

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1908.

Edition of Dunton and System of Partnership

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### Correspondence.

#### THE ATTACKS ON HON. MR. BRODEUR.

Sir.—The recent attacks on the Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, have caused a great deal of regret to all to whom he is known personally, whether they be his party friends or opponents. It is to be noted that certain Conservative members like Mr. Ames have not joined in these attacks, the reason being that they know and esteem the honorable gentleman too well to endorse the slightest reflection upon him. In Montreal not only his able and honest private life but his record in the House of Commons is well known. He has won golden opinions from a reorganization of the House of Commons, which he has changed from a nondescript body of ineffective delegates into a compact and efficient body of business men, producing results of order and economy which form a happy omen for a most important interest of Canadian commerce. He has been known for a score of years to the younger men of the city, both French and English, as an able and honest supporter of every beneficial public movement, and a political leader of stainless record. When the Minister of Marine two years ago some of its affairs were known to have been left in a state of considerable disorder at the death of his predecessor, the Hon. Mr. Prefontaine. Mr. Brodeur has since applied his great abilities to improving the business of the department, as well as to other weighty affairs of government, such as the Imperial Conference and the French Treaty. It is therefore surprising to see that this is the minister who has now been chosen for attack. The most surprising part is that the attacks are based on the very efforts made by him and his government to improve their work. On February 23 last, after a prelude of some criticism on a trivial matter of book-keeping regarding his expenses to the Imperial Conference, he was charged in Parliament by his opponents with wasting \$47,000 introducing a new system of accounting in his department. Some American and Canadian accounting experts, who had been invited to overhaul the work of the department, were highly paid for their work, but not more than their usual charge. What seems strange is that the very precaution taken by the minister to protect the country's expenditures should be chosen as the occasion of a violent assault. His statement speaks for itself: "I do not shrink any responsibility. In that respect I am as proud as anybody can be. It was absolutely necessary for me to know exactly what the expenses of the department were. That is why I had the investigation and this new system of accounting prepared. I believe it will bring good results in showing where expenses are too high." Yet Mr. Bennett, M.P., works himself up to the phrases "palpable theft" done "at the dictation of the Minister," and Mr. J. D. Reid charges that when he paid this account the minister knew in the bottom of his heart that it was false, and the country had been robbed by these men. Mr. Blain is more reasonable, and admits that "we do not object to a liberal expenditure of money for bringing the system up to date." Some idea of the scope covered appears from the facts that the department's annual purchases amount to over \$1,000,000 and that it has to maintain manufacturing plants in Sorel and Prescott, and a line of cable to the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is equally strange that Mr. Brodeur or the government should be attacked in the matter of the recent Civil Service Commission report, because it brings to light some irregularities in a distant branch of the same department. To discover such things was one of the very objects for which the commission was instituted by Mr. Brodeur and his colleagues, and composed of independent men, given a free hand. Approval in place of condemnation is surely due him. Furthermore, a concerted attack was made by Messrs. Foster, Bennett and others in every conceivable way upon him respecting the details of the numerous purchases of his department. A typical one was about Mr. Vanasse, the "historian" of Captain Berrien's expedition to the Arctic. A historian is a usual appointment on official voyages of discovery. Mr. Brodeur explains that previous discoveries and monuments were to be verified. Here is a sample of the strain in which the fact is treated in debate:

"Mr. Foster—The vessel stops at certain places and immediately Vanasse goes out to look for 'gains.' Show us how he approached 'one, what he did after he found it, and what he did with it when he did find it."

This style of badgering continued to such an extent that Mr. Brodeur exclaimed:

"I have even that information at least twenty times to-night. I appeal to the common sense of the members if it is right that the same question should be asked by the Opposition dozens and dozens of times?"

Mr. Sam. Hughes answers "That is the business."

The object, of course, was to anger and confuse.

On looking to the Imperial Conference and remembering the French Treaty, Mr. Brodeur had been estimated \$100,000 by the Department to meet expenses. Some members tried to get the money out of the department. The object of this Mr. Foster should call a "trick" in the middle of the night. Concerning the expenditure of Mr. Bennett's witnesses, it is not wonder that the minister did

not bring down this rooking mass of corrupting thieving."

Another matter was the alleged prices charged by a supply merchant named Merwin. It was shown that Merwin was acting under a contract made before Mr. Brodeur became minister, and that the high priced items amounted to only five per cent of its whole list. Yet this was represented in violent language as "robbery," and robbery for which the minister was criminally responsible, and the matter was discussed and re-discussed many times in like terms, with the purpose of leading the public to believe that some ministerial scandal was unearthed.

Mr. Owen had the decency to observe that: "I do not want the minister to think that I have any suspicion of him doing wrong intentionally." Some other well known members took no part in the abuse. But the siege continued night and day from Thursday to Saturday midnight, and was renewed on March 26, in connection with the Civil Service Commission. Well did Mr. Brodeur exclaim: "I have a sense of honor which perhaps some gentlemen opposite don't understand. Since I have been in public life I defy anybody in this House or out of it to make any charge that may affect my honesty or my sense of duty in the administration of public affairs. I know what I owe to my country, and I can assure the House that so long as I occupy a position of trust in public life I will never be found not carrying out that trust in a proper way. That has been my policy in the past, that is my policy to-day, that will be always my policy. I know I have enemies because of it, and my hon. friends opposite know. I know why some of these personal attacks have been made on me. But these gentlemen opposite know they cannot touch a hair of my head; they know that they cannot make a charge against me, and so they have to indulge in insinuations. Let them come into my province where I am known; let the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) who for two days has been alongside the member for North Toronto, the member for East Gray, the member for Victoria-Haliburton, attack me; let him come with them in my province and they will see whether the people have confidence in my honesty and in me. Let them come into my own county if they like. I may go into the county of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, and if he were here to-night I would make him a proposition—I have no fear to go into his county now and fight with him there the battle and to see which of us has the confidence of the people of even that ing desolate.—"Home."

Now, what is the cause of all this campaign of distortion of plain facts, all this combined effort to discredit a tried and exceptional man of honor? It is that the present session is regarded as a pre-election session. The aim is to produce an impression on the public—a false impression. It is purely a matter of cold fact. The attackers do not themselves believe for a moment that Mr. Brodeur has departed in any respect from the path of honorable conduct, or failed to do his honest duty. But they would like the public to think he has. His record, built up by many years of stainless character, stands like an impregnable bulwark in the government stronghold, which they conclude cannot be got over or got around, and they have concluded to try to undermine it.

But surely this is a poor petty policy for conservatism to stoop to. Where is the straightforward search for real abuses, made in the spirit of truth and manliness, which ought to be the office of an opposition. Where is the offer to the country to supply better men and better methods and the genuine conviction that they are better men and methods. Assuredly the contrasts between the ins and outs is not promising in favor of the outs when such means are had recourse to. The fact is that the Opposition has been outgeneralled.

On no less than three or four occasions Sir Wilfrid has found himself disagreeably surprised by finding some colleague or official with whom the fortunes of his government had become associated or a section of the public census promptly set things right by finding a successor of such merit that the breach was more than repaired. These charges gave the Opposition ample legitimate chances. It would seem that they have chosen to throw them away by missing the point of their opportunities, by having recourse to trumpery methods, and by seeking to misrepresent to the people men whom the people will not permit to be misrepresented.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.  
Montreal, April 20, 1908.

(The above letter in the Daily Witness of Thursday last is an eloquent reproof to those who would defame a good man. It is well known that Mr. Brodeur's record, both private and public, can bear the strongest searchlight of investigation. Mud slinging is an "amusement" which very often soils more the one who slings than the one aimed at.)

### Parish News of the Week

#### FESTIVAL AT ST. ANTHONY'S

All during this week a festival is in progress at St. Anthony's. This is being held in the parochial hall.

Young ladies in gay and attractive attire may be seen on all sides willing to answer the demands of their numerous clients. Too much praise can hardly be given to the promoters of such a scheme; and we wish them every success in their laudable ambitions; viz: the furtherance of their parish interests.

ST. MICHAEL'S.

The children of St. Michael's Parish, to the number of seventy-five, will make their First Communion, at the Children's Mass, on Sunday May 10th.

This is the first event of its kind since the opening of the new school. The little ones have been prepared for this great event, the boys, by Rev. Brother Paul, Director of the School; and the girls, by Sister Mary Susanna.

The choir will be occupied by the boys. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, will take place the renewal of the baptismal promises.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNION.

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Union was celebrated on Sunday in the Academy Hall of the St. Mary's College, and the exercises were continued at night Sunday morning, a Pontifical High Mass was sung by Archbishop Bruchesi at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, followed by a sermon preached by Rev. Father Loiseau, S. J., spiritual director of the Union. During the morning, His Grace imparted the blessing.

In the afternoon a literary séance of the Union was held under the presidency of Mr. J. L. Archambault, K.C., who is now the head of the association.

Mr. Justice Guerin delivered a causerie on Canada and Ireland. Speaking in French, he went over the history of the colony, and stated that owing to the efforts of Papienau and Lafontaine this province had become one of the most peaceful and happy in the world. Then he referred to Daniel O'Connell's appearance in the Imperial House of Commons as a result of the Catholic Emancipation act, and he told of the great Irish patriot's sympathy for the French-Canadian and his efforts in their behalf.

In the evening musical and literary entertainment took place in the Hall of the College, at which Archbishop Bruchesi presided.

### OBITUARY.

#### MR. WILLIAM BYRNE.

The death occurred on Friday last of Mr. William Byrne, aged 87. For many years he was connected with the Montreal Warehousing Company, and one of the best known figures in the local grain shipping business. He was a native of Quebec, and in all his business and social connections was highly respected. A widow, four sons and five daughters survive him. On Monday the funeral was held at 8 a.m. from his late home at 635 Park Avenue, to St. Michael's Church and thence to Cote des Neiges Cemetery.

#### CAPT. DOOLAN PROMOTED.

The city fire committee has promoted Captain Doolan, of Central Fire Station, to the position of Drill Instructor. It is a new position and one that has been under consideration for some time.

#### New York Catholics Celebrate Centenary.

An immense gathering of the hierarchy assembled in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, and offered public thanksgiving for the completion of a hundred years of Catholicity in New York. With two exceptions, every archbishop in the country was present, and the leading bishops and numerous heads of the various religious orders, and at their head was Cardinal Gibbons, Monsignor Falcoino, the Apostolic Delegate represented the Vatican, and at the close of the ceremonies imparted the papal benediction.

The thanksgiving was in the form of a pontifical mass, the celebrant being Cardinal Logue, of Ireland. Six thousand persons crowded the Cathedral long before the mass began, and as many more stood in Fifth Avenue. At exactly 11 o'clock hundreds of surpliced clergy filed out of the college and were followed by some fifty bishops, their chaplains and the monsignori. These were followed by the representatives of the numerous religious orders. Then came the higher ranks of the clergy, the archbishops, and finally the Irish Cardinal, robed in the red of a prince of the Church. At the end of the Gospel Cardinal Gibbons delivered a masterly and comprehensive discourse, in which he reviewed the history of the Catholic Church in New York, and paid a beautiful tribute to the Irish immigrants. Archbishop Farley, after the sermon, read a message of congratulation from Pope Pius X., expressing his hope that the good work would continue, and closed by saying that he sent his blessing to the Archbishop of New York and all his people. Monsignor Falcoino then imparted the papal blessing and the entire congregation stood, and led by the Cardinals and the archbishops, sang the Te Deum.

#### A Gem of Forensic Eloquence.

Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis, in a recent address, hit off the peculiar characteristics of the Irish race in the following passage which comes pretty near being a classic:

"That mystic light, it comes from the wild sea that washes the Irish coasts; from the heather that covers its hills; from the moaning winds that crowd its woods; from the woods themselves with their silent life and mystic gloom; from the open meadows and the summer night; from the banshee's cry, and the fairy's companionship; from the scenery and association and life that become a part of the Irish character; there comes that strange yearning, that great desire, that unwillingness to be part of the commonplace, that restlessness, energy and fire which, as a dissolvent set here in American life, makes cross materialism impossible and sets across the face of our land a rainbow of light and hope, which in color, form and setting takes from the earth its fascinating and the brighter land."

"So, in the struggle of the past, the Irish exile has been with you to fight for liberty, civil and religious; and in these later days to stand with those who struggle for law and order and constitutional liberty, and then, and not the least, to light those lives of ours with the glow of their own color and the brightness of their own heart's energy."

#### English Benedictines.

"The history of the great Benedictine houses was," says the Daily Standard, of London, England, "for centuries interwoven with the history of England in Church and State. Amongst the Benedictine foundations were numbered many Cathedral churches—Canterbury, Winchester, Durham, Ely, Gloucester, Peterborough, Rochester, Worcester, Exeter, Chester, Wells, Norwich and Coventry. Ripon and St. Albans have been added to the list in modern times. Abbeys like Westminster, Glastonbury and Bury St. Edmundo's played a leading part in the annals of the nation. Of the special gratitude with which English churchmen must cherish the memory of Austin—the Benedictine abbot of St. Andrew's, at Rome, who, at Pope Gregory's bidding, brought the gospel to the English—and of other great Benedictines, such as Oughbert and Basca and Dunstan, it would be superfluous to speak."

#### Gerald Griffin's Parents.

The parents of Gerald Griffin, the famous Irish author, lie buried in the Catholic cemetery in Friendville, Pa., according to a correspondent of the

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National Hibernian. The following are the epitaphs on their tombstones: "Sacred to the memory of Ellen, wife of Patrick Griffin of Susquehanna County, Born in the city of Limerick, Ireland, May, 1766. Died October 14, 1831, aged sixty-five years. Revered and beloved by her own family, respected and esteemed by all who knew her. She presented in her life the model of a tender mother and affectionate wife, and a sincere Christian. May she rest in peace. This stone is erected as a tribute of affection by one who loved her as a son Her nephew, Dr. Herbert Hogan, New York." "Sacred to the memory of Patrick Griffin, the first Catholic settler in this country. Born in Limerick, Ireland, Died January 20, 1836, aged seventy-two years. May the Lord have mercy on his soul through the merits of our Savior."

#### Once Too Often.

When the great African explorer and Orientalist, Sir Richard Burton, was British Consul at Santos, in Brazil; he often visited the Seminary of Sao Paulo. As his wife, Lady Isabel Burton, relates in her biography of her distinguished husband, Sir Richard entertained the highest respect for the friars of the seminary. "He used to stay a great deal with them, for they were the best educated men in the province, and knew everything. He said he could always learn something from them."

"The seminary was the most palatial building in that part of the country. It was inhabited by Capuchins, French and Italians from Savoy and Piedmont. One of the monks was a tall, magnificent and very powerful man, an ex-cavalry officer, Count Somebody, whose name I forget, then Fray G—. Before this noble soldier priest arrived there was an ignorant bully in the town, a proclaimed freethinker, who used to go and swagger up and down before the seminary and call out, 'Come out, you miserable, petticoated monks! Come out and have a free fight! For God or the devil!' When Fray G— arrived he heard of this, and it so happened that he had had an English friend, when he was with his regiment, who had taught him the use of his fists. He found that his brother monks were distressed at the unseemly challenge so he said, 'The next time the disturber comes don't open the gate, but let the porter call me.'

"The bully returned the next day and repeated his challenge. As usual, a crowd of idlers had collected in the road to hear the rasal's bellowed invitation. Fray G— opened the gate quietly, and the freethinker promptly yelled to him, 'Fight, for God or the devil! Come out and fight, wretched monk!'

"Fray G— looked at him laughing, and responded, quite amiably, 'Surely, brother, we will fight you for God or the devil, if you please. Let us get well into the open, and the public will see fair play.' So saying, the friar tucked up his sleeves and told his adversary to 'come on,' which he did, and was immediately knocked into a cocked hat."

"Come, get up," said the friar. "No lying there and whispering, the devil won't win that way." The man stood three rounds, at the end of

#### The City of Rome To-day.

Ten or twelve years ago Rome looked like a city just shaken by earthquake, owing to the immense number of buildings begun twenty years before and abandoned as a result of the crisis. Now they are all completed, and numbers of habitations are everyday rising out of the ground, sometimes at a distance of three miles from the center of the city, and yet in spite of it all Rome has not houses for more than three-quarters of its inhabitants. One tenement in the San-Lorenzo Quarter built to accommodate 1000 persons is actually inhabited by 4000, with one kitchen for every five families. But badly as these are housed, there is a considerable number of persons who are obliged to live outside the walls in caves, ruins, under the arches of an aqueduct, in miserable huts put together anyhow. And the rents continue to rise vertiginously, fifty, a hundred, and sometimes even two hundred per cent. The anticlerical municipality was to have remedied all that—instead things have been going from bad to worse, and the working people of Rome are growing desperate.—"Rome."

#### Tenders for Bending Machine Stone.

TENDERS addressed to the undersigned at Ottawa, and endorsed on the envelope "Tender for Bending Machine, Sorel" will be received at the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, up to noon of the EIGHTEENTH DAY OF MAY, 1908, for the furnishing of one machine for bending steel boiler plates, to be delivered at the Government Shipyard at Sorel, P. Q.

Specifications and detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, from the Director of the Government Shipyard at Sorel and from the Agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Montreal, P. Q.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered Canadian bank, for the sum of \$300 to the order of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. This cheque will be forfeited if the party whose tender is accepted declines to enter into a contract to deliver the bending machine, or fails to carry out the contract. If the tender is not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Newspapers copying this advertisement without authority from the Department will not be paid.

F. GOURDEAU,  
Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries,  
Ottawa, Canada, 21st April, 1908.