



CURRENT COMMENT

Our readers will peruse with more than ordinary interest the very pertinent remarks of "La Patrie," of Montreal, which we give elsewhere in extenso, regarding the Manitoba School question. "La Patrie" frankly and squarely admits that we are still laboring under a very painful grievance. It calls upon all the citizens of Canada to look to Quebec for an example, and not to tolerate any longer the injustice done to us by the School Acts of 1890.

It goes on to say that Mr. Greenway has contributed to a partial though imperfect reparation, and it blames the Roblin Government for its unwillingness to complete the arrangement of 1897. Why not rather deplore openly and without restriction the so-called settlement of 1897?

We do not write to uphold in any way Mr. Roblin's attitude, but as we are invited to study the question independently from all party politics, are we not perfectly justified in complaining that the judgment of the Privy Council has not as yet been carried out? Was it not the duty of the Government at Ottawa to see that our grievance be perfectly redressed; was it not the duty of the Federal authorities never to sign a final settlement, which they have all along admitted to be but a partial, if any at all, reparation of the injustice done the minority of Manitoba, have they not in a way put a stumbling block in Mr. Roblin's road by declaring the settlement, not the "arrangement" as "La Patrie" calls it, final?

Mr. Greenway, at the head of a Government boasting of the name of "Liberal," had inflicted upon us the most iniquitous of wrongs, was it not his duty, when called upon by the judgment of the Privy Council and the demand of another Liberal Government ruling at Ottawa, to nobly acknowledge his mistake and to squarely meet the demands of the aggrieved minority; was it not the duty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Government, of which Mr. Tarte was then an active member, not to yield, but to exact with a persevering energy the required justice of the case committed to them for redress.

But let us now, if it pleases "La Patrie," as it has always been our earnest wish, let us study and consider the question, with perfect freedom from all political bias, and only from a pure constitutional point of view. Let the Ottawa Government squarely approach the local Legislature and demand a reconsideration of the settlement of 1897, which was signed as final, but proved by facts since to be defective, imperfect and insufficient.

The lady patronesses of the St. Boniface General Hospital are busily engaged in organizing their dining hall on the exhibition grounds. They are having the old Manufacturers hall overhauled and painted over. A new ticket office and restaurant has also been erected in front of the building. The ladies have met with much encouragement in their good work, and they deserve to be patronized. They make an appeal to the generosity of their friends in Winnipeg, and anything in the way of provisions, groceries, etc., will be thankfully received at the following places: Winnipeg centre, at the Richard-Beliveau company's store on Main Street; for Winnipeg south, at Mr. E. Beliveau's liquor store, Main street.

The Gaelic movement has invaded the classic precincts of the University of Oxford. There are at present several students of the old tongue on the banks of the "Isis." This gives us hope that the Irish language may yet be taught at the Catholic University of America.—Leader.

The dispatches from Belgrade serve to remind us that an Irish Brigade in other days rendered valiant service to the White Town at the confluence of the Danube and the Save. They were Wild Geese, these Irish soldiers, who stormed the walls of Belgrade in 1717 when Eugene of Savoy drove out the Turks.—Leader.

There is mourning in Kentucky, deep and loud, as if there were no more family feuds or moonshine whiskey. The Bishop of Louisville has decreed that there shall be no dancing at picnics. It must be hard for the blue-grass trippers of the light fantastic to keep their feet still, when the bloom is on the rye.—Leader.

The Most Rev. Dr. Henry, Bishop of Down and Connor, has established in his diocese a hospital with facilities for the out-door treatment of consumptives. It is very skillfully managed by the Sisters of Mercy. He now offers, rent-free, a site to the Belfast Board of Guardians for a similar institution for the sick poor. It is not at all certain that their bigotry will allow them to profit by the Bishop's gracious kindness.—Leader.

It may not be generally known that the Irish Christian Brothers have a school in Rome, which is described as the best of the sort in Italy. It is intended to combat the shameful methods of the proselytizers, and has been singularly successful in its work. The children of the working classes receive here an excellent secular education, and are well grounded in the teachings of religion. The Brothers' institution is really the great commercial school of the Eternal City, and maintains evening classes, which are attended by three hundred young men.—Leader.

"Here's a health to you, Father O'Flynn, 'Slainte,' 'slainte' and 'slainte' agin."

Father Flynn is an Irish priest, resident in Paris, and though he does not write his name with an O he deserves that patent of nobility. He was recently set upon by a crowd of French hoodlums, who insulted him and reviled the Church. After the necessary display of Christian forbearance, Father Flynn laid his good tight fist to the leader of the gang and put him "hors de combat," as they say in Paris. Then, drawing his "shillelagh," he began to wield it vigorously on the other ruffians, meanwhile calling on them to defend themselves. And so they did, by running like redshanks.—Leader.

Sir Anthony MacDonnell is the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and since his appointment has earned golden opinions from all classes for his accurate undertaking of the problems involved in the settlement of the Irish question. The above is, however, not only an example of accurate understanding of the status of the Education question in Ireland, but shows an amount of moral courage, absolutely unique in Irish officialdom. Surely with such a man as Sir Anthony MacDonnell at the helm, the Irish question is within measurable distance of settlement. We recommend that the closing sentences of the above paragraphs be carefully taken into consideration by the Winnipeg school board.

The Rev. Father Leduc, O.M.I., V.G., of St. Albert, was at the Archbishop's palace. He speaks of the immigration out west as something wonderful.

A quiet but pretty wedding took place at the church of the Immaculate Conception, on Tuesday morning the 14th inst. Mr. Alexander James Walker, of Austin, Man., and Miss Lucie Charlotte Cummings, of Middlesex, England, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. Mr. Walker Clifford, of Austin, gave the bride away, and Mrs. Margaret Muir acted as one of the mistresses. The Rev. pastor of the church presided at the nuptial ceremony, which was followed by the Mass "Pro Sponso et Sponsa."

Next Monday is election day, all Catholics should make it their duty to vote.

Next week being exhibition week many thousands will be the number of those who will come from all parts of the country, and from across the line to see not only the exhibition, but Winnipeg itself, whose progress is nothing less than wonderful.

NATIONAL FEAST.

The usually quiet little village of St. Pierre Joly was the scene of stirring activity on Thursday last, when the national association of Metis celebrated their feast with great eclat.

Notwithstanding the threatening appearance of the atmosphere the clouds slowly cleared away, and the day was spent in great rejoicing.

At ten o'clock the Society of Metis accompanied by the St. Jean Baptist Society, with fluttering banners entered the church where grand High Mass was celebrated. Rev. Father Rocan, celebrant of Mass, assisted by Rev. Fathers Noret and Morin as deacon and sub-deacon, Mabe Joubert acting Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Father Sauve, of Winnipeg presided at the organ.

Rev. Father Dugas, Grand Vicar of St. Boniface, preached an impressive sermon on the importance of unity among its members, and the threefold obligation of respect due to parents, sanctification of the Sunday, and a strict adherence to the authority of the church. The Rev. speakers remarked it was owing to the fact that their ancestors had faithfully observed these commandments in their entirety, that the nation had developed, and it was likewise certain that if they wished to live as a nation and leave the seal of their existence on the country they must willingly sacrifice their views at times, for the good of their fellowmen.

Rev. Father Joly entertained sumptuously his visiting confreres, who congratulated him heartily on the pleasing development of his parish.

NOTRE DAME CONVENT.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The pupils of the Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Winnipeg, will no doubt be pleased to hear of the success achieved by two of their former companions at the above named convent. Miss Mary McInnis, who obtained an average percentage of 55 per cent. in the second grade of the senior department examination, took first prize in Christian Doctrine, Geography, Arithmetic, Plain sewing. 2nd prize in French and Geometry. 3rd prize in History, Algebra, English and Latin.

Her younger sister, Anna in the senior, intermediate department, third division, took 1st prize in Christian Doctrine, English History, Geography, Plain Sewing and

second prize in Arithmetic. She also carried the prize for attendance and application.

Edna McInnis, not yet eight years of age, was the winner of a 1st prize in reading, second division of the primary class.

Good and well done for our dear little ex-Winnipeggers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SCHOOL ROBBERY.

Editor Northwest Review.
Dear Sir,—In your issue of May 30th last, I read with surprise the following:

"When Greenway and Martin abolished Catholic schools, the Liberals, all except Mr. Luxton and other honest men, praised the measure as a wise one. When Roblin tries to make restitution for the robbery by Greenway of several thousand dollars, accumulated by the Catholic section of the board of education for a future Normal School equipment, the Liberal organ calls that an appeal to race prejudice." Godless schools are playing havoc with Manitoba. A teacher told me that there was only one scholar in a certain school who could say the Lord's prayer. I asked a gentleman what he thought of the school question, he answered "We want no priests to teach us, and we can't trust these 'ere parsons," but you teach your children to pray? "they laugh at those things, what they want is plenty to eat." At the opening of the new school here, there was only one gentleman who mentioned the name of God. Man did not make the world, nor the stones that served at the foundation of the school, surely the maker of all was worthy of thanks. I may say that I have voted for Hon. Mr. Greenway, but I would be a fanatic and a fool to vote for him again, after what Mr. Roblin charged him with, squandering the people's money in the Boyne Marsh. So taking into account what trouble and expense he has put the country to over the school business, and this dirty job in the Marsh, I do not think he is worthy of the confidence of the people.

Prohibition is the wrong way of dealing with drunkenness, that sort of coercion will never do for a free country like Manitoba. In the schools, is the proper place to deal with the evil of intoxicating drink, by moral persuasion of the scholars, of course it will take time. Bend the rod to the desired shape before it gets to be a hard stick. Then we will have good and dutiful citizens.

Yours respectfully,

July 4th 1903. J. D.

In publishing J. D.'s letter, we wish to make a reserve regarding the Boyne Marsh affair. That, in our estimation, is a piece of politics in which we are not concerned. So we leave our correspondent the full responsibility of this assertion.

We believe in his suggestion regarding the use of intoxicating liquors, but we venture to add that good example at home in this respect has more influence in forming temperance habits than the best training in school.

What our correspondent styles as a school robbery is unfortunately too much of a historical truth. But what are these few thousands of dollars (say \$14,000.00) in round figures, compared with the large sums of money which the school acts of 1890 and 1894 have forced the Catholics of Manitoba to pay over to the Protestants of the Province. The Catholics of Winnipeg alone must have contributed, since 1890, more than \$15,000.00 to the Protestants or Public School fund.

THE RECRUDESCENCE OF SECTARIAN STRIFE.

Sir Anthony MacDonnell has said some remarkable things since he came into office in Ireland, but no utterance of his has struck public

attention so much as his speech on religious intolerance at the Land Surveyors dinner in Dublin last month. It received very little comment in the papers, the subject being too thorny and delicate, and to apt to start a flood of acrimonious correspondence, for any Irish paper to touch it at a moment when conciliation is the order of the day. But it has made a deep impression and occasioned much discussion in private circles and it will not soon be forgotten. Sir Anthony spoke with strong personal feeling and almost with a note of despair in his voice. "I see in this intolerance," he said, "the greatest of misfortune and hindrance to the progress of our country." It was in his opinion, "the root cause of the difficulties from which Ireland suffers." I have met no Lord Iveagh or Mr. Pirrie in the region of sectarian strife. Perhaps the thing is beyond the power of such men or of any man to cope with. Perhaps we are to look for the slow growth of education in order to curb the spirit of which I complain. That very spirit prohibits the growth of education, from which you expect the cure—a clear reference to the Catholic university question. All he could suggest in the way of a remedy was that the "existence and magnitude of the evil" should be recognized, but he will find that even this step in advance is not so easily taken.

The facts which so much astounded and pained Sir Antony MacDonnell, after half a life-time in foreign service for the King, are easily explained, like some other strange things in Ireland, when we look into their historic causes. Emancipation, which set the Irish Catholics free before the law, could not wipe out the effects of generations of serfdom. Protestants of course, held every position worth having in the country, and for a long time held them undisturbed; not more than a handful of Roman Catholics were fitted by education or experience to compete with them. Then came the primary school, the intermediate school, and even some measure of university endowment, and the result was that Catholic intellect and the Catholic ambition began to expand, and a host of trained capacities came into existence for which at present there is no work to do. This upward surge of Catholic talent and ambition is meeting the headwaters of Protestant ascendancy, and the result is the surf and turmoil which Sir Anthony calls sectarian strife. It is unquestionably the fact that this sectarian bitterness is more intense at present than it has been within living memory. From all parts of the country the same tale is told. It looks as if we were retrograding in this aspect of Irish life, but that is not really so. The shock was bound to come when the two waters fairly met, and they are meeting now. The angry surf will subside when they have blended and to blend they must first have met. Irish Protestants will have to learn—what is no doubt a bitter lesson for a class with centuries of the ascendancy tradition behind it—that the country was not made for them; that it is Ireland, and not an English colony which they are to "garrison" against the natives and they will have to shake down on equal terms among their fellow-Irishmen, or else remain in helpless isolation from the main current of the national life.

A singular illustration of the manner in which Catholic education is bringing the religions into conflict in the world arena, cropped up the other day at the general synod of the church of Ireland The Great Southern and Western railway, one of the industrial strongholds of Protestantism, decided, in response to a vehement popular agitation, on throwing open its clerkships to public competition. Speaking at the synod on the edu-