

The True Witness



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IRISH EDUCATION ISSUE.

Meeting of the Bishops—Important Resolutions—The Catholic Position Re-affirmed.

A general meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland was held on October 11th at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. His Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, presided. The other prelates present were:

- Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, Primate of Ireland.
- Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel.
- Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam.
- Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Galway and Kilmacduagh.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork.
- Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Ferns.
- Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossory.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe.
- Most Rev. Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Achonry.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of Derry.
- Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.
- Most Rev. Dr. Conmy, Bishop of Killala.
- Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne.
- Most Rev. Dr. Owens, Bishop of Clogher.
- Most Rev. Dr. Hoare, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.
- Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin.
- Most Rev. Dr. Henry, Bishop of Down and Connor.
- Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.
- Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross.
- Most Rev. Dr. Gaffney, Bishop of Meath.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, Bishop of Drogheda.
- Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Clonfert.
- Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe.
- Most Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry.
- Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved,—"That we reaffirm the statement on the educational grievances of Irish Catholics and the resolutions dealing with the general disabilities from which Irish Catholics still suffer without redress, as issued by us last June; and that we hereby convey to the local authorities throughout the country our gratification at the intelligent and keen appreciation so many of them have manifested, of the gravity of the issues covered by our statement.

"In view of the persistent refusal of the civic right of Irish Catholics to suitable University education, and of the insidious attempts constantly on foot to undermine almost everything that remains sound in the fabric of Irish education, especially in the primary stage, and the consequent need of arming our people with due knowledge of the threatened danger, we ask our priests to read from their pulpits the above-mentioned statement and resolutions at the principal Mass in each church on the first Sunday of November."

The following are the statement and resolutions referred to:

STATEMENT.

"As authoritative statements made recently in Parliament indicate that the Government of the country contemplate serious changes in our systems of primary and secondary education, and as some pronouncements made by individual Catholics would suggest that the gravity of the issues involved and their true nature are not sufficiently understood, we deem it our duty to make the following statement:

"We feel that any limitation or restriction of the control which is now exercised by managers over the schools of the National system of education would be so injurious to

the religious interest of our people as to make it imperative on us to resist the introduction of such a measure, and, in case it were adopted, to consider our whole position in relation to those schools.

"As the power of appointment of the teachers in National Schools is the principal guarantee that Catholic parents have that the education of their children will be placed in trustworthy hands, and as the reports of the Inspectors of National Schools concur in stating that that power is, on the whole, well and judiciously employed by the clergy, we are satisfied that on moral and religious as well as educational grounds it would be disastrous to interfere with it.

"There is no sufficient reason for the adoption of extreme measures such as have been recently suggested; the National system as it actually exists is the growth of sixty years; it has gradually been transformed from its original irreligious conception into a form that is in harmony with the actual conditions of the country; it has removed, broadly speaking, all religious strife and contention from the primary schools; it has been widening year by year, and improving its educational work, and, although there are still many defects we are convinced that these may be remedied under the present system without convulsing the country, and perhaps throwing education back for generations, especially if the appointment of Commissioners is carefully made, and on educational qualifications.

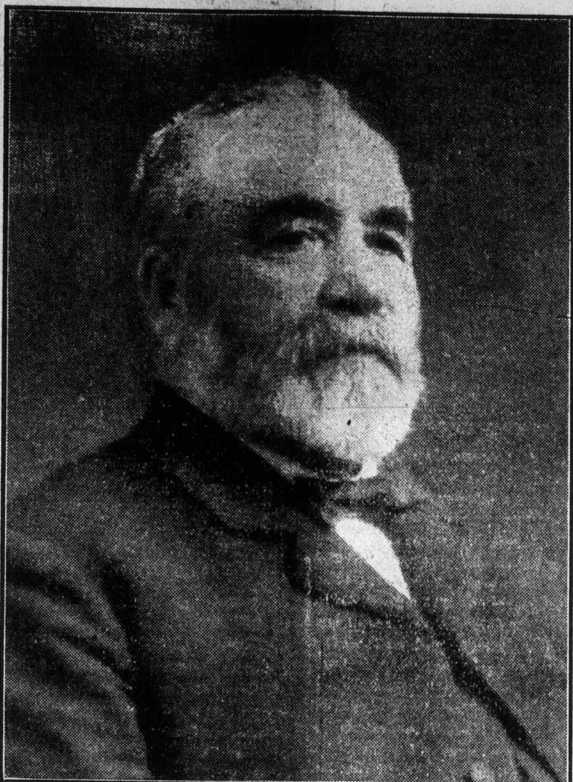
"If the improvement of education is the object which the Government and those who are behind them have in view, they would first try what simple and obvious reform within the existing system would effect. In a wretchedly poor country that is drained by excessive taxation and a ruinous land system, it would occur to anyone that wherever parsimony was allowable it was not in dealing with our schools. Yet at the moment that England is transferring over a million a year from local rates to Imperial taxation for the support of her schools, the Equivalent Grant for this country is refused to our primary schools on the score that our poor people do not contribute enough locally to their support. In our opinion, the primary schools of Ireland, especially in the poorer districts, have the first claim on this Equivalent Grant, which by itself would be sufficient to remove practically all the material defects about which complaint is now being made, and amongst other things, would render unnecessary the objectionable suggestion of amalgamating boys' and girls' schools in districts where the necessity for such amalgamation does not exist, whether as regards attendance or educational efficiency, but solely to save expense.

"Then the waste of £30,000 a year on the Model Schools ought to cease, the Training Colleges should be helped until they reach the highest point of efficiency; the salaries of the teachers should be made such as to attract the best and most suitable candidates to the profession. These and other reforms would remove the greater part of the defects which are now the pretexts for attacking ostensibly the present system, but in reality the power of the clergy in the schools.

"Statements have been made as to the want of interest on the part of the people in education. We do not think that it is so. The amount of voluntary contributions which they make towards the building of schools towards which in many instances the Government makes no building grant, is very large; and all over Ireland it is the uniform experience of managers that the people willingly contribute whatever is necessary to the upkeep of the schools. There are exceptions, we allow, but they must not be taken as a type of the whole, and for our part, we should gladly second any measure to compel such managers to do their duty. In the details of the educational work done in the schools parents do not, as a rule, interfere, from the conviction, which we regard as, on the whole, sensible on their part, that these things are somewhat outside their competence, and can be safely left to the teachers under the supervision of expert inspectors and the immediate control of the managers.

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MR. PETER LYALL.



Peter Lyall & Sons, Building Contractors, a firm whose reputation today is not confined to Montreal alone, but is known from coast to coast in every large commercial centre in Canada. Standing in many Canadian towns and cities are monuments of structural solidity and architectural beauty, evidence of the skilled workmanship, energy, industry and ability of Peter Lyall & Sons. The head of this large contracting firm is Mr. Peter Lyall, who has been placed in nomination for St. Antoine division in the interests of the Liberal party, and whose history is inseparably associated with the growth and progress of Montreal; and who to-day occupies the first place in the ranks of those who have contributed to the upbuilding of the largest commercial city in Canada. The firm of which he is the leading spirit enjoys the well-merited reputation in Montreal of being "A great building firm of a well-built city." The firm is now engaged in large contracts in the City of Winnipeg and on many important works in Montreal and Ottawa, all of which are being rapidly advanced, employing a very large number of workmen.

There are not many working men of the present day who are aware that Mr. Peter Lyall became a member of Dominion Assembly, Knights of Labor, over twenty years ago, and is still an active member of the same organization. The most friendly feeling has always existed between "Master and Men," and the name of this gigantic firm, employing throughout the year thousands of workmen in their large undertakings, stands first in the list of firms noted for fair treatment and consideration for their employees. Mr. Lyall has not only shown the deepest interest in the welfare of his own workmen, but he is regarded by the mechanics and artisans of Montreal as one of their staunchest champions, and has always devoted considerable time and expense on their behalf.

Every measure tending to the benefit of the working classes is sure to have his warmest support, and any case of distress is always promptly relieved. One of his chief characteristics is his readiness to advise and assist young men who are commencing the battle of life and are struggling to secure a foothold in the race. A short sketch of Mr. Peter Lyall will prove interesting to our readers, and should act as an inspiration to the young men of today. He was born at Caithness, Scotland, in the year 1841, and was early put to work to learn the art of a stone mason and builder, and always fulfilled his duties to the entire satisfaction of his employer. He acquired considerable experience in his native land, and his ability, industry and untiring energy caused his recognition as an able, conscientious and straightforward workman.

Thinking that a new country would afford greater scope for his talents, he came to Canada in 1869, and settled in Montreal, where he started in business as a builder and contractor. The beginning was on a very small scale; but it gradually expanded to its present enormous dimensions. He has carved out his own fortune, and has earned an honorable name among all classes of the community.

Despite a life of business activity, Mr. Lyall found time to render services to the city on many occasions. In 1894 he was elected Alderman for St. Antoine ward, and his public career was justly esteemed for its perfect disinterestedness and unswerving integrity which even the smut of civic politics failed to tarnish. He filled the important position of Acting Mayor with dignity and impartiality, and was always on the alert, during his Aldermanic term, to oppose abuse and extravagance. Mr. Lyall is President of the Caledonian Society and is connected with a number of business concerns apart from the contracting business.

For many years he has been a member of the Reform Club's council, and last year became president, which office he held with great distinction.

Mr. Lyall has taken much interest in city charities. He is president of the Verdun Asylum board, and is connected with numerous charitable organizations, to which his abilities and wealth are freely given.

The liberals of St. Antoine division eagerly took advantage of the opportunity to secure Mr. Lyall as their candidate in the present federal campaign, and many months ago requested him to become their standard-bearer. Mr. Lyall accepted the honor, and since then the party in St. Antoine division has become much strengthened.

Mr. Lyall is immensely popular with political opponents as well as political friends. This is partly due to a naturally kindly and sympathetic nature, and partly to a remarkably genial manner. He is worthy of the high honor which the constituents have conferred upon him. We publish a list of the most important buildings erected by Messrs. Peter Lyall & Sons.

- Montreal Board of Trade.
- Grand Trunk Railway General Offices.
- Royal Victoria Hospital.
- Canada Life Assurance Co.
- Guardian Assurance Co., Ltd.
- New York Life Insurance Co.
- Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada.
- Montreal Stock Exchange.
- Montreal Daily and Weekly Star Building.
- Coristine Building.
- Imperial Building.
- McDonald Building, McGill College.
- Royal Victoria College.
- Art Association Building.
- His Majesty's Theatre.

- James A. Ogilvy & Sons Store.
- Zion Church.
- E. S. Clouston.
- Peter Lyall's residence.
- Geo. Cairns.
- Wells, Richardson Co.
- Belding, Paul & Co.
- Montreal Cotton Co., Valleyfield.
- Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co.'s Sub-station.
- Merchants Cotton Co.
- Montreal Street Railway Co.'s Office, East End.

MONSTER DEMONSTRATION.

The arrival of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the city last Monday evening was the signal for thousands to turn out to do him honor. Chinese lanterns, rockets, transparencies and torches were pressed into service, and when the Premier alighted from the train it took but a moment to respond to the order to march, and a veritable triumphant march it was, Sir Wilfrid may have been fatigued coming as he did from a vigorous campaign in the West, but he did not show it. His eye did not lack its old-time brightness, nor was his eloquent tongue less electrifying than was its wont; the mellow ring was in his voice, the vast throng was appealed to, and it yielded itself to his magnetic influence. Both the Monument National and Sohmer Park, where Sir Wilfrid made addresses, were crowded long before the appointed hour. The chief campaign issues were discussed and Sir Wilfrid was sanguine that the great Liberal party would do itself proud on Nov. 3.

Monument National, Ottawa.

Corner Stone Laid by Archbishop Duhamel.

Ottawa, Oct. 24.—With the blessing of the corner stone of the Monument National by His Grace Archbishop Duhamel yesterday afternoon, was inaugurated a work which means a big step forward for the French Canadians of Ottawa, Hull and vicinity.

When the building is completed there will be a fitting home for the French-Canadian societies, where the members will be enabled to meet, become acquainted, and learn, as Mayor Ellis said at the ceremony, to be better French-Canadians and better citizens.

At 1:30 sharp the procession of French societies of Ottawa, Hull and Aylmer left the hall of St. Joseph's Union and marched to the Archbishop's Palace. His Grace the Archbishop, attended by Mgr. Marois, of Laval, and Mgr. Routhier, V.G., was escorted to the site of the new building.

The attendance is estimated to have been three thousand. George and Dalhousie streets were packed, and the platform too crowded for comfort.

Monseigneur Duhamel in a brief address upon the occasion, conveyed to the promoters of the institution his best wishes for their success, and congratulated the French people of this district on their prospects of having such a splendid building in which to congregate and hold their various reunions.

Speeches were delivered by His Worship Mayor Ellis, Mr. John P. Featherstone, president of St. George's Society; Mr. Wm. Kearns, president of St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Association; Mr. A. T. Charron, president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society; Hon. N. A. Belcourt, and Ald. N. Champagne.

Mr. Wm. Kearns extended to the French-Canadians of Ottawa and vicinity the hearty good wishes of the Irishmen of the city, for the best success in the great project they have before them. He hoped they would realize a home in which would be inculcated the doctrines of good citizenship, a centre of religious toleration and good will.

The ceremonies were brought to a fitting close by the singing of "O Canada" by the chorus, led by Mr. Belleau, and the playing by the band of "The Maple Leaf Forever" and "God Save the King."

Among those present were, besides

the speakers, Mr. J. U. Vincent, who sat on one side of His Grace, with Mayor Ellis on the other, Lady Laurier and Madame Belcourt, the members of the City Council, Sir Elzéar Taschereau, Mgr. Marois, of Laval, Quebec; Mgr. Routhier, V.G.; Rev. Fathers Bourque and Lamarche, O.P., of St. Jean Baptiste Church; Candide and Alexis, O.M.C., of the Franciscan monastery; Myraud, of St. Anne's; Portelance and Jeanotte, O.M.I., of the Sacred Heart, Church, and other clergy and prominent citizens.

CATHOLIC CHURCH MUSIC.

Great Impetus Given to the Present Reform Movement.

An interesting article upon the Gregorian movement in England and Ireland has appeared in the Verite Francaise from the pen of M. Hermeline, Professor at the Catholic Institute, Paris. Having described the history of the movement in these countries, M. Hermeline writes:

The ground had already been prepared there when two events occurred which were destined to give a great impetus to the existing movement. The first was the removal of Solesmes to Appuldurcombe, in the Isle of Wight, an event which transferred to England the centre of Gregorian studies and the model rendering of Plain Song; the second was the "Motu Proprio" of Pius X. There have been, and there still are, complaints against this act of the Pope amongst Catholics beyond the Channel, but on the whole, and especially in Ireland, there was a noteworthy readiness to bow to the decisions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

It was then that, in his love for Plain Chant, Father Moloney conceived the idea of gathering priests and choirmasters to hear the Office as sung by the Benedictines, and to get instructions from them at Appuldurcombe. Imitating a custom common in England, and even more so in America, he had it announced in the newspapers that there would be held at Appuldurcombe, during the last fortnight in August, a summer school for the study of Gregorian Plain Song.

The summons was obeyed. From the 15th of August all the available rooms in the little village of Wroxall, situated about a quarter of an hour from the Abbey, had been engaged, and several who came later were obliged to find lodgings in the neighboring town of Ventnor. At the first conference there were about forty-five persons. Others came subsequently, and the number of those who took advantage of the lessons rose to sixty-three. There were ecclesiastics, organists, choirmasters, from various places in England, and especially from Ireland. Even America was represented. The lonely road leading from the monastery to the village was darkened four times daily by a procession of priests and musicians, carrying their books under their arms, and discussing the revelation they had found in the new Plain Song; and in the evening the streets of the village were filled by Irishmen of fine proportions and athletic forms.

The first point in the programme was assistance at the offices, in which Plain Chant was heard in its living function; and the first High Mass was a Requiem sung unaccompanied; which at once held and confused the listeners. For, apart from the beauty of those melodies of the Mass for the dead, Plain Chant would seem to produce most effect when unaccompanied. Then there was the teaching proper. This consisted of two addresses of general interest, one by Mr. Booth on the history of Plain Song, and the other by Father Moloney on the aesthetics of Church music, and then of a series of practical instructions, in which the lecturer, turning his knowledge of English to account, made clear to his hearers how necessary it is to forget the notions of modern music in order to understand Gregorian melody, and especially its rhythm.

The members of the Summer School were allowed by the Prior to visit the workshop, in which the monks

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