

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, July 5

BISHOP GRAVEL'S MISTAKE.

Eastern papers have been discussing, with severe comments in some cases, the statements made by Bishop Gravel, of Nicolet, in his recent circular letter to his clergy in relation to the Manitoba school question. The bishop states that when he was in Rome last December he was asked by Cardinal Ledochowski, the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, to draft a memorandum for the Holy See in connection with the school dispute, and quotes in his circular letter the report he drew up in compliance with this request. Part of that report reads as follows:

Now, I am asked if the sacred congregation of the Propaganda can usefully intervene to assist in the settlement of this important question. It is certain that the sacred congregation can contribute assistance of great value to the bishops by giving them its support. As stated above, it has been sought to create the impression that the Catholics of Manitoba were complaining without cause, and that the church would be well satisfied with the common schools of Manitoba, just as it is satisfied with the public schools of the United States. This opinion, which it has been sought to create among the public, would fall to the ground in the face of a support given to the bishops by the Propaganda. But in what way can this sacred congregation accomplish this intervention? It might, perhaps, through the intervention of his Eminence Cardinal Vaughan, represent, among other things, to the colonial minister in London, that his predecessor, Lord Carnarvon, had given in his own name and in the name of Her Majesty the Queen the assurance to the Catholics of Manitoba that they would have their separate schools, and that consequently the crown is bound in honor to fulfill these solemn promises if it does not wish to alienate the hearts of the Catholics of Manitoba. An intimation of this nature might have a good effect in reference to the judgment which the privy council will render within a few months upon the question which the Canadian government has submitted to it. At the same time, this sacred congregation might address to all the bishops of Canada congratulations upon the noble and truly episcopal which they have accomplished by their petition to the government in favor of the persecuted Catholics of Manitoba, and express the hope that they will continue by common action to demand the equitable settlement of this question. Besides the fact that such a letter would be calculated to create a favorable opinion on the question and unite Catholics in the vindication of their violated rights, it would greatly strengthen the hands of the future archbishop at St. Boniface, upon whose shoulders the Holy See is about to place the burden of a succession difficult to be borne.

After quoting the memorandum which he furnished to Cardinal Ledochowski, in which the above passage occurs, Bishop Gravel proceeds to show in his letter that his suggestions were acted upon. In the course of his letter he says:

The most eminent prefect at once placed himself in communication with Cardinal Vaughan, and it may be that his intervention has contributed on his part to create in the English official world an opinion favorable to the Catholics of Manitoba. However that may be, his eminence wrote me on the 18th March that "he had seized the occasion of the favorable judgment of the privy council to send a circular letter to all the Bishops of Canada, trusting much to the zeal and prudence of these prelates to secure a happy issue for so serious a business."

Naturally the idea herein conveyed, that the judgment of the privy council may have been influenced by the efforts of Cardinal Vaughan at Cardinal Ledochowski's instigation, has caused a large amount of adverse comment. We should say that the idea is erroneous, and that the judicial committee was not influenced in any such way, but there are many people in Canada who are ready to take Bishop Gravel at his word. In any event the statement was a rash and inconsiderate one, which good members of the bishop's church themselves condemn. For instance, when Mr. Jones, M. P. for Gaspé, was asked his opinion about the action of the clergy generally he replied:

"They are talking too much; Mgr. Langevin, the Protestant synods and conferences and Mgr. Gravel have all had too much to say in the matter, and for Bishop Gravel's publication I feel very strongly on the subject. It was the worst kind of a mistake, and I have said so very plainly in my paper. I have heard, however, that the bishop is not responsible for its publication, and I hope this may be true. It is said he showed the documents to a friend, and confidence was betrayed."

A FAILURE OF DUTY.

It was unfortunate that the public meeting last evening was allowed to a journal without a test of opinion in respect of the water works contract. Out of the many who object to the setting aside of the lowest tender, surely some person might have been found to move a resolution expressive of that view and prevent the meeting from taking on that inconsequent appearance which was given.

There seems to have been a remarkable lack of courage or a lack of readiness on the part of those who were instrumental in having the meeting called to pronounce upon the council's action. As far as could be judged, the sentiment was overwhelmingly against that action, but if there had appeared to be a preponderance of opinion in favor of the council's course it was nevertheless of importance that the formal test should be shown in what light their action was viewed. As the matter stands no other formal result has been achieved than a repetition by the mayor and the aldermanic majority of their reasons for awarding the contract as they did; there should have been a vote to show whether those reasons commended themselves to the meeting. It is only fair to note that further explanation is promised in the event of the matter going into the court, and that opportunity is now to be given.

Monetary Times: In offering £500,000 of its bonds to the public, the Atlantic & Lake Superior railway company, according to a cable report, states that the Dominion government guarantees and will pay interest on the bonds during their currency. The Ottawa government being questioned on the subject, replied, through Mr. Foster, that the alleged guarantee had not been, and would not be given; that all the government had done was to consent to receive £300,000 as a loan, for which it would pay 3 per cent. interest, and would make payment, as asked by the company, to the coupon holders of the bonds. It would have been better if the government had not mixed itself up with the affair at all, and if we may credit the report, it looks as if the transaction was being represented in a light not quite justified by the facts. We trust there will be no excuse for any one to say that he subscribed under the impression that the responsibility of the government is other than what it is; but in such cases fine distinctions are not observed, if disappointment in repayment comes and the government is blamed for what it does not deserve. If the lenders knew, as they ought to have known, that the so-called guaranteed interest would come out of borrowed capital for twenty years, they would have better understood their chances of repayment.

The London Times says that according to the report of the Chinese Maritime Customs for 1894, the war with Japan does not appear to have affected Chinese trade to any great extent. The gross revenue collected by the customs was 22,523,000 taels, or 534,300 more than in 1893. Each of the great divisions of trade, except that in Indian opium, contributed to this increase. The export duties, indeed, exceeded the maximum collected during the most prosperous days of the China tea trade. The total value of the foreign trade last year was 290,207,433 taels, as against 207,965,130 in 1893 and 237,084,723 in 1892. In this total Hongkong participated to the extent of 133,217,855 taels, Great Britain of 41,443,683, the United States of 25,705,870, the continent of Europe (Russia excepted) 24,889,975, India 22,471,702, and Japan 15,309,805. The total value of the imports was 162,102,911 taels, against 151,362,819 and 135,101,198 in the two preceding years. The value of exports was 158,104,522 taels, against 116,632,311 and 102,583,525 taels in the two preceding years respectively. In shipping British tonnage amounts to 69.19 per cent. of the whole, Chinese coming next with 18.7 per cent., then German (6.7), Japanese (1.28) and French (1.18).

HE LIVED LIKE A LORD.

The Career of the Late Duke of Hamilton Reviewed.

No idea of the late Duke of Hamilton would be given by giving a long list of his titles. To the world he lived in and preferred to live in he is best described by his college nickname of "Sandy Hamilton." His mother was a princess and his father premier peer of Scotland. He was heir to a triple dukedom, four earldoms, seven baronies, innumerable castles, estates running over four counties in Scotland and several in England, and a rent roll of £150,000. He preferred as a youth to figure as a prize fighter and play innumerable bad practical jokes, and to spend his days on land, attired in plain homespun knickerbockers attending race meetings when not suffering from gout, and the rest of his life clad in blue serge on board a yacht in foreign water. It would be futile to repeat the many disgraceful stories which were told of him in racing circles years ago. Suffice it to say that he dissipated his fortune, incumbered his estates to the tune of a million and a half at least, and sold the wonderful art collection of Hamilton Palace by auction for \$162,452, and the famous Beckford library, which he inherited from the daughter of the author of "Vathek," for 273,500. If this record is to live up to one's position, then the big, burly man with red hair, the red face and the red tie, lived like a lord. He owned many race horses, and naturally won some races, and in this some of the papers find reparation for everything.

—Lawn mowers at Shore's hardware, cheap for cash.

SILK MADE FROM SPRUCE

From the Pulp of the Common Spruce a Beautiful Silky Fabric is Made.

The Discovery of a Swiss Doctor—How a Mechanical Silk Worm Works.

A process has been discovered by which a material closely resembling silk may be manufactured from wood. Even now women are walking about the streets of European cities in the most elaborate gowns of silk in the manufacture of which the worm had no part. In fact, the silkworm has lost its occupation.

The palm for this valuable discovery in chemical science must go to Switzerland, for a native of Zurich, Dr. Lehner, by name, is the inventor of the process.

Some years ago he began to make observations upon the habits and physical characteristics of the silk worm and became deeply interested in the subject. He discovered the chemical action which took place in the worm in producing its cocoon, and at odd times sought to counterfeited the work of nature. So convinced did he become of the feasibility of his ideas that he soon abandoned all other work and devoted his time to this single study, in which he has achieved a signal triumph.

In the process of manufacturing the new fabric the principal ingredients used are sprucewood pulp, cotton or jute waste, etc., combined with a large quantity of alcohol. The use of the alcohol is essential, as it is necessary to create a market for what was hitherto of no use whatever, being burned in factory furnaces to get it out of the way.

Spruce sawdust now has a market value, for this as well as the other materials are digested by a chemical process in which alcohol plays an important part. The material thus digested is so much like the cocoon spun by the silkworm that when the two are placed side by side in a finished state it takes an expert to determine which is which.

The artificial material at one stage is in a liquid state, and of a density about equal to the ordinary syrup of commerce. When in this state a machine of Dr. Lehner's invention, which may be called an artificial silkworm, comes into play. This machine, which is very simple in construction, requiring so little attention that it can be kept at work with about as much labor as is devoted to a twenty-four clock, performs the same mechanical work that a silkworm does. It draws from the liquid a continuous unbroken thread of even diameter and unlimited length. As this thread is spun, for this as well as the other materials are digested by a chemical process in which alcohol plays an important part. The material thus digested is so much like the cocoon spun by the silkworm that when the two are placed side by side in a finished state it takes an expert to determine which is which.

Thus the fabric can be made of any desired weight or thickness, so that it will be seasonable at all times.

This artificial silk has been spun in Bradford, England, and worked up into a large variety of fabrics. In the dyeing, weaving and finishing of these no special treatment has been found necessary. It has been dyed in all imaginable colors and colors, and owing to the peculiar qualities of the material it takes a dye more readily and gives a more brilliant effect than the natural article. In texture it is equal to the best Chinese and Italian silks, being soft and pliable and all the while retaining the same largely in combination with natural silk and cotton for producing broadened effects. These latter have been so expensive lately as to be out of the reach of all but the fattest purses. The new invention will greatly reduce the cost.

It would seem that this new process would give an immense impetus to the manufacture of textile fabrics all over the world, and it probably will, but Dr. Lehner also differs from the average inventor, in that he combines financial prudence with his remarkable genius so that every yard of the new material made will put so many pennies into his pocket.

Patents on the process have been obtained in most of the European countries, and an application for one in the United States is now on file at Washington, as well as in the patent office of the Canadian government. A company with a capital of \$1,500,000 is about to be formed in Montreal to manufacture the material. There has already been formed in England a company with a capital of \$540,000, the inventor receiving \$160,000 in cash and \$380,000 in full paid shares, the remaining \$200,000 being used as working capital.

It was originally intended to manufacture the article in England, but when the demonstrating plant was established at Bradford it was found that there was a prohibitive tariff on alcohol used for manufacturing purposes. For that reason the plant was located at Glattpurg, near Zurich, Germany, where there is no tax on alcohol used in manufactures. From this place the raw material is sent to England for manufacture.

THE LETTERS OF JUNIUS.

Evidence to Show That Sir Philip Francis was not the Author.

Some time ago we referred to the attempt made by a descendant of Sir Philip Francis to strengthen by corroborative evidence the theory that his progenitor was the author of the famous "Letters of Junius," a theory which has found many supporters, and among them Lord Macaulay. The theory has now not a leg to stand on. In a communication in a recent number of the London Athenaeum, Mr. W. Fraser has accomplished the difficult task of proving a negative; that is to say, of demonstrating that, whoever the author

of the "Letters of Junius" may have been, it could not have been Sir Philip Francis. The ground, therefore, is cleared for new hypotheses and fresh investigations.

It was Mr. McCalmont, of Washington, who put Mr. Rae in the right track by directing attention to the following postscript in a letter written by Lord Camden to David Garrick on Sept. 7, 1774:—Is Lord Mansfield gone to Paris to deprecate peace? He is all-sufficient Junius has taken advantage of his absence to give him another stab in the Morning Chronicle." Having examined the files of that journal, Mr. Rae found in the number for Aug. 27, 1774, a letter signed "Junius," which was the one Lord Camden called "another stab" given to Lord Mansfield. Obviously, Lord Camden had no doubt of the letter's being from the pen of him who had adopted Junius for a signature, and an inspection of the style renders untenable any doubt touching the authenticity of the signature.

It is pointed out that hitherto the search for Junian letters has been confined to the columns of the Public Advertiser. The assumption has been that Junius would have sent to its editor, H. S. Woodfall, any letter he might pen after the publication in 1772 of his previous letters in collected form. That there was no ground for the assumption should have been plain to any reader of the private note to H. S. Woodfall, dated Jan. 19, 1773, in which Junius makes it clear that he was bidding farewell to his old publisher and his paper. When next Junius addressed the public, he did so through the medium of the London Evening Post; but the decisive letter reproduced in the Athenaeum, which appeared on August 27, 1774, was sent to Wm. Woodfall, the brother of H. S. Woodfall, and editor of the Morning Chronicle. Now, in this letter Junius chastised or rebuked the Boston Port bill, the Quebec bill and "contriving" the Boston Port bill. The first public intimation of the latter measure was given by Lord North in the House of Commons on March 7, 1774, and it became an act, which was to take effect on June 1 in that year. The Quebec bill was read for the first time in the House of Lords on May 2, 1774, and after passing through that chamber, it was accepted by the House of Commons and became a law toward the end of June 1774.

Why do these dates prove that Sir Philip Francis could not have written the "Letters of Junius"? For the following reasons—Philip Francis embarked for India on March 31, April 1, 1774, and he did not reach Calcutta until October 19 of that year. He could not have had any knowledge of the inception or passage of the Quebec bill, or of the passage of the Boston Port bill, until months after their enactment had been mentioned by Junius in the Morning Chronicle. This proof that Francis could not have written the "Letters of Junius" is conclusive; but if strengthening were needed, it is furnished by the fact that Junius sent a second letter to the Morning Chronicle while Philip Francis was on the high seas. This is demonstrated by a notice which Wm. Woodfall inserted in his paper on Sept. 12, 1774, to the effect that a letter from "Junius to super legale meritum is under consideration." Apparently this letter seemed libellous, and Wm. Woodfall refrained from printing it, having a natural dread of the Fleet prison.

Now the impossibility of Francis's writing the celebrated letters seems definitely established, it is interesting to recall that he carefully avoided affirming that he was Junius, though his inordinate vanity led him to encourage by silence and head-wagging the flattering hypothesis. In all likelihood he originated the legend which has linked his name so long with the famous letters. He dared not claim them in so many words, because in his lifetime there were men living that knew who the author really was. For instance, H. S. Woodfall, the publisher of the Public Advertiser, averred, according to the testimony of his sons:—"To my certain knowledge, Francis never wrote a line of Junius." The first Marquis of Lansdowne in 1805 and a week before his death, told Sir Richard Phillips that he knew who Junius was, and that, if he lived over the summer, he would write a pamphlet which would set the question at rest forever. He added, "Junius has never yet been publicly named. Nobody has ever suspected him." These words were published during the lifetime of Francis, and the wife of the latter wrote that Lord Grenville stated at a dinner table, at which Sir Philip was seated, that he "knew who Junius was, but would never tell," and she goes on to say that at that time Sir Philip was not succeeded. William Pitt told his ward Aberdeen that he knew who Junius was, and that Francis was not he.

At last a negative seems to have been proven. The field of inquiry is again wide open, and we may expect to see the question of the authorship of the "Letters of Junius" engaging public attention once more, as it has at intervals for a hundred years.

ARTESIAN WELL FISHING.

Curious Specimens Caught on a Hook in the Bowels of Indiana.

Thomas Mould and Editor E. L. Rors are the heroes of a fishing story beside which the stories of ordinary fishermen sink into insignificance. Both are known as ardent devotees of Isaak Walton, and whenever their business permits they are usually found in pursuit of the gamey black bass or the voracious pickerel. On Saturday they visited Glenmore together. The fish were not biting, with any enthusiasm and about 4 o'clock they started for home.

At Howell's condensery they stopped to talk with some workmen who were repairing the pump at the artesian well. It will be remembered by readers of this paper that at the time this well was sunk an account was given of the striking of a subterranean stream at a depth

of nearly three hundred feet, the volume of which could not be ascertained except that soundings showed it to be of considerable depth. The stream and its probable size were the subjects of discussion among the little group at the well and somebody wondered if it contained any fish.

A bright idea occurred to Messrs. Mould and Rors. Each had in his basket a long trolling-line and by uniting them a line long enough to reach easily to the bottom of the well was formed. Amid the good-natured "jollity" of the bystanders the lines were rigged and a hook attached. It was baited with a big "night-walker" fish-worm and lowered 298 feet through the six-inch hole. The distance had been carefully measured out on the line, to which a heavy sinker had been attached, and the hook fastened a short distance above to a stout piece of line. Everybody laughed except Mr. Rors as Mr. Mould carefully lowered the line and waited anxiously for the little tug at the bait which brings joy to the heart of the fisherman.

After a few minutes the expression on Tom's face became one of rapt attention. "I believe I've got a bite," he said. A moment later he began to pull in the line rapidly hand over hand. "I've got something," he said, and as everybody began to gather about the well he drew out a fish. It was about half a pound in weight and of the eyeless species, which are sometimes found in the waters of caverns. The fish was nearly a foot long, shaped something like a perch, and its struggles as it lay upon the ground showed that it was game to the backbone. Unlike fish which dwell in waters on the earth's surface and which have dark back and light-colored or white bellies, this fish was of a uniform color of light gray. It had very small scales, and where the eyes might be expected to exist there were slight indentations as of rudimentary eyes.

When the excitement attending the capture had died away the hook was baited again and the line lowered. Editor Rors took charge this time, and after waiting for about ten minutes, he drew to the surface another of the fish, a trifle larger than the first one. Five fish were caught altogether, the largest of which weighed a plump pound and a half. One fish was brought part of the way to the top, but loosened itself from the hook and escaped. Mr. Mould, who had hold of the line at the time, says it was the largest by far of any that fastened themselves on the hook, and is positive that the reason he was unable to land the fish was that it was too big to pass through the well, which is only six inches in diameter.

The singular appearance of these fish and the remarkable manner in which they were captured made them objects of curiosity to the persons to whom they were shown. Reference to the encyclopaedia shows that these fish are remarkable, aside from their appearance, in that they are viviparous, bringing forth their young alive and not depositing eggs, after the manner of most other fish. They have rudiments of eyes, but no optic nerve, and are, therefore, incapable of being affected by the most intense light. Those who tasted them say they are of excellent flavor, but rather too plentifully supplied with bones.—Goshen Independent Republican.

Contracts for supplies for the provincial jail have been awarded as follows: Groceries, Erskine, Wall & Co.; bread, McMillan Bros.; clothing, Gilmore & McCandless; meat, John Parker; and coal, Messrs. Ratay & Hall and Spratt & Macaulay.

—Harold E. Forster, Charles C. Woodhouse and Fred M. Wells, of Kamloops, and Harry Symons, of Calgary, have incorporated the Kamloops Mining and Development Company. The company has the usual powers of a mining company. Its capital is \$300,000, \$100 shares and headquarters at Kamloops.



Catarrh in the Head

Is a dangerous disease because it is liable to result in loss of hearing or smell, or develop into consumption. Read the following:

"My wife has been a sufferer from catarrh for the past four years and the disease had gone so far that her eyesight was affected so that for nearly a year she was unable to read for more than five minutes at a time. She suffered severe pains in the head and at times was almost distracted. About Christmas, she commenced taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and since that time has steadily improved. She has taken six bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and is on the road to a complete cure. I cannot speak too highly of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and I cheerfully recommend it." W. H. FUSSELL, Newmarket, Ontario.

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