

WALTER'S BUDGET.

The Minister of Public Works Uses Coercion as a Means to Prohibit Smoking in Public Offices.

The Question of Irish Catholic Representation Again—Cardinal Taschereau Celebrates His 77th Birthday—Shandon Bells—Mr. Blake and the School Question—The S. A. A. and M. A. A. A.

The Hon. Mr. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, has issued a cast-iron instruction prohibiting smoking in all the public buildings throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. None are excluded from the force of the order, which is the result of the recent fire in Ottawa. Whether that fire was caused by the carelessness of some lover of the weed, or not, is a debatable question, but be that as it may, the Minister has decided that all smoking by the public or employes in Government buildings must cease, and he has, moreover, expressed his determination to insist on the stringent and general enforcement of this anti smoke order.

Verily, Mr. Tarte is wanting in consideration for the overworked civil servant, who finds such sweet solace amidst the strain of official duties in his reliable clay. Certain public buildings in Montreal will seem strange devoided of that deep, sage-scented atmosphere which has clung to them so long as to be intimately associated with them in the minds of us all—an atmosphere conducive to good-natured courtesy and suggestive of the fertile fields of Terrestrial. No more shall the civil servant bury himself in innumerable papers in clouds of inspiring smoke, nor yet shall he steal away to a quiet nook in cell or garret for the customary "puff or two," which has become, from long habit, essential to his comfort and a necessity in retaining his even temper and composure in dealing with an unreasonable, exacting public. Will the calm, cheerful, benign official of the new order regime be transformed under the tobacco into an imitable surly tyrant? Will the public be the ultimate sufferers from this ministerial infringement on the long cherished liberties of the servant? I am afraid Mr. Tarte has not taken this most serious view of the case.

He knows there has been a fire in the Departmental buildings at Ottawa; he surmises that it had its origin in the carelessness of a disciple of Raleigh, and he has sworn that the next time any of his property goes aflame it will be from natural causes, such as an over-heated steam-pipe, a gasjet, official zeal or lightning.

The Government does not insure its property. The big Insurance companies will continue to take risks, as in the past, on premises where smoking is not strictly or otherwise prohibited.

The gentleman in the Missouri Legislature who moved that a committee be appointed from that body to attend the Corbett-Fitzsimmons prize-fight in Nevada for the purpose of reporting upon the merits of professional pugilism deserves a place on the committee of ways and means of travelling and enjoying himself at the country's expense. His motion was a brilliant one, but its only hope lies in the delegation being formed of a "committee of the whole." Jealousy would kill it.

As yet there seems to be no movement afoot to increase the Irish Catholic Parliamentary representation from this city to its proper quota. Of the English-speaking members from Montreal, the Irish Catholic portion of the population are clearly entitled to two, and steps should be taken to secure our rights in this regard. The habit of insisting upon our rights is a good one to acquire, and it is about time we started to acquire it. An understanding should be had with both parties on the question of representation before the coming Provincial elections. The longer the matter is delayed the harder will it become to obtain justice. As I have had occasion to remark before, what is the St. Patrick's League doing in the matter? You have yet to earn your spurs, gentlemen, and here is a good opportunity.

Cardinal Taschereau recently celebrated his 77th birthday. He is our "Grand Old Man," and we sincerely hope that he may be long spared as head of the Catholic Church in Canada.

The St. Ann's Young Men and friends attended the Irish drama, "The Bells of Shandon," at the Queen's Theatre, last Thursday evening, in honor of Messrs. Reagan and Lanigan, who were in the cast. The house was crowded on the occasion, but the piece has very little merit outside of the sweet songs of Mr. Reagan as "Terror O'Malley."

Mr. Lanigan, who is a native of Montreal, made a neat little speech in thanking the boys for a gold-headed cane which they presented him with.

Hon. Mr. Blake's opinion on the Manitoba School Question, however learned, does not alter the fact that the Catholic minority of the Prairie Province was deprived of rights and privileges which the Protestant minority of Quebec enjoys without molestation. If the legislature of Quebec were to do away with separate schools in this province, would our Protestant neighbors accept a settlement on the terms which Messrs. Lawler and Greenway offer to the Catholics of Manitoba? Who would the Federal Premier seek to conciliate?

WITNESS that a suitable premium be offered to everybody having the latest issue of this paper on his person when "held-up" within the city limits. As a means of extending the beneficial influence of a paper the Insurance idea would no longer be in it.

It was a graceful act of the officers of the Shamrock A.A.A. in attending the M.A.A.A. Minstrel performance. Begotten of a spirit of generosity, the past forgiven or forgotten, this act of courtesy will in all probability meet with that peculiar display of appreciation characteristic of M.A.A.A. executives where the Shamrock Association is concerned.

Harry Brophy, the clever and enthusiastic supporter of many athletic exercises in Montreal, achieved a great triumph last week in connection with the performance of the M.A.A.A. boys. He was the moving spirit in the organization of the Minstrels, as he was the inimitable interlocutor on the stage.

WALTER R.

REV. FATHER DONNELLY.

The Pupils of the Academy of St. Agnes hold an Entertainment in His Honor—Celebration of His Feast Day.

The parishioners of St. Anthony's, both old and young, are ever on the alert to make use of the opportunities that arise in order to give evidence of their sincere regard and admiration for their pastor, Rev. Father Donnelly, who has ever been a tireless and enthusiastic guide of the people of this growing and prosperous Western Irish parish.

This time it is the pupils of St. Agnes Academy, St. Antoine Street, who honored their pastor by a pretty celebration of his feast-day, February 22.

The class-rooms were completely transformed with colored streamers arranged in a tasteful fashion, and the children, robed in gowns of spotless white, blended their sweet voices in a chorus of welcome which produced a pleasing effect.

The stately halls of the old-time mansion which now does duty as an educational establishment, under the direction of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, never echoed happier strains or glowed with more life and brightness than on this occasion which the young pupils of St. Anthony's parish chose to testify their warm affection and deep respect for the kind spiritual guide placed over them.

An address of welcome and congratulation, which was read by Miss Mary Callaghan, was the event of the day, and Miss Callaghan performed the duty entrusted to her in a manner which reflected credit on her kind teachers as well as on herself.

A presentation of beautiful flowers was made in behalf of the pupils by Miss Eva Hickey, and the interesting proceedings concluded with music and song.

These little rejoicings are long remembered as pleasing events of the school-life when the children have outgrown their youth, and besides proving a source of gratification to the one whom they honor.

MANITOBA LEGISLATURE.

The Session opens for Business—the School Settlement Legislation.

The second session of the ninth Legislature of the Province of Manitoba opened last week. The speech from the throne contained the following reference to the recent settlement of the school question:

Since the last session of this legislature the question of whether the Public School system of this Province should be superseded by Federal Legislation and the system existing before the passing of the act of 1890 reimposed upon the Province, has been settled by an harmonious conference between the Federal Ministers and my advisers. The terms of the settlement have already been made public, and a bill to amend the school law in accordance therewith will immediately be laid before you. The law as amended will be administered by my Government in a spirit of conciliation and with a desire to make provisions effective in extending the benefits of our educational system to every class in the community.

OUR REVIEWER.

The Messenger of the Sacred Heart for March contains an interesting article on the "Decline of Education in Germany in consequence of the Reformation," by Rev. James Conway, S.J. Rt. Rev. Charles Lavigne, S.J., gives a brief history of "The Christians of St. Thomas," as the Catholic inhabitants of the Chinese Kingdom of Travancore and Cochín are called. "The Relics of the Sacred Passion," is a Lenten study by Rev. L. Van Rensselaer, S.J. Rev. A. M. L. Van Rensselaer, S.J., gives a brief article on "The Sodality of Christian Mothers in Mangalore," with illustrations of the beautiful altar of St. Monica, erected by the members to their patroness, and a group of native women. "Thoughts for St. Joseph's Day," by Rev. Mathew Russell, S.J., is a timely study on the Patron of the Universal Church, with illustrations of the masterpieces of Raphael and Gagliardi. "The Hammer of Heretics" is a sketch of the life of B. Peter Canisius, S.J., whose tercentenary is the General Intention proposed for the Associates of the League of the Sacred Heart for March. "The Half Natural" is a pathetic tale of Irish life during the great famine, by P. J. Coleman. "Man Proposes, and God Disposes" a story by John P. Ritter, is completed in this number. Of poetry we find "St. Joseph and the Presence Light," "Gratia Plena," and an "Ode of Leo XIII," translated by Rev. John F. Quirk, S.J. The editorials and Director's Review complete the interest of this bright number of the Messenger.

May—"How do you get George to leave so early every night?" Agatha—"At 10.30 sharp papa comes into the room, lights four blazing gas jets and then raises all the window curtains. You don't suppose for a moment a fellow has any pluck after that, do you?"—New York Journal.

Note and Comment.

An American woman, in reply to some criticism regarding the tendency of her sex to seek for husbands in foreign lands, says:—"To begin with, it is hardly fair for an American to criticize foreigners as husbands; for, to judge by the number of divorces yearly demanded by American wives, they seem to make far from satisfactory husbands themselves. 'I will not open the question (in which there is certainly a great deal to be said) as to whether a love match is necessarily a happier marriage than one which has been arranged by the two families, only saying that, in my opinion, a union entered into with equality of fortune, position, and social connection (as the latter generally are), seems to me to offer greater guarantee for future happiness than the caprice of the moment, which regulates such 'choice over here.' There is certainly a smirch of the material feature in this statement of American women, and in a great degree it raises the corner of the curtain which conceals the evils of divorce in the neighboring republic, where marriage is regarded by millions of its citizens as a mere matter of business.

Sacrifice is the portion of those who embrace the religious life, and many striking examples of heroic offering at the foot of the Cross have been recorded. Now we hear of a young lady of St. Louis, Mo., Miss Jewel, a convert to Catholicity, whose constancy is to be tested by the following clause in the will of her late uncle, Frederick Taylor, of New York:

"One of my nieces has embraced the Roman Catholic faith and is soon to become a Sister of the Order of the Sacred Heart. I have no desire to disinherit her on account of her connection with her adopted faith, but I do not desire to leave her any sum, which might, on account of her connection with sacred orders, eventually revert to the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, should she not become a sister and sever her connection with the religious orders, then a sum of \$25,000, which is to be set aside by my executors, is to be held for her in trust, and the income paid to her."

Mr. Taylor's estate is valued at \$200,000. None of the young lady's relatives believe that the legacy will be any inducement to her to give up her religious convictions.

The Roman correspondent of the Boston Pilot, writing of the frequent rumors regarding the health of the Pope, says:

"The rumors spread in the Austrian capital concerning Leo XIII's health were of a most alarming nature; nothing but immediate dissolution was expected. When it is remembered that this is the last Saturday of the month, and that it is always at such times that the most dreadful rumors prevail, and that the news of Leo XIII's serious illness, or death, will cause a fluctuation in the money market, the cause of such fabrications becomes evident. Leo XIII. is well aware of this tendency among financiers. It is related of him that, on a certain occasion, he called one of his attendants who furnishes him with the summary of the newspapers and said: 'Well, let us see how we are this morning!'

Diana Vaughan and her Memoirs have been quietly disposed of by the Roman Commission of Inquiry in its declaration "that it has no peremptory proofs either for or against the existence and the conversion of Miss Diana Vaughan." She lived only in the imagination of Leo XIII. The sensational and superstitious character of these Memoirs put them in the class of literature that every right-minded Catholic rigidly prohibits and ignores; but there is always to be found a sufficient number of credulous and ill-informed enthusiasts ready to accept that which bears but the semblance of good and is impregnated with the poison of moral evil. Rome is ever on the alert like a watchful mother guarding her children and snatching from their grasp the poisons placed within their reach by the unscrupulous emissaries of the Evil One for the destruction of their souls.

Italian students of Bologna and other Universities are airing their peculiarities and prejudices after a very unpleasant and disagreeable fashion. Blows and hisses are the popular arguments, and the peace of University cities is disturbed by their frequent party brawls, which the slightest occurrence precipitates. The Catholic clergy in Italy are considered incapable directors of the modern intellect by the Italian Government, but that institution has not much to boast of if these quarrelling factions are the results of the educational methods and discipline which it approves.

The A.P.A.'s are struggling hard to keep themselves on view by burying their Catholic brethren in the flood of bigotry and prejudice which in spite of all their efforts runs harmlessly—scarce ankle-deep. Judge McKenna, of California, may be Secretary of the Interior, as report says he is President McKinley's choice, but not if the A.P.A.'s can prevent it. They have introduced a bill into the Wisconsin Legislature providing for the inspection of convents; a church taxation bill; and a cunningly contrived memorial to Congress which has for its object the removal of the Marquette statue.

The much-heralded Bradley-Martin ball was a social shot from the ranks of wealth levelled at the boasted rights of American liberty and citizenship. The poor belated citizen hedged off by police and jostled by detectives on the public thoroughfare, and forced to choose another path to his home because Mrs. Bradley-Martin was entertaining a few friends at the Waldorf, must have had exalted visions of liberty and independence to beguile him on his homeward way. Society queens are vested with rights in our neighboring republic that the most autocratic of crowned sovereigns seldom assume, nevertheless the

pageants of New York's smart set wear no royal stamp of dignity, but just the broad trade-mark of wealth initiated with Folly.

An American journal devotes a full page to an article on the approaching prize fight between the two sluggers, Corbett and Fitzsimmons. Here is the opening paragraph, which exposes a shocking condition of affairs in the great Republic:—"Although the big night is four weeks off and the inauguration of President-elect McKinley but two, the Nevada affair has completely overbalanced the great national event that will be held in Washington in point of interest. This was made manifest yesterday afternoon when no less than five prominent Republican politicians of this State gave out to their friends that they had decided to forego the inauguration exercises of March 4 and leave for the Great Basin district the latter part of this month."

Our municipal governors might very profitably turn their attention a little to the subject of sidewalks. Every householder and business man seems to have a special license to do as he pleases in this matter, although there is a by-law which provides for the removal of the beautiful from the pedestrian's way. The fall of snow this year has been very light, and consequently very little energy has been wasted on the sidewalks, and most people seem to have arrived at the conclusion that the sidewalks can take care of themselves. When Jack Frost comes along and polishes them up to a degree of slipperiness and shine that would make the fortunes of a modern politician or boot-black, but only maims, breaks or bruises the unwary walker—there is great danger; and it is time that the City Fathers should see that the police enforce the law.

"For the first time," says an English newspaper, "the Feast of Edward the Confessor was observed by the authorities of Westminster Abbey with a celebration of Holy Communion in the morning and an address on the history and character of Edward the Confessor by the Bishop of Peterborough, after evening. As the congregation came out there was a stream of incoming Roman Catholics, anxious to reach the tomb, some carrying wreaths; and the double devotion to Edward the Confessor had an effect which anywhere else but in church would have been ludicrous. Romanism and homeward the tide is flowing fast."

At the banquet of the Press Association, in Philadelphia, a Catholic gentleman asked Archbishop Ryan for a dispensation from his pledge for that occasion, offering, as a plea, the fact that he had many friends there from all over the United States, many of whom he had not seen for years, and would look upon him as a reformed toper if he refused to drink. The Archbishop's reply to his request was: "I won't; but come and sit beside me and they can't think you are a reformed toper unless they think I am, and," continued His Grace, "we drank excellent cold water."

Miss Clara Barton will go to Cuba with her relief corps before long. Miss Barton, immediately after her return from Armenia, offered the services of the Red Cross for the relief of the destitution in Cuba, but through some intricacies of International law the necessary permission was delayed until a week ago, when Miss Barton received a letter from the Spanish Minister at Washington granting the desired permission.

The Papal army is very small, numbering not more than 500 men. About thirty of these are "Pompieri," or firemen, whose duty it is readiness to fight fire should it ever threaten the Pope's Palace. And yet there is no sovereign of them all, with legions of soldiers and squadrons of war vessels, has the same power and prestige as the unarmed Prisoner of the Vatican, the successor of Peter the fisherman.

The Toronto magnates in civic affairs have decided to abolish all tax exemptions, if by any means they can bring pressure to bear upon the Provincial Government. At a recent meeting of the Council, Ald. Carlyle, on behalf of the sub-committee on tax exemptions, called convention of municipalities of Ontario for the purpose of taking united action for the abolition of all tax exemptions. By this means the Alderman expects to achieve his purpose.

"Onida" pleading for the illiterate Italian with Secretary Olney is a curious spectacle. After describing the capabilities of an illiterate employee, she says:—"Such a man you would turn from your shores while you would receive the youth corrupted, enervated, diseased, through cheap journalism, bad tobacco, and the enforced idleness of the schools." Strange criticism!

Dr. Chauncey Depew's after-dinner eloquence will be ignominiously checked if he accepts the post of American Ambassador to England, for Secretary Olney's recent orders command silence after dinner as an essential qualification of an American envoy. Deaf-mutes may yet be in vogue as American ambassadors.

A train consisting of twenty-two cars, specially built for the transportation of the materials for the huge monument which Daniel Moriarty is erecting in memory of his wife, will shortly be run

Biliousness
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from Barre, Vt., to New Orleans, over the Illinois Central. This monument will be 70 ft. high, weighing 375 tons, and will cost \$75,000.

Way down in Nashville, Tennessee, the Irish people testified their esteem and respect for the Congress of Aberdeen, by the graceful tribute of a floral bouquet composed of pink and roses, which they presented to her on the occasion of her visit to that city to attend the wedding of her brother, Hon. Archibald Menzies, to Miss Myrtle Brown.

"Henry" Labouchere, M. P. and proprietor of "Truth," complains that he has spent \$10,000 in successfully defending vexatious actions for libel against him. "Truth" is evidently an expensive luxury in these deplorable days, unless it is carefully handled.

The little countries are full of pluck now-a-days. Japan whips unyieldingly China, Cuba defies Spain and the island of Crete is in a ferment against the big red Turkey that is dyed with Armenian gore and wants to gobble more.

Should boys be taught cooking? Is the question that is agitating the minds of a London School Board. Of course they should. Teach them cooking, mending, sewing, sweeping—all you can. The new woman is come to stay.

A church in honor of St. Brigid is to be erected at Faughart Hill, the birthplace of the Saint.

Toronto is trying to get up a reputation as a summer resort for southern visitors. All the little Western towns do it when times are dull.

Firebugs have been busy in Brockville lately.

The American Immigration Bill.

Prediction that the President will Veto It on Account of the Alien Labor Clause.

WASHINGTON, February 22.—Ever since the Lodge Bill for the further restriction of immigration passed the Senate by the narrow margin of 31 yeas to 31 nays the impression has been general that President Cleveland would veto it. This conclusion was in part due to the fact that the President's group of senatorial supporters, Messrs. Palmer, Gray, Vilas, and Caffery, had all been recorded against the bill. A member of the Cabinet whose relation to the President is one of especial intimacy expresses his belief that the bill will surely be vetoed, adding, however, that he has not passed a word with the President on the subject and that it has never been made a topic of cabinet discussion. This cabinet officer says that in his opinion the bill in its present form is an outrage, and should be prevented from becoming law. It is understood that his object is to refer particularly to the discrimination against Canadian laborers, which came originally into the bill as the Carlisle amendment.

A Watchman's Peril.

Frederick Ufford, night watchman in one of the big establishments in Alton, Ill., had a strange experience the other night when he will not forget for a long time. About 2 o'clock he heard a noise in the company's office, and went to investigate. As he walked two masked men covered him with pistols, made him lie down on the floor, and securely bound his hands with a cord. They then marched him to the cold storage room and locked him in. Going back to the office they drilled a hole in the big safe, filled it with dynamite, touched off the fuse, and a tremendous explosion followed, but the inner doors of the vault, within which there were several thousand dollars, remained intact. The burglars becoming alarmed made away. Later the next morning employees, going to the icehouse, found Ufford still frozen. In the afternoon he was sufficiently thawed out and conscious enough to tell the story. He is in a very critical condition.

"Don't you think \$40 a week alimony is a little too much to demand?" asked the referee in the divorce case, "when he is only making \$50?" "No, I don't," said the lady. "That's what I used to make him gimme when I was livin' with him."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Grymes—The bride was quite a popular girl, wasn't she? Gobang—Yes, indeed. The Daily Whoop sent its sporting editor to report it. He printed a list of rejected lovers half a column long under the heading, "Among Those Who Also Ran."

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