

## THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY.....FEBRUARY 19, 1890

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19, Ash Wednesday.

THURSDAY, Feb. 20, St. Mildred V.

FRIDAY, Feb. 21, Crown of Thorns.

SATURDAY, Feb. 22, St. Peter's Chair at Antioch.

SUNDAY, Feb. 23, First Sunday of Lent.

MONDAY, Feb. 25, St. Matthias.

TUESDAY, Feb. 26, St. Felix III.

The Dual Language Debate.

The debate in the House of Commons on Dalton McCarthy's Bill to abolish the use of the French language in the laws and legislatures of the North-west has been deeply interesting throughout.

Mr. McCarthy's narrowness and bigotry was well supplemented by Mr. Charlton's partisan and bewailing, Colonel O'Brien's bluster and Mr. McNeill's ranting.

But the magnificent rebuke which Mr. Blake administered to those disturbers, his noble and impassioned defence of French Canadian constitutional rights and his powerful appeal to the good feeling, justice and generosity of the English-speaking people had the ring of true patriotism. The effect on the country is sure to be very great.

Irishmen can fully enter, as Mr. Blake did, into the feelings of their French fellow Canadians, in this latest ebullition of Anglo-Saxonism. The miserable lack of manly kindness displayed by the little knot of fanatics who trot at Mr. McCarthy's heels was about as pitiable an exhibition as could be witnessed. To inflame gratuitously and in cold blood a rankling wound on an honorable, sensitive and thoroughly loyal and virtuous people is the lowest depth to which demagogism could descend. It has all the characteristics of the most offensive, not to say brutal, form of Saxon arrogance. Men imbued with an idea of their own superiority are always offensive, but when they display their airs in Parliament they become dangerous and must be treated accordingly.

Partiality for our own country, language and prejudices and contempt of others, arise from a disposition as thoroughly diseased as the same partiality in an individual in favor of himself. How graceful is Cicero's acknowledgment of the superiority of the Gauls to his countrymen in bodily strength, of the Carthaginians in cunning, and of the Greeks in arts? And when Vergil owns that other countries may produce able orators and artists than those of Rome, do we not esteem him candid much more than if he had set his country above all others? It is, in short always to be concluded, that he who disparages other nations is both conceited and ignorant. He overpraises his own because it is his, and he despises other peoples, because he does not know them. Accordingly national prejudice appears always strongest in the vulgar.

The right now in dispute is the right of a whole people. It is the right of a nationality free and independent as any colony can be. It is a right stipulated by one of the most public and solemn contracts that was ever made, a contract which, on our part we are obliged to observe and fulfil with the greatest alacrity, because the people of Quebec trusted entirely to our honor for its faithful performance. Submitting to be governed by one and the same parliament, in which they knew we would always have a great majority, was really in effect, submitting everything to our honor. Wise and generous men will hope that despite the action of the McCarthy's, Charlton's et al, they should never have occasion to repent of the confidence they have reposed in their English-speaking fellow countrymen.

For this reason, in all cases when the rights or the privileges of the French Canadian people, by virtue of the Act of Confederation, seem to be questioned, we shall always have a strong bias in their favor. Nothing can contribute more to the preservation of the Canadian Dominion than by cementing the union of hearts and affections without which union by law, as in the case of Ireland and England, is a mockery and a sham.

While we have a majority in both houses of parliament, the French Canadian people will always find it impossible to break through or dissolve the legal union that subsists between us. But if we should ever make use of that majority, to break through, or encroach upon these articles that have been stipulated between the two nationalities then the legal union will be of little force. It will only serve to make them desperate, and to run the risk even of their own destruction, in order to rid themselves of the yoke they groan under. They will then be apt to ascribe to our institutions all the ills they may feel, or imagine they feel, and they should unanimously join in a movement for disruption, we know they would be sup-

ported by a powerful party among our neighbors. For this reason we ought to take all possible care, not to give them any just ground of complaint. We ought even to avoid a measure which may be made use of by the enemies of government for causing discontent and dissension in this part of the Dominion.

Apart from these considerations of statesmanship we must refer to the attitude of parties. It is quite plain that neither Conservatives nor Liberals are pleased with the movement inaugurated by Mr. McCarthy. Besides being calculated to disturb the cordial relations between the two races it is disruptive of party ties and destructive of political friendship and association. For the reasons that the Liberal party is led by Mr. Laurier, a French Canadian, the stand taken by Mr. Blake and the fact that the Anti-French movement is led and controlled by men who declare themselves followers of Sir John Macdonald and are also the most active in leading the assault on the Mowat Government, on account of its alleged friendship for the French and Catholics generally, this movement is likely to work more injury to the Conservative party than to the Liberals. Indeed it appears that Sir John Macdonald has not shown his usual cunning in the management of the discordant elements in his party.

The reported resignation of Mr. Chapleau and the fiery defiant speech of Sir Hector Langevelo are indications of trouble in the cabinet. Between these two gentlemen there has long been a keen rivalry for the succession to Sir George Cartier. But while they were bickering, Mr. Mercier stepped in and carried off the prize. Neither of them can now become the leader of the French-Canadian people. That position is Mr. Mercier's. It is open for them however to contend for the leadership of the Blue party and with that, whichever wins, he will have to be content.

From the tone of the debate it is pretty evident that the bill will be thrown out by a large majority. Several amendments have been proposed and will probably come up should opportunity occur. These now before the House are the amendment by Mr. Davin and the amendment to the amendment by Mr. Beauséjour. The first is:-

That this bill be not read a second time, but that it be resolved that it is expedient that the Legislative assembly of the Northwest be authorized to deal with the subject of this bill, order or enactment after the next general election for the said territories.

The second reads:-

That the official use of the French and English languages in the Legislature and before the tribunals of the Northwest territories was established by this Parliament in the well understood interests of the people of the said territories in order to promote the good understanding and the harmony that should exist between the different races, and with a view, by a liberal policy, to promote the colonizing and settlement of those vast domains; that nothing has since happened to excuse or justify the withdrawal of the privileges granted only a few years ago; that the result of the proposed legislation would be to create uneasiness and discontent throughout the Dominion and to put in doubt the stability of our institutions, and thereby to hinder and delay for a long time the development of the immense resources of the Canadian Northwest.

Mr. Blake at the conclusion of his speech suggested an amendment which he thought would better meet the views that prevail on the question. It was as follows:-

"This House cannot, having regard to the long continued use of the French language in old Canada, and to the covenant on that subject embodied in the British North America Act, agree to the declaration contained in the said bill as the basis thereof; that it is expedient, in the interests of the national unity of the Dominion, that there should be a community of language among the people of Canada; that on the contrary, this House declares its inviolable adherence to the covenant in respect to the use of the French language in Quebec and Canada, and its determination to resist any attempt to impair those covenants; that as to such use of the French language in the Northwest territories allowed by law, it is in the best interests of Canada as a whole, and of the Territories on the contrary, that inducements should be held out to the emigrating inhabitants of each of the provinces to settle in the Territories whose greatest want is population; that the expunging of the provisions allowing the use of the French language in the Territories is not required to remedy any practical grievance at this time and would, under existing circumstances, lessen the chances of a French-Canadian immigration; that it is expedient to leave those provinces undisturbed and to defer any decision as to the ultimate settlement of the question until the time shall have further developed the condition of Northwest settlement."

Hon. Mr. Laurier resumed the debate on Monday in a powerful speech, in which he reviewed the history of the French in Canada since the conquest. He charged Mr. McCarthy of working this agitation in the interests of the Conservative party and pointed out that that party having lost French support in Quebec were trying to make up for the loss by increased Protestant support in Ontario. In eloquent terms he upheld the right of his people to the use of their mother tongue, deprecated the movement for stirring up social discords and appealed to the justice and good will of all classes.

With the exception of the political allusion of the leader of the Opposition, Sir John Macdonald agreed with what he had said. He claimed on behalf of the Conservative party that it had granted the use of the French language in Parliament and had steadily acted the friend of the French Canadians. He argued strongly in favor of the adoption of Mr. Davin's amendment to leave the settlement of the question to the people of the North-West.

In the course of the debate Mr. Blake said he had seriously considered the suggestion of the First Minister, and although his opinion was the same as before, yet he believed it would be in the best interests of Canada that the question should be settled by a harmonious compromise, and for his part he would be willing to assent to any such settlement which the leading men of both parties would agree upon.

The conclusion of the debate and the divisions are not to hand in time for this issue.

## The Tariff.

At last the Dominion Government has been compelled to yield to the popular demand for tariff reform in the direction of lowering the duties. What the nature of the changes will be and to what extent is not yet known, but it is gratifying to learn the N. P., is not so sacrosanct as pretended.

The influences that have combined to force reconsideration of the tariff on the ministry are the farmers and the workmen. The people engaged in agriculture have discovered that protection is a pure myth as far as they are concerned and can under no circumstances work to their benefit so long as the prices of their products are regulated in the market of the world. They feel, however, that it places heavy burdens on them and increases the cost of everything they must buy in the way of groceries, clothing, utensils and implements.

Workmen have also discovered that labor has no protection while the product of labor is made dear for the benefit of capitalists and employers, who regulate the output, the wages and the prices the public must pay. Thus the people are being educated in the principles of political economy by an experience they are not likely to forget.

## Irish Representation.

It is not surprising that Quebec, provincial politics should not be very clearly understood in Western Ontario. The very pronounced ignorance of the Toronto *Mail*, with all its assumption of superior knowledge, would be a source of amusement were it not mischievous in its intention and effects. We look, however, to a paper usually so well informed as the *Irish Canadian*, for clearer insight and exposition.

In the last issue of that paper the remarks of THE TRUE WITNESS on the Mercier government were quoted as evidence of our satisfaction with the Mercier government. But our esteemed contemporary asks:-"What about Irish representation in the Mercier cabinet?" It then goes on to observe:-

"It is not very long since THE TRUE WITNESS admonished that gentleman concerning his dilatoriness in this matter, and warned him of the danger of putting its patience too severely to the test. We think our contemporary drew the line at Mr. Murphy's candidature of Quebec West, which, if not stamped as was Col. Rhodes, with the Ministerial seal, would be accepted as proof that Mr. Mercier did not mean business. Mr. Murphy, as has been seen, was not presented to the people in Governmental glitter; but he was elected, nevertheless, and by a handsome majority. He has not, however, been taken into the Cabinet, nor has any other Irish Catholic, and in consequence that important element of Mr. Mercier's strength is still unrecognized and ignored. The praise of THE TRUE WITNESS would, we think, have a better effect if this ugly fact did not exist—a fact which our contemporary seems to have entirely overlooked or forgotten."

Since the time when the remarks referred to appeared in these columns the situation has somewhat changed. The Hon. Mr. McShane's case was then before the courts and Mr. Murphy appeared to be the only available candidate for the seat in the cabinet usually held by an Irish Catholic. He was elected as a supporter of the government, but when claims for a cabinet position were put forward on his behalf, the Premier intimated that Mr. McShane's claims were not to be set aside, and though that gentleman was not at the time a member of the cabinet, he was practically regarded by the government as the representative of the Irish Catholic people of the Province. He was also considered, because he represented a most important commercial constituency, as the most desirable of the two Irish representatives in the Legislature. An unbroken record of political service and a warm personal friendship added to Mr. McShane's claims on the Premier. This is not intended to disparage Mr. Murphy or to make light of his services and claims, but it must be frankly understood that Montreal considers Mr. McShane's right to a seat in the cabinet paramount to the claims set up in behalf of Mr. Murphy and Quebec.

As matters now stand Mr. McShane's influence is as great as if he were an actual cabinet minister, and we have his assurance that Mr. Mercier intends to satisfy the claims of his Irish Catholic supporters, who on their part are content to bide their time. They know and appreciate the difficulties that have to be obviated, and having nothing to complain of in regard to their treatment by Mr. Mercier, they commit the care of their interests to the hands of Mr. McShane. When obstacles that now exist have been removed, Mr. McShane will, we are satisfied, take his place again in the cabinet.

Meantime the *modus vivendi*, so to speak, here indicated has been accepted. But should the tacit understanding not be implemented, of which we have no fear, we shall not fail to insist on the right of our people to cabinet representation.

Besides these considerations there is a strong feeling in this city that a member of the old Liberal party, resident at Montreal, should be in the Cabinet. In this connection several names are mentioned, but we think if a selection is to be made here the Irish Catholics have the first right to be consulted.

## The Hull Riot.

The mob who attacked Miss Wright and other revivists at Hull have brought disgrace not only on themselves and their city, but on the Catholic name which they are supposed to represent. They brought themselves down to the level of the Toronto miscreants who attacked Archbishop Walsh, and it is to be hoped that they will be punished as they deserve.

At the present time when a noisy and bigoted faction is doing so much to create religious discord, it is the bounden duty of all Catholics to refrain from even the appearance of acrimony. Let alone and given no provocation the movement started by these fanatics would die out and good feeling would be established. But, as if incited by the evil one, the misguided crowd at Hull sup-

planted them with the very weapon they wanted. This was shown by the promptness with which Mr. Charlton made a handle of the affair in Parliament.

We are glad to see the Quebec government has taken measures to preserve the peace in future, and that the priest at Hull has given his flock a warning and an advice which they will surely heed and keep away from the evangelists in future. The civil law must be vindicated in Hull, or how can we look for its impartial enforcement in places where Catholics are in as small a minority as Protestants are in that city.

But there are higher reasons and loftier grounds why Catholics should observe the greatest respect for law and order. These are to be found in the teaching of the Church and should guide the conduct of every man who honors religion and the sacred duties imposed by it.

## The Dual Language.

As no question has excited more widespread interest, for a long time, than that now before the Dominion Parliament, for the abolition of the dual language; it may be well to refer to the history of the subject. Dalton McCarthy, M.P., in introducing his bill, the preamble of the bill itself and the wide range the discussion has taken in consequence, many persons might easily be misled as to the significance of the question. In so far as the abolition of the French language in the Territories is concerned, for official purposes, the matter is of no very great moment. Mr. McCarthy and his fellow Equal Righters, however, have succeeded in making the matter so abominable that from a diminutive affair affecting a few hundreds in the North-West, it has assumed the proportions of a Dominion question. The Hudson Bay Company originally held away over the vast territories comprising the present province of Manitoba and the Territorial country as well. In Manitoba and in the Territories the majority of the primitive settlers, principally half-breeds, were French, and with the exception of those who had adopted the Cree and other Indian tongues, spoke the French language. The vast possessions of the Hudson Bay Company having been acquired by the Dominion, Manitoba was first organized, and then provision was made for English and French as official languages, and guarantees were given for separate schools as to the territories, the Dominion Parliament legislated for the government of the country and in the original act, provision was made for the use of the French language in official proceedings. In 1877 the Hon. Mr. Mills, then Minister of the Interior, introduced legislation into the House of Commons, relating to the Territories and their government, but no provision for the use of the French language was made. When the Bill reached the Senate, Hon. Senator Girard introduced an amendment, by which it was enacted, that French should hold the same position as English in the official records and proceedings of the Territorial Government. The amendment was adopted *non con* and was affirmed in the House of Commons, thus becoming the law of the land. Matters so remained, no one dreaming of any inconvenience arising from the dual language enactment, until the Equal Righters, led by Messrs McCarthy and Charlton coming about for material to build their platform, arrived at the conclusion, that no better subject could be seized upon for working up the fanaticism of the most ignorant amongst Protestant whites, than to make it appear that British supremacy was menaced by the use of the French language in the new Territories. As we have said, the point of attack was too insignificant, of itself, to hope for any result in the shape of a wide spread agitation, but Mr. McCarthy and his coadjutor, in the business he has on hand, whilst seeking to ensue that the French language shall no longer be official in the N. W., introduced this measure with a preamble declaring, in effect, that there should be but one official language in the Dominion of Canada, and implying, that if we are to be a nation, at any future time, the shortest and best means to secure that end is to abolish the French language altogether.

This bill has given rise to the discussion, that has occupied the Parliament of the Dominion, for several days past and bids fair to hold the floor for some days to come. The little Northwest speck, has assumed the proportions of a cloud overshadowing the whole Dominion. No doubt, the overwhelming majority of the representatives, would wish Mr. McCarthy and his bill at the bottom of the sea, but many of them fear their constituents, whose passions have been worked upon, by our Canadian know-nothing, the Equal Righters, whose titles to the name may be judged from the fact, that they wish to deprive their French-Canadian fellow citizens of their natural right, to speak and use their own language. It is safe to assume that Mr. McCarthy's Bill will not pass, it is equally certain that had Mr. McCarthy let the matter alone, in a few years the French language would have ceased to be of any tangible importance to the west of Manitoba. If the member for North Simcoe, has any other object in view, than to incite people to a race and religious war, if he, really, ever was anxious to see the French language cease to be official in the Territories, then, indeed, has he adopted the best means to defeat his own ends. The French Canadian had almost abandoned the Territories, as a place of settlement for their race. Colonization of the Province of Quebec, under the sanction and with the encouragement of their ecclesiastical guides, was the movement in which they seemed to have centered their energies. Now, however, we shall be very much disappointed if an influx from the Province of Quebec, into the Territories, does not take place in the early future. Should that be so, then the French language is there to stay. It will be for the benefit of Canada should our French Canadian agriculturists go in numbers to that part of the Dominion, with their habits of frugality and industry they would be much more valuable there than any accession from the British Isles or elsewhere. In the meantime, the country is undergoing a period of great excitement, but no serious results need be apprehended therefrom. The Canadian people are too level-headed to be led away by such a flimsy excuse as is offered by the McCarthy bill, and we shall be very much surprised indeed if before many years has come and gone, Mr. McCarthy and his colleague, Mr. Charlton, are not made to feel, by their own constituents, that in so far as the Parliament of the Dominion is concerned their usefulness has ceased.

## Salisbury Slops.

The twaddle in the Queen's speech at the opening of the British Parliament about the decrease of crime in Ireland is an insult to the intelligence of the public. There has been no crime in Ireland of any account, and even admitting, for sake of comparison, that the alleged offences under the Coercion Act were crimes, the Irish record is far clearer than that of England. Nothing in Ireland, for instance, has even remotely approached in fiendish horror the Whitechapel butcheries of unfortunate women. But, apart from these crimes, the normal rate of all sorts of crime in England has been greatly in excess of the crime in Ireland.

Perhaps the most striking evidence to this effect is to be seen in the frequency with which judges were presented with white gloves on the opening of Assize courts in Irish counties. In England such events are rare; in Ireland they are quite common.

But Salisbury is anxious to take credit to himself and his precious nephew for success in his policy of coercion, and, therefore, alleges a palpable falsehood about a decrease of crime when there was no crime, save and except only the crime of asserting the right of public meeting and free speech, of publishing Nationalist newspapers, of extending help and sympathy to the suffering, refusing to have anything to do with the miscreant tools of oppression, and resisting unjust and tyrannical oppression by landlords. In fact, crime in Ireland consists in the people asserting precisely the same rights that are enjoyed everywhere else except under the tyrannical autocrats of Europe and Asia.

As to the proposed measures mentioned in the speech for the better government of Ireland, they consist evidently of schemes to buy out the landlords at fancy prices to be hereafter extorted from the peasant purchasers, and establish some miserable system of red-tapeism to be called local self-government. There is this satisfaction, however, to be had from the contemplated change: Nothing could be worse than the way Ireland has been and is now governed. Therefore, any alteration must be for the better, since it cannot possibly be for the worse without relinquishing the yeomanry and martial law administered by Orangemen.

Viewed in another way, the proposal to extend self-government to the Irish is a confession of the failure of coercion. Has the twenty years of vigorous coercion policy been abandoned already? It looks like it, and the fact that a large number of proclaimed districts have had the ban removed is a proof, not of success, but of abject failure. In no instance can it be shown that the people have recoiled one step from their attitude of passive resistance. One after another they have brought the landlords to terms, and though a rascally magistracy has filled the jails of Ireland with men, women and little children on the most flimsy of pretexts, the people have remained unconquered and unconquerable. Poor Ireland has suffered much from English oppressors, but never was she called upon to endure anything so unspokeably mean, foul and exasperating as the rule of Balfour.

The heroism of Irish endurance would have developed into a heroism of another sort long ago were it not that the Irish race has accepted the policy of reconciliation and redress, so eloquently advocated by Mr. Gladstone and endorsed by the Liberals of England, Scotland and Wales. In the face of the growing popularity of this just and sensible policy, the Salisbury cabinet has been compelled to back down and adopt a plank from the Opposition platform.

But we know the ideas and methods of Toryism too well to be taken in and deceived by its premises. The sort of local self-government Salisbury is willing to allow the Irish is sure to be saddled and controlled by insulting reservations and vexatious conditions. It will have the Tory trade-mark stamped upon it. Perhaps the best thing that can be said of it is that it is a step in the right direction and only in that sense acceptable. If liberty can only be won by inches, every inch gained is a victory leading to final and complete victory.

The Parnell commission report is as one-sided as the judges dare make it and preserve their alleged character for judicial correctness. But, perhaps, the very fact that it is a grudging, unwilling vindication of Mr. Parnell and the Irish movement generally, adds to its value. The animus evident throughout the report shows with what pleasure the judges would have found the defendants guilty and with what delight they would have added the weight of their authority to the policy of the Salisbury ministry and the ferocious virulence of the *Times*. But it really matters little what they reported. The great tribunal of public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic has been clearly, emphatically expressed in scathing denunciation of the conspirators. The general effect, as a natural consequence, has been

to increase the feeling in favor of Mr. Gladstone's policy and to strengthen the cause of Home Rule. What further action the ministry make remains to be seen, but in any case, Ministers have only a choice of alternatives any one of which is sure to be damaging to the Tory programme.

## SCATHING DENUNCIATION

Of the Government's Irish Methods.

LONDON, February 14.—Amid the cheers of the Opposition in the House of Commons to-day Mr. Parnell asked what action the Government proposed to take upon the report of the commission appointed to investigate the charges made by the London *Times* against Parnell and members of the House.

William Henry Smith, the Government leader, replied that the reports only came into the possession of the ministers at 10 o'clock last evening, and they had not yet had time to decide upon the course they would adopt.

The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was resumed. Mr. Parnell moved his amendment asking the repeal of the Coercion Act, and made a speech.

## PETTY PERSECUTION IN IRELAND.

He attacked the pettiness of the prosecutions which the Government was daily inflicting upon many persons in utter gratuitousness and the coercive action under Mr. Balfour, chief secretary for Ireland. Almost every act of Mr. Balfour, Mr. Parnell said, appeared to be directed toward driving the people of Ireland to crime. He compared the coercive administration of Mr. Balfour with that of the Duke of Wellington, and said that though many actions of Earl Spencer had been fairly the law under him had been directed against actual crime and secret conspiracy, while in the case of Mr. Balfour it was directed against the right to combine to secure the freedom of the press and liberty of speech.

## CANNOT TURN THE TIDE.

The Government's excuse for its actions was the existence in Ireland of boycotting. He had never denied that there had been much anti-social and criminal boycotting during 1889, 1891 and 1892. The history of the Irish movement since the last named year showed that the reaction of the Nationalists had been constantly modified and moderate in recognition of the efforts to secure the passage of ameliorative measures for Ireland. The League of to-day, Mr. Parnell declared, differed widely from the Land League of 1880 and Mr. Balfour could not plead as an excuse for his course that crime was being revived. On the contrary, the people were quiescent in hopes of soon obtaining their rights. Yet Mr. Balfour's regime had been distinguished by petty persecutions and frivolous charges, often brought against children and old women. His campaign against the press began with the newspapers and was winding up with a final attack against the editors. The action of the Government tended to its own defeat, and could not succeed in turning the tide of the aspirations of the Irish people. Despite the petty exasperations of the Balfour policy, the Nationalists had not swerved from pacific methods to a more their aims. (Cheers.)

## FACTS AND FIGURES ASKED FOR.

Sir Richard Webb, the attorney general, charged Mr. Parnell with making grave accusations against Mr. Balfour without producing any evidence in support of his allegations. He could not adduce a single instance of unjust eviction. While calling the administration to account in the future he would, at least, be limited by some facts. He could not disprove the figures showing that crime had decreased and boycotting had been repented.

## INCONSISTENCIES IN THE REPORT.

Interviews have been sought with all the leaders of parties in the House of Commons as to their opinions on the Parnell report. They decline to give any opinions. The Irish Nationalists hold that the report improves their position. They criticize it very freely and point out its inconsistencies and contradictions. Mr. Leahy, for instance, is censured for a speech delivered by Leamy. The report omits Biggar from the list of separatists, although he swore that he belonged to the supreme council of the Fenians.

## ACTION MUST BE TAKEN.

LONDON, February 15.—The *News* says it is impossible for the Government to ignore the commission's report, and that now it must take action for or against the Parnellites.

## THE COMMISSION JUDGES CRITICIZED.

LONDON, February 14.—J. G. Biggar, M.P. for Clonsilla, in a polemic interview, says the Parnell commission report is a very curious particular. It was unjust to take Le Caron's word in preference to that of Parnell. Le Caron was a spy and an infamous creature. There is an ordinary rule of law in all civilized countries, which requires that the testimony of such a person must be corroborated. The Parnell commission has not corroborated Le Caron's testimony, and has accepted his word, and, therefore, to weigh his testimony against that of an upright man and give him preference was unjust. As to the presumption against the league because it did not produce its accounts, that is also unfair. The league did not produce its books simply because it had none to produce. It had books, of course, but at the time the league was supposed to be in a panic and they went—nobody knows where.

"The report," he says, "leaves us just where we were. It acquits us of serious charges of which there was no good reason to accuse us. Judge Hannan was unfair often during the enquiry, and Smith was frightfully partisan from first to last."

The Emperor William receipts are intended, it is said, to make the meeting between the leading subject of the day. The state council will immediately frame proposals for the consideration of the powers that are to meet in the conference.

The French council of agriculture has voted in favor of imposing a duty on the Franco-Indian corn, five francs on cornmeal and its derivatives, three francs on rice in the husk and eight francs on broken and cleaned rice and rice flour.

In the Imperial House of Commons Sir James Fergusson said the negotiations between England and France were tending to a settlement of the Newfoundland fisheries dispute. If a conclusion was not soon arrived at a *modus vivendi* would be arranged for a year.

Two thousand ammunition and baggage wagons and other military vehicles, just built at Warsaw, in addition of fifty light pontoon boats have arrived at Odessa on the way to Batoum. Their ultimate destination is a secret. Twelve thousand troops were sent to Batoum early in January.

All the persons arrested in the anti-British riots in Portugal and sent aboard the man-of-war, will be brought ashore for trial Monday. Students from Salamanca, Spain, have arrived at Oporto and will join in the demonstration there to-morrow. The students of the Polytechnic School, Lisbon, assembled to indulge in a manifestation. They were dispersed by the police and the leaders arrested.

The House Committee of Congress on Foreign Affairs referred a memorial of the Boston Board of Trade, praying for action that would strengthen the trade relations between the United States and Canada, to a sub-committee. Hitt, Dunning and Chapman, who will have charge of all questions bearing upon reciprocity between the two countries.

It was announced a short time ago that the Federal Bank, Toronto, had paid off of its liabilities, amounting to over six million dollars, and it was announced that the first payment of six and a half million to the shareholders and another dividend to the shareholders is officially promised within sixty days.