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RUMFORD
THE WHOLESOME
BAKING POWDER

The Irish in Newfoundland

Their Influence in Religion, Government, Trade and Commerce.

H. F. SHORTIS.

The breeze often shakes the rose and the thistle, whilst Erin's green shamrock lies hushed in the dale; the white light of the daisy is dimmed by the wintry winds whistle, and lies undisturbed in the moss of the vale.

The land of my forefathers, my parents, agra! Cold, cold must the heart be, and devoid of emotion, that loves not the music of Erin's go-bragh.

Newfoundland well may be termed the Home of the Irish Exile. At what period the first immigration of Irish emigrants took place along our shores it is difficult to say; but I do know that Irishmen figured largely in our population in 1780 and there about, because, in my rambles through some of the old cemeteries in the outports, I have perused the inscriptions on the time-worn tombstones, giving the year and date of the demise of the Irishmen, whose names rest in mother earth, under the shade of the trees which surround the sacred plots. Of course Irishmen were here in the 17th century, but not in large numbers, and they left their impress upon our country's history. It is also a well known fact that the religious requirements of these Irishmen were attended to by priests of their own nationality. These priests were few in number it is true, and the amount of labour and hardship that they had to undergo was almost beyond belief. From bay to bay they had to proceed, often in open boats, in all kinds of weather, and when sail-boats were not procurable, the hardy fishermen would row the clergyman miles along our coast, until he arrived at his destination, and administered the comforts of his holy religion. It often appeared that those pioneers of religion and civilization were driven upon a lee shore, and their escapes from death were most, miraculous.

And it also happened that those same missionaries were overcome by blinding snow-storms, or caught far out to sea in heavy gales of wind, where the hardships experienced by them can be better imagined than described. The first Irish priest, whose life was lost in carrying out his sacred duties along our coast, was the Rev. Patrick Phelan, whilst en route in a boat along the shores of Conception Bay, on the 3rd of September, 1799. His body was found, floating erect in the water in the middle of the bay, with his breviary under his arm, and I have heard it stated by very old residents (handed down from their predecessors) that the leaves of the book were barely damp with the salt water, and that it was kept in the succeeding priest's house for many years afterwards. I also distinctly remember as a child, hearing a man named Snelgrove relating that it was his father and the boat's crew who picked up the body of Father Phelan, and conveyed it to Red Head Cove.

A HISTORIC INSCRIPTION.

Some years ago whilst in Harbor Grace, I visited the tomb raised to the memory of this first martyr-priest in Newfoundland, and foreseeing that the ravages of Time would soon obliterate the inscription, I took the precaution of copying it. The late illustrious prelate Archbishop Howley remarked to me that he regretted that he did not know that I copied the inscription, as he would very much liked to have placed it in his Ecclesiastical History—that invaluable record of our heroic priests and pioneers of our early days. But Hon. Justice Kent can now do so, as I understand, he is at work on the second edition of that very important work. A somewhat recent visit to the scene of the tomb convinced me of the wisdom of what I had then done, as the epitaph is now nearly undecipherable. I had two objects in

view—the one, to hand down to posterity a description of this saintly and self-sacrificing life; and the other, to show that in those remote days here, there were Irishmen in our midst possessed of a fund of profound learning that is not to be found, generally speaking, in the present day, notwithstanding our vaunted higher education and all that is supposed to follow it. These Irishmen who, at that time, were scattered all over the island, were men of polished culture and education. In the classics they were masters, and their knowledge of ancient history was not a smattering. They knew the history and the literature of the ancients thoroughly, and were perfectly conversant with the English literature of their own day. What-ever records we have possessed from them amply testified to this fact. The following is a facsimile of the inscription I refer to above, and will be of advantage to the future ecclesiastical history of our country, now in course of preparation by the Hon. Justice Kent:

IN EXCELSIS DEO

Here lies the body of
THE REV. PATRICK PHELAN,
Of the Order of St. Francis,
Missionary of Harbour Grace,
Who departed this life on the
Third Day of September, 1799.

His pastoral zeal in propagating Truth,

His generous effusions of Liberty towards the distressed, and his vehement thirst after peace and good order, register his kindness with God, and make his memory dear to man.

Panegyric borrows no beauty from the daubing of words,
From the impression of past merits, now terminating his Apostolic career.

The prayers of his once faithful flock, in order to a rising unto life by resting in peace
This his grateful people devoted to his memory, repeating
REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

PIONEERS OF AGRICULTURE.

When the Irish youngsters arrived on our shores they prosecuted the codfishery, as well as the herring fishery, and in time managed to secure sufficient land upon which to build houses, and raised sufficient vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, etc., as would meet their requirements. They were indeed the pioneers of Agriculture in this country, and even to-day, in the various outports, as well as in St. John's, are to be found remains of stone walls, the stones of which were removed from the earth by the brawny arms of the early Irishmen as they determined to dig out a living for themselves in the New Land, which was denied them in the Old. These great walls mark the great march of agriculture in our island as the Celtic Cross marks that of Religion in the Old Land. Those hardy and industrious people combined fishing and farming, and ere many years after their arrival had erected comfortable homes and reared large families. As time rolled on, they procured small schooners and chased the codfish and seals to more distant resorts, until in the early part of the past century, we find them settling for the summer months on the stormy and hitherto unknown coast of Labrador. I know for a fact that those Irishmen fished at Grady and other parts of the Labrador coast previous to 1810, and I was well acquainted with a descendant of one of those hardy pioneers, who was a nonagenarian, and could, if asked, have given the historians sufficient facts of the lives and adventures of the early Irish settlers to fill a very large volume and a very interesting one also. As they were the pioneers in Agriculture, so they were in the fisheries, and one has only to look up the past records of our shipping fleet, connected with both seal and codfisheries to be convinced of this fact, as he will there find the names of the Walshes, Houlahans, Ryans, Fitzgeralds, Llynches, Mullowneys, Morans, Dwyers, Geras, Murphys, Meelys, Kiellys, Barrons, Malones, Mackeys, Thomers, O'Briens, Hallerans, Jackmans, Nowlans, Greens, Costigans, Wades, O'Keefes, McCarthys, Byrnes, Kellys, Burkes, Sheas, Silvies, Feehans, Duggans, Stapletons, O'Neills, and Doyley, whose thorough knowledge of their dangerous avocation placed them in the front rank, and for who were the means of placing Newfoundland in that proud position which she holds to-day—the first fishing country in the World.

SUCCESSFUL SEAL KILLERS.

At the Seal-fishery, until the end of the sixties, Irishmen commanded our most expensive and well built vessels, and in many cases they were either the owners, or at least part owners, and proved themselves to be some of the most successful seal-killers in the country's history. Many of them were of profound learning and sound practical knowledge, as well as great physical strength. No hardship could terrify them, and no dangers could weaken them. Their word was their bond, and even in my own time, I have seen bargains struck which involved hundreds of pounds, in some cases; all by word of mouth, and never was it known that their word of honour was broken, or that a lawyer made a five cent piece in drawing up an agreement, which would be, of course, interspersed

ed with whereas, and whereas, etc. They were held in high respect and confidence by the merchants.

EXPONENTS OF LIBERTY.

As mechanics their work lives after them, and the various public buildings, as well as private residences, which have been placed under the master hands of the early Irish masons, carpenters, etc., are there to-day—the stone and brick work especially as firm and intact as it was seventy, eighty and even one hundred years ago. In every branch of the public service, as well as trade and commerce, the Irish took a most prominent place, and it is to them, to a very great extent, that we owe the political and religious liberty that we exercise to-day—the former won by the untiring exertions of such men as Kent, Little, O'Brien, Morris, and others, and the latter by the firm stand taken by that illustrious prelate and liberal-minded Irishman, Rt. Rev. Michael Anthony Fleming, fourth bishop of St. John's, his predecessors being Bishops O'Donnel, Lambert and Scallan. Political and religious freedom was denied them in their own country, being hounded down by the emissaries and mercenaries of a tyrannical Government, and knowing from bitter experience the terrible sufferings of a people subjected to such unchristian persecution, upon their arrival in this country they exercised all their energies and inherent abilities to place our people of all classes and all creeds upon an equal footing, and it was their successful efforts that have brought forth such result to-day, where we live in our own land in peace, happiness and prosperity, each and every one of us exercising our rights as British subjects and peace-loving christians.

C. C. C. Dinner.

The C. C. C. Old Comrades' Association, who since their formation last year, have rendered incalculable assistance and encouragement to the Corps by their entertainments and card tournaments, will hold their first Official Banquet in their Rooms at the Armoury on Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., at 9 o'clock. Special arrangements have been made for the affair; the new rooms are being handsomely decorated, and no effort is being spared to make the event a mammoth success.

Mr. T. J. Foran, President of the Association, will be the Toastmaster, and addresses will be given during the evening by a brilliant array of well-known speakers, including Lieut-Col. C. O'Neill, Conroy, O.B.E., Hon. R. A. Squires, Prime Minister, Lieut-Col. G. T. Carty, Hon. Dr. Campbell, Major Leo Murphy, Mr. Cyril J. Fox, M.H.A., Major J. J. O'Grady, Mr. W. J. Higgins, M.H.A., Hon. H. J. Brownrigg and the Presidents of the sister Old Comrades Associations.

Covers will be laid for 150, and the catering will be in the experienced hands of Sergt. J. Robinson, of the Bally Haly Golf Club.

Essex Motors.

The ESSEX is so designed that it carries no useless weight. This contributes to the exceptional performance of the ESSEX, and assures long life.

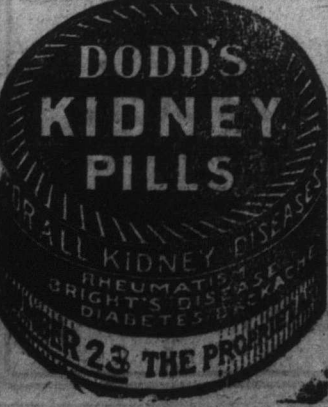
The sturdiness with which the chassis is constructed makes depreciation small. The ESSEX is an inexpensive car to operate. It will continue to operate smoothly and quietly with an acceleration and flexibility that will inspire the pride of ownership. It is in keeping with one's ideas of economy and good taste.

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An Amusing Point.

Here is an amusing point, says the Liverpool Weekly Post. The last time the King opened Parliament in State was in 1914. Then the second to the Address in the House of Commons was the present Solicitor-General, Sir Gordon Hewart. In his speech he emphasised our improving relations with Germany, and paid a great tribute to the international foresight of our Foreign Office. Six months later we were involved in the big war. So much for legal foresight, inspired by Ministerial coaching, for the proposer and seconder are always semi-officially "instructed." One point of ten misunderstood may once and for all be cleared up: it is not necessary that either of these selected young speakers should thus be making their maiden speeches, though on this matter one of the permanent officials of the House was mistaken this week, for he laid down the erroneous dictum that this was essential.



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The Sunlight environment is in keeping with its mission of cleanliness and efficiency—no soap is better fitted to serve the British housewife than Sunlight Soap. Prove this to-day.

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The War Criminals.

CROWN PRINCE'S OFFER.

A letter purporting to be from the German ex-Crown Prince is published in an Amsterdam paper. The writer states that he has sent telegrams to the Kings of Britain, Belgium and Italy, the Presidents of France and the United States, and the Emperor of Japan urging the impossibility for Germany to find a Government able to meet the Allies' demands in regard to the surrender of persons for trial. The ex-Crown Prince declared in his statement that the consequences for all Europe would be immeasurable

if the demands were persisted in and carried through by force, and offered himself for trial as ex-hair to the throne in place of those who had only served their country in time of war.

It is whispered in diplomatic circles that there has been a considerable migration of Germans on the wanted list to Russia lately. It would also be no surprise to hear that there has been a considerable migration of war criminals to Scandinavia as well as Switzerland. These developments are not being overlooked by the law officers engaged in carrying out the punishment clauses of the Peace Treaty. In a competent official source it is said that a German counter-list of

persons they allege to be guilty of international acts and offences against international law committed by Allied soldiers is ready and printed and will be published shortly.—Glasgow Weekly Herald.

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