that he possessed so much influence as to force Mr. Lowe to imply that he dared not be approached. Even Dr. Taylor dared not beard "the lion in his den, the Douglas in his hall."

Answer 6.—Mr. Lowe says that Mr. Foy receives his instructions from London the same as the other agents. What about the 40,000 pamphlets, "by your authority" minister of agriculture? Did Mr. Foy not write and publish them himself, a speculation which no other "agent" had the power of undertaking.

Answers 7 and 8.—Settled in previous paragraphs.

Answer 9.—Mr. O'Leary's letter is fully answered in our question. It has nothing at all to do with the issue at stake.

Answer 10.—Mr. Lowe says:—"The Immigration of Orangemen is not unfairly encouraged."

We say that Immigration of Orangemen has been unfairly encouraged. We deny that the same arguments were addressed to Catholics and Protestants, and we assert that there are not two Catholic "agents" and one Protestant but we say there are two Catholic "special" agents and only one "agent," of the Dominion in Ireland.

Answer 11.—Mr. Lowe knows nothing about the \$500 that was given to Mr. Foy by the Ontario Government. But we do know something about it and if necessary shall give names. Mr. Foy, the agent for the Dominion—did receive \$500 from the Government of Ontario at the same time the Government of Ontario had an agent of their own in Ireland and they only gave him \$200 to advertise the remainder of the country. Mr. Lowe does not believe this, well we believe it, and more, can prove it if it is required.

Answers 12 and 13.—Mr. Lowe believes it is "a fabrication" that some of the pamphlets compiled or written by Mr. Foy contained inducements to the Orangemen to emigrate. A courteous answer would become you better Mr. Lowe, "secretary to the minister of agriculture." It is no "fabrication" Mr. Lowe. It is a living fact. It is not an easy matter for us to place our hands upon all the documents we require, nor to conjure up the thousand memos which the Government can employ to fight their battle. But still pamphlets were published which contained letters written in Canada to their friends in Ireland and promising Orange immigrants "a loyal reception," and even, we repeat, went so far as to say that "many of the Indians were Orangemen as well." We do not despair of yet being able to produce some of those precious documents, or at least good proof of their existence. Meanwhile it cannot be denied. Mr. Lowe does not directly say that such was not the case but he believes it to be a "fabrication." Of course it does not appear in the "official" report. That would never do! But it was done nevertheless. Mr. Foy in his report to the Department for 1874, hauls in the Rev. Mr. Cleary a Presbyterian minister as rendering him "valuable assistance" and laughingly assures the Minister of Agriculture that he has succeeded in sending a number of "picked" emigrants out during the year, and how his "friends and relations" helped him and how he obtained so many recruits from the property of the Earl of Caledon. Nearly all Mr. Foy's "friends and relations" it is well known are Orangemen—and we can easily guess what class of men the "picked" immigrants were, even those from the estate of the Earl of Caledon.

Answer 14.—Mr. Lowe denies that the Department ever sanctioned "anything, of the kind," referred to in the previous paragraph. We frankly confess we believe it. We do not charge the Department of Agriculture with direct complicity, but we charge it with neglect in not finding out these facts for themselves, and in not putting an end to them at once. But still we do not hold the Department blameless. It was the duty of the Minister of Agriculture to see that all documents circulated in Ireland "by his authority," should be brought under his notice, and it is to the neglect of this that we trace most of the mischievous, nay, infamous work that has been going on.

Answer 15.—This is at direct variance with our information. We have shewn that Mr. Foy had "individual authority" which was not exercised by any of the mere "special" agents, and we do not despair of showing that Mr. Lowe is mistaken. We shall not say—as he said of us—that he uses "a fabrication" but we can, and will, produce a gentleman, who was himself an agent for the Ontario Government, and who is prepared to swear that Mr. Lowe has made a mistake. At this point we allow that question to rest.

16.—This answer is, just as we argued, except the remark that power was "never conceded to any agent" to issue warrants. That point has yet to be settled.

17.—This answer throws no new light upon the subject.

And now let us assure Mr. Lowe that although he has "answered seriatim our statements or allegations" still he has shaken them in nothing. We hold to every one of our accusations. We have shewn that Mr. Foy is the only "agent" in Ireland; that he exercised far more power than any of the mere "special" agents ever exercised; that he, by the authority of the Government, spent money where no other agent spent it, that in fact he was the pet of the Department. These things we say are here proved, and that too in the face of Mr. Lowe's denial.

We have given the blue book as our authority, and while assuring Mr. Lowe of our respect, and disclaiming any intention of doubting what he has written, yet the proofs so far rest with us, the denial of them merely

The whole respectfully submitted,  
(Signed)  
JOHN LOWE,  
Sec. Dep't. Agriculture.  
Dept. of Agri.  
Jan. 26th, 1876.