

The Catholic Register.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1900

A MALIGNANT ATTACK.

As a general thing the leading daily journals are honorable and dignified in their criticism of men and things. Malignity and personality are seldom found in their columns. Ever still do we see what Touchstone, in the play called "The countercheck quarrelsome"—and least of all "the lie with circumstance." One of the exceptions to this journalistic custom occurred in The Mail and Empire of the 27th ult., when it attacked the Hon. Mr. Mulock as Minister of Labor. The Mail and Empire seems to have a reckoning with Mr. Mulock for many years. When he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Toronto he was violently attacked in its columns; whilst his political administration has throughout excited an unequalled display of unmanly insinuation and undeserved severity. In its last attempt The Mail and Empire has out-heroded Herod. An unfortunate strike occurred in some mills at Valleyfield, in the Province of Quebec. The strikers soon resorted to violence. They strove to prevent other workmen taking their place, and tried to stop these from entering the shops. Nor did they stay here. They attacked the factories. Thus people and property were in danger. Then came a call for the militia—in the usual way. To quote The Mail and Empire's own despatch: "The request was duly signed by the Mayor of Valleyfield and two Justices of the Peace, in accordance with the requirements of the Militia Act. Lieutenant-Colonel Roy, on the receipt of the letter, put himself in communication with Lieutenant-Colonel Ibbotson commanding the Royal Scots, whose turn it was for duty. One hundred men were called out." What had Mr. Mulock to do with that? What had he to do with the strike, or the violence which unfortunately followed? About as much as President McKinley had to do with the Pennsylvania coal strike. Neither the Government nor the Minister of Labor can be held accountable by reasonable men for either the dispute or the consequence. No one supposed, not even The Mail and Empire, when a Labour Department was created, that all disagreements between employers and employees would cease, as it were by magic. It is just as likely that litigation would cease, because law courts and a Minister of Justice were established. So far from proving the conclusion drawn by The Mail and Empire, the quarrel proves to us the necessity of some such Department as that established by the Hon. Minister of North York. Let us analyze more directly the article in question. On reading it we are reminded forcibly of a few lines of poetry:

"A lie which is half a truth is ever the blindest of lies. A lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with outright. But a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight." The Mail and Empire says: "While Mr. Mulock was passing from stump to stump praising and magnifying

himself for changing the workingmen of Canada into a turbulent uncontrollable mob into a harmonious brotherhood conforming their conduct to the sovereign will. This trouble at Valleyfield continues to foster of course, the Government, having assumed its jurisdiction the affairs of the labor world, felt responsible for the continuance of the dispute." That Mr. Mulock's stamping was no consolation to the Mail and Empire we readily admit. But there is as much connection between his stamping and the fostering of the Valleyfield sore as there is between a commercial traveller's soliciting business and the burning of the store he represents. While the Department of Labor is intended to maintain peace between capital and labor it must not interfere too readily. Such action would frustrate the very ends for which it was established. In every dispute the aggrieved party is most jealous of interference. And nowadays Labor claims to be the party aggrieved. What would the workingmen of this country say, if, as soon as the strike was called, Mr. Mulock appeared on the scene and hurriedly settled it without any invitation to do so? Such a line of action would have gratified his enemies more than his actual conduct. From the following Ottawa despatch what Mr. Mulock wished to do was evident: "As soon as the situation at Valleyfield was brought to the attention of Hon. Mr. Mulock he telegraphed Mr. Bertrand, the secretary of the labor union; to Mr. Greenshield, for the company, and to the Mayor of Valleyfield, offering to cancel all his political engagements and to give his services in any way possible to bring about an end of the trouble." That is just what we would have expected a fair-minded, honorable administrator of a department to do. That is enough. Too ready interference would be resented.

Eager to wean the labor vote from the party in power the Mail and Empire warns the working man: "The discontented working men must be made to understand that they belong to what is now a department of Government, and that they must consider themselves as completely subject to that Department, as the Indians of the Northwest are subject to the Department of the Interior." If that is not "The Countercheck Quarrelsome" or worse, it was never penned. To compare the skilled laborers of our towns and cities with the Indians of the Northwest never entered any other mind than that of the individual who meant mischief by the insinuation. To try to convince the voters of this country that in creating a Department of Labor the Government intended to place them upon a level with the Indians is a boomerang argument, snapping back upon those who use it. Concerning the postoffice, which comes in also for criticism from The Mail and Empire, the administration speaks for itself. It ought to be a subject of national pride. We cannot have our cake and eat it. A decrease of postage was no encouragement for an increase of wages for those employed. The economy exercised was in the right direction, and the Canadian public know how to appreciate it. Whatever ground of complaint the employees of the postoffice may have, we have no doubt the able head of that important department will deal fairly and generously with them. We do not claim for the Hon. Mr. Mulock, or any other member of the Government, or any political candidate, favor or immunity from criticism. All are subject to it. Let it be fair—no innuendo. Let there be "the rotund courteous," but not "the lie with circumstance."

RACIAL ANTAGONISM.

It is quite the thing nowadays, politically speaking, to make a scapegoat out of some prominent leader in the opposing ranks. Sir Richard Cartwright was wont to bear the burden of the harsh sayings of the Conservatives in the years gone by, while Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster bore the brunt of the Liberal personalities and attacks generally. During this election, and long before, as if in preparation for it, Mr. Tarte has been doing yeoman service for his party in being the recipient of all manner of gibes and insults, thereby leaving them off other attacks. While one of the great incentives to these attacks is that Mr. Tarte

changed his political views some time ago, the main reason seems to be to campaign in Ontario through stirring up a feeling here against the French through Mr. Tarte. The plan is entirely unworthy of Canadian politics and should not be permitted to be indulged in. Mr. Tarte was accused some time ago of opposing the sending of a contingent to South Africa at the public expense, and French-Canadians were subjected to all manner of insult by Ontario journals through Mr. Tarte. To a fair-minded and unprejudiced onlooker, Mr. Tarte did no more than his duty on that occasion. His constituents were opposed to the idea of Canada's bearing a share of England's expenses in her Imperial policy, not because they are any the less loyal to England than the ordinary run of Canadians; but because they felt it was establishing a precedent which Canada is not prepared to follow. Mr. Tarte, as their representative, voiced this sentiment at Ottawa, so it is said, and if he did he performed no more than his duty. He was closed to speak out boldly and fearlessly for his constituents, and his doing so rather redounds to his credit than otherwise. Mr. Tarte is accused of trying to create a feeling of enmity between Ontario and Quebec by raising the race cry in the French Province. While it is quite natural for Mr. Tarte to oppose the Conservatives in Quebec, it would not be worthy of him or of Canada to bring out that battle cry again, and we do not think he is doing so. We do think Mr. Tarte is defending his people against the attacks of certain Ontario organs and is doing so with some venom, but the attacks have been venomous and as such call for strong language. The Mail and Empire instances the following as a case of Mr. Tarte's anti-English propaganda:

"The importance of the approaching election," says the preface to the pamphlet, "will escape nobody. It is not today a question of protection or free trade, of purely material interests; the very future of the Canadian nation is at stake. Since the night of the 23rd of June, 1896, our adversaries have determined to demand that the English population of this country shall give their suffrages against the Cabinet of which Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the chief, because the Prime Minister is a French-Canadian. Our adversaries, forgetting that the Province of Quebec kept Sir John A. Macdonald in powder for nearly a quarter of a century, have deemed to ignore the French-Canadians because they have given their confidence to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In all the English provinces the watchword is, 'No French Prime Minister.' Sir Charles Tupper and those who surround him, his body-guard, his organizers, have no other cry than the continuous defamation which they have undertaken against the French-Canadians and against their public men. From one end of the country to the other we are represented as an inferior and disloyal race, unworthy of enjoying the privileges of British citizens. In the Orange lodges of Ontario," it says, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier is denounced as a French Papist."

We do not see that Mr. Tarte is striking far wide of the limit in his assertions. It may not be pleasing to us in Ontario to know that the French-Canadians are sizing us up pretty correctly, but Mr. Tarte was quite within the truth when he penned those last two sentences, if he did it. French-Canadians, because they are French and Catholics, have been represented all over Ontario as a disloyal and inferior race and, as such, unworthy of membership in the Canadian Confederation. No opportunity is lost to misrepresent our fellow countrymen and co-religionists, and the attacks are largely made on them because they are Catholics. The French-Canadians are loyal, but the Liberal party, through Mr. Tarte, is being attacked right and left on the supposition that they are anti-English. It strikes us rather forcibly that it is Mr. Tarte's arraigners that are creating the national cry in these elections and that he is but defending himself and his people. That Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Tarte are being denounced in the Orange lodges as "French Papists" is not a very wild assertion. The people of Quebec have a right to know what is being done in Ontario during this election,

and Mr. Tarte is but doing his duty in letting them know. Nevertheless, the racial cry is emanating from Ontario, not from Quebec, and the politicians who are guilty of it may yet live to regret their share in the creation of a bitter feeling between the provinces. We are entirely opposed to the introduction of the race cry into politics, but we think that the right horse should be saddled with the responsibility of having done so.

RELIGION IN POLITICS.

In an editorial that opens with a false statement, is filled with inaccuracies and untruths and closes with a bombast that betrays its origin, The Toronto World gives vent to its rage over the fact that The Catholic Register dared to tell the truth or defend itself against charges against its honesty. The Catholic Register stated in clear and unmistakable language that it is not a political organ, controlled or inspired by the Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick or any other political party; The Catholic Register repeats the statement this week for The World's benefit. We are quite ready to admit that we are opposed to The World and its policy on certain questions, but we deny that our opposition is due to the fact that The World is a Conservative organ as such. With the general political trend of The World we have nothing to do, but when it touches upon religious topics and mixes them up with politics, we are interested parties and shall not hesitate to do battle against The World or any other journal. It is a peculiar accompanying circumstance, nevertheless, that Conservative organs alone are meddling with the question of Catholics and their troubles in this coming election. We Catholics, as was said last week, are quite equal to the task of looking after our own interests, and when our toes are trodden on we shall not, we hope and trust, ever come to such a pass as to be obliged to ask for the support and assistance of The World or of The Mail and Empire, whose bigotry and intolerance are but thinly veiled, so thinly that the Orange hue may be seen shining through the pages and appearing in every line and even between the lines. Going over the editorial spoken of above piece by piece, we find several items of news to us and to Catholics at large. The article opens with: "Solicitor-General Fitzpatrick's organ, The Catholic Register." Suffice it has been said on this portion of the distributive, but, lest The World forget, we repeat that we are not only not the Solicitor-General's organ, nor have we anything to do with him nor he with us. He neither dictates our policy to us nor does he suggest what line we should pursue with regard to any question; he is not financially interested in The Register to the extent of one single dollar, and we have yet to learn that we are in any way indebted to him for articles or inspirations. The editor of The Catholic Register, who is at present engaged in writing this article, has never had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, nor has he ever received—either directly or indirectly—from him a hint as to the policy he should pursue with regard to these elections or the candidates in them. Whether there was any scheme in obtaining control of The Catholic Register by its present owners or not is a purely private concern of theirs. The scheme, if there ever was any, which we doubt very much, was never worked by anybody on behalf of Mr. Fitzpatrick. The Solicitor-General never had a half or any other interest in The Catholic Register. The World then goes on to accuse Mr. Fitzpatrick of being elevated to the Cabinet by means of the support of Catholic papers throughout the Dominion. That seems to be where the shoe pinches. The fact that the Government should see fit to elevate Mr. Fitzpatrick, a Catholic, to the Solicitor-Generalship, and that at the instance of Catholic organs, must have been a bitter blow to such an ultra-Protestant sheet as The World; so bitter, indeed, that the thought of it is rankling in its bosom even at this late date. The wisdom of the Government in appointing Mr. Fitzpatrick, even though he is a Catholic, is pretty well recognized. He has shown ability and strength in the performance of his duties and is a credit to his nationality and to his faith. Not many

years ago we were challenged to bring forth our men of ability and capacity for office, and we have done, and are doing it. Mr. Fitzpatrick is not the last Catholic Canada will see in her Cabinet, notwithstanding the opposition of such yellow and dyed-in-the-world Protestant journals as The World and its fellows. The Irish are coming to the front and the penny editorials of The World cannot stem the tide. As a closing remark, the editor of The Catholic Register would like to say a word on his own behalf. He feels himself quite capable of writing his own editorials without inspiration, and has been doing so and will continue to do so. When it is thought necessary to have inspirations from Ottawa for his benefit, he will consider his time of usefulness departed and will feel constrained to step down and out, a step he is not dreaming of taking at the present moment.

CATHOLIC DEFENDERS.

The Mail and Empire and the World have taken it upon themselves during this political campaign to look after the interests of the Catholic electors and representatives generally. They have been busy creating grievances for us which either do not exist or which an isolated case of disappointment has given rise to. We are running along nicely; and are in no great need of the assistance of these two papers, either to call attention to any of our demands for justice or to create imaginary claims on this or that party. If Catholics as a body have not been receiving their due in Canada, they are quite capable of demanding it, and will do so if occasion should arise, and will do so, too, with no unmistakable sound, in the event of any such contingencies. If Catholics have been discriminated against by the Liberals, we are not aware of it, and the raising of such a cry at the present time is anything but fair. It is a peculiar thing that the distinctly Catholic organs of Ontario have not been the first to find this thing out if it exists; it is a peculiar thing that these two papers, that have been so intensely anti-Catholic in past years should now take up the cudgel in our behalf against the Liberal Government. It rather creates suspicion in our hearts that these two papers should now be so solicitous as to our welfare, which in years gone by was a thorn in their side. Their championing of Catholic grievances of their own creation during these elections will but serve to make Catholics keep a closer watch upon them. The uncollected and unwarranted defence of Catholic interests, arising from imaginary wrongs that are being created for us in the editorial rooms of these two papers. We have no grievances to air, and when we have it will not be to the Mail and Empire or to The World that we need look for support. Catholics must be regarded as a non-thinking, non-reading portion of this great country of ours that they should be made to have grievances by journals that have ever been opposed to them and their wants. Catholics are not so easily bullied as some people imagine. We are a reading portion of this country and are not usually looked upon as being incapable of airing our opinions and our grievances when occasion demands the one or requires the other. THE CATHOLIC REGISTER does not wish to enter upon this campaign of politics, but when Catholics are dragged into the arena as Catholics then it is time that we should say something for ourselves and for Catholics generally.

THE AMERICAN CAMPAIGN.

For a short time the newspapers and other experts have formed a judgment about the result of the Presidential election which takes place on Tuesday next. The Republican National Committee after "watching the situation with the utmost care," and "not desiring to mislead the public in any way," admits that Bryan will carry the eleven Southern States. All the rest they consider doubtful or safely Republican except Indiana. Then came a forecast from the Democratic Committee, showing that Bryan will probably poll 826 electoral votes, when only 224 are required for election. A more valuable estimate was prepared by the New York Herald, which is independent. It made very interesting observations in the following States that are claimed by the Democrats as

doubtful: Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Kansas, North and South Dakota, Ohio, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and the Pacific States, New York was carefully scrutinized with a view of testing the claim that it was doubtful. The Herald sees no sign on the surface indicating that it is doubtful. "Nothing," it says, "short of a political revolution can give it to Bryan, and no such portents such a revolution." According to the Herald's investigations McKinley will hold all the States he carried in 1896 excepting Maryland and Kentucky, which show at present an indication to go for Bryan. In Indiana also the forces are even, and it is a special scene of political conflict. Bryan will hold the States he had in 1896, except Kansas, South Dakota, Wyoming and Washington, which are reported as favoring McKinley, and Idaho and Montana, which are admitted to be doubtful. The following is the fall vote in 1896, the numbers in the different brackets indicating the number of electoral votes:— For McKinley: Maine (6), New Hampshire (4), Vermont (4), Massachusetts (16), Rhode Island (4), Connecticut (6), New York (36), New Jersey (10), Delaware (3), Pennsylvania (22), Maryland (8), West Virginia (6), Kentucky (12), Ohio (23), Indiana (15), Michigan (15), Illinois (24), Wisconsin (12), Iowa (13), Minnesota (9), N. Dakota (8), Oregon (4), California (9). This makes a total of 278 electoral votes. The actual vote for McKinley was 271—a member of the Electoral College from California and one from Kentucky voting for Bryan.

For Bryan: Virginia (12), N. Carolina (11), S. Carolina (9), Georgia (18), Florida (4), Alabama (11), Tennessee (12), Mississippi (9), Louisiana (8), Arkansas (6), Missouri (17), Texas (16), Kansas (10), Nebraska (8), S. Dakota (4), Colorado (8), Wyoming (8), Montana (8), Utah (8), Idaho (8), Washington (4) and Nevada (8). This makes a total of 174, to which must be added the two single votes from Kentucky and California, which were cast for Bryan, making in all 176. The Times-Democrat of New Orleans sums the situation as follows:—

"We confess that we do not easily see how Mr. Bryan is to obtain the necessary 224 votes without the aid of New York. A great deal of talk has been going forward about the probability that a number of the North-western States, including Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, will vote the Democratic ticket this year; and, of course, if these four States were to go for Bryan, the aid of New York's vote could be dispensed with by the Democrats. But we see not the shadow of a reason for expecting any one of the quartette to go Democratic any more than for expecting Iowa or Pennsylvania or Massachusetts to go Democratic. "With New York, therefore, Bryan has an excellent chance of being elected; without it, his prospects are gloomy."

THE COAL STRIKE.

It is a matter of congratulation that the strike in the anthracite coal district of Pennsylvania is happily terminated. Throughout the thirty-nine days during which it lasted the conflict was characterized by patient endurance and peaceful methods. Calmness marked its initiative, for it might justly have been started long before. And when it was called it was freely predicted that lawlessness would prevail, to which the orderly mass meetings and the respect for property were the most practical answer. A strike amongst coal miners soon made itself felt by the manufacturers and carriers of all kinds. But little work can be done nowadays without coal, whilst without it the carrying trade is at a standstill. It did not, therefore, take long to create a strong public opinion that the case should be settled and justice done. The excellent behaviour of the miners strengthened their case, and showed the thoroughness of their organization. Although the victory has not been complete, an advance of ten per cent in the wages is agreed to. Furthermore, the companies agree to take up, with their wage employees, all the grievances complained of. The President of the United Mine Workers, Mr. John Mitchell, in calling off the strike, reminds the men of the "that the laws of Pennsylvania are to be that miners shall be paid as 'monthly upon demand'; and he