

NORTHWEST REVIEW.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28, 1900.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

DECEMBER.

- 2—First Sunday in Advent.
- 3—Monday St. Francis Xavier, S. J., Apostle of the Indies.
- 4—Tuesday—St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Doctor.
- 5—Wednesday — Votive office of St. Joseph. Fast Day.
- 6—Thursday—St. Nicolas, Bishop.
- 7—Friday—Vigil. St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor. Fast Day.
- 8—Saturday—Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. Holy day of obligation.

CURRENT COMMENT.

We are in receipt of the first three monthly numbers of the *Labour Gazette*, the official organ of the Department of Labour, which was established by order of Parliament under authority of the Conciliation Act, 1900. By Order-in-Council dated July 19, Mr. Mulock was appointed Minister of Labour. The editor of the *Labour Gazette* is Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King. Among the regular labor correspondents figures Mr. John Appleton, of this city. The *Gazette* is published in both English and French. Orders and subscriptions—three cents per single copy, or twenty cents a year, payable in advance—should be addressed to The Accountant, Department of Labour, Ottawa. Remittances must not be made in postage stamps. It is recommended that money be sent by postal note, made payable to the order of the accountant. If sent in this way, letters need not be registered and may be sent free of postage.

Each number of the *Labour Gazette* contains 42 pages of great practical interest to all right-minded citizens. The best way to give an idea of the scope of this publication is to reproduce the contents of the November issue. It opens with an editorial notice of the more important articles. Then follow reports from local correspondents in Halifax, St. John, N. B., Quebec city and district, St. Hyacinthe, Que., and district, Montreal and district, Toronto and district, Hamilton and district, Guelph and district, London, Ont., and district, Winnipeg and district, New Westminster and district, Vancouver, B. C., and Vancouver Island. Next come schedules of retail prices of articles for domestic consumption, rents of houses for workingmen,

rates paid for board and lodging by workingmen. The labor difficulties at Valleyfield, Que., are reviewed. A list of unions formed during October comprises seventeen trades, including the union of civic employees in this city. "Legislation in Canada for the protection of persons employed in factories" is a very thorough digest of the laws on this important question. A list of eleven government contracts for October follows, with fair wages schedules in each case prepared by the "Fair Wages" officer, Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, who is one of the oldest and best known labor leaders in the Dominion. We read in the September issue of the *Gazette* that "in one or two instances he has reported that the rates being paid were not those current in the district, and the government has taken immediate steps to secure the payment of a fair wage." A table of ten trade disputes in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec during the month of October gives the grievances of both employers and workmen, the time each dispute lasted and the results. "The coal mining industry in Canada" covers nine pages of facts and figures. There we learn that the coal areas of Manitoba are roughly estimated at 15,000 square miles, yielding lignites of a very good quality. In the "Enforcement of the Alien Labor Act during October," we read of the complaints made and the action taken in regard to each. Reports of the London (Eng.) Board of Trade on wages are discussed at length. Among increases in wages are those of farm laborers in England and Wales. The last article contains synopses of recent legal decisions affecting labor, one of which is *Kelly vs. City of Winnipeg* re the minimum rate of 17½ cents per hour on corporation work.

The above summary is sufficient to show what a mine of information for the student of the conditions of labor is furnished in the *Labour Gazette* for three cents, and what a valuable yearly history of this most vital question one can secure for twenty cents. The labor question is one which the Sovereign Pontiff has treated in a masterly fashion himself, and on which he desires that all enlightened Catholics should be well informed, especially if they have a voice in the framing of municipal, provincial, or federal laws. The workingmen are the thews and sinews of the nation, and are fast becoming a great factor in its directive brain.

"The Jubilee" is the appropriate General Intention for December in preparation for the year 1901, during which the benefits of the Jubilee will be extended to all the faithful, even to those who cannot go to Rome. His Holiness wishes that the Holy Year should be the solemn glorification of the Redeemer of the world. "In the forthcoming manifestations of faith and religion," says Leo XIII., "let this special intention be kept in view—hatred of all that which within our memory has been impiously said or done against the Divine Majesty of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and to make amends publicly for the injuries publicly inflicted upon him."

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BUTTER AND CHEESE.

At the end of a year which has been, on the whole, decidedly unfavorable to the great Manitoba staple, wheat, it may not be amiss to direct attention to that other stand-by of our stock-raising farmers, the dairy interest. Our city contemporary, *The Commercial*, whose authority in business matters is paramount, devotes more than two pages of its issue of Nov. 17 to the Convention of the Butter and Cheese Makers' Union, and has the following editorial leader on the report of the meetings:

"The sessions of the new Manitoba Butter and Cheese Makers' Union held last Thursday and Friday, to which reference was made in last Saturday's *Commercial*, were more than usually interesting. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss ways and means of improving the dairy products of Manitoba, particularly cheese, which it is well known is not what it should be as regards quality. The promoters of the new union are engaged in both the making and selling industries themselves and have been for some time pointing out in their individual capacity the faults that have made necessary the formation of this new union, which appears to be in some respects usurping the functions of the old Manitoba Dairy Association, and they have been subjected to rather severe criticism at times for their course in the matter. Now that the opinions they expressed have taken shape in the formation of this union the truthfulness of their contentions is being generally admitted and the industry awakened to a sense of the danger with which it is threatened. The meetings of last week were well attended and there seemed to be no two opinions as to the reality of the difficulties which have confronted the dairying industry of this province. It was also gratifying to note that the opinion of the meetings seemed to be unanimous upon the main points brought out in the discussions. Unity is above all things needed if this fine industry is to be placed and kept in the place which it ought to occupy as compared with other provinces of Canada. There can be no room for dissension. Not only must the makers of the goods be at one with each other in effort to improve the industry, but the dealers must also be at one with the makers, and the government's dairy department with both. It cannot be said that this has been the case for some time past, and the inferior quality of cheese is largely due to lack of unanimity and singleness of purpose in the management of the industry.

The new union starts out under good auspices if the attendance and feeling at last week's meeting are anything to judge by. There seemed to be no division of opinion so far as those engaged in the industry are concerned, and a good programme of work for the future was mapped out. Before the gathering broke up a deputation waited upon the government to urge certain reforms which are thought to be necessary. A full report of the meeting is given elsewhere in this issue.

A considerable portion of the report is taken up with the address by the President of the Butter and Cheese Makers' Union, Mr. S. M. Barré, who proved up to the hilt the necessity of organization and centralization if Manitoba cheese is to be brought to perfection. He gave an exhaustive review of the butter and cheese factories in this province, pointed out their most glaring defects, and suggested practical remedies such as are ap-

plied most successfully in Ontario and Quebec.

The evening session of Thursday, Nov. 8th, was, we are pleased to see, attended by several priests: Rev. Dr. Béliveau, representing His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface; Rev. Father Guillet, O. M. I., pastor St. Mary's; Rev. Father Lacasse, O. M. I.; Rev. Father Jolys, representing the largest cheese centre in Manitoba, and Rev. Father Jutras, of Letellier. This evening session being largely attended by cheese makers from the French parishes, the President repeated in French what he had said in the afternoon session. Rev. Father Lacasse, who has done so much to improve farming in the Province of Quebec, addressed the meeting, and showed the progress made in Eastern Canada during the last fifteen years.

Rev. Father Jolys, of St. Pierre, which is, as we have said, the largest cheese centre in the Province of Manitoba, next spoke on dairying in Manitoba, showing what had been accomplished in his own parish and pointing out the fact that the parishioners would not feel very much the effects of the grain crop failure this year, as they mostly depended on the cheese crop.

Nor did all these interesting speeches end in nothing. At noon the next day a large delegation of butter and cheese makers waited upon the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, expressed their views on what should be done to improve the quality of our butter and cheese, and embodied these views in a petition containing eighteen suggestions of highly practical value.

Mr. S. M. Barré deserves great credit for having so ably conducted the labors of the convention and for having secured the co-operation of the parish clergy, whose influence and experience in such matters was fully recognized and appreciated by the lay members of the convention.

THE MUNICIPAL OUTLOOK.

During the past twelve months the citizens of Winnipeg have had almost unlimited opportunities of marking their ballots, but probably the most important election of all, involving as it does issues which come closely home to every taxpayer and householder in the community, is that which will decide during the next few weeks into whose hands shall be committed the affairs of the city during the first year of the new century. Already there are many signs that there will be no lack of candidates for the important positions of mayor and aldermen which have to be filled, and it is clear, too, that the battle, although it must be a short one, will, in all probability, develop a bitterness which good citizens would desire to avoid.

Already personal feeling and individual animosities have come to the surface in connection with the campaign inaugurated by certain of the leading aspirants for civic honors. For instance, there is the case of Alderman Ross, who is in the field for the mayoralty. The main plank of the platform on which he appeals for support seems to be the alleged incapacity or blundering of the city engineer, and this is advanced with a bitterness and a persistency which have already lost the alderman scores, and we believe hundreds, of votes he might otherwise have got. The mass of the people are not yet prepared to condemn the engineer. The evidence that has been given them is not at all clear or convincing, and with the love of fair play that always characterizes Winnipeg people, they do not intend to assist in sentencing Col. Ruttan until he is found guilty. They know his case is before the courts and they feel that it is, to say the least, indelicate to make a matter that has been referred to a judge of the courts a subject of debate and discussion on the hustings, and the foundation of an appeal to the electors. It may be that the court will sustain all that has been charged against the Colonel, although those who know him best believe that he will come through the judicial enquiry with flying colors, but whether

he does or not, there can be no doubt that the verdict of the court will be binding on next year's council and the cause should not form a prominent feature of the present election. Besides Ald. Ross there are at least three other candidates for the mayoralty, namely, Mayor Wilson, Ald. Mitchell, and ex-Ald. Arbutnot. To our mind the last named is the best of the bunch and would in all respects make a worthy mayor of the city. He is one of our unobtrusive but useful and public spirited citizens whom it should be our delight to honor and, as he is willing to devote his time to serving us during the next year in the capacity of mayor, we are of the opinion that the citizens should avail themselves of his services. As to the aldermanic candidates, not much can be said at this writing. We do not agree with the sentiment that seems to prevail in some quarters that a clean sweep

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