

### THE OBSEQUIES OF MGR. RITCHOT

Remains Laid to Rest in the Chapel of the Church He Loved So Well.

Amid all the impressiveness of the last rites of the Roman communion the funeral of Monsignor Ritchot, the venerable parish priest of St. Norbert, vicar general of the diocese of St. Boniface, took place yesterday morning at ten o'clock. The body was laid to rest in the chapel of the church; it was the first occasion in Canada that this honor had been paid to a secular priest below the rank of a bishop. The church was crowded, no less than seventy priests being present, and laity from Winnipeg, St. Boniface and all the surrounding parishes.

The requiem mass was celebrated by Archbishop Langevin, assisted by the vicar general, Father Dugas, Father Giroux, of St. Anne and others.

After the conclusion of the imposing ceremony, Mgr. Langevin stepped forward and delivered an eloquent eulogy on the deceased prelate. He praised him because he had been a man without fears. Often when they heard men depreciating the work of the old classical colleges of Quebec, their only answer need be: Do not speak so well because your eloquences you have learned in these same colleges. From these colleges had come this man who was to be a father to the parish of St. Norbert. He fulfilled the first condition of a pastor, he became a man of the country. And being interested in the country, it was his duty to advise his parishioners as to their civil rights. In the troublous times of the 70's he, no doubt, assisted in the formation of the provincial government; but he was a promoter of legal means; and when one reads the slanders now published under the title of history, he would ask what might have become of the Catholic minority if they had not the manliness to resist oppression. But they had remained within the sphere of legality; they had never stoned defenceless people to death, nor sought to drown them. The Rev. Archbishop concluded by saying that he had often received valuable advice from the deceased priest.

The choir was under the direction of Prof. Sale, the Rev. Fr. Camirand, and Mr. Clement the choir-master, Messrs. Bernier and Leveque sang the Libera.

On Tuesday night the monks of St. Norbert watched all night by the coffin and held a special service previous to the public funeral.

#### The Successor.

Before leaving St. Norbert, Mgr. Langevin announced that he had selected the Rev. Abbe Cloutier as the successor of Mgr. Ritchot. Although they would lose his services in connection with the palace he trusted that the parish would profit. Subsequently the will of Mgr. Ritchot was read before the clergy. It contained only one provision, that Rev. Abbe Cherrier, parish priest of the Immaculate Conception, was to be his legate. Rev. Abbe Cherrier, who was present, declared that he would continue to support all the good works patronized by the deceased prelate. There is wide divergence of opinion about the value of the estate, but it is known to be considerable.—Free Press, March 23rd.

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### CATHOLIC CLUB CONCERT.

Notwithstanding the wet weather the St. Patrick's concert given under the auspices of the Catholic Club last evening attracted a capacity audience to the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. Long before the hour of opening the seats were all filled, and before the concert started there was not standing room to be had. A banner bearing the portrait of the Irish saint was the centre of the scheme of decorations which consisted of artistically blended white and green hangings and the Union Jack and American flags entwined with the red, and the Canadian ensign. The artistically designed programme was much admired. It was the work of Mr. R. F. Wrigley, and was printed in green ink with a shamrock on the cover. On the back was given a concise history of the Catholic Club.

Mr. Frank Russell, the president, in asking the indulgence of the audience, as he has done for three years in succession, suggested that they should bear in mind the crowded state of the hall when the Catholic Club appealed to them later on its new building scheme. He thought the interest in the Irish celebration was growing and would continue to grow as a larger number of immigrants came here from the green isle yearly; and no better class of immigrants could come, nor to a better country (cheers). He read a telegram from Father Guilette, saying that although far away they were still green in his remembrance, Erin go bragh. (cheers).

The musical programme was a very good one and impartially enjoyed throughout. It commenced with an overture by the orchestra "Rose of Ireland," the refrain of which is Mayor Sharpe's favorite song—"A Wild Irish Rose."

Miss Edna Landers sang "Killarney" in fine style, and for an encore gave "Peggy Brady." Mr. J. Maddigan next gave "Ireland, I Love You Acushla Macree"; and this was followed by one of the best items on the programme, Miss Barrett's "I Will Bring You Home Again, Kathleen." The clearness of enunciation and the artistic finish which Miss Barrett gave to every note and word of this old song brought forth a tempestuous encore, to which she responded with "The Little Irish Girl." Later in the evening she again delighted the audience with the "Last Rose of Summer." In Miss Barrett's case the audience wanted double encores.

Another star item was Mr. J. C. Landry's song "The Exile's Return." A true artist, Mr. Landry sings with taste and feeling and was loudly encored, more especially in his later song, "She is Far From the Land." Miss Rheo White was as usual inimitable in her laughable sketches, "A Pair of Lunatics," and one of the Dooley selections. Mr. Fred H. Wray also won great applause in his humorous sketches, which deservedly called for repeats. Miss McLennen gave "Kathleen Mavourneen" and Miss Maloney "Green Isle of Erin." It was a most successful evening and the equal of any previous St. Patrick's day concert.—Free Press, March 18.

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