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The True Witness

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Vol. LIV., No. 39

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1905.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

OPPOSING VIEWS OF THE LEADERS

In the excerpts hereunder from the past week's debate on the Autonomy Bills, the True Witness has endeavored to put on record the pith and purpose of the leaders on both sides of the House:

SIR WILFRID LAURIER.
On March 23, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved the second reading of the Northwest Autonomy Bills, he said by the changes to be made in the educational clauses the new provinces would come into confederation with separate schools, and therefore guaranteed to them under the Constitution of the Dominion. By section 16 of the bill, as originally drafted, it was intended to secure to the minority the rights they now have. But it had been urged that that section was too broad and vague and might lead to confusion. Some years ago the minority of the Territories complained that certain local legislation had infringed on the Federal law of 1875, establishing separate schools, and an appeal was made to the Federal Government of the day, led by the late Sir John Thompson; but he declined to interfere, holding that inasmuch as the law complained of was a consequence of a law passed two years before which had not been complained of, it would have to stand. And so a certain system had grown up and for thirteen years it had given general satisfaction. There was a danger that clause 16, as first drafted, might cause confusion between the law of 1875 and the modifications enacted by the Territories, and therefore certain school ordinances of the Territories had been incorporated into the bill so as to secure to the minority the rights and privileges as they exist to-day and nothing more. Chapter 29 of the Ordinance, providing for separate schools, and 30 which regulated assessments for local schools, had been incorporated into the bill, but not No. 30, which regulated Government school grants or aids. The provinces were to be left free to dispose of their school funds as they saw fit, but with a single exception, namely, whatever might be the manner in which such funds were distributed all schools were to be treated alike.

In concluding the Prime Minister said that in presenting the Autonomy bills the Government were acting according to the clear principles of the Constitution in 1867 there had been a compromise in order to produce a great result. Ours was a country of diversities, but they should tend to produce unity. The Canadian people had done very well so far, but they had not yet reached the maximum of development. Much remained to be done, and he hoped they would be equal to the task before them. It would be well, if when called upon to apply the principles of the Constitution, they would do so in no carpentering manner, but in a broad and generous spirit.

MR. R. L. BORDEN.
Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition, in moving an amendment that the new provinces be given full control over education, said: "The conclusion of the whole matter seems plain. The very basis of Confederation contemplating the eventual inclusion of all British North America provided for separate schools in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec only. This provision was the result of compact and agreement. But no restrictions on provincial powers were contemplated in the Northwest. None are mentioned in the Quebec resolution. The terms of the constitution, if applied in their integrity to the new provinces, do not become in my humble opinion, restrictive powers of the Provincial Legislature. The people of the Northwest are, I believe, opposed to any such restrictions. We have passed resolutions in this parliament in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. Can we deprive half a million of people in the Territories of that home rule which is theirs under the terms of the Constitution. Let no man suppose that I do not respect the attitude of Catholics with regard to this matter. No one can

for a moment fail to realize the position so far as they are concerned. They say: "It is a matter of our faith that our children should be under instructors of their own faith, that they should receive religious instruction at school, and so strongly do we adhere to that principle that we would rather pay the tax and also support our own schools than submit to any other system." I find no fault with that view, I only desire that such matters should be left to the people of the respective provinces and not be placed in the wide area of Dominion politics. Is there any reason to mistrust the people of the Northwest Territories? Are they disposed to be less generous than the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island?

HON. CHARLES FITZPATRICK.
Answering the insinuation made by Mr. Foster, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not now, as once, the avowed champion of provincial rights, Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick referred Mr. Foster to the verdict of the people of Canada in 1896, in 1900, and on the 27th October, 1904. The Prime Minister had not lost the respect of the man in this country whose respect he valued.

Speaking of the challenge made by the Opposition to the Government to appeal to the people on the Autonomy question, Mr. Fitzpatrick said the Opposition had designedly appealed to passion and to prejudice. Dr. Sproule jumped up and demanded that the Minister of Justice withdraw the statement. "Instead of making the statement," replied Mr. Fitzpatrick, "I will bring forward the proof." (Loud cheers.)

What was being done at the present time? The Conservative party was sending out two sets of petitions in regard to the Autonomy Bill. In the Province of Ontario petitions were circulated against the Bill, claiming it invaded the rights of Protestantism, while in Quebec province they were circulating petitions in favor of the Bill as protecting Catholics. What was that but the most ignoble appeal to passions and prejudice?

Mr. Borden said that so far as he was concerned, and so far as he knew, such a statement was without foundation.

Proof unrefutable, was, however, produced by the Minister of Justice. He showed petitions which had been circulated in the Province of Quebec by Eli Moreau, secretary of the Jacques Cartier Club, Montreal, a well-known Conservative organization. These petitions were in favor of the Bill, and prayed the Government not to make any change in regard to the educational clauses.

"I hold that the Conservative party are responsible for these petitions," said Mr. Fitzpatrick. It had been stated that the members and representatives of the Northwest had not been consulted as regards the Autonomy Bill. He desired to say they were consulted. When the question came up for consideration he had a conference with Mr. Haultain and Mr. Bulyea on Friday preceding the bringing down of the Bill. He asked them what about the education question. Mr. Haultain replied that section two of the education clause made the requisite provision. He (Mr. Fitzpatrick) said that in his judgment that was not sufficient. He wanted it to be plain that any man who read it would understand it, and he desired to avoid a repetition of the Manitoba school question.

"It was intended," said Mr. Fitzpatrick, "to give the Northwest what they had now. Not one inch further did the government think of going."

In 1875 the principle of separate schools, in so far as the Northwest was concerned, was decided upon. Under the provisions of that year a system of separate schools was established, and according to the ordinances, were allowed certain pecuniary assistance. Mr. Foster had referred to consulting the 500,000 people of the Northwest on this question. "I ask him in all earnestness," said the Minister, "are we to ignore

the opinion of over forty per cent. of the people of Canada?" It was peace he desired, and the government desired, should reign, but there could be no peace except that founded upon justice and based upon equal rights and recognition of each others privileges.

HON. MR. FIELDING.
Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, who followed Mr. Borden, asked: Who could say that they were coercing the people of the West? Even Mr. Haultain did not have the support of the west in the views he had expressed in the letter he had given to the press.

The system in the west was a national school system, as was shown by the Ordinances of the Territories. They had state created, state supported, and state managed schools.

Mr. Fielding described the seriousness of the situation. If the bill were defeated the Prime Minister would have to retire, but who would be able to form a Government? Would the leader of the Opposition undertake to form a government on religious lines, and that would be the only government possible on that side of the House. What a picture it would be to see Dr. Sproule and Mr. Monk; Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Hughes, sitting down to frame legislation for separate schools. When the vote is taken on this bill they would find a united government and a united party behind the measure, but the leader of the Opposition will find that his own party is not united, for the honorable gentleman admitted that he had spoken only for himself. If the measure were defeated, said Mr. Fielding, only a Protestant Government would be possible on the part of the Opposition.

"Shame," called out the Opposition. Mr. Osler—"This is the first time this has been made a religious question."

Mr. Fielding repeated that in the minds of many this was becoming a religious question. They should endeavor to find a solution; to preserve peace and harmony among all classes of our population, and as a united people move on to the fulfillment of the bright future now before the Dominion of Canada.

CALLS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SECTARIAN.

Dr. Sproule, Orange leader, who sits at the right of Mr. Borden said he condemned sectarian schools as being inadequate to the needs of the people in this twentieth century. After generations of trial, France was abolishing them, and the state was taking sole charge of education.

Mr. Lemieux, Solicitor-General—"What does the honorable gentleman think of the denominational school system in Great Britain?"

Dr. Sproule—"There are some features of that system that I do not like."

Continuing, he said he had no desire to deprive any Roman Catholic fellow citizen of his rights. He admired the piety of the Roman Catholics and their attachment to their church. But who had asked for the educational clauses that had given rise to the controversy? Not the people of the Territories, but the clergy of Quebec.

Mr. Talbot—"Also the Jacques Cartier Club of Montreal."

Dr. Sproule concluded with an appeal for "the little red schoolhouse" for schools established, maintained, and controlled by the state. The people of the new provinces should be left free to establish such a system, and not be shackled for ever, as was proposed, by the education clauses, which should be dropped from the bill before the House.

(Continued on Page 5.)

Archiepiscopal Changes.

His Grace the Archbishop has appointed Rev. Abbe Belanger, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Richmond street, to the pastorate of St. Louis de France Church. Rev. Abbe A. Corbell, of St. Philippe de Laprairie, to be pastor of St. Joseph's Church, and Rev. Abbe Boissoneau, vicar of St. Louis de France, to be pastor of St. Philippe de Laprairie. The new pastors entered on their duties on last Sunday.

BALFOUR NEAR FALL: IRELAND THE GAINER

Approaching General Election May Give Nationalists Whip Hand in Commons.

By WALTER WELLMAN.

That Home Rule for Ireland, in one form or another, is only delayed by the recent flurry in British politics and the resignation of Mr. Wyndham, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, is the opinion of well-informed men who have just come from London and Dublin. In fact, it is believed the downfall of Mr. Wyndham, and the circumstances attending his retirement, may hasten the coming of the day when the English Parliament confers upon the people of Ireland the simple justice and decency involved in an extension of self-government among them.

A gentleman now in Washington and familiar with all that is going on behind the scenes in London, predicts that the forthcoming general elections in the United Kingdom, which cannot now long be deferred, are likely to hinge more upon the question of Irish home rule than upon Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy. There are indications that the Balfour government cannot hold out much longer, and when dissolution of parliament comes the clever Irish Nationalists are sure to get another opportunity to play good politics and advance the home rule cause.

According to this authority, Mr. Chamberlain now has it within his power to force the Balfour government to the wall, but that he is for the present disinclined to do so on account of his fear that if the ministry falls, home rule and not his protection ideas will form the chief issue before the electorate. The Irish party now holds a coign of vantage of which it may be expected under the brilliant leadership of John Redmond to make the most as events develop.

It is not at all improbable that after the government has "gone to the country" and the smoke of battle has cleared away, it will be found that the Irish Nationalists hold the balance of power in the Commons. They come very near it now; and when they have actually arrived at a position in which they have power to dictate, one may be sure that home rule will be the price of their strongest hope of securing genuine reform in Ireland has been through the Unionist party. Now, it seems, they are free lancers, ready to cast in their lot with any organization which will assure them the most for their votes.

The Irish representatives and the Irish people are a good deal out of patience with Mr. Balfour and his associates, who threw over Mr. Wyndham and tried to discredit Sir Antony MacDonnell, the under secretary, at the behest of a small number of "kickers" from Ulster. One does not need to be an Irishman, nor a Catholic, but needs merely to have sympathy with the Irish people as a whole and with their aspirations to a better government and a government of their own making, to feel the utmost contempt for a government that would sacrifice a minister like Mr. Wyndham and aim to make a scapegoat of an official like MacDonnell in order to retain a few votes and to stave off for a few more weeks or months the inevitable downfall.

It is fair and pertinent for the writer to disclose here some facts having an important bearing upon the situation and which are within his personal knowledge. A little more than two years ago Sir Antony MacDonnell accepted the under secretaryship for Ireland at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham, supplemented by the urgings of King Edward and of Lord Lansdowne. The last-named had known Sir Antony in India, and had been familiar with the great work the really great Irishman had done there. Before accepting office and incurring all the risks that proverbially go along with it, MacDonnell sought a frank understanding with his superiors. He proclaimed himself a home ruler, in that sense a Nationalist, a Catholic, and an ad-

vocate of Ireland, its land and its people for the Irish. On this basis he took office.

Shortly afterwards your correspondent was in London and Dublin investigating the Irish question. It can do no harm to anyone now to state that during long conversations with Mr. Wyndham and Sir Antony MacDonnell he was informed that it was the purpose of the ministry to press the land law, and after the land law was achieved to press for some form of home rule for the Irish people. There was doubt at the time as to just what form home rule would ultimately take. Various projects were under discussion. But that in one way or another a larger measure of self-government was to be given the country as a settled policy of the Balfour ministry was the all-important fact, the form of it being a mere detail to be settled later. It was in this way your correspondent gained the information upon which he based his confident predictions that a brighter era was dawning for the Irish people—that land reform was to be followed by political reform as soon as it could be brought about, and that the evils of caste government and the whole odious system, which even decent English officials were disgusted with, were to be swept away one by one till in all their home affairs the Irish people were their own masters.

These forecasts of the policies of the Balfour Government were cabled back to England and roused keen interest among public men and the newspapers. Members of the government were questioned as to their accuracy, and the usual diplomatic denials followed. But the land law was passed. It is now in operation, and is gradually, though too slowly, turning the land of Ireland back to its rightful owners, the men and women who live upon it and till it.

Having put the land law on its feet, after herculean labors, Messrs. Wyndham and MacDonnell turned their attention to the next number of their programme. At the instance, doubtless, of Under Secretary MacDonnell, the Irish Reform Association, composed of landlords and former landlords, but nevertheless with a patriotic desire to better the condition of the country, suggested a scheme of "devolution of legislative and administrative authority" to officials and bodies more directly representing the Irish people. In brief, the proposal was to create an Irish council of twelve members elected by the county and borough council constituencies, and twelve nominated by the government to pass upon all matters of expenditure for Ireland, their decision to be final unless reversed by the House of Commons by a majority of not less than one-fourth of the votes. This body was to prepare the Irish estimates annually and submit them to Parliament.

In addition a larger body was suggested, composed of this council, the Irish representative peers and the Irish members of the House of Commons, to promote legislation purely Irish and to act upon private bills.

Sir Antony MacDonnell supported this plan, which was an entering wedge for a greater measure of home rule even if it was not all that could be desired by the Irish people. It was at least a start. Probably MacDonnell never had a thought he was doing anything else than carrying out the wishes of the government because he had every reason in the world to believe there was a thorough understanding between his superiors and himself. But when the affair became public a howl arose from the Ulsterites, and to appease them Wyndham was thrown overboard after Sir Antony had been repudiated. In the explanations offered in Parliament Wyndham did not appear to the best advantage, but in the last analysis it was apparent that he was deliberately sacrificing himself to give some mea-

sure of protection to his subordinate. It is significant that at last accounts MacDonnell was still in office and also the Earl of Dudley, Lord Lieutenant, who publicly announced that everything MacDonnell had done was after consultation with him and had his approval.

Everyone that knows the brilliant George Wyndham will be sorry that his most promising career has thus been cut short. I have every reason to believe that he was working conscientiously, and with a large view, for the regeneration of Ireland. He told me much of his plans, and they were comprehensive and practical. They aimed at restoring the land to the people; then to give the Irish people a voice in the management of their own affairs—in the end, not all at once, by gradual enlargement of their powers, complete self-government in purely Irish legislation and administration. But for Wyndham and MacDonnell there would never have been a land law such as is now slowly but surely conferring its blessings upon the country. But for them the home rule movement would not have attained the headway it now has. Wyndham has fallen by the wayside, and Balfour may yet sacrifice MacDonnell, but the work will go on.

For every Irishman, and for every man who sympathizes with the Irish people in their demand to be rid of the odious bureaucracy which has so long oppressed them—a bureaucracy which should close the mouth of every Briton who would scoff at Russia—there is a good sign in the sky. It is found in the fact that the Irish Reform Association movement for a devolution of home rule promoted by MacDonnell and supported by Dunraven and Dudley, has not aroused a fifth part of the opposition that might have been expected. Reports from England through trustworthy channels are to the effect that both political parties in the United Kingdom are now looking with favor upon the plan to give Ireland a rational and modern government—a government by the people themselves. A majority of Englishmen no longer suffer with a sort of rabies when home rule for Ireland is mentioned in their presence. They are discovering at last that it is useless to try to make Englishmen out of Irishmen, that it is barbaric to go on trying to treat the Irish as a conquered race, that they are not a conquered race and never can be, that in the higher civilization which England boasts of representing a country is never conquered till you have won the hearts and affections of its people.

The sad part of the current episode in Irish and English politics is that the men who were trying their best to do something for Ireland must be sacrificed because a few Irishmen throw stones at them.

But it is believed the day is soon coming when the good sense of the English people will rise above schisms and religious factions and look to the good of Ireland as a whole. Home rule may come in a year, or it may come in five years. Our friends across the sea move with a slowness which is proverbial, but it is coming.

IN THE NURSERY.

Every mother should be able to treat the minor ailments of her little ones. Prompt action may prevent serious illness—perhaps save a child's life. A simple remedy in the home is therefore an absolute necessity, and for this purpose there is nothing else so good as Baby's Own Tablets. These Tablets promptly cure all stomach and bowel troubles, break up colds, allay fevers, destroy worms, aid teething, and make little ones healthy and cheerful. Guaranteed to contain no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. Mrs. John N. Pringle, Forest Falls, Ont., says: "I think I can thank Baby's Own Tablets for my baby's life. He was badly constipated, but after giving him the Tablets he was relieved at once. I also find them good when he is at all restless, and feel I cannot say too much in their favor." Sold by all druggists or sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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