

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Balfour is back in the Commons, but he is only the shadow of his former self.

Discovery has recently been made that the State of Texas overlays a sea of salt.

Pistol "toting" or carrying, is one of the evils of the Southern States; aye and of the Northern States, too.

Dr. Douglas Hyde continues a very successful tour in the United States. Will he be brought here? is what we want to know.

Mr. James H. Eckels of Chicago gives advice to Presbyterian young men and tells them the "creation of wealth is one of the highest Christian ideals!" Glory!

Professor Samuel P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D.C., is dead. He was well known as a scientist throughout the world. He was of Irish origin.

Since Jan. 1 the Salvation Army of London has booked 4,000 emigrants among the poor for Canada. 1,400 of these sailed per the steamer "Kensington" March 1.

On motion of Controller Ward of the Toronto City Council, \$2.00 per day has been made the minimum wage for city laborers. More than fifty years ago 75 cents per day was the figure.

Advices from Buenos Ayres in South America inform us that General Mitre, one of the great men of that republic, died recently and had a great public funeral. He was the Washington of that country.

The Lenton regulations of the Diocese of Hamilton calls on all Catholics to support and send their children to the separate schools on pain of being refused the sacraments if they neglect to do so.

Justin McCarthy states that John Bright was the greatest of English orators in his time. Gladstone and Shiel were two great orators, but it was hard to say which was the greatest.

Fresh alarm has been raised in the United States over the Mormons. It is claimed they are contemplating a Mormon empire which will include the States of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. At any rate they are becoming very numerous in those states and territories.

According to American ministers and editors many evils are now menacing the safety of the republic. Formerly the one great evil was slavery. Now it is a dozen other things—the money power, the liquor traffic, disregard of religion, the political bosses, workmen's unions, etc.

In the Diocese of Montreal Sunday observance is now very strict. Concerts and theatrical representations even when for charitable purposes, are forbidden. Of excursions only those are permitted which are in reality religious pilgrimages, and not for gain.

The marshy condition of the country around Cobalt creates a dread that when the warm weather comes and the population increases there will be much sickness and many deaths in that locality.

Reports from the Yukon goldfields assert that there is lots of gold there yet.

The "Irish World" of last week contains a table showing the criminality among the foreign populations of New York city, stating that there is one criminal in every 2,807 of the Irish; one criminal in every 998 of the English; one in every 2,178 of the Swedes; one in 1,152 of the Austrians; one in 1,053 of the French; and one in 1,771 of the Germans.

The greatest horseracing man in the United States is "Ed" Corrigan, an Irishman by blood, but a Lower Canadian by birth. He won a great race on the 27th ult., at New Orleans, when his colt "John Carroll," galloped home an easy winner in the Rex Handicap. The race was worth \$1,250 to the winner.

The annual revenue of the Province of Ontario is \$6,000,000. Of this sum the Dominion has contributed \$1,339,387, and the Crown Lands administration, in which the Liberal policy has been continued, produced \$2,188,898; the supplemental revenue yielded \$415,688, and the succession duties \$684,178.

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The Woodstock Sentinel-Review says: "There perhaps never was a time when Premier Laurier was nearer to the hearts of Ontario Liberals than he is to-day, when the organized attacks of his opponents have grown so bitter and so persistent. There never was a time when the grandeur of his personality, the fine quality of his courage, and the purity and sincerity of his motives stood so clearly revealed as they now are by the very character and severity of the storm which assails him."

Prof. A. B. Nicholson, author and professor of languages, died at the General Hospital in Kingston, Ont., on the 28th Feb. He was Professor of Comparative Philology and Sanscrit, and Assistant Professor of Classics in Queen's University. Prof. Nicholson was born in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in 1845. He pursued special studies in Syriac, Chaldean and Sanscrit. He was the author of a learned volume on "Celtic Researches."

The Dominion Parliament is to meet in a few days at Ottawa.

General Sampson, formerly American minister to Ecuador, South America, in a recent newspaper interview, remarked that although illiterate the people are hardworking, moral and honest, perhaps surpassing the natives of any other nation in those respects. There are many churches in the country, but not one Protestant church. He said he was free to say that he would emphatically oppose the idea of sending a Protestant missionary to that country.

The public ownership of municipal utilities seems now to be a leading subject in the United States. Bankers and those interested in private corporations, are mostly its opponents, and endeavor to spread alarming reports of the failure of the system in England, contending that the people of the cities are running themselves irretrievably into debt. Mayor Dunne of Chicago seems to be the chief advocate of the system in the United States.

The Globe says Chicago has an anti-injunction league with a membership of 75,000. This organization has sprung up on account of the frequency of injunctions issued by the United States Courts against workingmen's unions, which is called "government by injunction." The judges who issue those injunctions are said to be at the behest of the capitalists, and this league is intended to restrain them and bring about the abolition of the abuse through congressional enactment.

City elections take place in Chicago first Tuesday in April. Municipal ownership of public utilities, high license for saloons, and the repression of crime are the important questions before the people of that city. The Mayor and members of the corporation are elected for two years. The city is divided into 35 wards, and each ward is entitled to two aldermen, one elected alternately each year. Chicago has recently acquired "home rule" by a supreme court decision. Until recently the city was subject to the control of the state legislature.

Rev. Father A. Bechard, who was born in Quebec fifty-two years ago, and whose youth was spent at Paincourt, near here, died in Montreal, of paralysis, on the 27th ult. He studied for the priesthood in L'Assomption College and the Grand Seminary, Montreal. His first charge was at Stony Point, Essex county. He was at McGregor twelve years. From there he went to Belle River for two years, then to Windsor for one year; when he was taken ill and went to the hospital, where paralysis set in. His remains will be brought to Paincourt for interment.

The Australian Pension Commission of which the Postmaster-General is Chairman, recommends that the Commonwealth grant pensions of ten shillings weekly to all persons of sixty-five years who have lived twenty-five years continuously in the country, or at least sixty years in special cases. The pensioners may possess means up to £26 a year. An estimate of the cost is one and one-half millions sterling annually. The next Parliament will likely legislate on these lines.

The present British government contemplates a similar measure.

Patrick H. Dwyer, who had been connected with the Detroit Poor Commission for thirty years, the greatest part of that time as its secretary, died 22nd Feb. of paralysis. He was born in the city of Quebec fifty-two years ago, and went to Detroit when twelve years of age. He was unceasing in his efforts for the poor and his loss will be keenly felt by many families dependent upon public charity. Mr. Dwyer's father and a sister have died within the past year.

A Chicago paper says: "There is nothing more interesting than a great family of people—one in which every member is endowed with shining talents or manages to secure lofty positions without them. This is the character of the great McCormick family of this city, whose name is the open recourse to every gateway of distinction, and who fill—or at least occupy—every sort of lucrative office—from that of foreign ambassador, down to that of a Chicago alderman."

Mr. Teffy of Richmond Hill is the oldest postmaster in the Dominion. Until a few days ago Mr. Thomas Beasley, of Hamilton, was the oldest town clerk in service, having served in that capacity for more than half a century. Yet our Old-Timer remembers two of Mr. Beasley's predecessors in that office. Mr. Beasley has suffered from gangrene in his legs for a long time which at length made it necessary for him to retire. Mr. Beasley's father was an important man in Hamilton in early days. Mr.

Samuel H. Kent, Mr. Beasley's assistant, is his successor. Mr. Beasley was voted six months' pay on his retirement a short time ago.

Bishop Anderson of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Chicago, is a young man and a Canadian. He is robust and athletic and rides a bicycle. In his Lenton pastoral the Bishop urges the members of the church to abandon during this season the too usual round of gaiety, pleasures and entertainments. The theatre, card parties, dances and similar things are distracting and disturbing to all who wish to use Lent as a time of retirement and spiritual refreshment. The hours saved from these social occupations, he says, might most profitably be spent in attendance at some week-day services and in doing some definite missionary or philanthropic work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

The fact that a son of Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy is now encircling the Globe under the house flag of the Canadian Pacific Railroad has again directed public attention to the limitless ambition of the directive minds in this great enterprise. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was born at Milwaukee, Wis., in 1853, of Irish parents. He married Elizabeth Bridget, daughter of N. Nagley of Wisconsin. Sir Thomas became purchasing agent of the C.P.R. in 1882, and subsequently assistant general manager. He is a director of a number of Canadian railroad enterprises, and President of the Montreal & Western Railway. His residence, of necessity, and perhaps also of choice, is in Montreal.

The earnestness and fervor with which Norman Duncan, a Canadian professor and novelist, with a wide experience in the United States, has painted the well-nigh heathenish conditions of life among the Labrador fisher folks, have made a profound impression on many people. More recently George S. Wasson, an artist and novelist who, whether native to the region or not, evidently knows it and its people intimately and thoroughly, has published two stories in which he reveals not unlike conditions in portions of the "land of steady habits"—along the coast town of New England, Maine especially. There is, Mr. Wasson claims, a degenerate kind of puritanism in religion known among these people, but it is for their irreligion that he arraigns them, for hypocrisy of those who profess to be religious and for an amazing disregard of the laws and customs of civilization prevalent among nearly all of them.

As the result of a mass meeting held in the Englewood district of Chicago on Sunday before last a society to be known as the "Knights of Father Matthew" was organized. The purpose of the society is to teach total abstinence and provide insurance for the members. The ages of the members range from twelve to fifty years. A boy can insure his life for \$250 at a cost of 15 cents per month. Policies to any amount are issued to the older members. John O'Reilly, Deputy Supreme Chief, delivered an address in which he urged men, both young and old, to join in furthering the temperance cause. He told of the success which had followed the efforts of councils in all parts of Chicago. He said the Knights of Father Matthew had the advantage of having a business interest to weld the members together. This interest was "the fraternal insurance, a feature which other temperance organizations did not have. The insurance was the cheapest in the world and the safest."

Five bills embodying a scheme for universal suffrage and other electoral reforms were introduced in the lower House of the Austrian Parliament recently by the Premier, Baron Gautsch von Frankenthurn. The Premier was subjected to noisy interruptions on the part of pan-Germans while explaining the details of the plan, but the majority of the deputies heartily applauded his speech. The bills provide for the election of 455 deputies to the lower House, every Austrian twenty-four years old and domiciled in a constituency for at least a year will be entitled to vote, and everyone possessed of Austrian citizenship for at least three years will be eli-

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gible to election to the lower House. Plural voting is prohibited, and a division of the electoral districts is designed so as to give the Germans 205 representatives, the Slavs 230, the Italians 16 and the Roumanians 4. A bill amending the standing orders of the House provides for the suspension of disorderly members for a period not exceeding one week.

"Go, young gentlemen; remember that human life is not in the main competition, but co-operation. We are not a herd of animals crowding each other; we are a co-operate community of men. Remember also that character is the great source, not only of usefulness, but of happiness. Remember that intellect is far inferior to character. Intellect—what is it when looking up at the skies? It shrinks to a pigmy, whereas duty is the law that keeps the skies themselves from wrong. Go, then, forth, young gentlemen. Go into the world, win what prizes you can, and bring them back to this college, where you have been brought up, but remember that the greatest of all prizes you can win to bring to your college is the reputation of honorable and good citizens and men."

In these words Mr. Goldwin Smith addressed a group of boys to whom he was presenting prizes for general proficiency, at a remarkable gathering to celebrate the formal opening of the new building of St. Andrew's College a few days ago.

Do not delay in getting relief for the little folks. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is a pleasant and sure cure. If you love your child why do you let it suffer when a remedy is so near at hand?

TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

(Continued from page 1.)

which they have not powerfully assisted. When, indeed, we consider the votes they have given, the principles they have been the means of introducing into English legislation, and the influence they have exercised upon the tone and character of the House of Commons, it is probably not too much to say that their presence in the British Parliament has proved the most powerful of all agents in accelerating the democratic transformation of English politics."

Here is the historical acknowledgment of the indebtedness of the English masses to Ireland. Besides, Ireland has given them leaders such as the great Feargus O'Connor, and others.

Two of the leading Labor advocates returned to the present Parliament are Messrs. Keir Hardie and George Barnes. Both have been visiting Ireland since their election. They were received with great enthusiasm at a United Irish League meeting at Cashel, where both delivered addresses. Mr. Hardie said: "Although he was not an Irishman he was possessed of the Gaelic sentiment. Mr. Barnes and himself were both Scotchmen. The Welsh, the Scotch and the Irish people were all branches sprung from the one root. He joined the Irish Land League in 1879, and ever since then he has always supported the Irish party on all Irish questions. In Ireland they wanted to abandon landlordism and also to make laws for the Irish people. The Labor Party in Great Britain also wanted to abandon landlordism, in order to make things as they were in the old Celtic times, when people were neither very rich nor very poor. They were as independent of the Liberals or Conservatives as the Irish Party, and he was sure the Irish Party and the Labor Party would support each other in the future as in the past."

"Mr. Barnes also promised to support the Irish Party on all questions. He was a member of the United Irish League. At the recent election he had to fight two opponents, but he beat the two of them, and had the full support of the Irish voters."

And there is Wales, a purer Celtic country than Ireland. It has a representative in the Cabinet who is an out-and-out Home Ruler. And it is said there is not a Welsh representative in Parliament that will not support and vote for a Liberal Home Rule measure.

There is another Celtic country within the British Isles that I have not heard from, but I am sure it is in friendly union with the lands already mentioned. I mean the Isle of Man. It, no doubt, is in the general sweep. It has a legislative house of its own—the House of Keys—and feels the benefit of a local legislature.

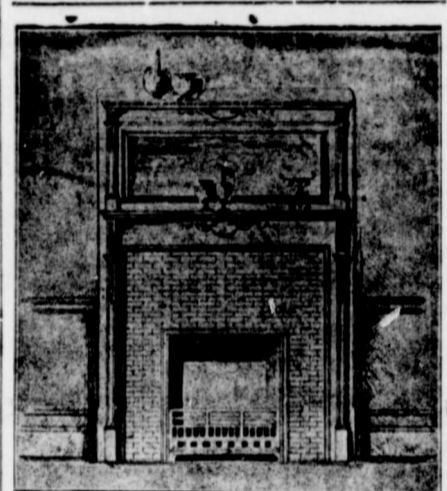
It may be truly said that the late parliamentary victory in Great Britain and Ireland is a Celtic victory as well as a Liberal victory and is calculated to reconcile the Celtic element of the population to British or English, or "Saxon" rule, if you will. "The Celtic fringe" appears to be dominant at last!

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