THE PREMIER OF CANADA.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE.

Fope should ratify the settlement and dispose of the money. His Holiness subsequently divided the amount among the Jesuits, the Archbishop and the Richard the amount and Laval among the Jesuits, the Aronishop and the Bishops of the province, and Laval University, while a balance of \$60,000 was given in aid of Protestant schools. The bill was accepted almost un-mainonally by the Protestant members of the logicitation are a fair astillament of

of controversy.

of the legislature as a fair settlement of vexed question. But in Ontario a violent agustion, note in ontario violent agustion arose demanding the disallowance of the measure by the federal authorities. Sir John Macdonald retused to accede to this demand, and network to accede to this demand, and refused to accede to this demand, and when the question was voted on in the Honse of Co amons only thirteen mem-bers favored disallowance. But Toronto was vosiferous in demanciation Terento was vocine that both parties on the policy pursued by both parties on this question. Feeling that he was losing his hold on Ontario because he supported the government, Mr. supported the government, Mr. Learier resolved to go to Toronto and there vindicate his course on the plat-ferm. To Liberals acquainted with the feeling in Toronto this proposal seemed a hazardous one, but it was in vain they tried to dissuade their leader from the attempt. He was determined to meet the Orange element in its stronghold and there defend his policy. stronghold and there defend his policy. At first the meeting was hostile. But the speaker was undismayed, and to the task in hand he bent his best efforts. Gradually all opposition was submeed, and in the end he won a notable triumph. This incident ex-emplified the newers of contern the emplified the powers of oratory, the re-ource and courage of the new leader in trying and difficult circumstances and convinced the doubting Liberals of Ontario that Mr. Laurier could ceasure up to the exigencies of a try ing situation.

At Mr. Laurier's request it was at first given out that his retention of the leadership would be temporary only. Before long, however, Liberals came to recognize that he was the right man for the place, and all thought of any change passed away. On his part Mr. Laurier gave his best efforts to the duties of his new position Interior gave his best efforts to the duties of his new position. With a view of becoming better acquainted with the people, he travelled extensive-ly throughout every province, delivered many speeches and was everywhere well received In Parliament he con fronted Sir John Macdonald, the vet eran Conservative loader, then in the beyday of his power. There it scon eran Conservative leader, then in the heyday of his power. There it soon became evident that, though Mr. Laurier did not possess the great in-tellectual force of Mr. Blake, he had the personal magnetism, the dexterity in handling men, in which Mr. Blake was deficient and which are so large a factor in making of a successful parlia-mentary leader mentary leader.

The first general election after Mr. Laurier's assumption of the leadership was need in 1891, and the result showed that Sir Jonu Macdonald still retained that Sir John Macdonald still retained the conditionce of the country. He had won by leading the people to believe that the Liberal policy of reciprocity and closer commercial relations with the United States was but "veiled treason." With a loyalty that smacked of the politician's art, he declared in his manifesto to the electors that a British subject he would die. But the government's majority was seriously reduced, and Liberal candi-dates were elected in half the Quebec constituencies, which indicated thit Mr. Laurier was undermining Conservative influence in that province, so long a Conservative stronghold.

cuss the question, was not disposed to make any substantial concessions. In Sic John Macdonald's death in 1891 the settlement which resulted, the principle of Separate schools was not Was a sectous blow to the Conservative was a serious blow to the Conservative party. Mr. Laurier was of the opinion that the Liberals need hardly expect to obtain power while Sir John lived. recognized; yet Catalons secured the right to have religious instruction given in Public schools attended by a certain number of Catholic children. When the settlement was announced, Mr. Laurier confessed that he had hoped to It is worthy of remark here that the Conservatives now believe they have Mittle chance of attaining power while Sir Wittrid Laurier leads the Liberals. After Sir Jonn MacDonal's death the Conservatives drifted to certain defeat.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

minority, and yet, to interfere with the autonomy of Manitoba would be setting a precedent that might sub-sequently be used to break down the federal system, which had been adopted largely the protect the nonline instituchord in a strange and critical andience won for him the hearts of the fastidious Parisians. On his return to Canada the Premier was given a most enthusiastic reception. Canadians, irrespective of party, were delighted with the able manner in which he had represented Canada at rederal system, which had been adopted largely to protect the peculiar institu tions of Qaebec. The whole subject so bristled with difficulties that the question is likely to remain a subject the jubilee ceremonies. Though whilst leader of the opposi

tion, Mr. Laurier found himself in tion, Mr. Laurier found himself in many difficult situations, it is chiefly since he became Premier that he has demonstrated his skill as a safe pilot in days of stress and storm. Canada, on account of its cleavage along racial and religious lines, is a hard country to gov-orn, and the animalities and section. It was in 1890 that Manitoba passed the act abolishing Separate schools, but five years elapsed before the matter has made its way through the courts and come to the government for settlement. After a period of irre-solution which lost for it the con-tidence of many Catholics, the govern ern ; and the animosities and recrimin-ations aroused by a clash over racial ment resolved to restore Separate schools, and a bill for that purpose was introduced when Parliament was on the verge of dissolution through the lance of time While the bill proations aroused by a clash over racial and religious issues are generally most unreasonable and very perplexing to the government. One third of the people of Canada are French, speak the French language, read their French newspapers, and in most con-cerns of life live apart from the rest of Canadians, a nation within a nation, as the verge of disolution through the lapse of time. While the bill pro-vided for the re-establishment of Separate schools, it contained provis ions that combated one another to some extent and which would have Canadians, a nation within a nation, as it were. As very few English speaking Canadians understand the French lan-guage, they have no adequate concep-tion of the aims and ideals of their French fellow citizens. Besides, there is amongst English Canadians a certain feeling of arrogant superiority that finds impatient utterance when some cherished policy of theirs is thwarted or modified by the influence of the French Canadians. The latter, on their part, are determined to preserve their racial identity, and, being a com-pact and powerful minority, are able some extent and which would have seriously impaired its efficiency, especi-ally when it was to be administered by a hostile provincial government. For instance, the government was not obliged to contribute to Separate schools a proportionate share of the school grant, and might on the adverse remort of the inspector, close a Separate school grant, and might on the adverse report of the inspector, close a Separate school. But since the bill embodied school. But since the bill embodied the principle of Separate schools, it was accepted by a majority of Catholic Bishops, who counseled their people to support the measure. their racial identity, and, being a com-pact and powerful minority, are able to make their influence felt in the councils of the nation. These diverg-What stand Mr. Laurier would take on the question was the subject of much interest. He studied the matter seri encies of aim become apparent only when some racial or religious issue ously before committing himself. Never before had he found himself in such arises, and they are accentuated by news perplexing circumstances. He felt that the minority in Manitoba had been hardly dealt with; nevertheless, he was papers and politicians selfishly interest ed in exploiting such issues. On such ed in exploiting such issues. occasions a person unacquainted with Canadian affairs might be led to be-lieve that the confederation was on the leader of a party that had always con-tended for provincial rights as against federal aggrandizement, and it was upon this ground he had defended the right of the Qaebee legislature to pass the

verge of disruption. But the common sense of the majority of both races is equal to the exigencies of these occa-sions and always succeeds in arranging a reasonable compromise. Then the Jenuit's Estates Act. Again, he had reason to believe that the government had purposely delayed bringing down the remedial bill that it might fail to pass before dissolution, and thus be made a means of securing Catholic supa reasonable compromet. I the too storm subsides as quickly as it arises, leaving most people wondering what the fuss was all about. Since he became Premier Sir Wilfrid Laurier has had to deal with two such

situations. The one arose at the outbreak of the Boer war; the other a year ago when the government determined to guarantee Separate schools in the new provinces of the West. Throughout both these crises the Premier con-ducted himself with patience, modera-tion, tact and firmness, and in both cases he frustrated the designs of his opponents. When President Kruger sent his ultimatum to the British gov situations. The one arose at the outbreak nt his ultimatum to the British gov ernment, there came from Ontario an insistent demand that the Canadian government aid the mother country in the coming struggle by sending a con-tingent to South Africa. This proposal was but coldly received in Qiebec, where the majority, if not actually sympathetic with the Boers, wished at least that Canada should remain reu-tral. At first Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that the Militia Act did not empower the government to use the militia for a purpose other than the defense of Canada; that if it did, money for that purpose had not been voted by Parliament, and that to accede to Ontario's request would be il-legal and unconstitutional. Besic'es, One of his first acts on assuming office was the opening of negotiations with the Manitoba government. Un-fortunately for the minority, the pro vincial government, while ready to dis-Great Britain had not asked for assist ance, nor was there any intimation at that time that aid from Canada was needed or would be acceptable. Sir John Macdonald had refused to send Canadian aid to Great Britain in the Egyptian war, and on his refusal the agitation at once subsided. But whether the imperial sentiment of Can ada had grown stronger in the mean time, or whether a large fraction of the rench Canadian Premier, Ontario was in no mood to listen to cold argument. When the Premier saw that his stand being interpreted as disloyalt and being exploited as such by the Conservative press, and when, moreover, no moral principle being in-volved, the people had the right to rise superior to self-imposed limita-tions, he readily acquiesced to the wish of the majority and sent several continents. One has was placeted by contingents. Quebec was placated by the announcement that the dispatch of contingents should not constitute a precedent, or bind Canada to take part in any or all future wars of Great Britain. The government's attitude regarding the sending of the contin-gents was the chief issue in the elec tions that followed shortly afterwards. and the Conservatives made strenuous efforts to defeat the government. Since confederation, with the excep-tion of eight years, Canada had been ruled by the Conservatives, and their long tenure of office had cheated them into believing that they only possessed "the instinct of government." The first Liberal government, formed in 1874, was defeated four years later. In 1900 the Conservatives confidently In 1900 the Conservatives confidently believed that history would repeat it-self and that the destinies of the country were to be again entrusted to their keeping by a grateful people. The re-sult dispelled this delusion, for though Ontario went strongly Conservative, the government was sustained by an increased majority. The elections of 1904 saw that majority still further in-creased, the government obtaining a arou saw that majority still further in-creased, the government obtaining a majority of 65 in a House of 213 mem-bers. Quebec has always strongly supported Sir Wilfrid Laurier since 1806 and it had wilfrid Laurier since 1896, and it had been the habit of Con-servatives to taunt the government with deriving its majority from that prov-ince. After the eloption of 1904, it was seen that, Queber aside, the gov-ornment would still have a working

majority. So no more was heard of the Quebee bogy and "French domina-tion" till two years ago, when the government resolved to guarantee a Separate school system in the new provinces. Though he opposed the proposal to

force Manitoba to restore Separate schools, it was evident at the time that Mr. Lawrier had no sympathy with the means by which, through a technical-ity, the intention of the framers of the Manitoba act had been frustrated and the minority deprived of its rights. He opposed the remedial bill because he thought it imprudent for the federal ught it imprudent for the federal government to coerce a defiant prov ince. But this stand was interpreted ince. But this stand was interpreted by many Protestant Liberals to mean that he was opposed to the principle of Separate schools. To these the an-nouncement of his intention to guarantee Separate schools in the new prov inces came as a surprise, and, compar-ing his policy of 1896 with that of 1905 they were disposed to charge him with inconsistency and to feel that they had been betrayed. An additional difficul-ty lay in the fact that many Liberals, origing to extreme views expressed in owing to extreme views expressed in 1896, found it very difficult to support Separate school legislation in 1905. What was in the Premier's case a seen ing inconsistency was for them a real one; and it was largely a feeling of personal loyalty to their leader which constrained them to accept his policy. With a quiet determination he held his ground and stood ready to efface him self, if by so doing he could advance the cause he had at heart. Thinking that a Protestant Premier advocating Separate school, legislation might meet with less opposition, he offered to re-sign in favor of Mr. Fielding if the latter would agree to take up the school bills. But Mr. Fielding refused office in these circumstances. It is true the rebellious Liberals forced a modification of the measure, but the change was not a radical one and was chiefly useful in enabling many a Lib eral member "to save his face" when called upon to defend his vote. Thus, by constancy in a critical time, Sir Wilfrid Laurier preserved to the Cath-olics of the new provinces the inestim able boon of Separate schools. There is amongst the Catholics of Canada a be

lief that justice is easier obtained from a Protestant Premier than from a Premier of their own faith. The reason for this belief is obvious. A Protestant Premier dispensing justice to a Catholic minor ity does not arouse so much suspicion among the Protestant majority. How-ever this may be, the Catholics of Canada have no reason to regret that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Premier during

the critical period of a year ago. Since he became Premier Sir Wilfrid Laurier has had to deal with the ques-tion of imperialism as embodied in Mr. Chamberlain's proposals for a closer union of the Empire.

During the Colonial Conference held in London at King Edward's corona-tion, Mr. Chamberlain did his best to persuade the colonial Premiers to ac cept his policy and aid him in its reali zation. Some time before i a had be-littled the benefits accruing to Great Britain from Canada's preferential tariff, but, with characteristic sudden-

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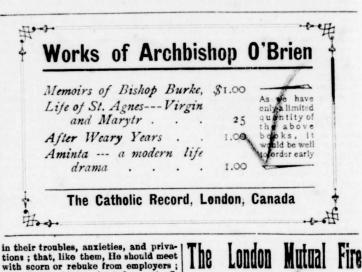
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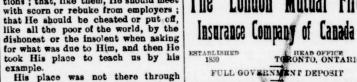
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JANUARY

CHATS WITH

Whatever You No matter how work, or how much have this year, re comes to you or do you will keep sweet allow your disposit will face the sunl deep the shadows. The determination iscourage multitu

hat would otherw If yon can not g is the oyster doe that gets into the Cover it with pear with an ugly rock grounds. Cover is or something else it. Make the bes

You can make p siest life, and bri darkest home; you and grace amid the It is not circumsta

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has had more than in his career, he h estimable faculty every situation, a shadows. This liness and optimis sweetness of chara serenity of mind y all who know him lost his property family and relati sunshine and hel

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its face away from the light. Turn it always turns av and lifts its face

san. So we, instin cold, melancholy turn our face to cheerful and the more virtue in or whole atmospher As the Gulf S

soft climate in through the colde on its way from t Pole, so a hap nature leaves a w wherever it goe oractical, selfish Lydia Maria C

think cheerfulne way. I read on hang prisms in n hang prisms in a room with rain! right kind of pl ophy of good che cine for the min-the body, and th



Him.

The one man who might have saved the situation was Sir John Thompson, who, for a time, was passed by because a large section of the party were opposed to elevating to the premier ship a Catholic, and a convert at that Bat he died with tragic suddenness in Windsor Castle in December, 1894, and his ceath was the signal for quarrels over the premiership among the Con-servative leaders. To augment their contusion, the Manitoba school question was pressing for settlement. But this matter, by threatening to cut across party lines, was a cause of auxiety to many Liberals as well.

As Mr. Laurier's method of dealing with this question was severely criti-cised at the time by many Catholics, it will permaps be of interest to deal It will pernaps be of interest to deal with the matter quite fally and to con-sider how far was just the charge, made at the time, that his policy was dictated by political expediency only. At is a question of which a great deal may be said on both sides. The policy of each party on this occasion was in account guith is traditions: the Conserpecord with its traditions ; the Conser vatives advocated the right of the lederal government to supervise pro-Mederal government to supervise pro-wincial legislation; the Liberals battled as they had often done before, for pro-wincial rights. The judgments of the Privy Council, to which the matter had been referred as court of last resort, tended to confuse rather than to elucidate the question. This court ruled the act abolishing Separate schools to be within the purview of the legis-latare, and yet, on a second appeal, it declared that, in passing the act, a grievance had been created which the lederal government had power to re-Aress. The proper way to redress the grievance would seem to be to re-esta-bitsh separate schools. And yet Mr. Blake, who pleaded both cases for the sees the issue in the second suit had been understood to entail a restoration of Separate schools, he could not have indaced the privy council to the mand, since it was clearly the intention of the tramers of the Manitoba ast income tramers of the Manitoba ast income that the second second to the tramers of the Manitoba ast income tramers of the Manitoba ast income that city and a strong moral claim for come inderstoin. There can be no doubt shat Mr. Laurier sympathized with the second structure sympathized with the second structure sympathized with the second structure is the second structure sympathized with the second structure s minority, has declared that, if a suc

obtain more, but that he had done the best he could. The Catholic Church anthorities were not disposed to accept these concessions as a final sottlement of the question. Shortly after Mgr. Merry del Val, now Papal Secretary of State, was sent to Canada to investi-gate the matter, and the School Ques tion was subsequently made the subject of an Encyclical by Leo XIII., who de-clared that Catholics were free to choose the method they thought best to secure the rights of the minority. The Holy Father further advised that the concessions obtained from Manitoba be accepted as an instalment of justice till such time as larger rights could be secured. An occasional protest by some militant Protestant, that Separate secured. schools still exist in Manitoba, shows that the concessions obtained have been of advantage to the minority. In 1897 Mr. Laurier went to England to represent Canada at the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The presence of a descendant of France representing a British colony and pro claiming his loyalty to the throne be-cause of the full civil and religious liberty accorded his race in Canada was a new spectacle in London, and could not fail to captivate the imagination of not fail to captivate the imagination of the British people, nor fail to emphasize the wisdom of a policy that had brought such happy results. The recent enact-ment of the preferential tariff in favor of British goods had predisposed the British public in his favor; his elo-quence, chivalrous bearing and courtly dignity completed the effect and con-verted his ingrave into almost a trium-

port in the coming election. Besides he felt that the Manitoba govern

ment resisted, largely with a view of embarrassing the federal auth-orities. With himself Premier of a Liberal government, he believed he would be able to obtain by conciliatory

would be able to obtain by conclinatory methods greater concessions for the minority. And, finally, and this was the determining consideration, he looked with dismay upon the nefarious work of D'Alton McCarthy, who was then making strenuous and what pro-mised to be successful efforts to estab lish an anti Catholic coalition, which, ware he humself to support the govern

were he himself to support the govern ment, might become so strong as to en-danger Catholic rights throughout the

Dominion. These considerations in duced him to oppose the remedial bill. In the elections which followed, the

Conservatives were defeated by a decisive majority, and after eighteen

years in opposition the Liberals re-turned to power with Mr. Laurier as Premier and in his hands a mandate to

settle the school question by concilia-

recognized ; yet Catholics secured the

tion.

verted his journey into almost a trium-phal procession.

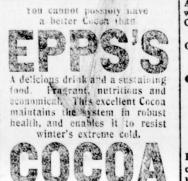
While in England Mr. Laurier was knighted by Queen Victoria. Being a thorough democrat, he has little use for titles of any kind, and had he consulted his own desires he would have refused the profiered honor. But he felt that it would be discourteous to do so at a time when he was the guest of the British people.

Son and such a Mother.

Son and such a Mother. The surpassing excellence of this love was mutual. We feel how her heart poured itself out in Bethlehem when she first saw Him : we read it in the prophecy of Simeon which makes her love a sword to pierce her heart; we hear it in the cry from the feet of the cross, "See if there be any sorrow like not omy sorrow." It would dishonor Him to say He did not retarn such a Him to say He did not return such a

love as this. Therefore, in His answer we can only read the assertion of the supreme claim of the service of God; and the ex planation comes in the next verse but one : "He went down with them to ones "He went down with them to Nazareth, and was subject to them." Here we find the duty of the state of life interwoven with the duty to God. The duty of the state of life springs from the duty to God; and so its discharge depends for its brue character on the discharge of the latter duty.

We see how perfectly Our Lord re-sponded to the claims of His condition of life in being subject to those placed over Him. He sought no immunity on the score of being an Infant Prodigy who had astonished the doctors of the law by His wisdom. His lot was not the one to choose from a worldly point of view. It was His Eternal Father's will that He should belong to this humble family ; that He should share





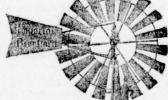
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know is true, th were not. No on has not happing springing up with lasting life. The Pa

"What leads the young man. W poorhouse? Fir must keep his e his mouth shut. come any obstac work and to do be able to satisfy customer, so the lose patronage. to do these thing provided he has it-iveness." Th vantage of any c small it may be, p him on his road

Want of cons many a failure, of to-day a beg me a really great