

# The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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## Register of the Week.

The debate on the Budget was kept up almost without interruption during the past week. About forty members have spoken, and the air has been charged with facts and figures with an occasional burst of something like eloquence, and at least one spicy encounter between Mr. Charlton and the Minister of Finance. On Wednesday Mr. Bellay, the new member for Chicoutimi, made his maiden speech in French, and Mr. Tarte also took occasion to express his views from his new seat on the Liberal benches.

Dr. Sproule, on the Government side, contended that during the years preceding 1878 the national debt was continually on the increase on account of deficiency of revenue and that in the National Policy they had found a means to balance the accounts. He descanted at length on the increased number of workmen under the new system, the benefit to farmers from the exclusion of American grain, and produced figures to show that in the number of workshops, and in the value of land and live stock the country had made great progress.

Mr. McMillan of Huron attacked the National Policy as responsible for the agricultural depression. He demanded in the interest of the consumer that the duties on corn and coal oil be removed. The action of the Finance Minister regarding coal oil was lopping away a very small twig when the condition of the trees demanded that whole branches should be cut away. He asked of the Government to give a clear statement of their policy as the Reformers had already done.

Dr. Bergin attacked the last speaker in particular and the Reform members in general for depreciating the position of the country. Having given vent to his opinion concerning them, he took up the cudgels against Mr. Edgar in defence of the cotton industry. He evidently possessed a thorough practical acquaintance with his subject, and managed to reduce Mr. Edgar's calculation of \$6,000,000 annual profit to the manufacturers to a more modest figure.

On Thursday, the speech of the evening was made by Mr. Charlton. He began with an arraignment of the policy of protection, claiming that it favored the few to the detriment of the many, that it is unreasonable, unequal, and unjust. He doubted the ability of the Government to cope with the question of tariff reform. Their policy was like an arch—take a stone out, and the whole fabric falls to ruin. He took up in a special manner Mr. Foster's intimation concerning the likelihood of restoring the export duties on logs. American lumbermen, he claimed, would willingly erect saw-mills in Canada if the policies of the

Dominion and Ontario Governments were sufficiently stable to guarantee permanency of conditions. He quoted figures from Government reports to show that Maine sends to Canada more logs than we export, and argued that if the proposed measure were passed the Government of the United States might be induced by their large lumbering interests to place retaliatory duties on Canadian lumber. An attack on the Government for their statements to the people before election concerning their relations with the authorities at Washington for closer commercial relations with the States aroused Mr. Foster and the Speaker had finally to interfere to calm the troubled waters.

Mr. Wilson of Lennox ridiculed Sir Richard Cartwright's assertion that the country could be managed with an annual expenditure of \$20,000,000. He denied that the United States was the best market for Canadian produce, as that country produces just the same commodities as Canada. Mr. McMullen claimed that an injustice was being done to the working classes for the benefit of refiners in keeping the duty on cheap brands of sugar. He summed up his argument in the position of farmers by saying that "the Canadian farmer under free trade could get 6 gallons of coal oil for a bushel of barley, while at present a bushel of barley will buy only 2½ gallons."

Mr. Ross and Mr. Boyd expressed their confidence that the Government would upon careful investigation arrange the duties to the full satisfaction of the community.

Mr. Davies, continuing the debate, discussed the N.P. as applied to the Maritime Provinces especially Prince Edward Island. He described the country as being in a state of devastation, having lost more by the exodus than Napoleon in all his wars. He attacked the duty on pig-iron, claiming that it piled up taxation without results. Taking up the question of reciprocity, he renewed Mr. Charlton's attack on the Government, and concluded his remarks with one of his forcible arraignments of the National Policy.

Mr. Cookburn in reply compared the condition of the Canadian farmers with those of New York State, much to the advantage of the former. He made light of the argument used by Mr. Davies concerning farm mortgages. His experience was that they did not necessarily indicate depression or poverty. True, the lands in Ontario had decreased in value 25 per cent, but that was in common with farm property all over the world, and the country as a whole was compensated by the progress of the North-West. Though the C. P. R. had cost the country millions of money, the

amounts which it had expended in the country last year were more than five times the interest on the outlay. He acknowledged that a feeling of disquiet existed throughout the country, but he felt that the Government would deal with the question to the best interests of the country as a whole.

On Saturday the House turned from the Debate to the voting of supplies. On voting an item for census expenses, the Liberals clamored for particulars regarding the many industrial establishments which the last census records, and which Government members have been quoting as evidence of the country's prosperity. They contended that the estimates are beyond all possibility unless every little shop was counted. The Government at first demurred on the ground that the census was taken by enumerators sworn not to divulge the private business concerns of the manufacturers, but the Premier at length promised to bring down reports concerning the nature of the manufactories, the number of hands, etc., without revealing the business standing of individuals.

Mr. Kenny brought up the question of a fast Canadian service with England, the present system being very unsatisfactory. He advocated the claims of Halifax to be the port of entry for the new line if established. Other members advocated the claims of Quebec, St. John, Louisburg and St. Andrew's. The Premier gave assurance that the Government had not lost sight of the importance of securing a fast mail service.

Ulster loyalty is at fever heat, and the Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast has sent out a violent manifesto against the Home Rule Bill. It demands either union with, or complete separation from Great Britain. Rumour hath it that the Orange societies in the North of Ireland are preparing for forcible resistance to a Home Rule Parliament should one be established. But such threats frighten none.

The bye-elections during the past week have resulted as follows: Lawson (Liberal) has been elected for Cirencester. This victory is very satisfactory to the Gladstonians as showing the sympathy of the agriculturists of the West of England for the Liberal policy. Allan, Liberal, won Gateshead when a vacancy had been caused by the elevation of Walter Henry James to the peerage. At Stockport the Conservatives held their own by the election of Mr. Whiteley. In Ireland the northern division of Meath which had become vacant through the unseating of Michael Davitt, was retained by a victory of the anti Parnellite, Mr. Gibney, over Pierce Mahoney. Mr. Hogan, anti-Parnellite, was elected without opposition for mid-Tipperary.

In an audience given to the Superior General of the Christian Brothers the Pope welcomed them most cordially. "Amongst all those whom I have canonized," said his Holiness to the Brothers, "he who holds our soul the most is your illustrious founder who lavished so much zeal upon the Christian education of youth at first in France and then, by means of France, in other countries. John Baptist De la Salle and Vincent de Paul two centuries ago created works which are really regenerative. We bless also from the depth of our heart all the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the benefactors of your establishments who uphold Christian teaching by their generosity and influence, and all the young people of your numerous and prosperous associations. But our heart wishes to extend this apostolic benediction beyond your congregation and the thousands whom you instruct. We wish all the nations amongst whom you extend your zeal to participate in it, but especially the land of generous spirits which has given birth to you and your congregation."

A very interesting place in the Annals of Rome on Jan. 31st, was given to Cardinals Loggion and Vaughan. In welcoming these present Princes of the Church, the Rector, Mgr. O'Connell was also pleased to have present Mgr. Begin, coadjutor to the Cardinal of Quebec. This last speaking for his country, said that Canada was all the more pleased at the growth of Catholicity in the United States, because following the noble traditions of his mother country, France, so fruitful in missionaries, Canada had sent the first priests to the United States and continued to furnish them.

On Sunday, Jan. 29th, there took place the solemn ceremony of the beatification of the venerable servant of God, Gerard Maiella, lay Brother of the Redemptorists.

While the Italian Government is vigorously prosecuting its warfare against the bandits in Sicily, it is stubbornly obstructing all enquiry into the bank scandals at Rome. A Socialist Deputy in the Italian Chamber moved the appointment of a committee of seven to examine and report upon the relations of recent ministries to the banks of issue. Crispi supported the motion, as also did the Marchese di Rudini in a speech which is regarded as the finest effort of the session. Great cheering greeted his allusions to the Premier's disinclination to deny or to disprove the charges made against him that he has for ten years known of, and encouraged the misappropriation of the Roman Bank money to political bribery. But in spite of the lessons which patriotism should teach, the chamber rejected the motion by a vote of 197 to 92. Against only one deputy, Zerbi, has any step been taken. He is accused of having received more than half a million of francs from the Roman Bank for his action in the law on Banks. But 28 millions have disappeared. Where? What a happy country united Italy promises to be!