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Northwest Review

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"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

THE ONLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS WEST OF PORT ARTHUR.

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WOODROOFE!

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Calendar For Week Ending January 28th.

22 Sun 3rd after Epiphany—Sts. Vincent and 23 Mon Espousals of Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ecclesiastical Province of St. Boniface. I. HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION. 1. All Sundays in the year.

II. DAYS OF FAST. 1. The forty days of Lent. 2. The Wednesdays and Fridays in Advent.

III. DAYS OF ABSTINENCE. All Fridays in the year. Wednesdays in Advent.

CHURCH NOTICES. CATHEDRAL ST. BONIFACE. Sundays—Masses at 7.30 and 10.30 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH. Situated on the corner of St. Mary and Hargrave Streets.

Catholic Truth Society. Meet at St. Joseph's Friendly Union Hall No. 201, 1st Avenue North.

St. Joseph's Friendly Union. ST. MARY'S PARISH. Meets in their Hall 201 1st Avenue North.

ST MARY'S COURT No. 276. Catholic Order of Foresters. Meet 2nd and 4th Friday in every month.

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OUR SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. Prendergast's Celebrated Speech.

(Continued from last issue.) A more serious charge, but not the most serious, is in connection with the inefficiency of Catholic schools.

True, we have heard the Hon. Attorney-General declare solemnly that "the Catholic Church had shewn itself utterly unworthy of the trust of education which has been confided to her."

Now, let us take the curriculum. The Board of Education, as we know, is divided into two sections, Catholic and Protestant.

The comparison I am about to make is for the greater number of Catholic and Protestant schools, that is to say, for elementary schools, comprising the four first standards.

I find this to be the programme approved of: By the Protestant Section.

1. Reading. 2. Spelling. 3. Composition. 4. Grammar.

By the Catholic Section. 1. Reading. 2. Spelling. 3. Composition. 4. Grammar.

The two programmes are manifestly similar in the main, and I dare say that in no particular is the Catholic programme in any way inferior.

If we wish to compare the books used by each section, we shall come to the same result.

For reading in Protestant schools, the first, second, third and fourth readers, together with the literature prescribed for third class teachers' certificates.

For writing, the copy-books are absolutely identical, coming from the very same source.

For reading, the English spellers and readers are Sadler's Dominion Catholic Text-Books which are surely excellent in every respect.

The same comparison could be carried through all the other branches, except of course in connection with religious instruction which is surely different in Catholic schools.

But, after all, Sir, I must confess that this is only a curriculum. And a more important question is to ascertain how it has worked, and what results have been obtained thereunder.

I could here refer to several testimonials of a most flattering character, of which our Catholic schools have been the object in the course of the last few years.

But I would rather confine myself to a few remarks on the inter-colonial exhibition held in England in 1886. The facts in connection with this have already been laid before the public through the eloquent pen of His Grace Archbishop Tache; but as they seem to have been systematically ignored here, and I having had an opportunity of taking cognizance of the same as a member of the Board, I will say a few words on the subject.

It was indeed with a feeling of reluctance and only after much hesitancy, that the Catholic Section of the Board of Education accepted in 1885, Sir Charles Tupper's unexpected invitation to send an exhibit to the Colonial Exhibition.

This was early in the fall. The schools had hardly begun a new term, and of course had not yet prepared such speci-

MANITOBA MINORITY Before the Governor-General-in-Council.

The REVIEW has much pleasure in presenting to its readers a full report of the argument of John S. Ewart, Esq., Q.C., Council for the Catholic Minority of Manitoba, in its appeal to the Governor-General-in-Council, against the Protestant Public Schools Act, of 1890.

Before this result was known, Sir Charles gave evidence of the earnest interest he took in the Catholic exhibit by the following letter addressed to the Superintendent of Catholic schools.

"Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1886 Canadian Section. London 29th July 1886. To T. A. BERNIER, Esq.

My DEAR SIR:—I duly received your letter of the 3rd inst. and thank you for the memorandum which you have prepared on behalf of your section of the Manitoba Educational Exhibits.

I am, Sir, your faithfully, (Signed) CHAS. TUPPER."

My hon. friends will recollect that upon the occasion referred to, the Manitoba exhibit was under the charge of Captain William Clarke, a good Protestant, and a good soldier, who has bled for his country, and who in defying the bullets on the battle-field has learned to fear nothing, not even Catholic schools.

DEAR SIR,—I can speak from experience with reference to the excellence of your section, two of my daughters having been for a long time with the good Sisters of St. Boniface where their progress was as satisfactory to me, as it was pleasant to them.

These, Sir, are the sentiments of two gentlemen who were in a position to judge, and who, being Protestants, could not be particularly biased in our favor.

I will now read the comment published in the Canadian Gazette of London on November 4th, 1886, which is in the following words:

"It is generally believed that of all the sister-provinces, that of Manitoba is the least advanced towards civilization. We already know that in many respects such is not the case; but if we consider the excellent scholastic exhibition of that province, we see in what degree that impression is erroneous, especially in the matter of education.

"The collection contains samples of books, exercises, scholastic material, etc. etc., coming from the Catholic schools as well as from the Protestant schools of the province.

"The excellence of the work, and especially of the geographical charts, is incontestable. This is the more pleasing to us, as we consider the fact that many exhibits are dated from the year 1884 and the beginning of the year 1885; it is evident the exhibit is composed of the ordinary duties of the schools in all parts of the province, and not of work specially prepared for the occasion.

"No pretension has been made to eclipse the school exhibits of the other provinces; but the collection that is under our eyes denotes that in one of the most recently 'organized' provinces of the Confederation, there exists a school system, which, although respecting the faith and religious convictions of the population, offers to every one an education capable of fitting for the highest rank of the society, the child who is placed under its care."

I do not know, of course, whether this has any weight in the minds of the hon. gentlemen on the government side. But it should be conceded, I believe, that coming from such a high and unprejudiced source, this is at least as good authority as that solitary letter from St. Laurent upon which the Hon. Attorney-General the other night, based all his charges of inefficiency against Catholic schools.

Such, then, was the character of the exhibit, and such is also the character of the work which my hon. friends opposite could inspect as official visitors, if, overcoming their repugnance, they only chose to enter the walls of our school rooms and see with their own eyes.

(Continued next week.)

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