

"TALK."

By Our Curbstone Observer.

"Talk is cheap," is an old saying; but sometimes talk proves to be very dear. I was led to this reflection by the following termination of an article that I recently read in an American Catholic weekly.

"The truth is we Catholics with all our talk about rights do not seem to be willing to fight for them. By fighting we do not mean anything more unconstitutional than the readiness to make sacrifices. How many of us would be willing to join in a campaign to refuse to pay any tax whatever, until such a redoubtable Catholic money had been made as would not violate the Catholic conscience. How many would be willing to be imprisoned? How many would gladly go to prison? We shall not, in all likelihood, be called on to go quite so far if we find a capable leader; but if we lack the will to suffer for conscience sake are we likely to succeed?"

I observe that I styled the paper in which I read the foregoing, an "American Catholic weekly." There was really no need for me to add the qualifying word "weekly," since on the whole of the American continent there is not one "Catholic daily." Very strange, you may think; yet it is a positive fact—from the point of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, there is no such thing as a daily newspaper—a Catholic daily newspaper. Yet I have heard more "talk" about what ought and what ought not to be done to secure such an organ, than would fill ten issues of the "True Witness"; still it was only "talk," and talk that was not, and very likely never will be backed up by action.

But if there is so much talk and so little practical movement in this direction, I conclude that the day is very remote when the "talk" will cease and a real Catholic daily will be evolved out of the debris of several defunct weeklies. This is not as it should be; but what are we to do about it? We cannot prevent them "talking big," much less can we induce them to back up their loud-voiced talk with ready and generous action. Leaving aside the question of a daily—which seems to be out of tune—I need but refer to the very organ that permits me to occupy its columns from week to week.

During the past few years I have heard more about what should be done to make the "True Witness" the most independent and prosperous Catholic publication in Canada, than, in practical and serious, would rebuild the whole of Rome. Yet, when it comes down to action, where are the men of the "talk talk"? I merely instance this one case, becomes it comes immediately under my observation. But there are hundreds of similar cases in this world of ours. We do talk a lot about our rights, our privileges, our interests, our troubles, our grievances, our claims to representation, and a thousand other like objects; but we only "talk."

I have stood on the curbstone many an hour listening to the "talk" of some of my fellow-countrymen and co-religionists; and I have invariably found that in practice they do exactly the contrary of what they boast. One man grows hot, in his fiery indignation, on the lack of due representation in the Legislative Hall; and he crosses the street and votes against an Irish Catholic candidate who happens to support, or rather is supported by a certain political party. Another talks by the yard about what every one else should do, but what he does not feel himself obliged to do when the occasion arises. In such cases "talk is dear"—it costs the Irish Catholic, element far more than it can afford to give away.

Did you ever listen to a group of our would-be critics, standing outside the Church, on Sunday, after Mass, and discussing and deciding what the priest ought to do in every detail of his sacerdotal functions? It is all "talk" in such cases, and calculated to create distrust, division, and such like amputable sentiments. It is both amusing and vexing to hear some lad, or worse still, some old man, criticizing the sermon of the day, analyzing the priest's character, and projecting plans for the future glory of the Church. Any one of them, in his own estimation, could deliver a better sermon. He may have an unenviable capacity for "talk," but it is study, reflection, meditation, that give strength to the man and that render his opinions valuable.

There are other kinds of "talk" to which I purpose making a special reference next week; they deserve to be analyzed in a thorough manner. For the present I would say, in the somewhat vulgar phraseology of the race-course: "put up, or shut up." In other words, let us have less "talk" and more activity! We need organizers who know how to be systematic, who can speak both languages, and who draw heat and light from the barren fields of indifference. Let us correspond with the desires of Providence in this regard, and our merits, even in this world, will surpass all expectations.

A CITY REFUGEE NOW.

The City Council with its sweeping reforms during the past months has decided that the 1844 exemption among the Chinese. One of the

latest fads of one of the reform element is to introduce a kind of a civil poor house. Reports in the daily press are to the following effect:

Ald. Gagnon has given notice of motion in council of a resolution providing for a corporation shelter for the poor, something after the style of the Night Refuge, which is maintained by public subscription. Ald. Gagnon proposes to raise the necessary funds by taxing theatres and other places of popular amusement. Ald. Gagnon suggests that the tax be upon the receipts of each house, and after studying the matter he has reached the conclusion that two per cent. upon the gross receipts would be about the right figure. Naturally some of the smaller resorts would find the tax heavy, said Ald. Gagnon, but he doubted whether their presence in the city was over-desirable, and he thought that the large theatres could easily bear such a tax. The reason was that the big companies which came here carried away much money and spent but little. Then again such a tax would fall upon those who spent money for the sake of amusement, and it seemed but just that they should contribute to the support of the needy. Ald. Gagnon calculated that \$15,000 would be required to conduct a house of refuge. He would be in favor of having a soup kitchen attached to it, or in some other convenient place. The location would probably be in the vicinity of the City Hall, where the corporation owns some property with buildings thereon.

LOCAL NOTES.

ABOUT ATHLETICS.—The annual meeting of the Hockey Association was a lively one, owing to an attempt being made to deprive the Shamrocks of an opportunity to play the Winnipeg Victorias early in the season for the Stanley cup. President Harry McLaughlin of the Shamrocks made a determined fight against the move during the course of which he accused one or two clubs of being prejudiced against the wearers of the green. This had the desired effect and the Shamrocks won their point by obtaining a late midway in the series to play the Winnipeggers.

The Shamrock team, it is said, will be the same as last year, despite the rumors which have been in circulation for the past month. All friends of the Shamrock colors will be overjoyed to learn that the old seven will again turn out to do battle. They are all artists in the manipulation of the puck.

THE CAZOTHA.—This novel social undertaking, which is in progress as we go to press, is attracting a great deal of attention in St. Gabriel's parish. Large crowds visited the hall during the week, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Father O'Meara is greatly pleased with the result so far. Next week we hope to be able to give a full report of the various features of the programme.

C.M.B.A. Branch 26.—A very large and enthusiastic meeting of Branch 26, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, Grand Council of Canada, was held in their hall, 92 St. Alexander street, Monday, December 10th, at which the following officers were elected for the year 1901: Chancellor, James J. Costigan; president, Francis J. Curran, B.C.L.; first vice-president, L. E. Simoneau; second vice-president, Jos. H. Maiden; recording-secretary, Patrick J. McDonagh; re-elected; assistant recording-secretary, Francis D. Daly; financial-secretary, Robert Warren; re-elected; treasurer, John H. Feeley, Jr.; guard, Lionel Johnson; Marshal, Joseph O'Toole; trustees, Fred. J. Harding, W. F. Wall; representative to Grand Council, Jas. J. Costigan; Alternate representative, M. Sharkey.

Branch 26 is one of the largest branches in Canada, its roll number now totalling the splendid number of 230, and comprised in its ranks such well known men as the Hon. Judge Curran, M. J. F. Quinn, Q.C., ex-M.P., Francis J. Curran, B.C.L., W. H. Cox, B.C.L., Francis J. Hatchett, B.C.L., E. J. O'Connor, M.D., H. J. Harrison, M.D., G. H. Merrill, M.D., E. H. Lemay, C. Coughlin, Bernard Tansey, M. Egan, M. Sharkey, P. Reynolds, Owen Tansey, Jas. J. Costigan, T. J. Finn, A. D. McGillis, J. H. Feeley, sr., and many others.

THE GREATEST FUR HOUSE.

We have the finest and broadest collection of furs on the continent, and at fair prices all the way through. Come and see our grand display in our Fur Parlors, the largest in the world. Chas. Desjardins & Co., 1533 to 1541 St. Catherine street.

A FRENCH-CANADIAN CENTENARIAN DEAD.

Angelique Gallipeau died at Northampton, Mass., this week, in the 106th year of her age. Mrs. Gallipeau was born in Montreal January 25, 1795. Her father died at the age of 101, and her mother at the age of 100. Mrs. Gallipeau was married four times. Of her children the oldest is now 84, and the youngest 65. She was remarkably vigorous until recently, and was able to knit and read without the aid of glasses. Several months ago she made a trip to Montreal. Mrs. Gallipeau had been a resident of Northampton for 40 years.

NEW CHINESE TAX.

The new law under which persons of Chinese origin entering Canada, with certain limited exceptions, pay a poll tax of \$100 instead of \$50 as formerly, goes into force on January 1st. For the year ending June 30th the revenue derived from the Chinese exclusion act was \$210,153, and \$281 paid the poll tax on entering Canada. The exemptions

amounted at first to 26, but afterwards a refund was granted to 99 additional Chinese, who had paid the \$50 demanded by law under a misapprehension. The Chinese merchants of Vancouver and Victoria, made a vigorous kick when the increase in poll tax was first announced, but after the law was enacted they ceased all agitation.

PRIZE WINNERS IN ST. ANN'S TOMBOLA.

The annual Tombola in aid of the poor of St. Ann's parish, for which preparations have been in progress for the past month, was brought to a most successful conclusion, a few days ago. The drawing for the numerous and costly prizes took place in St. Ann's Hall, corner of Young and Ottawa streets. There were in all 508 drawn for, and everything went satisfactorily, as is usually the case in all undertakings held in the parish.

The following is an official list of the winning numbers. Anyone holding a ticket with one of those numbers on it is entitled to a prize:—
45, 138, 153, 247, 272, 362, 402, 444, 489, 506, 547, 589, 638, 648, 699, 716, 740, 752, 765, 773, 900, 1080, 1135, 1192, 1276, 1899, 1414, 1453, 1476, 1498, 1617, 1892, 1786, 1787, 1811, 1822, 1926, 1959, 2162, 2250, 2305, 2339, 2354, 2535, 2675, 2622, 2803, 2805, 2830, 2894, 2832, 2839, 2889, 2919, 3031, 3042, 3046, 3096, 3109, 3114, 3275, 3276, 3491, 3553, 3680, 3747, 3855, 3914, 3981, 4012, 4070, 4080, 4102, 4147, 4351, 4398, 4652, 4654, 4691, 4737, 4743, 4802, 4858, 4862, 4964, 5016, 5274, 5302, 5332, 5344, 5475, 5568, 5574, 5587, 5594, 5671, 5797, 5984, 6048, 6085, 6173, 6220, 6242, 6348, 6379, 6454, 6481, 6486, 6487, 6525, 6694, 6750, 6897, 7148, 7259, 7289, 7308, 7337, 7348, 7358, 7355, 7592, 7599, 7604, 7623, 7635, 7707, 7850, 7983, 7993, 8000, 8335, 8399, 8466, 8483, 8549, 8646, 8888, 8999, 9011, 9080, 9044, 9070, 9088, 9142, 9159, 9466, 9480, 9494, 9609, 9633, 9661, 9711, 9728, 9772, 9829, 9953, 9980, 10112, 10170, 10193, 10557, 10784, 11102, 11205, 11223, 11290, 11304, 11522, 11602, 11686, 11713, 12429, 12508, 12558, 12576, 12785, 12922, 12923, 13028, 13123, 13141, 13993, 13998, 13851, 13861, 13892, 13998, 14276, 14381, 14450, 14803, 15199, 15225, 15353, 15712, 15748, 15986, 489, 7348, 2805, 4080, 3276, 753, 1548.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

At a meeting of the members of Division No. 3, A.O.H., the following resolution was passed:—
Moved by Bro. McCarthy, that the members of this Division have in sympathy with the bereaved family, which sad event occurred on Tuesday, the 4th inst., at St. Paul's, Marie, and the members of this Division beg to convey to his afflicted parents and relatives their heartfelt sympathy at the loss which the members of this Division all keenly feel.

It was further resolved, that a copy of the above resolution be sent to the "True Witness" for publication.

FRED. J. DEVLIN, Recording Secretary.

Montreal, Dec. 5, 1900.

BRANCH NO. 2, C.M.B.A.—At a recent meeting of Branch No. 2, C.M.B.A., the following resolutions of condolence were proposed and unanimously adopted:—
Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to call to his eternal reward Miss Mary Ann Curran, beloved sister of Bro. Thos. H. Curran, for many years highly esteemed member of this branch. Be it

Resolved,—That we, the members of Branch No. 2, C.M.B.A., tender our most profound sympathies to the family in their sad affliction. The consolation our Holy religion affords strengthen them to bear their severe trial with Christian fortitude. Be it further Resolved,—That these resolutions be entered on the minutes of this branch, and a copy be sent to the family, and to the "True Witness" for publication.

WINTER NAVIGATION.

The project of winter navigation of our St. Lawrence river in winter is again revived, owing to the presence in the city of Mr. Inman, of Duluth, with plans and models of boats or ice-breaking steamers. Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Company have constructed a number of these vessels for the Russian Government, which have successfully navigated frozen seas, and they have also been doing good work on the great lakes. It is held by many men of experience in navigation and frozen waters that there will be no difficulty in keeping open many, if not all of those of the principal trade routes of the world, which are at present rendered impassable every winter. The earlier ice-breakers were designed on the principle of breaking down the ice by what is called brute force, the vessels had a long cut-away bow, so that in working along the ice they were steered directly against it, and the centre of the bow allowed them to slide some distance up. If the ice was not too thick it gave way under the vessel's weight, and the manoeuvre was repeated, with the result that, in time, by dint of repeated attacks, a lane was cut through. The new ice-breakers are constructed on a very different principle. One propeller is arranged at in the usual position, and another smaller propeller forward. The object of this forward propeller is, by giving the water under the ice a sternward velocity, to deprive the ice of its support, which naturally reduces its resistance to crushing, so that the advancing bow of the vessel, which is arranged with a suitable overhang, cuts its way into the unsupported ice without over-performing either the shock or the

resistance to which the former type of ice-breaker was constantly exposed, and very often failed to overcome. Mr. Inman is sanguine that vessels will make the winter journey from Duluth to Europe in five years' time, and the most skeptical would be pleased if that were to come true.

TRIALS OF MISSIONARIES.

The band of fifteen White Fathers who have arrived at Scheut, near Brussels, from Mongolia, have endured hardships the severity of which can be compared only with the trials of their brother missionaries whom the Chinese have cruelly put to death. When Bishop Hammer bade them leave their missions in Mongolia, that vast country lying between Thibet and Siberia, they were sorely reluctant to go. It was heartbreaking to abandon even for a time the country where they had labored so earnestly and to say farewell to the good Bishop, but Christians were being butchered day by day and Dr. Hammer's orders were imperative. They crossed the desert of Gobi, or Shamo, one of them being ill all the while from scarlatina. This desert, which occupies nearly the middle of the high tableland of Eastern Asia, is an immense tract, consisting of the most part of loose sand and bare rock and shingle, alternating with firm sand scantily clothed with vegetation. The climate is extremely cold, even in July and August snow falls. The journey through the wilderness took forty-two days. At Urga the missionaries were received in the kindest manner by M. Van Root, the Russian Consul. By his aid they crossed the Chinese frontier and entered Russia. Then they proceeded to the Trans-Baikal Railway. Whilst

they were crossing Lake Baikal the thermometer was at thirteen degrees below zero. From Irkutsk they were able to travel in comparative comfort, the train taking them direct to Moscow, but it is astonishing that they have survived the perils and sufferings of the journey. But, like true soldiers of the Cross, they are going back to their missions in a little while, and taking a number of recruits with them.

Mr. Charles R. Devlin, Canadian Immigration Commissioner to Ireland, has recently undergone a serious surgical operation at Dublin, but is now rapidly recovering.

The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., has just completed an extensive system of water-works, so that in case of fire within five minutes after the alarm 2,000 gallons of water may every minute be thrown on the burning building.

A Royal Decree regulating the conditions of a recent law on old age pensions in Belgium, is published. The amount of the pension is fixed at sixty-five francs. To obtain it one must be a native of Belgium, must reside in that country, must be sixty-five years of age, and must be a working man in want.

Miss Emily Stather, daughter of the late Colonel Stather, has been received into the Church by the Prior of Woodchester, Father Vincent MacNabb, O.P. Miss Stather's conversion, according to the local press, has caused a great sensation in Woodchester and Stroud, where she has for many years been associated with charitable works of various kinds as a member of the Church of England.

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Holiday Cases of Wines and Liquors

All our Liquors are guaranteed pure and genuine.

HOLIDAY CASE No. 1, at \$6.50	HOLIDAY CASE No. 2, at \$9.50
Containing—	Containing—
Pale Sherry Wine 2 bottles	Champagne Wine 1 qt. bottle
Port Wine 2 bottles	Table Sherry 2 bottles
Claret Wine 2 bottles	Tawny Port Wine 2 bottles
Barker's Rye Whiskey 2 bottles	Superior Claret Wine 2 bottles
Brandy 1 bottle	Walker's V.O. Rye Whiskey 2 bottles
Scotch Whiskey 1 bottle	1875 Brandy 1 bottle
Ginger Wine 1 bottle	Diamond Blend Scotch 1 bottle
Gin, Holland 1 bottle	Whisky 1 bottle
12 BOTTLES IN ALL FOR \$6.50.	12 BOTTLES IN ALL FOR \$9.50.

HOLIDAY CASE No. 3 For \$12.50.

Champagne Wine 2 quart bottles	Superior Dinner Sherry (dry or fruit) 2 quart bottles
Very Superior Port Wine 2 bottles	Superior Claret Wine 2 bottles
Superior Claret Wine 2 bottles	Walker's Extra Old Rye 1 bottle
Brandy 1 bottle	V.O. Scotch Whiskey 1 bottle
Bois' Liqueur Holland Gin 1 bottle	Holland Gin 1 bottle
12 BOTTLES IN ALL FOR \$12.50.	

In order to meet the wants of customers in town and country, we will prepare the express charges to any station in the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on any or more of the above special Assorted Cases for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Remit in cash or by express money order or post office order.

ANOTHER SPECIAL HOLIDAY CASE.

A Case of Magnificent Still and Sparkling Red and White Burgundy Wine for \$21.00. Delivered anywhere, express prepaid, in the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

THE CHAUVEIN WINE.

2 Quart Bottles Macon.	2 Quart Bottles Beaumais.
2 Quart Bottles Beaune.	2 Quart Bottles Eclair.
2 Quart Bottles Chablis (white).	2 Quart Bottles Ultra Sec Champagne.
12 BOTTLES IN ALL FOR \$11.90.	

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Presents that please the eye, help the understanding, and net too hard on the price.

WE HAVE THEM.

See our Skating Boots, all kinds and prices; warm lined goods in great variety. Slippers for Ladies, Gents, Girls and Boys. Gaiters, Leggings, Moccasins, Overshoes, Rubber Ice Creepers, Ankle Support and Skating Straps. Reliable goods at lowest prices. No trouble to show or exchange goods. All goods guaranteed as represented. Mail and Telephone orders receive prompt attention.

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" 5 Years to 10 Years.....	75c "
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" 15 " to 20 ".....	1.50 "
" 20 " to 25 ".....	2.50 "

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First-class Private Funerals at Moderate Prices.

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PIANO FOR CHRISTMAS.

No present will be more acceptable, none will give such lasting pleasure. EIGHT to TEN dollars, monthly, will secure from us choice of the BEST PIANOS in Montreal.

Our Warerooms will be open day and evening until January 1st, to allow inspection of our splendid stock.

Old instruments, any make, exchanged. Choose your Piano next week for delivery Xmas Eve if you wish.

Lindsay-Nordheimer Co.

208 ST. CATHERINE STREET.

To Our COUNTRY CUSTOMERS

We would say Don't Delay Sending in your orders for

CHRISTMAS STORES.

Now is the time to have your orders carefully and promptly attended to, before the great rush sets in with our city trade.

FRASER, VIGER & CO.

Table Fruit for the Christmas Dinner Table.

FINEST WEST END

TABLE RAISINS.

Some of "the very finest" that ever crossed the Atlantic.

For sale by the pound, by the layer, by the quarter box and full boxes.

shipped by Mr. Hyos de Pedro Villa, MALAGA, SPAIN.

8 Crowns Angeles, Imperial Clusters, In original quarter boxes 2.00

Each 2.00

7 Crowns Angeles, Imperial Clusters, In full boxes 1.60

Per pound 0.35

Per layer (5 1/2 lbs.) 1.60

Per full box 5.75

6 Crowns Angeles, Imperial Clusters, Per pound 0.30

Per layer 1.50

Per full box 5.25

5 Crowns Angeles, Imperial Clusters, Per pound 0.25

Per layer 1.25

Per full box 4.50

4 Crowns Dehesa Bunches, Per pound 0.20

Per layer 1.40

Per box 3.50

FINEST SHelled ALMONDS.

New Crop, 1900.

(Sweet and Bitter.)

New Crop, "3 Crown" Jordan Sweet Almonds, Per pound 0.75

New Crop, "3 Crown" Valencia Sweet Almonds, Per pound 0.60

New Crop, "Bitter Almonds" Per pound 0.60

FINEST GREENOBL WALNUTS

(Shelled and Unshelled.)

New Crop, Grenoble Walnuts, Per pound 0.20

New Crop, Grenoble Walnuts, shelled, Per pound 0.30

FINEST KENT COBNUITS.

New Crop.

Per pound 0.30

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New Crop Table Figs for the Christmas Dinner Table.

LAYERS AND LOUQUOMS.

Choicest Loucoum (pulled) Figs in knock-down boxes, 5 Crowns, in 3 lb. boxes, 75c per box.

5 Crowns, in 5 lb. boxes, \$1.20 each.

CHOICEST LAYER FIGS.

6 Crowns, Finest Extra Quality, in 48 lb. boxes, Per pound \$0.25

5 Crowns, Extra Quality, in 11 lb. boxes, Per box 2.00

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