

The Catholic Register

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THE RECENT IRISH INCIDENT IN WESTMINSTER

Our old country exchanges contain full reports of the recent "scene" in the British House of Commons, to which we referred last week.

Mr. Balfour was afraid to hear the Irish case, and took the first opportunity to apply the gag by reserving the entire session for Government business.

Coerced in Ireland and gagged in Westminster, the Irish members would have been untrue to themselves and to the supposed freedom of Parliament had they allowed their protest to drop then and there.

Got the advantage of Mr. Balfour's closure by a stratagem in the Government programme of business there was included a railway charter for Uganda.

Speaking as a native of Uganda he congratulated the Government on their intention to find time for the discussion of the proposal to spend money on that distant island.

It appeared the House to hear this speech upon relevant Uganda and irrelevant Ireland; but it brought the Irishmen no nearer their object.

here you gag me You are his accomplice in this cowardly business I despise you both

Under the circumstances Mr O'Donnell's words were only human Much good has come of the entire incident, inasmuch as the Liberal Party have, for the time being, dropped the Education Bill to support the Irish men in their demand for free speech in a supposedly free Parliament.

The Liberals have been so unsuccessful in mustering their full strength against the Education Bill that they reluctantly decided yesterday to reinforce the Irish members in the attempt to waste the time of the House in side issues not connected with the measure for which the autumn session is being held.

It is little wonder that Liberals like Hon S H Blake are renouncing the Liberal party in Ontario, when the chief organ of that party is daily engaged in abusing and ridiculing British Liberalism, the mother of true Liberalism in Canada.

RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARIES: We have been greatly interested in the examination of a catalogue of books recommended by the Ontario Department of Education for rural school libraries.

The School Library lends itself to better and more intelligent regulation. The catalogue before us may be capable of improvement; but to our mind it is appreciation sufficient to say for "that in the list of works given there is ample food upon which a love for good books can be developed.

We have no space for details here either of the general movement of the library list so far approved, which embraces folk lore and fable for children, popular and simple works on science and nature, books of description, travel, history, biography and fiction.

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ollic parents But, of course, if we consider this movement from the Catholic point of view strictly, the only question we have to ask ourselves is, are Catholic schools fairly recognized? We believe so.

We have little hesitation in saying that, judging by the poverty of our Catholic bookshelves and publishers, the love of reading is at a low ebb in the Catholic homes of Ontario. This is not our opinion alone.

ONTARIO SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE BRITISH NONCONFORMISTS

Last week we published without comment Mr. Davitt's letter in reply to Cardinal Vaughan on the English Education Bill.

How good and easy-going is the public? If there was not coal to burn during the recent anthracite strike, there was abundance of sympathy.

Here again the interpretations of the Cardinal and Mr Lloyd George are about as wide apart as it is possible for them to be.

THE GOVERNMENT GIVES IN: Although Premier Balfour was rash enough to repeat his refusal of one day's discussion of the suspension of constitutional liberty in Ireland, the day was conceded on Tuesday after a week of skirmishing.

Apparently after having drawn the Government into a fight in the open the Irish members are content for the present Mr Redmond will soon return from the United States, and the future programme will be decided upon.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not likely to suffer any anxiety for the lack of good material to repair the breach in the Cabinet which Mr Tarte made last week.

follow-citizens of the Quebec majority can supply an abundance of able men qualified in every respect for the discharge of the highest public duties. Among the men of the day in the neighboring province, however, one stands out in a pre-eminent way.

We may live in an age of short memories, but few can have forgotten that the Liberal party came into power in Canada with a verdict from the people in favor of a revenue tariff only.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

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ONTARIO CATHOLICS AND THE JUDICIARY

It is rumored that Judge Masson, senior County Court Judge in Huron County, has resigned. We have good reason to understand that justice is now about to be done Judge Doyle, who ought to have been promoted to the senior position when Mr Masson was appointed.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hon. W Bourke Cockran, at the Boston United Irish League Convention: "The Irish people are the only people in the world who enjoy neither the possession of the soil on which nor the government under which they live.

The Irish magistracy in respect of the religious denominations of its members is a truly wonderful institution. A Parliamentary paper has been issued, containing a return granted at the instance of Mr. P. A. McHugh, M. P., during the earlier portion of the session.

Society of Friends, 9, Cantara and 3, giving a total for Protestants of all denominations of 1,011 as against Catholics 251 and other denominations 0. The disparity in the case of individual boroughs and counties is still more marked.

The organ of the Vatican has it appears, been talking very plainly about Hall Caine's "External City". English Catholics cannot see their way to any such condemnation of the work, if The Tablet expresses their views.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE IN AMERICA.

The Great Convention in Boston. Below we publish extracts from the speeches delivered by Mr. John E. Redmond and Hon. Edward Blake at the Boston Convention of the United Irish League.

THE GREETINGS OF PATRIOTIC BOSTON

As citizens of the United States of America, and particularly of the City of Boston, founded by men who fled from tyranny and adorned with monuments sacred to freedom, we welcome as brothers the illustrious representatives of the Irish race.

ENGLAND'S CONDUCT VIEWED WITH HORROR

We view with horror and indignation the conduct of the English government which insults us with the flattering name of "cousins," while it tramples on every vestige of freedom in Ireland and casts into prison, through the instrumentality of courts in which justice is mocked, the representatives of the people for merely proclaiming their just grievances.

NO ALLIANCE WITH A NATION TRAMPLING ON THE RIGHTS OF HUMANITY.

We tender to these representatives our sympathy and support and promise them that no alliance, so far as in us lies, shall ever take place between this "land of the free" and a nation which so tramples on the rights of humanity.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY

Resolved, That in this plank of the United Irish League, "The land of Ireland for the people of Ireland," we recognize the fundamental principle of all human freedom and prosperity.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND SIMPLE JUSTICE.

Resolved, That government of the Irish people, for the Irish people and by the Irish people is simple justice.

Waterford, in Limerick and so on, and in something like twenty counties the government has absolutely suspended all the really valuable portions of the constitution.

"They have suspended in all these places the right of trial by jury, and in all those great cities and counties to-day they are trying men for all kinds of vague offenses, not by juries—they cannot trust even their specially and carefully packed juries—they are trying them under the provisions of the coercion act."

"They have attacked the press in Ireland. No national newspaper owner or his editor or the whole of his staff may be hanged in prison."

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken very often in America, but I can truthfully say that I have never said one sentence here which I have not said in my place in the English Parliament, face to face with Englishmen (Applause)."

"Ireland would have no recourse to arms had she the opportunity. I have said in the English Parliament more than once, and it is a course a commonplace feature of my movement, that the Irish race would be justified, by every consideration human and divine, in having recourse to arms to right their wrongs, if they had the opportunity (Applause)."

"While we are all waiting for that day to come we are told, forsooth, that we should do nothing, that we are to sit silent and helpless by and see our country day by day bleeding to death, that we are to absolutely refuse to make any use whatever of those weapons, such as they are, which are at our command, and that we are to discountenance and decry every form of popular movement for the benefit of Ireland."

"Ah, fellow-countrymen, that seems to me to be the only alternative before us, and I say here in America to-night—it is not an alternative which can commend itself to the common sense of the intelligent man, and certainly it is an alternative which is rejected to-day by the United Irish people at home."

"I say, therefore, to sum up, this movement is a movement of a united people. I say that it is a manly and a fighting movement, consistent with the highest ideals of our race, and I say that it is a movement running upon a policy and upon a line that have been proved by the experience of the past to be wise and efficacious, and these conditions being fulfilled, we are here to-night to ask with perfect confidence, as we have a right to ask, for support and assistance from the Irishmen of America (Applause)."

"I make this appeal to-night with confidence, and I say to you in conclusion that if the Irishmen in America support this fund with generosity, as I believe they will, then I am quite convinced that we are very near the day when landlordism will be extirpated in Ireland, and when that happens, believe me, the road will be short and easy toward the transformation of our country into a self-centred, self-reliant and self-governing nation, the home of a free and happy people" (Applause).

HON EDWARD BLAKE.

The following is a report of the speech delivered by Hon. Edward Blake, M. P.

"There has been a great gain since I visited you here in Boston and in Chicago. Ireland has accomplished a change which has taken place from the time when it was difficult to know who to call our friends. We believe that we are engaged in a struggle to preserve the labor of the nation."

"I know of no more conclusive condemnation of the English Government in Ireland than is to be found in a few figures—comprehensive figures. A little more than a half century ago the population of Ireland was about eight millions and a half. Then came the famine, and from then on the population has been steadily diminishing until now it is not much more than four and a quarter millions. Nor does that measure by any means the extent of the loss. It is that much less to-day, but it ought to be that much more, because the Irish are a people who increased rapidly before and who increase all the world over whenever they are planted."

"The natural increase first, and after the natural increase comes the loss of 4,250,000 of those who have inhabited the soil 50 or 60 years ago or their descendants. So if we measure the population of Ireland by that which has obtained in the same period in England, instead of the decrease there should be an increase of 6,000,000, so that the loss is really 10,000,000 of souls."