

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1885

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have sent out a large number of bills to subscribers in arrears, and up to date the returns have not been as large as they should be. As a newspaper, no more than any other business, can be run on an empty treasury, we earnestly trust that all our patrons receiving these bills will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness to THE TRUE WITNESS without delay.

A LIVELY debate is taking place in the Legislature of Nova Scotia on the resolutions declaring for secession from the Dominion confederation. The morning despatches tell us that brilliant and able addresses are being made in favor of the resolutions.

RUSSIA has a pretty fair population to draw from for military purposes. The returns of the census taken in 1882 give the population of Russia in Europe as numbering 77,579,521, of whom 38,651,977 were males and 30,227,544 females, making, with the grand duchy of Finland and other parts of the empire, a total of over 102,000,000.

WHERE is the gallant Col. Williams, M.P., who made such a fuss a few weeks ago to get out to the Soudan to slaughter the Arabs? How is it we do not hear of his eagerness to march against the North-West rebels? Perhaps he considers Riel and his half-breeds too small game upon which to waste his powder and shot; but the gallant colonel should not forget that it was the same Riel that gave the British army its leading general and made Wolsley a hero and a peer.

We publish in another column an appeal on behalf of the widows and orphans left destitute by the disastrous accident in the Vale Clillery, Nova Scotia. The distress of these suffering women and children is vouched for by respectable and reliable authorities, and ought to touch the hearts of the charitable and the generous in this city and elsewhere. The unfortunate families are in a destitute condition, and are altogether unprovided for. All donations, therefore, small as well as large, will be thankfully received by the treasurer on behalf of the widows and the orphans.

At the closing meeting of the Mock Parliament last evening the question of Canadian independence was dealt with. The resolutions declaring in its favor were only lost by the small majority of 4 votes. The advocates of independence had admittedly the best of the arguments all through, its opponents appealing mainly to sentiment to defeat the motion. Even those who spoke against the resolution had to admit that independence was only a question of time. We believe it is a question of the very near future, for Canada will never

amount to much until it abandons its colonial title and meets other countries and governments as a nation.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR had been condemned by Archbishop Taschereau of Quebec and had been placed by His Grace in the black category of dangerous and immoral secret organizations, to which it was formally and strictly prohibited to belong. In this a grave injustice appears to have been done to the Knights of Labor, for after a closer and fuller scrutiny of the aims and objects of this organization, the Archbishop has revoked his condemnation of the Knights of Labor and gives them the same countenance as to any other benevolent society. There was nothing in the constitution or the workings of the Knights of Labor to warrant the anathemas of the church, and they have been withdrawn in consequence.

In a recent debate in the English House of Commons on the Redistribution Bill, the Irish members entered a strong protest against the manner in which the constituencies in Ulster are being gerrymandered for the benefit of the Protestant portion of the population. Although almost half of the population in the northern counties are Catholics, things are so arranged that they will be able to elect only one out of five or six members. To the objections of the Nationalists, the Ministerialists replied that the "loyal minority" in Ireland had to be protected and to have their representation doubly secured. Mr. T. D. Sullivan pointed out that the loyal minority, as they called themselves, were only loyal while they were petted and pampered and favored by England. How long would they be loyal if they received the treatment which was dealt out to the majority of the Irish people? How long would they be loyal if they had to submit to confiscation and religious persecution? Which was it better for England that there should be a loyal minority or a loyal majority in Ireland? He could tell the House that there never would be a loyal majority in Ireland until the so-called loyal minority were brought to their senses.

CLEVELAND'S administration is trying to earn a reputation for cleanliness and reform by passing over the names of tried politicians and party-workers in the appointments to office, and by filling them with men who have not been conspicuous dabblers in politics. There is something in all this which is quite foreign to representative government. As the N. Y. Sun pertinently asks, "Why should a man be chosen to receive political honors who does not himself take interest enough in politics to attend to primary elections, and to bear a part in the councils and efforts of the party he proposes to belong to? But for the earnest working-men of a party who are devoted to its ideas and are willing to labor for their realization, no party would amount to anything. It may be very well after election to scorn these earnest men of principle and labor, but when conventions are to be organized, nominations made, and elections carried, it will not do to scorn them. For our part, we cherish more respect for a single Bourbon who works at the primaries and is always seen at the polls, than for fifty superfine theorists, who think themselves superior to the people and look on politics and parties as only worthy of contempt."

ANOTHER State Legislature in the great American Republic has put on official record its sympathy with the people of Ireland in their struggle for liberty. The Senate and Assembly of Kansas, in commemoration of the birth of the young Irish martyr, Robert Emmet, adopted the following preamble and resolutions introduced by Capt. J. B. Johnson. They read:—

"Whereas, our young and vigorous free-born State has ever been the prosperous and happy home of the formerly oppressed exiles as well as the freedman, with whose frugality and industry Kansas has been made to bloom and blossom in fragrant contentment; and whereas, in all struggles for liberty, Ireland and her sons have ever been potent allies and factors, especially in our own, — herself, as the world's history records, a travailing subject of crucifying oppression for over 800 years, making her sons and daughters exiles in the world; therefore, be it

In one of its last issues the Toronto Mail said that the sensational stories published in the papers concerning an insurrection among the half-breeds and Indians in the Saskatchewan region were a tissue of exaggerations. There was "no rebellion" in that district or anywhere else. How far our contemporary was wrong in its calculations and assertions regarding the growing troubles in the North-West may be gathered from this morning's despatches, which give a detailed account of the first conflict between the rebels and the government troops. The attitude of the half-breeds and Indians under the leadership of the notorious Riel is one of utter defiance, and one which, from all appearance, will not be put down except by the strong arm of war. There has already been bloody work, and the authorities do not appear to be in a position to say when or where it will stop. A first battle has been fought at Duck Lake between the rebels and the Canadian forces, with disastrous consequences to the latter, they having had twelve men killed and eleven wounded. The losses on the other side are not reported. A grave responsibility rests upon the govern-

ment if the grievances of the North-West could have been attended to and settled without any appeal to arms, or if all means had not been taken to prevent and suppress any attempt at insurrection from the start.

THERE is a very marked falling off in the number of European emigrants crossing the Atlantic this year. Of what does come Canada is getting but an insignificant share. The flow to the United States has decreased to the extent of about thirty-four per cent. compared with last year's returns. The total number of immigrants arriving in New York and other American ports during the month of February was 11,019, as against 15,862 arriving in the same month of 1884. The total arrivals for the first two months of this year were 18,830, against 27,877 arriving in the first two months of 1884. The following table shows the nationality of the immigrants arriving during the month of February:—

Table with 2 columns: Country and Number of Immigrants. Includes entries for England and Wales, Norway and Sweden, Ireland, Canada, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Total.

ONE of the most useful provisions of the Quebec License Act is that by which the unfortunate wife of a drunkard can give notice to saloonkeepers to cease supplying her husband with liquor under heavy penalties and damages to the family. But, with the aid of a little conspiracy, liquor dealers manage to surmount the difficulty and supply spirits to the drunkard without bringing themselves within the reach of the law. Instead of selling to him directly, third parties, or go-betweens, are employed; the liquor is given to them and they in turn pass it to the husband, thus leaving the wife without any recourse against the saloon or hotel keeper. This little game is destined to be spoiled for the future. Mr. Gagnon, member for Kamouraska, has just introduced a bill to amend the License Act in such a manner as to cover and frustrate all such manoeuvring. Mr. Gagnon intends to have the law so framed as to be able to reach these third parties and punish them as severely as the liquor dealers themselves. We are glad to see that Mr. Gagnon has been promised the undivided support of the house for his timely amendment.

THE Ontario Legislature should learn a lesson from the State Legislature of New York in the matter of the Niagara Falls, and observe the way which New York is taking to save the American portion of the Falls from the hands of the vandals. The Niagara Park Bill was sent by the House to a third reading by an overwhelming majority. It was shown that the lands surrounding the Falls had gradually been obtained by private speculators, and the public had been either shut out or subjected to extortionate fees for admittance. The land owners had demanded four million dollars, but the commission that appraised the land only awarded a little less than a million and a half. Against the awards of the commission only four appeals have been made, so that the cost to the State will be but a trifle. No compensation for alleged water rights was admitted, as the lawyer showed that these rights were already owned by the State. What New York has done for the American people towards restoring the banks of the Niagara to their natural state, Ontario should not be behind hand in following suit. Canada cannot afford to have the beauty and the grandeur of the Falls detracted from in the least, and it is the duty of the Government to ensure their perpetual enjoyment to the public.

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE CABINET.

The system or policy of giving the several provinces a certain and specified number of representatives in the Federal Cabinet is not a good one, and may often lead to unhappy results. In the first place it would be absurd to make the number of Cabinet portfolios depend upon the number and influence of the provinces that would compose the Dominion. The membership of a government must be limited, and the more limited the better; but there is no limit to be placed upon the number of provinces that may spring up within the confederation in the future. Consequently, the system of provincial representation in the federal cabinet is a bad one, conflicting as it would with the proper limitation of the Government, to say nothing of the inferior representatives it might force into the Cabinet. We think it would be more advisable to follow as close as possible the principle that the most honest and capable men, no matter where they come from or what portion of the Dominion they represent, should be selected to fill positions in the Government. We accordingly fully agree with the Gazette when it says that sectional representation shall be made of secondary consideration. Let the general interest of the Dominion be served first by men of tried fidelity and capacity, then local or other interests may come in for recognition. Our morning contemporary, writing on this subject, remarks that "certain classes will, of course, always find an exponent of their views in the Ministry, as for example, the French-Canadians and the Irish-Canadians, if for no other reason than that political expediency requires their being represented; and certain large sections of the Dominion will also continue to have in government men specially concerned in their welfare, as, for example, the Maritime provinces as a whole and the great North-West. But the hard and fast rule of so many representatives to Nova Scotia, so many to New Brunswick, and so

and towards construction of North Shore Railway. This would leave a difference of \$1,224,360.77 excess of gross receipts over gross expenditure, while the difference between ordinary annual receipts and ordinary annual expenditure would be about \$240,000. The approximate statement of liabilities and assets of the province made up to the last fiscal year indicates a fair improvement, although the amount of the liabilities is still very considerably in excess of the value of the assets, the liabilities being \$20,985,348.89 and the assets \$12,290,880.58, leaving a balance of nearly nine millions in favor of the former.

VOTING FOR AN ARCHBISHOP.

The voting for the successor of the late Cardinal McCabe as Archbishop of Dublin shows the almost universal esteem and confidence in which the patriotic Dr. Walsh, president of the Maynooth college, is held by the clergy and dignitaries of the archdiocese. Dr. Walsh has had the signal honor of having the highest vote ever cast for a candidate to the Archbishopric of the Irish capital. The result of the ballot was as follows:— Dignissimus—Very Rev. W. Walsh, D.D., President St. Patrick's College, Maynooth (Vicar Capitular), 46; Dignior—The Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, 12; Dignus—The Very Rev. Dr. Tynan, 3; The Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, Bishop of Ardagh, 2. Cardinal Cullen was dignissimus in 1852, but he received only 23 votes; and the late Cardinal McCabe was at the head of the list with 43 votes. But the President of Maynooth has now received 46 votes, the largest number ever cast for an Archbishop of Dublin, since the present mode of procedure was prescribed for Ireland in 1829.

The constitution under which the clergy act is peculiar to Ireland. In England it is only the members of the chapter who vote; and in America, Australia and the colonies generally the privilege is confined to the bishops of the ecclesiastical province. In Ireland the scrutiny is much more severe and testing, for the parish priests and canons, with the bishops in the province, are all consulted. It may be interesting to know the Irish method of procedure, which is as follows:— (Within a few days after the death or translation of the Bishop, the Chapter elects its Vicar Capitular, who is to administer the diocese during the vacancy. When his appointment has been made known to the Archbishop, or, in his absence, to the senior suffragan Bishop, the latter orders the Vicar to summon the Canons and Parish Priests for the 20th day, at a place and hour appointed, to recommend three priests whom they judge to be the fittest to fill the vacancy. The assembly opens with Mass of the Holy Ghost to be His light and guidance on so important a choice; then the list is called, and when it has been shown that all have been legitimately summoned, each priest approaches the urn in order of seniority, and having taken an oath in the presence of the Bishop, that he is giving his vote uninfluenced by favor or fear, or hope of temporal advantage, he places his secret paper in the ballot-box for him whom he honestly believes to be the best fitted for the vacant See. When all have cast their votes, they are taken out by the presiding Bishop, examined by sworn scrutineers, and registered by the secretary. Two copies of the votes are then taken, one to be sent to the Propaganda, and one to be kept for the meeting of the Provincial Bishops, who meet to deliberate on the chosen ecclesiastic within ten days, and to send their judgment to Rome."

HON. MR. ROBERTSON'S BUDGET SPEECH.

HON. MR. ROBERTSON, the Provincial Treasurer, placed the annual Budget before the House yesterday afternoon. His speech was a plain and unvarnished tale. There were no artful or misleading embellishments indulged in. He considered it to be his duty to explain things just as they are, to show the dark side of the picture as well as the bright side. The task might be disagreeable, but he was determined to let the House and the country see the true position of affairs. There is no disguising the fact that the financial condition of the province is not as sound and prosperous as we would all like it to be, and Mr. Robertson attempts to throw no veil over that fact. He, on the contrary, emphasizes it, and warns the House that the closest attention to our finances and the strictest economy are required if we want to make ends meet. The sources of revenue for the province are exceedingly limited, and many of these are being altogether dried up with time, while, on the other hand, the expenditure for the administration of the public concern increases, and necessarily so, with the growth of the population and the development of the country. The Hon. Treasurer complains, and we believe his complaint well founded, that the Provincial Treasury is opened to too many absolutely local objects, which should be managed and cared for by the various municipalities. There should, as a matter of principle and as a general rule, be no government assistance given to purely local concerns. Then another complaint is that the Government has the utmost difficulty in collecting what is honestly due to it. Mr. Robertson says that "while hundreds of thousands of people practically ignore their obligation to pay Government claims and hold back from payment, and furthermore, are clamorous for money for thousands of different objects which they consider legitimate and necessary from the Government, it is hardly possible for a Government to do as they would and begin to satisfy the people of the country."

The sentiment of the country would be with the Government if they pushed and forced the collection of these claims. From the detailed statement of receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year, there appears to be a deficit of some \$240,000. The treasurer was able to state that this figure was considerably smaller than the deficits of previous years, and that with time he hoped to establish the much desired equilibrium. His financial statement shows that the ordinary receipts for the year amounted to \$2,885,081.69; and with receipts from extraordinary sources, such as trust funds, railway receipts and proceeds of loans, the amount of the total revenue was brought up to \$5,893,593.08. The expenditure, on the other hand, for the ordinary public service amounted to \$3,125,126.28, which was increased to \$4,609,232.31 by expenditures for extraordinary purposes, such as parliament buildings, court house, railway subsidies and guarantee, repayment of temporary loans,

and towards construction of North Shore Railway. This would leave a difference of \$1,224,360.77 excess of gross receipts over gross expenditure, while the difference between ordinary annual receipts and ordinary annual expenditure would be about \$240,000. The approximate statement of liabilities and assets of the province made up to the last fiscal year indicates a fair improvement, although the amount of the liabilities is still very considerably in excess of the value of the assets, the liabilities being \$20,985,348.89 and the assets \$12,290,880.58, leaving a balance of nearly nine millions in favor of the former.

An interesting comparison is made between the increasing cost of the public administration of affairs in Ontario and that in Quebec during the past fourteen years. Ontario has the reputation of being well and economically governed, and is generally looked upon as a model for other provinces to follow. The following table deals with the leading items of the public service and shows the increase in Ontario's expenditure at three different periods:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Ontario, and Quebec. Rows include Legislature, Civil Government, Justice, Education, Public Institutions, Immigration, Agriculture, and Miscellaneous.

This increase is very marked, but it is only natural, for as the country is settled and population multiplies the cost of the administration must necessarily increase. In the case of Quebec, however, this increase in expenditure has been much less marked, as can be seen by the following:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Ontario, and Quebec. Rows include Legislature, Civil Government, Justice, Education, Public Institutions, Immigration, Agriculture, and Miscellaneous.

These statements show that Ontario has increased her expenditure on certain services from one to over two million dollars in the space of 14 years, while the increase in Quebec has been about 65 per cent. less, or only \$355,201 in the same time. The fact of the matter is that it is not so much the enormity of the expenditure that he people have to complain of, and that straightens the treasury, as the limitedness and paucity of the sources of revenue at the command of the Government.

IS IT A CIVIL REBELLION OR A RELIGIOUS WAR?

Our pious contemporary, the Montreal Daily Witness, is at its pestiferous work again. It is making the most disloyal efforts to give the rebellion in the North-West a religious complexion, and even goes so far as to give its readers to understand that the half-breeds and Indians got their mot d'ordre from the Catholic Church in their revolt against the constituted authorities of the Dominion. What loyal or patriotic purpose the Daily Witness has to serve by this malignant misrepresentation of the situation, it is difficult to fathom. The rebellion is grave and serious enough, God knows, without the Daily Witness attempting to make of it a religious war. Our contemporary makes out that the rebellion is got up mainly on behalf of the interests and for the benefit of the Church, and appeals to the country to frustrate the design. It is fortunate that the religious dog of the Witness, if not altogether dead, is at least quite toothless. Its barking attitude will lead to serious complications, but will elicit an expression of mingled indignation and contempt from all citizens who do not share in its venom and deep-rooted bigotry. This is what its impotent hatred of the Catholic Church prompted that religious daily to write about the serious and painful shape the North-West Rebellion has assumed; it says:—

"It (the Rebellion) is now beyond the control of the Church which so profitably to itself took part in and quelled the uprising on the Red River, and threw its cloak over the red-handed leader. This wholesale and heartrending slaughter of loyal citizens will leave the country in a humor to pay this time the enormous ecclesiastical tribute which forms the principal burden of Riel's rights."

What has the Church got to do with the rising of the half-breeds and Indians that the Witness should consider itself authorized to say that the rebellion is now beyond the control of the Church? If it is beyond the control of anybody we should imagine it would be the mounted police and the Government. What does the Witness mean by the absurd contradiction that the Church took part in the uprising at the Red River, and that she quelled the said uprising? Its fanaticism is even a barrier to grammatical construction and to a clear exposition of its views.

The Witness next describes the important and invaluable services rendered to the Confederation by Archbishop Taché, who was specially brought from the Vatican Council in Rome by the Dominion Government to act as a healing intermediary, "as throwing a cloak over the red-handed leader." An enormous ecclesiastical tribute, says the Witness, forms the principal burden of Riel's bill of rights, and the country will be in no humor this time to pay it. Whatever may be the size of the tribute referred to in the bill of rights, nothing will be exacted but what is right and just, and we can assure our contemporary that it will be none of its black-hearted diatribes which will put the country in no humor to fulfill its obligation. We fully agree with the Gazette when it says that "there will be no sympathy for Riel in any quarter in his present course. Protestant and Roman Catholic, English and French, are united as they never were before under the common name and with the common impulse of Canadians." A morning despatch,

which is opportune, as it counteracts the recklessness and maliciousness of the Witness' statements, states that Archbishop Taché expresses indignation at being suspected of giving countenance to the insurrection. He says he got Riel out of one scrape, but now that he has got into another he must take the odium of it and suffer as he deserves for his indiscretion. The movement has no sympathy from the Roman Catholic Church. To start a civil rebellion is a traitor's work, but to stir up a religious war is the devil's pastime, and that is what our pious contemporary is at just now.

THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIANS AND HALF-BREEDS.

It is a mistake to imagine that the rebellion in the North-West is of Louis Riel's making, and that the mere capture and stringing up of the half-breed leader will settle the difficulty, and establish peace and contentment in the vast domains to the north and west of the confederation. Riel is not the cause of the insurrection; he is simply the leader of it, chosen and accepted as such by the hardy pioneer settlers of the North-Western territories. It is stated on very excellent authority that early last summer Riel, who was then living quietly in Montana and who had become a citizen of the United States, was waited upon by a delegation of half-breeds from the Saskatchewan country and made acquainted with their grievances against the Canadian Government. After much persuasion and many promises of protection, Riel was induced to champion their rights, as he did for the Metis or half-breeds of Manitoba in 1870, and he returned with the delegation to their home. He first directed his efforts to settle the trouble in a lawful and constitutional manner. Meetings were held and resolutions passed calling upon the Government to secure the Indian and half-breed population in their rights. The first demand for consideration was preferred by these people ten years ago, when they asked to be placed on the same footing as regards free homesteads, as the Metis in Manitoba. Apparently their demands were but little heeded, and they began to despair of ever obtaining justice by peaceful means. Last fall they drew up a sort of ultimatum in the shape of a bill of rights, which was adopted at a large and enthusiastic public meeting at St. Laurent. The bill contains seven demands, none of which are extraordinary; they are: first, the subdivision into provinces of the North-West territories; second, half-breeds to receive the same grants and other advantages as Manitoba half-breeds; third, patents to be issued at once to colonists in possession; fourth, the sale of half a million acres of Dominion lands, the proceeds to be applied to the establishment on the half-breed settlements of schools, hospitals and such like institutions, and the equipment of the poorer half-breeds with seed, grain and implements; fifth, the reservation of a hundred townships of swamp land for distribution among the children of half-breeds during the next one hundred and twenty years; sixth, the grant of at least \$1,000 for the maintenance of an institution to be conducted by the sons in each half-breed settlement; and seventh, better provision for the support of the Indians.

This bill was presented to the Government at Ottawa; but it appears no action was taken upon it. This indifference to their demands has caused discontent to ripen into open revolt. That is the reason why we say that the shooting or hanging of Riel will not be a solution of the problem, nor will it restore peace and contentment to the North-West. It is to be deeply deplored that the spilling of blood, the destruction of property, and the spending of immense treasures, have been rendered necessary in the settlement of a question of justice and right. The losses to the country will be far-reaching and incalculable.

THE MONTREAL COLLEGE CONVENTION.

The Executive Committee of the convention have sent the following for publication:— MONTREAL, 15th March, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Within the last few years several educational establishments have had convocations of their former pupils which have been attended with the most happy results. It has appeared to a large number of former Montreal College pupils that it would be proper and agreeable, — all those who have received their education at the shadow of that old Alma mater, to return to the familiar haunts of their youth and, for the space of one day at least, to enjoy the hospitality of the ever kind gentlemen of St. Sulpice, as well as the privileges of the ancient and honored Deo gratias.

It is not right to halt, for a few moments at least, in the rugged road of life, to rest one's weary limbs by the dust roadway and to cast a retrospective glance upon one's early recollections, upon the pure and bright joys which hovered about us in our boyhood and in the days of early youth. Such a meeting as the one contemplated would naturally recall to our minds the early teachings and counsels of wisdom imparted to us with such fostering care by our worthy masters, and would give to our entire lives a fresh impetus in the proper direction as well as renewed strength to carry out the noble mission which a sound training had prepared us for. These are the motives which prompted a large number of your old College mates to form a committee and, with the approbation of the gentlemen of St. Sulpice, to call a convention of all former pupils of the Montreal College to take place on the 17th of next June. This Committee desires to know, without delay, whether it can rely on the pleasure of your presence at the Convention and desires to add also that it will be happy to ascertain from you whether you are aware of any other former pupil living in your immediate vicinity to whom a similar invitation might be addressed. On behalf of the invitation Committee. A. L. SENTNER, President. PIERRE CHAUVEAU, Secretary.

THE POPE'S NOMINATIONS. ROME, March 27.—The Pope to-day nominated several bishops to sees in America.