

# The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

VOL. I.—No. 14.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1893.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

## Register of the Week.

On Saturday last the Dominion Parliament closed its session with the following speech from the throne.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE; GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:—In relieving you from attendance in Parliament for this year, I congratulate you upon the energy and promptness with which you have disposed of the duties of the session you ended.

The assembly at Paris of the Behring sea arbitration tribunal gives reason to hope that the differences which have existed between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Dominion are approaching a satisfactory adjustment, while the nomination of the prime minister of Canada as one of the arbitrators affords a guarantee that the interests of our sealers will be properly, though not unduly, safeguarded.

The treaty of commerce which was negotiated with France on behalf of Canada has been laid before you, together with the correspondence which passed during the negotiations, but owing to the late period of the session at which the treaty was received, the pendency of communications as to its bearing in respect of most favored nation treatment, and the interpretation of certain of its clauses, my government has thought it advisable to postpone for the present its ratification by Parliament.

I thank you for the ample provision you have made to protect the country from the possible introduction of cholera, and I trust that the precautions taken will result in guarding against any danger from that source.

The liberal provisions made for the proper representation of Canada at the World's Columbian Exposition will, I doubt not, enable this country to make a worthy exhibit of her resources and progress among the nations of the world.

The various acts which you have placed upon the statute books will contribute to the maintenance of public security and the continued progress of the country.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:—I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the requirements of the public service.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE; GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:—I feel with deep regret that the period of my official connection with the Dominion is drawing towards its close, and that in all probability I am taking leave of you for the last time. Lest this should be the case, I desire to avail myself of the present occasion to express my abiding interest in all that concerns the welfare of Canada, and my sincere affection to her people, who have never failed to testify their loyalty to the person and throne of our sovereign, and to show kindness and consideration to her representative. It will ever be my sincere desire to be of service to the Dominion, and I shall continue to cherish feelings of the warmest solicitude for the welfare and prosperity of those amongst whom I have been placed during the past five years. I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may at all times attend you.

The men of Ulster are drilling, and Sergeants Balfour, Churchill and Goschen are spending their Easter vacation, not of course in putting them through their military tactics, not in openly advocating recourse to arms, but in addressing angry audiences who do not wish to be self-governed. It seems that military preparations are being actively and systematically made, not only in Belfast, but elsewhere. A correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* witnessed a company of these braves being put through their squad and company drill. They spoke as if they were preparing for the worst. It will undoubtedly be the worst piece of folly they ever took part in.

A despatch from London announces that the private meeting of the Irish party held March 28th in the famous committee room, No. 15, was the most critical assemblage since Parnell was deposed. The meeting was to settle the dispute over the control of the *Freeman's Journal*. At the end of two hours' discussion a committee of control was agreed upon and the meeting ended with perfect unanimity. The great meeting in New York on Monday night, March 27th, had a good deal to do with bringing about the good feeling which rendered a settlement possible. The members of the Irish party said, after reading a report of the proceedings of that meeting, that it was more than ever incumbent on them to present a united front to the enemy when their friends and kinsmen in America were standing so staunchly by them. The committee of control consists of Justin McCarthy, Edward Blake, Michael Davitt, John Barry, William O'Brien, T. P. O'Connor and Alfred Webb.

In spite of the opposition which the Unionists made, Gladstone has secured all the time of the House of Commons to press forward the Home Rule Bill after the Easter vacation. The debate on the second reading will end about the 14th or 17th of this month, and the bill will be sent to the House of Lords about July 12. On that date it is expected that the Ulster Orangemen will begin to riot, and the House of Lords will reject the bill. Then there will be an autumn session, to pass the bill through the House of Commons a second time, as well as to complete the other parts of the Government programme. These are the present calculations of the home rulers.

As was expected, the French Government has been defeated. The crisis arose out of increasing the burdens of the liquor trade. When the Minister of Finance, M. Tirard, announced the resignation of the Cabinet, he stated that they had been charged by the President of the Republic to carry on the affairs of the State for a short period. He accordingly asked the Chamber for a vote on account to cover the next two months. This was referred to a Committee, which, on rising, reported against the demand, but recommended a vote covering one month—which was adopted by an almost unanimous vote.

The documents in the Behring Sea case were submitted to the public last week. The summary of claims made by the United States is as follows: That when Russia owned Alaska she always asserted and exercised the exclusive right to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea, and the right to use force in protecting them, that Great Britain, not having objected to this, must be

considered as having assented to it; that all rights to seal fisheries enjoyed by Russia passed over to the United States by the treaty of cession; and that the United States have such a property in the seal herd to justify the employment of means necessary to secure the benefit and possession of the seals for themselves.

The representatives of Great Britain argue that Behring Sea is an open sea, and no mere declaration of one or more nations can impair the right of the nations of the world to sail or fish in it; furthermore, that the absence of exercise of this right cannot impair the common rights of mankind in this open sea. In accordance with this the sea was always considered open, and no opposition was offered until the Russian ukase of 1821, which closed this sea against foreign traffic; but on this occasion the United States united with England to force Russia to withdraw the decree, which was done in 1825. From that date till 1867, when the United States came into possession of part of the territory in question, no opposition was offered to sailing and fishing in the non-territorial waters of the sea, and until 1886 the United States legislated to control only the territorial waters and the shores. But when pelagic sealing had grown as an industry the United States reverted, first to the Russian ukase of 1821, to which they themselves had then objected, and, that plea failing, had introduced a case based upon the property in fur seals as such; finally, that Great Britain, though opposed to the claims advanced, was in favor of the adoption of general measures for the protection of the seal, provided that the regulations made should be fair, and approved by other powers, so that they might be guaranteed a continued and impartial execution.

To the property claim set up by the United States the British representatives reply that the laws of natural history and common interests of mankind have no bearing on the question of the right of property claimed by the United States, to the exclusion of all other nations. The counsel for Great Britain submitted, under protest, arguments regarding the regulations which may probably be made. They demand that the principle shall be settled first, and then they will decide whether they will leave to the arbitrators, the settlement of regulations.

Meantime the position of Russia in the question may be inferred from a letter of the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times*, which states that: "The Russian Government has proposed as a temporary arrangement with Great Britain in the Behring sea matter, a ten mile limit off the mainland coast and 80 off the Commander

and Robin islands. The Russian authorities declare that the taking of the captured British sealers comprised 92 per cent. females, three per cent. males and five per cent. doubtful. Russia complains that the dispute between Great Britain and the United States has driven all the foreign sealers to the Russian side of the Behring sea, thus causing a decrease of the Russian company's catch from 80,000 in 1891, to 20,000 in 1892. The negotiations between England and Russia on this question are most friendly. The relations of the two governments were never more amicable."

Our Holy Father is showing great generosity towards the Order of St. Benedict by presenting them with £75,000 to build a magnificent international College at Rome. The foundation stone is to be laid on the second Sunday after Easter, when all the Superiors of the Order, Presidents of Congregations and the Abbots and Priors of Monasteries from all parts of the world are summoned to take part in the ceremony. Before leaving Rome they will hold a general Chapter for the discussion of affairs regarding the general welfare of the monastic body. No such numerous assembly of Benedictines has been held since the Council of Constance in the early part of the 15th century.

A Bill has been introduced into the Italian Parliament making civil marriage obligatory before any religious ceremony is performed. The Bill provides for fines to be levied on persons who presume to have their marriage blessed by the Church before going to a civil magistrate. The priest who marries a couple before they have gone through the civil ceremony is also to be punished, and for the third offence he is to be imprisoned for a year and perpetually deprived of his office. That is liberty and modern Italy. The brigandage in that country now differs from what it was in former days in this fact that it is legalized.

An anecdote is related concerning the late Cardinal Place, Archbishop of Rennes, while Bishop of Marseilles. In 1871, during the Commune in Marseilles, the Jesuits' residence was attacked by the rioters, and the Fathers were unable to escape. The Bishop hastened to the house and alone entered the chapel, then filled by the mob. He pushed his way through the crowd and ascended to the altar, where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved. One of the men asked respectfully where he was going: his only answer was to light the candles, and take possession of the Holy Bread of Life. As he left the chapel, the leader of the armed anarchists shouted: "Four men to escort the Blessed Sacrament; present arms!"