

But what, asks Lord Farrer, is the result of this costly plan of Irish Government to the British taxpayers? Every year the cost of Irish administration amounts nearer and nearer to the gross revenue derived from Ireland. To come down to figures. In 1893-94 Ireland's revenue was £7,570,000 and the expenditure on Irish services £5,600,000. This meant that Ireland's contribution to Imperial services was only £2,000,000 or less than 1.5th part of the whole Imperial expenditure. As a matter of fact, according to the right taxable capacity of Ireland, her contribution to Imperial services should be 1.20th of the whole. In 1820 the Irish revenue amounted to £2,230,000, and the balance for Imperial purposes after deducting the cost of Irish administration was £3,601,000. In 1894 the amount of Ireland's revenue had gone up to £7,500,000 but the balance for Imperial expenditure had declined to £1,060,000. A glance at these figures shows that the proper proportion of Irish revenue which should go towards Imperial expenditure is squandered upon a useless official system in Dublin castle, and the British taxpayer is partly the loser by the transaction, because when the Irish balance for Imperial needs falls below the proper contribution of Ireland, it has to be made up in England. At the same time it is no gain to Irishmen that the expenditure on Irish services is abnormal. The Irish taxpayer gets no benefit thereby; and the sum total of the unequal conditions existing all round is but a more forcible impeachment of the gross misgovernment of Ireland. Lord Farrer warns The Times that the logical result of the treatment which that paper is bestowing upon the report of the Financial Commission must be, to rouse the British taxpayer, in his own interest, against the extravagant Government of Ireland. Lord Farrer closes his letter by stigmatising Irish finance as "the ruinous and demoralizing system under which great Britain now overtaxes Ireland, and attempts to bribe her into compliance by over expenditure on Irish administration." To relieve the country from this disgraceful British imposition would, he says, be a task which if successfully accomplished any statesman may well be proud of.

Hon. Edward Blake.

In the English House of Commons to-day Hon. Edward Blake occupies a position that has never before been given to an Irishman to fill. He stands the leader of 103 Irish representatives, united upon a cause the denial of which only slaves could bear in silence. Mr. Blake is now in the forefront as much by right as by the unanimous choice of all parties in Ireland. He is there by the right of his magnificent services on the Financial Relations Commission, services which were only second to those of Mr. Sexton, who unfortunately is no longer in parliament or in public life. Mr. Blake's services are fully recognised by all Irishmen without any distinction; and it is the reasonable reward of what he has done that he has been selected to move the amendment to the address at the opening of Parliament. The London correspondent of The Montreal Star in announcing the unique circumstances of the new leadership, says:

It is the duty of Mr. Blake in representing the Dillonites, Healyites, Redmonites and Unionists to voice this great grievance in such a way that all parties in Ireland will be satisfied. In moving the amendment to the Queen's speech the Canadian statesman has the chance of his lifetime. He was chosen because he represents the cool-headed, argumentative and logical type, rather than the hot-headed, warm-hearted enthusiast. That Mr. Blake will do the matter justice no one who has heard him before the Privy Council doubts. The subject calls for technical reasoning, and in this Mr. Blake is a past-master. It will be the greatest speech that Mr. Blake has made since he ordered the British Parliament in August, 1892, after being triumphantly elected member for South Longford. Mr. Blake has two fundamental requisites of the oratorical voice: a commanding presence and a magnificent voice. Long live the new leader, and may the unprecedented union which has formed around him be preserved permanently for the prosperity and credit of Ireland.

Anyone who has an extra copy of The Catholic Register of date March 5th 1896, would confer a favor on us if they could let us have it, as it is wanted to complete our files.

St. Paul's Choir.

The annual supper of St. Paul's Choir was held on Wednesday the 13th at the Parochial residence. There was a large attendance of the members, who did full justice to the repast which had been provided. Rev. Father Hand occupied the chair and the vice chairs were taken by Fathers Oline and Canning.

Father Hand in proposing "The Choir" alluded to the harmony prevailing among the members and the interest which was being taken in their work. Commenting on the musical services of the church he expressed himself as much pleased with the proficiency attained by the choir under Mr. Trueman's direction, whose work so far had given every satisfaction. In concluding a very happy speech he called on Messrs. Trueman, Larklin and Tonnay, each of whom made brief addresses, referring to the interest which had been taken by Father Hand in the choir. Mr. Richard in a witty speech responded for the ladies. The clergy was proposed by Mr. Tumpance in a few words in which he referred to the esteem in which Father Hand is held by all classes of the parishioners. Fathers Hand, Oline and Canning made very pleasing addresses in reply.

In the concert which followed, songs were contributed by Misses O'Connor, Baxter, Trueman, Jennings, O'Rully, Hall and Richard. Miss Kate Kelly gave a reading in her usual pleasing style. Games etc., filled in the balance of a very enjoyable evening until 11:30 when the gathering broke up.

St. Patrick's Society, Guelph.

There was a good muster of Irishmen at the meeting held Friday evening in the spacious parlor of the Albion hotel Guelph. The proposal to vivify St. Patrick's Society was received with enthusiasm. Col. Higinbotham was moved to the chair. The following gentlemen were elected officers of the society for the ensuing year:—

President, Dr. Mills.
1st Vice, T. P. Coffe.
2nd Vice, R. L. Torrance.
Secretary, J. P. Downey.
Treasurer, G. J. Thorpe.
Executive Committee.—Col. Higinbotham, Mr. McCarthy, J. M. Bond, Austin Sweetman, John Higgins, sr., Frank Dowler, H. Malone, M. J. Doran, S. A. Heffernan, O. L. Dunbar, Dr. Nunan, Sheriff McKim.

The following gentlemen were appointed committees on by-laws: J. P. Downey, O. L. Dunbar and G. L. Higgins, and Messrs. R. A. Torrance and J. A. Sullivan were appointed collectors and to solicit for members until the next regular meeting.

Death of Mr. Felix Devlin.

Mr. Felix Devlin died at his residence, Waterloo avenue, Guelph, near the Pound Creek, about midnight, after a very short illness. The cause of death was congestion of the lungs, preceded by influenza. There was no better known man on the streets of Guelph than Mr. Devlin, and he was also widely known in the country. He was a native of Antrim, Ireland, and came here about 1850. He leaves behind one son, Felix, brewer, Stratford; Mrs. H. Malone, Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. M. O'Boyle, Guelph; Mrs. P. O'Boyle, Wisconsin; and Annie at home. Another sister, Sister Alcyon, died in the Convent of the Precious Blood, Toronto, a few years ago.

Catholic Truth Society.

Some time next week the members of St. Mary's Branch of the Catholic Truth Society will listen to a lecture from the Archbishop in St. Mary's Church upon the subject "What Catholics believe." Reports will be read describing the work of the society throughout the province.

Ireland in the Queen's Speech.

The Queen's speech promises a bill to promote agriculture in Ireland. Mr. Balfour speaking on the address said the Government would at a future date take up the Financial Relations of Ireland and Great Britain. Mr. Blake will speak as the leader of the Irish parties before the budget is taken up.

Rev. Father Lacoste.

Rev. Father Lacoste, D.D., Ottawa University, has been appointed a member of the Academy of St. Thomas at Rome.

The Pope was Pleased.

London, Jan. 18.—The Rome correspondent of The Chronicle telegraphs that the Pope expressed the utmost satisfaction upon hearing of the signing of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty. He said he had hoped that the Papacy would be the permanent tribunal of arbitration for all nations, but was glad that the principle of arbitration had been adopted by Great Britain and America.

"Tommy Thompson is a mighty lucky boy, isn't he, ma?"
"Why is Tommy lucky?"
"Cause his mamma can't spank him with a hair brush."
"And why can't she?"
"Cause their hair brushes ain't got no handles."

CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

C. M. B. A.

At the regular meeting of Branch 53, O. M. B. A. Montreal, held at their hall on Saturday, the annual report of the auditors was read, and showed the Branch to be in a prosperous condition. Other business in the interests of the Branch and Association was transacted, after which Grand Deputy T. P. Tansey, assisted by Grand Chancellor T. J. Finn, Chancellor O'Brien, Grand Deputies A. H. Spedding and P. A. Boucher, installed the following officers for the ensuing year: Spiritual adviser, Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, P. P.; chronicler, P. Cahill; president, Jas. D. O'Grady; first vice president, John Sheely; second vice president, Jas. McShane; recording secretary, Francis D. Daly; assistant recording secretary, Oline Peterson; financial secretary, Jas. Weir; treasurer, Thos. McDonnell; marshal, Thos. Meaney; guard, Edward Brennan; trustees, O. O'Brien, M. Mahon, J. Sheely, Thos. O'Brien and Ed. McKenna; medical examiner, Dr. L. A. Gomers.

Rev. Father O'Donnell, in a few well chosen words, presented a badge to J. D. O'Grady, and in doing so he complimented the branch on the zeal they displayed in increasing its membership, and improving upon them their duty to still persevere in working for the advancement of an association that was doing such good throughout the country. Before closing the proceedings of the evening the following resolutions were unanimously passed by a standing vote on the death of the late Archbishop Fabre, who was the first friend and patron of the Association in the province of Quebec, and prayers were offered for the happy repose of his soul: "Moved by Chancellor O'Brien, seconded by Secretary Daly, that Branch 53 do hereby record and express their sincere sorrow for the decease of the beloved and venerable prelate who lately ruled the archdiocese of Montreal; that we record this on our minutes and have it published in the public press; also that a copy of such motion of condolence be sent to the vicar capitular and friends of our late beloved Archbishop."

BRANCH NO. 83, MONTREAL.

Branch No. 83 of the Grand Council of Canada O.M.B.A., was held at St. Joseph's Hall, St. Catherine street on Jan. 12th. After the regular reports had been read and adopted Grand Deputy Joseph Girard, assisted by Deputy Boucher, Spedding and Dandelin, installed the following as the officers of the branch for the ensuing year: Rev. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flanagan; Medical Adviser, Dr. Cormier; Chancellor, S. Gaudry; President, P. A. Boucher; First Vice-President, John McBrice; Second Vice-President, E. H. Gauthier; Recording Secretary, T. Delisle; Assistant Secretary, James Davidson; Financial Secretary, H. Howison; Treasurer, O. O. Bolvin; Marshal, L. N. Carle; Guard, G. St. Jean; Trustees, O. Dandelin, Alex. Dandelin, E. R. Hubert, T. Delisle, L. N. Carle.

BRANCH NO. 26, MONTREAL.

Grand Deputy Tansey presided at the meeting of Montreal Branch 26, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, in the Glenora Hall on January 11th. Assisted by deputies Costigan, Girard and Dandelin, he installed the following officers: Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Medical Advisers, Dr. Chas. O'Connor, Dr. G. H. Merrill; Chancellor, Bro. E. J. Ward; President, Brother M. Sharkey; 1st Vice-President, Bro. M. Eagan; 2nd Vice-President, Bro. L. E. Simonet; Secretary, Bro. J. J. Costigan; Assistant Secretary, Bro. J. H. Feeley, jr.; Financial Secretary, Bro. G. A. Gadsby; Treasurer, Bro. J. H. Feeley, sr.; Marshal, Bro. James Milloy; Guard, Bro. James Callahan; Trustee, Bro. D. J. McGillivray; P. Reynolds, M. Eagan, J. Hartenstein and T. J. Kavanagh.

Addressees were delivered by the Hon. Judge Ouanan, Dr. Germain, and Messrs E. J. Duggan, O. Lamotte, Thomas J. O'Neill and Jos. Girard. An enjoyable musical programme was given under the direction of Prof. P. J. Shea, by Messrs. James J. Shea, E. J. Nesbitt, W. Murphy, J. Deegan, Peter Shea, Wm. Cox, M. McCarthy, W. Palmer, James St. John, W. Gregory and M. N. Corcoran.

BRANCH 85, TORONTO.

At the inaugural meeting of Branch 85 for 1897, held in St. Vincent's Hall, St. Peter street, the officers were installed by Grand Deputy J. J. O'Heary. The new President, Dr. Chas. McKenna, delivered an able and interesting address in which he thanked the members for electing him to office, and requested them to take, if possible, more interest than in the past, in regard to encouraging desirable citizens to join the Association. A vote of thanks was tendered the Grand Deputy for his visit, and he replied in a happy manner, congratulating the branch on its prosperous condition and wishing it continued success. Two new members were elected at this meeting, and several other applications are to be voted upon at the next.

SKETCHISM.—This is an unhappy age of skepticism, but there is one point upon which persons acquainted with the subject agree, namely, that Dr. Thomas E. Burton, O.R., is a medicine which can be relied upon to cure a cough, remove pain, heal sores of various kinds, and benefit any inflamed portion of the body to which it is applied.

Horrible Death of a Little Girl.

CHANDLER, Ont., Jan. 18.—I regret to inform you of the horrible death of Lila E. Lynch, the nine year old daughter of William Lynch, of this place. She was standing near the stove in the school room when her clothing caught fire. The teacher put his overcoat around her but she died about five minutes after. She was burned out of all shape. Her body burst, and her head was a horrible sight. The screams and cries of the school comrades were terrible. There is general lamentation around here at her awful death. She had no water in the school house. She jumped from seat to seat enveloped in flames. It was a terrible death. Sadness has entered around here. The father and mother were in Morisburg and came home with a sad heart. There is general sympathy for the family. The terrified teacher did all in his power to extinguish the flames. He feels deeply over the accident. There is no blame attached to him. There is a gloom of sadness through the country at the awful death of the poor innocent child. She was very smart for her age. The poor child was a general favorite with old and young around here. The remains were buried at Chrysler's Catholic cemetery to-day. The neighbors are in a terrible state of excitement at this sad death.

Don't Worry Yourself and don't worry the baby: avoid both unpleasant conditions by giving the child pure, digestible food. Don't use solid preparations. Infant Health is a valuable pamphlet for mothers. Send your address to the New York Condensed Milk Company, New York.

The young gentleman who sports a cane and no overcoat probably remembers his earlier days, when upon occasion a cane proved remarkably warming.

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICE.

MONDAY, THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF FEBRUARY next, will be the last day for receiving Petitions for Private Bills.

MONDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF MARCH next, will be the last day for introducing Private Bills.

FRIDAY, THE TWELFTH DAY OF MARCH next, will be the last day for receiving Reports of Committees on Private Bills.

CHARLES CLARKE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, 12th January, 1897.

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