



A GLANCE AT EUROPE.

Perhaps too much significance has been attached to a few words uttered by the Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., expressing a hope he might soon be enabled to return to his native land. One evening newspaper in Montreal published as a special cable on the subject a long, biased article.

Mr. Blake was addressing a gathering of Canadians, at the annual dinner of the Canada Club; and it was natural that he should have spoken of his patriotic yearning to be in a position to return and pass his days in the land of his birth. To those who understand the Irish national situation his meaning was obvious. He will be glad when Ireland has been accorded self-government; for then the arduous and self-sacrificing task which he undertook when he accepted the invitation of the leaders of the Irish parliamentary party to go over to the British House of Commons and place his splendid abilities at the service of Ireland's cause, will be ended. Of course, he must have been saddened and disappointed at the divisions which subsequently arose in the nationalist ranks. But he is as staunch a Home Ruler as ever, and his great assistance in the Irish national movement may always be relied on.

Ireland is occupying plenty of attention in the British House of Commons. A few days ago, there was an animated debate over a demand made by the Irish members for an annual grant from the British Treasury to that very important body the congested districts board. There was quite a passage-at-arms between Mr. Davitt and the Irish Secretary, Mr. Gerald Balfour, on the subject; but finally the government gave in, Mr. Balfour announcing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would grant £100,000 a year to the board.

There was also a debate on Home Rule, which had the effect of eliciting from the new Liberal leader an announcement of the attitude of his party towards that question.

"I am not aware, says Sir H. Bannerman, that there ever was any fixed and formal alliance between the Liberal and Irish Parties. But the alliance, in the sense of sympathy and a desire to co-operate, remains with us as strong as it ever was."

One Liberal journal puts this position in the form of a simile, thus: The Irish want to buy a horse. The Liberal Party have a very excellent animal, with which they would be delighted to supply the Irishmen, but unfortunately the Tory Party, through their predominance in the House of Lords, have the key to the stable. In these circumstances how can the Liberals possibly enter into a binding contract to supply the horse? They undertake to try to get the key out of the hands of the Tory Party at the first possible moment. That is all that can be promised, but it implies no lack of faith in the excellence of the horse. Once the stable door has been opened, it is just possible that the Tory key holders may themselves give the Irish their horse, and say that this has been their real policy all the time.

Irishmen do not care from which party they get Home Rule, so long as they get it.

The Catholic Electoral League is spreading rapidly in England. At a recent meeting in West Ham, Mr. Osmund, O.F.M., explained its objects. The League, he said, was founded "to select and assist in the return of Catholic representatives, or representatives with Catholic sympathies, on the School Board, Board of Guardians, and all bodies where Catholic interests may be guarded or promoted." It was intended to have a working body of Catholics to watch over Catholic interests, in purely local affairs. A Catholic question might arise in Parliamentary elections. There were Catholics who were strong Tories, and others who were strong Liberals, and there were Catholics who said: "A plague on both your houses." All these Catholics were equally good and earnest. In ordinary times they would vote with their party, but, nevertheless they would do all they possibly could to promote Catholic interests. If they had a Parliamentary contest in which the Catholic cause was mixed up possibly the League would ascertain how far each candidate was in favor, say, of doing justice to the Catholic Schools. Then they would leave each member of the

League to decide which candidate he would vote for, instead of dealing with the matter as a body. In that way they would be able to preserve perfect harmony in the League. Another was to increase the interests of Catholics in public affairs by means of lectures, discussions, social reunions, and the diffusion of suitable literature."

London's health is menaced through the lack of space for cemeteries.

Estimates show that each year about one hundred and thirty thousand human bodies are interred within the limits of the county of London. The authorities say that within five years London will have no place of public burial, and the condition of the cemeteries suggests the imminent necessity of some change of method.

There is no doubt that great injury to the public health has been caused by the burial grounds in the county. It has been stated that one-eighth of the deaths in London are caused by diseases which render the bodies dangerous and infectious after death. This condition is at its maximum a few weeks after the decease, and in the crowded cemeteries, where the bodies are frequently buried on top of or alongside of each other, the disturbance of the earth for new graves must be prejudicial to the health of the neighborhood.

At Londonderry Aquity Sessions, recently, Judge Overend heard a curious suit regarding the will of a County Derry farmer named James Dunn, who left nearly \$5,000 to the widow of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, Lon., and her son, to be spent in free distribution of Spurgeon's sermons in the manner which they considered would accomplish most good. The relatives of the testator opposed probate, disputing the will. At the suggestion of the Judge it was decided that the relatives should have two-thirds of the bequest.

Amongst the Lenten preachers in Paris are some notable priests. They are Pere Etourneau, of Notre Dame, followed by Pere Olivier, who it will be remembered preached a remarkable sermon in connection with the Charity Bazaar fire.

Pere Etourneau lived for some time in America, and is considered to be something of the type of Archbishop Ireland. At the Madeleine is Pere Vallee, who is very ascetic and learned. Then at Saint Clotilde, Pere Feuillette draws crowds through his eloquence. He won a reputation some time ago when summoned by the Bishop of Orleans to preach on Jean d'Arc.

By the time this issue reaches our readers the great majority of them will already have read the startling details of the sudden death of Felix Faure, the President of the French Republic. Scarcely was the great statesman stricken when the end came; scarcely had he succumbed when the news was flashed across continents and oceans, and the world was made aware of the fact, that the head of a most important nation had disappeared from the scene. Less tragic, in one sense, than the death of the late President Carnot; more unexpected than the withdrawal from the Presidential seat of Casimir-Perrier; still the closing of President Faure's career was perhaps, more dramatic than that of either of his predecessors. The convulsed state of the nation, the wild rumors abroad of "coups d'etat," the delicate and burning questions of the hour, the unsettled condition of France's foreign relations, and the uncertain attitude and stability of the existing government, were all causes sufficient to awake the anxiety of the people in that country, and to attract the gaze of curious Europe to Paris, the centre and pivot of the Republic. It was under these circumstances, and while so much of the nation's future depended upon the firm grasp that M. Faure had upon the helm of state, that Providence deemed opportune to issue the terrible summons, and to cite, without almost any premonition, the ruler of a great nation before the Ruler of all Nations.

We are yet too near him to see his proportions truly; and amongst those most familiar with him—both as a private and a public man—the vexed issues of the hour are too absorbing to allow any of them to judge his career with the calm impartiality, which true history will one day ex-

ercise in his regard. We are neither prepared to accept the extra-enthusiastic comments of one section of the French Press, nor the extra-bitter remarks of another section. In fact we consider the opinions expressed by foreign commentators are more in harmony with a just estimate of the dead President. Possibly the words in the message of the President of the United States may be taken as a fair expression of the general sentiment throughout the nations: "The whole world mourns the loss of its greatest Statesman," or, again, the words of the Holy Father, on hearing the sad news, may convey still more emphatically a sense of the blow that France has sustained: "Poor France! She suffers misfortune after misfortune! What terrible consequences may follow!"

The late President was scarcely cold in death, when, in accord with the constitution, his successor was chosen. Whatever may be the merits or demerits of M. Emile Loubet, as a citizen, a statesman, or a ruler, it is certain that discord reigns in Paris, and that his election seems to be the forerunner of chaotic confusion. The very hostility shown on almost every side, the fearful strain upon the gov-

ernment, the uncertainty, doubt, fear, and distrust that sweep like clouds across the political sky of the Republic, indicate, better than all the words that a thousand writers could express, the importance of the situation held by President Faure and the necessity he had become to the clearing away of the tempest that menaces. Again, we must repeat, that at this moment no person is able to foresee the immediate consequences of the sudden vanishing of the late President from the scene. As a public man, and a ruler of a great Republic, we cannot but admire the sterling qualities which carried him along successfully amidst a very wilderness of national uncertainties and through a period marked, almost at every sunrise, by an important crisis. A democrat by birth, training and inclination, he was capable of walking on the same plane as the proudest royal representatives of European power, and of sustaining the dignity and credit of France, at courts where the exclusiveness of autocracy reigned supreme. And, despite prejudiced partisanship to the contrary, he upheld that standard without sacrificing one iota of native republicanism, or ignoring the people from whose humbler ranks he had arisen.

Continued on Page Five.

DR. CURRAN'S LECTURE, IN ST. MARY'S PARISH.

The National Council of Women, organized by the Countess of Aberdeen, during her sojourn in Canada, has done a great deal of good work. Lady Aberdeen will be long remembered amongst us as the patroness of noble efforts for the amelioration of our people, and the promotion of everything that tends to alleviate the trials and sufferings of humanity. The National Council of Women, through the local branch in Montreal, has not been idle. Amongst the many good movements, one of the best and most successful was the inauguration of a course of lectures at St. Mary's Hall, Craig St., where professional men spoke on subjects instructive and interesting to the mothers of families. Three lectures have been delivered by Doctors of Medicine. The first by Dr. Kennedy, the second by Dr. Edward O'Connor, of which we have already given a notice. The last lecture of the course was delivered by Dr. Curran, on the subject of consumption, which has occupied so much attention of late in all parts of the world. The Rev. Father O'Donnell, always so devoted to the interest of his parishioners, occupied the chair, and introduced the lecturer of the evening. Dr. Curran is an excellent speaker, and in a few brief sentences of introduction gained the sympathy of his audience.

He began by alluding to the history of the disease, and to recent discoveries, which enabled the medical profession to cope with this insidious foe. Consumption was not confined to the human race, but existed in animals of the lower order as well. He briefly alluded to the bacilli or germs which he explained as being the cause of the disease, and said the same germ attacks many parts of the body, apart from the lungs, giving rise to a variety of affections, which were all classed under the general term tuberculosis.

Referring to the prevalence of the disease, it was to be found in all parts of the world, but was more prevalent in cities, due to overcrowding. Climatic changes were largely responsible for its prevalence. Dealing with the races, he gave some interesting details, concerning Indians, an unusually large percentage of whom die from consumption. The negro was also liable to be attacked, but in a different form. He next alluded to the important discoveries of Dr. Koch in connection with the cause and treatment of consumption. After pointing out how the malady is spread by expectoration, he gave some valuable hints, as to the means to be adopted to prevent infection.

Dealing with the subject from the point of heredity, he said that the taint was more likely to be derived from the mother. Consumption, however, was hardly ever directly inherited, but merely the tendency to it. The lecturer here gave some valuable advice in regard to the marriage of persons in whom there was this disease, or a predisposition to it.

Speaking of the remedies to be adopted, it was not difficult to suggest them to people of ample means. They could seek an equable climate and make their surroundings comfortable; but everyone could not go to Colorado, the Adirondacks or to our own health-giving mountains in the north. Those who were compelled to remain at home, should choose an occupation which put no strain on the lungs, and enabled them to breathe the pure air for a greater part of the day. Factory life was very injurious to the health of the young, especially young girls. Domestic service was far preferable to the many occupations eagerly sought for.

After referring to many employments that encouraged the progress of consumption, he spoke of the nostrums and patent remedies, so widely advertised, as sure cures. He said there were preparations which were of service, but only when used under the guidance of a physician. People would not purchase a property, without consulting a lawyer as to the title, but thousands every day purchased and drank bottles of medicines of which they understood nothing of their contents or effects. Common sense indicated, that each constitution required special treatment, and in those days when philanthropy had done so much in the way of hospitals and dispensaries, even the poorest need not be without skilled medical advice.

In concluding he said, that while consumption might be successfully combated, it should be treated in its early stages, as once the germ had taken hold, it was a difficult task to eradicate it. It was gratifying, however, to know, that medical science had made such progress, in the past few years that the percentage of cures was now very high, and the precautions being taken as the result of medical investigations gave us the hope, that the disease would become a very rare one, within a not very great number of years.

Rev. Father O'Donnell at the close of the lecture, tendered a hearty vote of thanks to Doctor Curran, and assured him that he would always be welcome to St. Mary's parish, to speak on any subject of public interest.

Dr. Curran entered upon his duties as assistant surgeon to the outdoor dispensary of Notre Dame Hospital, on Tuesday last. It is always a pleasure to notice any of our rising Irish Canadian friends who devote their talents to a good cause.

IRISH VALOR REWARDED.

A writer points out that the three V.C.s. awarded for valor during the charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman were given to Irishmen. The recipients were, Captain Kenna, Lieut. Montmorency, and Private Byrne.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated on Wednesday last at 7 o'clock, for the benefactors of the St. James Cathedral.

THE OUTLOOK FOR BUSINESS.

Waves of commercial prosperity like those of commercial depression, affect, one after the other, all countries engaged in mercantile pursuits. When trade is good in the United States, it is good in Canada. The United States is prosperous now, and the leading merchants of that country expect that this year will be still more prosperous than last.

One manufacturer says:—"I look for a greater fall trade than has ever been known in this country. Our nation is now ready to go forward, and I believe nothing can stop it. Our business was unusually good in 1898, better than during any preceding year, with the exception of 1892. The indications, judging from our trade thus far this year are that 1899 will go ahead of 1892. We have found it necessary to add three stories to our factories, thus increasing our capacity by 25 per cent., and we have no doubt about finding a market for all the goods our men can turn out. Our export trade has increased one hundred per cent. during 1898, and I look for a large American trade with Cuba in the near future."

Another says:—"What the commercial and manufacturing world wants now is not to be harassed by vicious legislation."

"The business conditions in this country are probably more favorable at the present moment than ever before. Hitherto the prosperity of the United States has been due almost entirely to its advantages of cheap, fertile and unoccupied lands and political institutions that give every man a chance. From these conditions as a foundation has come our phenomenal growth as a nation. Incidentally they have also developed certain remarkable business facilities, notably inventive ingenuity and the devising of new industrial forces. In consequence we have become not only the greatest agricultural nation in the world, but by far the most important manufacturing nation; not perhaps, in the volume of our manufactures in each line, but in their variety and diversity, and in our remarkable ability to effect improvements in any line of manufacture undertaken by us, provided, of course, that our natural conditions are favorable to each industry."

And a prominent New York merchant says:—

"We must fight for the very best harbor facilities, and must break down the restrictions that now harass the commerce of this port, the charges of terminal rings and warehouse rings."

"We must defend our canal system, the great artery upon which the life of our commerce depends, against the attacks of political rings and of other interests that seek to destroy it."

"We must cultivate friendlier relations with other cities, must assist in the great manufacturing interests of the interior in obtaining new outlets, and above all, must defend the great business and financial interests of this city against the continual assaults of ignorant or venal legislation, which otherwise will make it impossible for men with money to continue in business in this State."

"No nation was ever so favored by natural and political conditions as this. No city was ever so favored as the natural centre of all these beneficial influences as is this city, but we should see to it that we do not throw away the gifts that fortune is showering upon us."

These words are in many respects applicable to Canada in general and Montreal in particular. Returns for the seven months of the current fiscal year—the seven months ended on January 31st—show an increase in our aggregate, compared with the corresponding period of last year, of \$11,055,000, the excess being due entirely to an augmentation of imports. Our trade with the outside world reached the enormous total during the seven months' period just ended of \$106,017,000, as against \$181,962,000 in 1898. While exports decreased by \$1,703,000, the balance of trade as between imports and exports was \$17,123,000 in favor of Canada, assuming that there is any virtue in the balance of trade argument. In the seven months' period of 1898-99 we exported \$106,570,000, and imported \$89,447,000, while during corresponding period of 1897-98 we exported \$111,274,000 and imported \$73,688,000. The duty collected on imports was \$14,408,000, and \$12,198,000 respectively, and increase for the current year of \$2,209,000. These figures speak for themselves.

CATHOLIC WINTER SCHOOL OF AMERICA.

(From the Daily Pleasure, Feb. 17.)

In the presence of a large audience, much larger than would have been expected, considering the unfavorable weather, the Catholic Winter School of America opened its fourth annual session last night at Tulane Hall, on University place near Canal, New Orleans. The exercises comprised a prayer by Very Rev. Father J.M. Laval, vicar general of the diocese, and address by Prof. Alcee Fortier, president of the Board of Directors, and a lecture by Right Rev. Thomas O'Gorman, D.D., bishop of Sioux Falls, S. D., on "Church and State." His lecture last night was an introduction to the main subject, and had for title, "How to read Mediaeval History."

Bishop O'Gorman sustained his reputation as one of the foremost orators on pulpit and rostrum in the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church in this country. His discourse was eloquent, simple, logical, convincing, and showed the broadest spirit of modern Christianity.

The exhibit of pupils work and progress in the several Catholic Colleges, academies, convents and schools which were to form part of the Winter School, were considerably interfered with and retarded by the state of the weather. Several of the illustrations did make a very handsome show, but as the majority will not be in trim until to-day, it is better to await the complete exhibit before making any particular mention. The greatest difficulty was experienced by schools, colleges and convents some distance from Tulane Hall in obtaining conveyances to transport the exhibits to the hall.

When at 8 o'clock, the Very Rev. Father Laval rose from his seat on the platform; and advanced to the

speaker's table, the hall was fairly filled with people, and yet the numbers did not seem large on account of the vastness of the room.

Father Laval said:—"We will open the Winter School with prayer, for the success of this enterprise. Although the weather has interfered with the attendance, let us hope for better weather in the days to follow, and that the attendance will grow larger and larger every day. We will now ask the grace of God on the Winter School."

Prof. Alcee Fortier delivered the opening address as follows:—"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you at the opening of the fourth session of the Catholic Winter School of America. Our first session was held in 1896, and we saw then that our institution, which seemed to be an experiment, was based in reality on solid foundations, and was destined to subsist."

During the first two sessions we were encouraged in our efforts by our late saintly Archbishop Janssens, and last year the present reverend head of our diocese attended our exercises and helped us most kindly in our work. This year Monseigneur Chapelle has been sent by the holy father on an important mission and he has been unable to be with us. However, he has shown in many ways the great interest which he takes in the Winter School, and I know that we have his best wishes for our success. The worthy representative of the Archbishop, Father Laval, is here tonight and he has implored divine blessing for our undertaking."

Our religious exercises were opened last Sunday by a solemn pontifical Mass, and our eminent American Cardinal braved the most inclement weather that New Orleans has ever seen and was present at the St. Louis Cathedral.

Continued on Page Eight.