

A DOMINION PLEBISCITE

GRANTED BY PREMIER LAURIER IN BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST FROM A DELEGATION OF PROHIBITIONISTS WHO VISITED OTTAWA LAST WEEK—THE PREMIER'S SPEECH TO THE GATHERING.

The most successful prohibition delegation which ever assembled at Ottawa listened to the promise of the Government last week to take immediate steps to carry out their policy of a plebiscite. Among the large number present were the following:—The Hon. J. C. Aikens, Messrs. J. J. McLaren, Toronto; J. R. Dougall, Walter Paul, Montreal; Dr. Christie, M.P., S. J. Carter, A. M. Featherston, S. P. Leet, J. H. Carson, the Rev. John McKillop, Major E. L. Bond, all of Montreal; the Rev. W. L. Scott, Ottawa; William H. Orr, F. S. Spence, John T. Moore, James Scott, all of Toronto; John Gemmill, Lanark; W. W. Buchanan, Hamilton; T. D. Craig, M.P., S. Gillies, Ailsa Craig; the Rev. Dr. Sanders, Ottawa; Mr. Hale, M.P., and Mr. Ganong, M.P., New Brunswick; Joseph Kidd, Prospect; Thomas Coates, Prescott; Ald. Stewart, Ottawa; Mrs. A. D. Scott, Ottawa; Miss Mary Scott, Mrs. Alexander, Ottawa; Mr. J. Kirkpatrick, Ottawa, and a large number of others.

The delegates assembled in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons. Senator Vidal, president of the Dominion Alliance, presided at a preliminary meeting of the delegates at 9.30. He opened the meeting in a few remarks in the course of which he said that he considered a plebiscite an expensive and unnecessary way of getting an opinion. A discussion ensued as to the best means of addressing the government and it was resolved on a vote that three delegates address the government. Mrs. Alexander was chosen to represent the ladies and Mr. J. J. McLaren was next selected. The names of both Mr. W. W. Buchanan of Hamilton and Mr. John R. Dougall of Montreal were mentioned for the third spokesman and on a vote Mr. Dougall was elected.

THE DELEGATES SPEAK.

Shortly after ten o'clock the Premier and the Hon. Sydney Fisher entered the room and were heartily applauded. Senator Vidal urged the supreme importance of this question in a brief address. He was followed by Mr. McLaren, who put himself on rapport with the Premier at once by alluding to the fact that Mr. Laurier was one of the promoters in 1875 of the Dominion Alliance Convention in Montreal. He referred to Mr. Fisher as one of their warmest friends and supporters. After speaking of the vote of the provincial plebiscite he added that the new government had been endorsed on their policy at the polls by a large majority and the government was pledged to a plebiscite. That, however, was merely a means. They come to ask for prohibition, which they believed to be of such great consequence.

Mrs. Alexander of Ottawa next addressed the government. She said she represented the W. C. T. U., an organized body of ten thousand. She dwelt on the helplessness of the woman and children. In the past it had been said that women weep because men made the laws, but happily they had fallen on better days and she was quite willing to leave their cause in the hands of the new Premier. (Loud cheers.)

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Mr. Laurier—I fully recognize the great importance of the meeting and the delegation which I see before me, and of the object they have in view. I fully agree with every word spoken by Mr. Vidal and Mrs. Alexander as well, when they said that the cause of temperance was, perhaps, the greatest and most important in all civilized communities at the present time. (Cheers.) I am glad to say, though perhaps you have not reached the point you are aiming at, that I can bear my testimony to the fact that the cause of temperance has made immense progress in the last twenty or twenty-five years. As a gratifying evidence I may tell you that as leader of the Opposition I have held no less than three hundred meetings in all parts of Canada and I am here to bear witness that in all these meetings, with the exception of three, I never saw a man under the influence of liquor. (Cheers.) Such a thing was impossible thirty or perhaps fifteen years ago. Let us hope that the leader of the Opposition twenty-five years hence will be able to bear the same testimony without making even three exceptions. But what is temperance? We are here as practical men. You hold that it is absolute abstinence. Many people believe that temperance is moderation and this we cannot forget. When the Liberal Convention met here in 1893, having to deal, as we thought we had to deal, with the interests of our common country, we thought to have the opinion of the people properly tested so as to ascertain what the feeling of the country was, whether it should mean absolute abstinence, as you think, or moderation, as others think. We thought the taking of a plebiscite the best way and we decided to divest it of every other question which might more or less bias the judgment of the people. We thought it better to go even further than Sir Oliver Mowat's Government went

when it took a plebiscite in connection with municipal elections. We wished the question divested of every other consideration, so that we might have the judgment of the people on this question itself.

THE LAW IN QUEBEC.

There are other views. The people of Canada are not a unit on the question of abstinence or moderation, and there are also local interests. Take the Province of Quebec, which has had a prohibitory law which dates back from 1864. Previous to Confederation, Municipal Councils were empowered and are still empowered to enact such prohibitory by-laws with the municipalities. There is no need to appeal to the people, but the Council itself has the right to enact a prohibitory law, and in some sections of the province this power has been largely exercised. In the Counties of Lotbiniere, Drummond, Arthabaska, Portneuf and Megantic, the sale of liquor under the sanction of law is almost unknown. In Arthabaska, out of eighteen municipalities, there has not been a drop of liquor sold under the law, or a single license issued, except in two. In Megantic, out of fourteen municipalities, my impression is that the same thing is true, except in one municipality. In Lotbiniere and the same is true of Portneuf. (Cheers.) It remains to be seen whether the people there are in favor of a change, and the plebiscite will show that.

A PLEBISCITE PROMISED.

The plebiscite is part of the Liberal programme adopted at the Convention of 1893. Our policy has been before the people who have pronounced upon it. It now becomes our duty to carry out our programme, and I say frankly it is our intention to do so. (Cheers.) As to the time when it should be done, my answer is this:—It is the intention of the Liberal party to carry out the letter every article of its programme within the very shortest possible limit. There is no intention to delay. On the contrary, speaking even politically, it is perhaps the best policy of all to deal with the question within the shortest time. It is not our intention on this session, but I have every hope that next session, and not later, we shall introduce the legislation we have promised. (Loud cheers.) This is a question in which the women are, perhaps more than the men, interested. Mrs. Alexander has not the right of suffrage, but all will admit that she could not influence the government of this country more if she had a vote than she can do simply speaking. (Cheers.) Hon. Mr. Fisher also addressed the meeting.

THE PHYSICIAN'S AID.

THE NURSES' CO-OPERATION OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

MISS TREW, ASSISTANT LADY SUPERINTENDENT, GIVES A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK DONE BY THIS ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES—THE ROYAL VICTORIA OF MONTREAL EQUAL TO ANY HOSPITAL IN THE OLD WORLD.

Those who are under the impression that the medical practitioners of the British Isles place the greatest importance in securing the aid of trained nurses at the bedside of their patients, either in the wards of the metropolitan hospitals or in private cases, will have such opinion strengthened if they should meet Miss Trew, the Assistant Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-Operation, an institution founded in London, G. B., some years ago. This clever lady, who has been visiting her brother in Chicago, and also seeing the leading hospitals of the Eastern States, was in this city last week, the guest of Mr. Charles Drinkwater, Secretary of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and with that gentleman, visited the Royal Victoria Hospital. Miss Draper, the Lady Superintendent, cordially received, as is her wont, the English lady, and made her acquainted with every feature of the institution of which Montreal is so justly proud.

After Miss Trew had returned from her interesting visit to the Royal Victoria, she accorded an interview to a reporter of the Gazette, to whom she imparted her impressions of Canada's greatest hospital.

"What shall I say?" began Miss Trew. "In fact I cannot say too much in praise of the Royal Victoria, which, in my opinion, compares most favorably with any hospital I have visited, either in the Old World or the new. The operating theatre is especially up to date, and from what I can see the governing body has been successful in securing a most competent staff of officials. The nurses appear to be eminently well qualified for their work, and Miss Draper's reputation is not confined to Montreal by any means." Miss Trew then stated that it was also her intention to visit the other hospitals in the city, and proceeded to refer to the institution in London to which she belongs, "The Nurses' Co-Operation," she said, "was established for the purpose of assisting physicians to secure efficient professional nurses for private cases, and, at the present time, 350 names are on the association roll. There is no fee, but each nurse contributes 7 1/2 per cent of her earnings at each case to which she has been sent by the Co-Operation. Before participating in the benefits of the Co-Operation, the nurses must be possessors of certificates as to character and capacity, and, consequently, when a call comes, either from London, the provinces, or the continent, the capabilities of the members being so well known, a professional nurse, well adapted to the requirements of the case in question, can be immediately despatched." "Do you supply the hospital demands?" Miss Trew was asked. "No, our institution treats with private cases, although a great many nurses, who desire a change of work, join the Co-Operation and accept private cases." "What are the trained nurses of England generally paid for their services?" the reporter asked. "From two to three guineas per week, with their travelling expenses, which is no small item when we have to send

them to the different countries in Europe. We have at present four or five nurses in South Africa, others in Algiers, and, in fact, we receive daily calls from Germany, Austria and, as I said just now, most of all the European States."

Speaking of the profession generally, Miss Trew declared that until about thirty years ago the question of trained nurses in England had not received that attention which its great importance demanded, but ever since great progress had been made, and at the present time the leading hospitals of the land were so many training schools for those women who devoted their days and nights to the relief of the sick, and who had become such important factors in the treatment of those afflicted by disease.

"From what classes in your country are your nurses generally recruited?" "They are, for the most part, educated women, and not a few of them are widows, who, losing their husbands early in life, adopt the profession of trained nurse."

Miss Trew was born in the south of Wales, and this was her first trip to Canada. She left for Liverpool on Saturday, by the steamship Parisian.

THE CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL

IGNORED BY THE DAILY PRESS.

(From Catholic Review, New York.)

Either the management of the Catholic Summer School at Plattsburg has failed in furnishing accounts of its proceedings to the news agencies of the daily press or these agencies have not thought the Summer School of sufficient importance to give space to it. Whichever of these causes is responsible the result is unfortunate. The secular press has this year made at most a brief mention of the fact that the school had opened its sessions. And yet, the papers that were read and discussed were certainly of a character to appeal to the general interest of American newspaper readers, regardless of their religion. While, of course, the great majority of the intelligent Catholic readers of these papers would be deeply interested in reading at least synopses of the papers discussed.

Probably, however, this remarkable silence of the daily secular press as to the Catholic Summer School is only another proof that if Catholics really want to keep themselves in intellectual touch with one another as Catholics, on Catholic interests and affairs, they ought to make an effort to put the established Catholic press on a basis to do this work, for no secular press can, or will do it. Had the intelligent Catholics of this city properly understood their powers and duties they would long ago have strengthened by their hearty support the few periodicals that have always merited Catholic support by their course, and more than that, they would long ere this have seen a Catholic daily with a sufficient capital and a suitable staff as a flourishing member of the daily press of the city.

Now that the scheme of the Greater New York is under way, perhaps the idea of a Catholic daily for the enlarged, with an enlarged field of operations, may be realized. Certainly the considerable body of wealthy, intellectual and honorable Catholics dwelling in the Greater New York, can be depended on if rightly appealed to in the proper way to welcome with good will and with generous pecuniary support any scheme of such a daily paper that would furnish all the news that decent people care to read and give in addition attention to all those matters that belong to the intellect and the heart and soul of the great Catholic world.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

At the regular meeting of Branch 210 of the C.M.B.A., held on 2nd Sept., 1896, at Grand Falls, N.B., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Bro. J. B. Chouinard and seconded by Bro. Rev. M. A. O'Keefe: That whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call out of this world the beloved mother of our esteemed president, P. A. McCloskey

Resolved, that the members of this branch hereby extend their heartfelt sympathy to Bro. McCloskey and his family in their sorrow and affliction.

Be it further Resolved, that this resolution be recorded in the minutes of this branch, and copies of the same forwarded to Bro. McCloskey and the Catholic press.

CATHOLIC SEAMEN'S CLUB CONCERT

POPULAR THURSDAY MUSICAL UNIONS.

The promise made that the concert of the season of this Club would take place at their ball last Thursday evening, was well kept. Mr. Gordon, occupying the chair, opened the programme and distributed another bunch of gems, every one of which, when presented, was received with loud applause. The following was then the order:—Mrs. Tygh, song; Miss Wheeler, piano; Geo. Donaldson, "Irish Jig," in good style. A. McLennan's "Highland Fling" and "Sword" dances, were artistic. Jas. McLean, seaman, of S.S. Parisian, is a capital singer, and several other seamen took part. Mr. Greenwood was there also, to prove that "Bill Adams" was the hero of Waterloo.

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The special gem was St. Patrick's Church choir, under the skilful direction of their talented leader, Prof. Fowler, and they were splendid in their choruses, "Davy Jones" and "Kerry Dance." During the evening the following members of the choir favored the audience with some fine singing: J. P. Curran, J. J. Rowan, J. Murray, J. Kennedy, C. Smith. Also, the old friends, Messrs. Read and Milloy, were good in their comic duets. The chairman, on behalf of the Club, especially thanked Prof. Fowler and his choir, for their great kindness.—F. C. L.

PRIEST PARALYZED.
ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE LEAVES HIM IN A PITIFUL CONDITION.
PITTSBURG, Aug. 21.—While he was robing himself to celebrate Mass in St. Joseph's Church in Verona, Rev. Father Vogt was stricken with paralysis. Several weeks ago his church was struck by lightning. The priest was in the parsonage at the time and felt the shock. Had he not been filled with an iron magnetism, the doctors say, he would not have been paralyzed. For thirty-six hours he has been unable to move or talk. The paralytic stroke is attributed to the susceptibility of his temperament to atmospheric disturbances.—N. W. Catholic.

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PATENTS ON HARVESTERS.
The following information is prepared specially for this paper by Messrs. Marion & Laberge, Engineers and Patent Solicitors, Temple Building, Montreal.
Ten thousand three hundred and thirty-three patents have been granted for harvesters. In 1871, some of the essential features of the modern harvester had already been invented and some experimental machines had been tested in the field, but farmers were then using nothing more than the ordinary mowing machines and reapers, from which the grain was raked in gables and bound by men who followed the machine.

Since that time the art of harvesting grain has been revolutionized by the invention and introduction of the automatic self-binding machine. The patents to Locke, No. 149,233, 21st March, 1874, and No. 121,290, November 28th, 1871, show a wire-binding attachment for harvesters, under which a great many machines were built, and which continued in use until the development of the twine binder.

The patent to M. L. Gorham, No. 159,506, February 9th, 1875, was probably the first twine-binder to operate successfully in the field, and was considered a pioneer invention by the court in the recent case of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. vs. C. Aultman & Co.
Almost all the twine-binders built in the United States have been built under one of two patents—one to H. A. & W. M. Holmes, No. 210,533, December, 1878, and the other to Appleby, No. 212,420, February, 1879.

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HUXLEY'S TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC TRAINING.
The Monitor says:—In the current issue of the Nineteenth Century Mr. Wilfrid Ward contributes some personal recollections of Professor Huxley, whose lack of orthodoxy is well known. Thirty years ago Huxley visited Maynooth, and recorded his impressions:—

"It was my fortune some time ago to pay a visit to one of the most important institutions in which the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church are trained in these islands, and it seems to me that the difference between these men and the comfortable champions of Anglicanism and Dissent are comparable as the difference between our gallant volunteers and the trained veterans of Napoleon's Old Guard. The Catholic priest is trained to know his business, and do it efficiently. The professors of the college in question—learned, zealous and determined men—permitted me to speak frankly with them. We talked like outposts of opposed armies during a truce—as friendly enemies."

And after recording the confidence with which the professors professed that a church which had survived so many storms would survive the existing infidel movement, and describing the systematic training given to the Divinity students with a view to refuting contemporary attacks on Christianity, he adds: "I heartily respect an organization which meets its enemies in this way, and I wish that all ecclesiastical organizations were in as effective a condition. I think it would be better not only for them, but for us. The army of Liberal thought is at present in very loose order; and many a modern Freethinker makes use of his freedom mainly to vent nonsense. We should be the better for a vigorous and watchful enemy to hammer us into cohesion and discipline; and I for one lament that the bench of Bishops cannot show a man of the calibre of Bishop Butler of the Analogy, who, if he were alive, would make short work of the current a priori infidelity."

Visiting Foreigner—What are these "fresh-air funds" I hear talked about?
Miss Flufflyhair (from the hammock)—Why, don't you know? They're what we're always having lawn teas and little plays for.

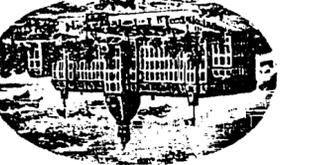
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