

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

During the past week many questions of interest have arisen in the Local Legislature, but none of serious importance. A bill is before the house requiring all locomotive engineers and conductors to pass examinations. What are the details of the bill hath not yet appeared. We cannot, therefore, say upon what subjects conductors are to be examined; but moral philosophy and a treatise on justice and contracts will perhaps form one branch. Would it not be a good idea to require members of parliament, aldermen and municipal officers to undergo examination? We might have the members of the Toronto Water Supply Committee up before the Medical Council answering a set of questions on hygiene. Examinations are a fad of the day, so that one need not be surprised when they are applied even to conductors.

The other day when the Government proposed to open a special bank account for the Central Prison workshops, in order that money for the purchase of raw material might be more available, the Opposition seemed in a catechising mood. They first wished to know the nature of the industries, and were informed that they were broom-making; the wood-working industry, carried on by a contractor; binder-twine industry, carried on by the Government; iron bedstead making, shoe-making, tailoring, brickmaking, all carried on by Government. The Opposition concluded that as the Government was obtaining credit from the banks on these industries, the millions to the credit of the Government existed largely on paper. The Premier stated that by the sale of timber lands the surplus had grown very largely. The members of the Government claimed that the Opposition minimized the financial condition of the country upon every possible occasion. Thus, after a little more cross-firing, the resolution was duly carried.

A motion brought in by Mr. McColl, that all county officials now appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in-Council be hereafter chosen by popular election, was lost on division. Some members of the Government thought that the introduction of such a system would extend the evils of partisanship to the public service, and that it was very inferior to the present system, imperfect as that might appear.

The question of compensation for workmen caused a difference of opinion amongst the members of the Government. A bill introduced by Mr. Sprague proposed to exempt farmers from the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mr. Fraser saw no reason for exempting any class, and thought that the law should extend to all. But the Bill

exempting farmers passed in Committee.

The end of the session is appearing—leave has been asked to sit on Saturday. Two of the bills, that concerning the representation of Toronto and another upon the University, have been withdrawn. The chief business remaining for the session will be questions of supply and the plebiscite bill.

One of the spectacles witnessed during the silver wedding of the King and Queen of Italy was a tournament in which the chief leaders of the House of Savoy were represented. The Duke of Aosta personated Humbert of the White Hands, generally recognized as founder of the House. He derived his noble surname of White-handed from the purity of his acts, the probity of his life. He was a man who was never stained by injustice and who never appropriated to himself the goods of others, who gained his title by his valour and became the first of this family of Savoy which numbers amongst its members so many saints and heroes. If the present Humbert reflected, what must he have thought of the contrast between himself and his noble ancestor?

Another point in history is recalled by the tournament. One of the first Counts of Savoy was Odo, son and second successor of Humbert of the White Hands. He, by his marriage with Adelaide of Susa, acquired a footing on the southern side of the Alps. This Odo accompanied the Emperor Henry IV. when he went humbled and vanquished to Canossa to prostrate himself at the feet of St. Gregory VII. To-day we have the German Emperor paying a visit of respect and politeness to the venerable Pontiff at the Vatican. Can we hope that he will come again and bring the descendant of Odo of Savoy, that the ancestral saints will obtain his return and the repentance of his unjust seizure of Rome, the Christian world's inheritance?

His Holiness, replying to an address from the Catholics of Metz, said: "The ancient glories of the Church of Metz are a precious treasure which time has not diminished; for we have certain and consoling evidence thereof. In other times the Bishop of Metz came to Rome to consecrate his zeal to the great interests of the Papacy; to-day a whole people crowd with you to lay at your feet their collective offering and the filial expression of their devotion. Accept our congratulations and thanks. What you were yesterday, you are to-day; you will be still more to-morrow when you will have returned to your diocese strengthened by the grace of pilgrimage. We are firmly confident of it. Then, of what works, of what success will you be capable! 450,000 faithful animating with a true Christian spirit their

personal conduct and their domestic hearths."

In his reply to the Catholics of Strasbourg, the Holy Father touches upon the traditional attachment of Alsace to the Popes. "We know," said Leo XIII., "the firmness of your faith and your attachment to this Apostolic See, and frequently have we witnessed the brightest evidences of it. This corresponds perfectly to the Christian monuments of your history; for from the very beginning you have been united to the Holy See by bonds which nothing can sever. In fact, as you, venerable brother, have recalled it, it is upon the authority and by the mouth of Peter that the word was uttered which sent into your province its first Apostle, St. Maternus, from whom your ancestors received the Gospel of salvation. The grain of seed which this great missionary cast could not fail to grow into a goodly tree. Amongst you solid piety and great virtues never ceased to flourish and produce admirable fruits of sanctity. Amongst these heroes, you have recalled with legitimate pride the recollection of the great Pope, whose name we are happy to bear. While still a simple bishop of a town in your country Leo IX. felt himself bound to Rome with tender and filial devotion. Persevere in the same dispositions. Maintain amongst yourselves family concord and spirit. Let parents omit nothing to procure for their children a strict religious education; and let children in return testify filial respect and piety due to their parents; let all in fine remain inviolably attached to religion, for it alone possesses the secret of rendering them happy in this world and in the next."

On April 30th was held in the Hall of Canonization the Beatification of the following Venerable Servants of God: Rodolfo Acquaviva, Alfonso Paceco, Antonio Francesci, Pietro Birno, and Francisco Aranea, five members of the Society of Jesus, who had suffered martyrdom in East India. Pontifical High Mass was sung by Mgr. Valente, Patriarch of the East Indies and Archbishop of Goa. In the afternoon the Pope, accompanied by the Court, went down to the Hall to venerate the relics of the newly beatified.

Within the past week the Home Rule Bill debate has advanced one clause. A motion was brought in to amend the second clause by empowering the Crown, in response to an address by the Imperial Parliament, to diminish and restrain the powers granted to the Irish Parliament. The amendment was opposed by Mr. Gladstone, who denounced the assumption that the Irish were unworthy of confidence while everybody else was worthy

of confidence. As the Acts of British Legislature are subject to restraint through the intervention of the Crown, so those of the Irish Legislature will be subject to the intervention of the Viceroy. Mr. Balfour claimed that there was nothing in the bill which enabled Parliament to interfere with the action of the Irish Executive. He urged that the final decision of the point be deferred till a later stage.

The amendment was rejected by a vote of 808 to 247.

Sir Henry James moved that the supreme power of the Imperial Parliament be undiminished by any proviso in the Bill. After a lengthy discussion, in which Mr. Gladstone opposed the amendment, the Premier agreed to accept it on condition that its place in the bill be determined by the Government. This change merely affirms what could not be questioned, but the Conservatives are making the most of their solitary trivial triumph. With the passage of the second clause, which confers powers on the Irish Legislature to pass laws, the Home Rule Bill is not to be brought up until after the Whitsuntide vacation of this week.

The young Tories seldom fail to show their bad manners, their bad temper, and their bad taste when they can get a blow at their venerable opponent, Mr. Gladstone. That blow is always under the belt. Last week the Premier was present at a demonstration at the new Imperial Institute with the Prince of Wales, whose guest he was. This fact did not shield the Grand Old Man, who was the object of hissing and hooting of these scions of aristocracy. It was, say the despatches, not only a disgraceful exhibition of partizanship, but also a direct insult to the Prince of Wales, with whom the Prime Minister had just dined in company with the visitors from India. His Royal Highness has written Mr. Gladstone a letter expressing his regret that he was subjected to such an unmannerly demonstration as took place at the reception of the Imperial Institute of Wednesday evening.

Greece has its political difficulties—the land of classic patriotism, learning and art is struggling at present with poverty. The Minister of Finance, on the opening of the Greek Chamber, presented a very favorable budget, in which a reduction of taxes was promised, and leave was asked to negotiate a small loan. The Minister applied to France, but what care money lenders for the memories of Greece? One and all refused. An effort was then made to induce English bankers to take it up, but with no greater success. So the poor minister went home and resigned.

Free and united Italy is preparing a bill which will prevent priests from meddling with politics at elections. This is the answer to reports that the Vatican would try to move Catholics to a more determined stand at the next general elections.

Catholics in this country need not wonder at the inutility of doing anything in a land where injustice reigns and Governmental Bills are mistaken for equity and right.