## **IRISH EDUCATION ISSUE.**

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## (Continued from Page 1.)

"The alternative to the present Board of National Education of atal Department, subject to the British Parliament and directed by Governmental officials, would be ost objectionable to the Irish peo ple, and to us on religious, political, and educational grounds, and we fee that Mr. John Redmond deserves the thanks of the country for the prompt and decisive action which he took in the House of Commons against this project.

A Department of Education may be well enough in England, where society is socially and politically in a normal condition, but in Ireland it would mean another outwork of Dublin Castle, and a further opportunity of practical ascendancy for a

favored sect. We regard with distrust this new zeal for educational reform found and the importation of English secularists to propagate their views, and are satisfied that its purpose is not the improvement of our schools, but the elimination from them of the religious influence of the Church. To say the least of it, it is suspicious to see the Chief Secretary, who refuses the great educational reform that nine-tenths of the Irish people earnestly and persistently demand, pressing upon us changes which the country does not ask for, and which run counter to all our religious sentiments.

"The need of co-ordination amongst the different parts of our educational system is urged as a pressing reason for some fundamental change. No doubt, the education of a country must be treated as an organic whole in which all the constituents will mutually sustain and help each other, but we have nothing but amazement for such an argument in the mouth of those who insist on keeping Irish education in its present maimed and helpless state. The first condition of co-ordination is to have the elements to co-ordinate; but to talk to the Catholics of Ireland about coordination in education, without any University to complete the system is pretty much like the organization a house without a roof.

"Even the limited proposal towards which the Chief Secretary has some private and underhand inquiry in progress at the present moment is utterly impracticable, and cannot be entertained by Irish Catholics.

"On the Intermediate Board we have, at any rate, an assurance for the independence of our schools and colleges, and for fair play and equality for Catholics. We have no intention of exchanging these advantage for the control of a Department. The personnel of such a body would be sure to be objectionable. Its Protestant members might be Protestants, but we fear its Catholic members would be chosen to represent Governmental rather than Catholic interests.

"Its officials, too, could not command the confidence of the country, and we should never consent to place our schools and colleges at their mercy.

"Then, in relation to the main purposes of co-ordination, the position would be intollerable. While Protestant pupil in any school might hope to pass from grade to grade until his education was completed in a University, a Catholic pupil finds his career cut short at the school, and no university available for him Probably the fourth Queen's College. which, under the name of a College of Science, is being built in Dublin will be considered sufficient for all Catholic needs, while our Protestant llow-countrymen will have their ful share of the advantages of this college, and Dublin University and the Queen's Colleges besides. "A further and more important question arises as to teachers. university is the natural supply of teachers of secondary and science, if not of all, schools. If this Department is set up, while the Catholics of Ireland are left without university education, it will simply be a fresh endowment and establishment of Pro testantism, in which the present pos sibly unavoidable employment of Protestants by the Agricultural De partment for practically all its edu cational work will have to be made a permanent system This is a state of things to which we shall never assent; and we have to add that, while we shall continu to do everything in our power to improve the education of our people. we shall not be induced by specious pretexts to adopt measures that are nceived in an anti-Catholic and ar anti-National spirit. The first con dition of a radical reform of Irish education is the establishment of University system that the vast ma jority of the Irish people will accept Until that is done we shall regard all this talk about co-ordination

progress as insincere, and as aime ening clerical-this is, Catho at le lic-influence in the schools, rathe than at promoting their educational efficiency.

RESOLUTIONS. "That the rents drawn by Tri nity College out of land in almost every part of Ireland, which, as the me of confiscation, have bee reserved during three hundred years as a prize for a state-favored minor ity, are of right the inheritance of the nation at large, and should be

and local control and educational

devoted, however late in the day, to provide in an effective manner, as fa as they can go, for the wants of all the people of Ireland in the domain

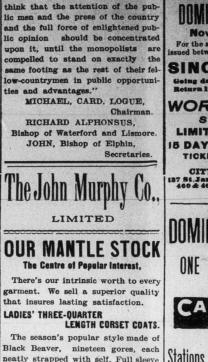
of higher education." 2. "That the practical exclusion of Catholics and of others who are known to entertain popular sympa thies from public offices and employ ment in the gift of the Government is a flagrant abuse of governmental power, worthy of the worst days of ascendancy, and has its counterpart in an enormous and most wasteful expenditure of Irish taxation, multiply situations for a small sec tion of the community, and afford them good reason for calling them

selves the loyal minority." "That whereas in addition to their endowments for higher and in termediate education and the great wealth of their Church, amounting to a capital of eight millions, derived originally from the appropriation of Catholic Church property, Irish Pro

testants have their full share of the TOURIST COATS FOR State grants for primary, intermediate, industrial school, and technical education, it is intolerable that the efforts of our poor people to rebuild their churches, support their clergy, and make some provision for the better education of their children, should be travestied by the champions of an arrogant minority or their allies; and we are strongly of opinion that the more attention that is concentrated on this question the nore will the public in these countries marvel at the slender resources on which the Church of the nation does its work for the great bulk of the people, and the huge endowments that remain to the Church of the few."

4. "That, while we ask for no consideration for Catholics that we do not desire for all others in regard to State, or company, or business employment, and while we utterly repudiate the idea of excluding Protes tants or anyone else from any posi-

indefensible state of things to which attention is called in the foregoing



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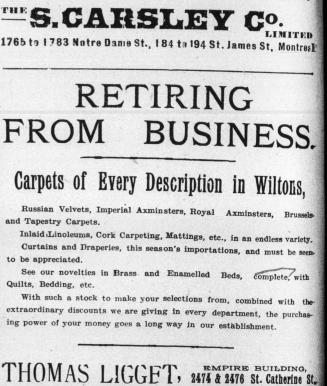
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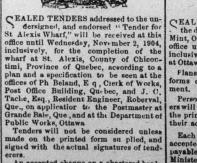


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