

SIR AMBROSE SHEA.

Characteristics of Newfoundland's Native Governor.

Sir Ambrose Shea is universally admitted to be the ablest politician in Newfoundland, and has been a central figure in Newfoundland history for thirty years. A native of St. John's he is a man of commanding presence, of frank address, fair and liberal minded, a Catholic, often ahead of his contemporaries and consequently not always popular, but a generous and skillful politician, and a successful business man. He is an extraordinary character. A generation ago he was returned to the Legislature for Placentia a constituency down the coast, and represented it for twenty years. In 1869 he became the leading advocate, as he was its ablest, of confederation with Canada. The question was not discussed or voted on its merits, but on the false cry furnished by Nova Scotia Anti's. The Newfoundlanders were told that they would be sold for the price of a sheep-skin, that they would be drafted to fight the battles of Canada, and that their babies would be used as wadding for Canadian guns, etc. Of course argument fails with people who listen to such cries and Sir Ambrose was defeated. Four years later he ran for St. John's and was defeated by a very small majority, but was immediately afterwards returned for Harbor Grace, a Protestant constituency, and the second town of importance in the colony, which he has continually represented since then. He is (was) the only Catholic in the Legislature representing a Protestant constituency, and such cases are very rare indeed in the history of Newfoundland. Himself a prominent figure in securing responsible government for the colony, he has ever since been the greatest "power behind the throne." He has steadily and persistently refused official place and power, and never held office; but like Gambetta in France, he was a prominent factor in making and unmaking governments. In 1854 he went to Washington, protested against the proposed exclusion of the colony from the reciprocity treaty of that time and succeeded in getting the same advantages for Newfoundland that were afforded to Nova Scotia. He was a delegate to the famous Quebec conference of 1864, and to the trade conference of a year later. From 1864 to 1868 he was an unofficial member of the Carter Government. He was the commissioner of Newfoundland to the International Fishery Exhibition, and rendered splendid services in that capacity. Last year he received the honor of knighthood from the Queen, an honor worthily bestowed and appreciated by the people. For eighteen years Sir Ambrose has been agent of the Allan line at St. John's. He has also conducted a large and successful fish and general supply business. Of course, such a man has enemies—hosts of them—and exceedingly bitter ones, too. All able public men are similarly "blessed." Sir Ambrose visited Washington this year in connection with the abrogation of the fishery clauses of the Washington treaty and is now in London on a similar mission. To him more than any other man is due the credit for the maintenance of order consequent upon the excited state of feeling following the Harbor Grace troubles.

TO REDUCE THE IRISH POLICE.

The leaders of the Irish Parliamentary party have decided that the police force now employed in Ireland is three times as large as is necessary for all proper purposes. One of the first acts of the Dublin Parliament, when created, will be to reduce the number of constables by at least one-half. The increased quietude and security that the Parnellites say will surely follow will afford a striking proof of their good faith throughout the agitation. It is also virtually decided to demand a loan from the Imperial exchequer to purchase arable land in Ireland and distribute it among the present or other tenants upon easy terms of payment, the Irish government to be charged with the duty of enforcing the payments and forwarding the receipts to London.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN INDIA.

An official calendar, recently published in Madras, contains the full particulars of the establishments connected with the Catholic Church in India, Ceylon, Bvrmah and Siam, from which it appears that there were in 1877 21 Bishops 23 vicars apostolic, 1,098 priests, 1,088,309 professing members of the various churches, besides 1,322 schools containing 51,494 pupils. The Archbishopric of Goa containing 756 priests, having under their charge 156,102 souls. These numbers compare with 16 bishops, 20 vicars apostolic 900 priests, having congrega-

tions of 915 590 persons, and 746 schools, with 27,088 pupils, in 1896. The Journal du Commerce Maritime says that in the prefecture of Pondicherry alone there were in 1886, 69 priests, whose flocks numbered 112,000 and 90 schools with 1800 pupils; while in 1877 the numbers had increased to 85 priests, 141,259 persons professing the Catholic faith, and 67 schools with 4,000 pupils. Of this number of Catholics in the French colony of Pondicherry only 8,000 were Europeans. Of the 85 priests, 25 were natives of India. The number of adult Converts from heathenism baptized in 1877 was 1,920, besides 1514 children; 87 Protestants are said to have been converted to the Catholic faith in the same period. Pondicherry has four separate Orders of Sisterhood.

Protestant Prosperity and Catholic Poverty.

Perhaps nothing is more self-evident to the ordinary Protestant mind than that Protestantism spells prosperity. Catholic countries, as a result of their religion, are always poor; Protestant countries, as a result of theirs, are always well-to-do. Possibly a lecture, which was recently delivered at Washington, near Manchester, by a Protestant minister, Prof. Lindsay, D. C., of Glasgow may help to dispel the illusion. Speaking of the condition of the working man at different times, he said that the 15th century—the last Catholic century be it noted—as his golden age. His prosperity was seen in facts, 1st, that women were seldom engaged in out door labor; 2nd, the working day was about eight hours; and 3rd, peasants bought lands and became peasant proprietors, while artisans became small capitalists.

A change came with the Reformation. Two blows were then struck at the prosperity of the workingman, from which he has not yet recovered. These were the confiscation of the guilds and other spoils by Henry VIII, and his successor, and the debasement of the coinage. The glorious Elizabethan age found the workingman in a condition of degradation. During the 17th and 18th centuries—precisely the very centuries, be it also noted, when Protestantism was at its height, and had most power over the people—he was kept down by legislative enactments. The right of combination was refused him, his wages were fixed by law, and the Poor Law tied him to his place of birth almost as much as if he had been a serf. England grew wealthy while England's working classes were plunged into the gulf of pauperism. Macaulay had to admit that the Reformation found all the serfs set free; the facts narrated by the lecturer show that the principles it introduced brought the people to a state of serfdom only in the name.

A Witty Priest

There is an anecdote told of a certain priest who once happened to be riding a spirited young horse along a road in Ireland. His reverence while thus engaged was met by two gentlemen who had lately been raised to the magistracy of the country, and, being in gay humor, they thought they would amuse themselves by quizzing him.

"How comes it, good Father," said one of them "that you are mounted on such a fine horse? Your predecessors the Apostles, I understand, always performed their journeys on asses."
"That is easily explained," answered his reverence; "the fact is that the Government has of late been making magistracies of the asses, and, therefore, I should not consider it respectful to travel about on the back of one of the confraternity."

Unlucky.

"Just my danged luck!" growled a passenger on a train known in Ohio. "I believe I'm the unluckiest man on earth, anyway. Nothing goes right with me, and I'm about discouraged."
"What's the matter now?"

Well you see, I have been the postmaster down at the Corners for nigh on twelve years. My first boy I named Ulysses Grant Snyder, second Rutherford B. Hayes Snyder, the third James Garfield Snyder, and last week we took my fourth boy to church and had him christened Grover Cleveland Snyder. I paid the editor of our county paper \$5 to put a long article about it, and got a copy or two marked to send to Washington.

"But where does the bad luck come in?"
"Why, the next day after I mailed those papers I got an official letter from the department. It was my discharge, and now they've got a measly Democrat."
—Chicago Herald.



WELLAND CANAL ENLARGEMENT.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for the Welland Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on Monday, the 25th day of JANUARY next, 1886, for raising the walls of the locks, weirs, etc., and increasing the height of the banks of that part of the Welland Canal between Port Dalhousie and Thorold, and for deepening the Summit Level between Thorold and Ramey's Bend, near Humberston.

The works, throughout, will be let in sections.

Maps of the several localities, together with plans and descriptive specifications can be seen at this office, on and after MONDAY, the 11th day of JANUARY next, 1886, where printed forms of tender can be obtained. A like class of information, relative to the works north of Allanburg will be furnished at the Resident Engineer's Office, Thorold; and for works south of Allanburg, plans, specifications, etc., may be seen at the Resident Engineer's Office, Welland.

Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed terms, and, in the case of firms, accept there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and place of residence of each member of the same; and further, an accepted bank cheque for the sum of "Two Thousand Dollars" or more—according to the extent of the work on the section—must accompany the respective tenders, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates stated in the offer submitted.

The amount required in each case will be stated on the form of tender.

The cheque or money thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary,
Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 9th December, 1885.



NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed respectively "Tender for Hot-water Heating Apparatus, Post Office, &c., Building, Winnipeg, Man.," and "Tender for Hot-water Heating Apparatus, Warden's House, Stony Mountain, Man.," will be received at this office until Monday, the 18th proximo for the erection and completion of HOT WATER HEATING APPARATUS, at the Post Office, &c., Building, Winnipeg, Man., and the Warden's Residence, Manitoba Penitentiary.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the Dominion Public Works Office, Winnipeg, Man., on and after WEDNESDAY, 30th inst.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an "accepted" bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, "equal to five per cent." of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

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

By order,
A. GOBEIL,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 29th Dec., 1885.

-A FEW-

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