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Dress Goods and Shirt-Waist Suitings.
 Black and Colored Mohairs, plain and fancy.
 Black and colored Voiles and Eolionnes.
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 Black and colored Crepe de Chenes.
 Black and colored Albatross.
 Black and colored Etamines.
 White Eolionnes, Voiles, Crepe de Chenes, Henriettas, Albatross, Mohairs, Cheviots, Serges, Venetians and Broadcloths.
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CATHOLICS

Should always prefer dealing with the merchants who advertise in their religious paper. It is a duty which our people owe, not only to such business men, but also to the press which represents and upholds the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

ST. JOHN WEST.

Almost invariably every autumn when the Winter Port business is about beginning one may read among the press lists of names of C. P. R., and other employes connected with that business who have been reported by the watchful police as doing business in this city without a license. Even snow-shovelers during the winter working for the city, must procure this permit as a preliminary. It appears that no outsider can work here without paying for the privilege. They can breathe without charge, but that is about all. This suggests that up to the present the name of a certain United States contractor has not yet been reported for doing business here without a license. If press statements are reliable, this gentleman is not working for our city for the mere love of it, because he has already received substantial pay for his work and is in a favorable position to receive still further financial recognition. Has he been instructed to procure a license? If not, why not? If there is any principle involved in the existing rule or by law it should apply to all alike. That would be simple fairness. There are no social exemptions provided for, it is probable. But it will be said, the representatives of civic wisdom did not at the time of making the law anticipate a situation such as here hinted at. If the law is to be respected then there must be no distinction made. Treat all alike as there is a tradition that all men are equal before the law.

A new oil cloth has been placed on the floor of the engineer's room in the ferry boat "Western Extension." It has not been learned at whose expense this necessary addition has been supplied. Sometimes the engineers themselves purchase the oil cloth for this purpose.

The subject of municipal ownership is receiving more or less consideration among the citizens just now and the subject is discussed the more earnestly because of the fact that members of the Common Council have recently been indulging in a flirtation, as it were, with the Carleton Electric Light Works. Not all of the Council are flirts. Some are very level-headed, and perhaps that characteristic will be recognized by the Executive of the Citizens' League. Apropos of this question I would respectfully recommend to those who think they know nearly all that can be said on the subject, the perusal of the studious, careful perusal of an article by Mr. Clement H. Congdon, entitled "Public Utility Problem Solved," in the magazine "Men and Women" for the current month. It is possible from such perusal much valuable information would be derived. The distinguished author of the article referred to, puts the whole thing in a nut-shell when he says that "municipal ownership is all right but municipal management is all wrong." It is not expert management, as it should be, if the idea is to enhance revenue and furnish the goods cheaper to the consumer. He refers to the existing conditions in Glasgow and gives figures which prove that in Glasgow the idea is carried to the extreme and the result is a fabulous municipal debt. This debt aggregates \$1,500,000,000.

A shifting of individual enterprise attends it as well as an era of loot. Mr. Congdon deals with a remedy and he approves of long term leases, say thirty years, to the most expert manager rather than to the man or corporation that offers the most money for the lease or to the best bidder. The article in "Men and Women" treats the subject very fully and in an able manner, and there is no doubt contains much of benefit to those who desire to be well informed on the question of "Public Utilities."

On Sunday last the Rev. Father O'Donovan delivered a fine address on St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. The life of the Saint and his labors were dealt with and the glory of Ireland, when she was known as the home of literature and land of scholars. The devotion of the people and their undying allegiance to their faith which has been handed down through the centuries, in its integrity and unimpaired; the persecutions of the people and their priests under the penal laws now happily done away with were referred to and the lessons of virtue taught by the lives of their ancestors were inculcated and their emulation recommended.

Rodney wharf was perhaps never in better condition to meet the spring time weather than it is at the present. A gutter or drain has been cut through the snow and ice, for its entire length, close to the sidewalk giving promise of flood avoidance in that neighbor-

hood at all events. During this week some sand has been placed on some of the more slippery and dangerous walks. The local Superintendent of streets has evidently found there is no law against the use of sand. It is a pleasure however to give him credit for protective action even at this late date. The work of clearing the snow drifts from the sidewalk still goes steadily on.

The recently re-organized West End Dramatic Club, which a week or two since gave such an entirely satisfactory and clever performance of "Captain Racket," in City Hall, have been invited to give the play in Sussex, K. C., and also in Fredericton. They have accepted these invitations, and will play the piece in Sussex this (Saturday) evening. The work of these young people is equal to that of many professionals and the people of Sussex will realize a genuine treat and an agreeable surprise in the performance. A large audience is anticipated as it is certainly merited.

CANADIAN CONFEDERATION.

An interesting lecture on Canadian Confederation was delivered by Mr. T. P. Regan, before the Y. M. A. of St. Peter's church on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Regan has devoted considerable time to the study of this important subject, and his lecture proved most instructive.

No serious attempt towards political union had been made, said Mr. Regan, until the year 1854, when the question came up in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and the leaders of the two great parties agreed upon the advisability of such a movement. A delegation was sent to England to confer with her majesty's government from whom they received the reply that the matter belonged to the colonies to settle between themselves. Several other delegations were sent from Upper Canada and in 1862, the Duke of Newcastle, colonial secretary, in a despatch to the governor general said that the provinces would unite, the British government would receive the consideration which it had been opposed to at that time had been opposed to the severance of the policy up till then.

During 1864 and because of the decided by the imperial government, that the union of the provinces would be desirable, and the movement was pushed forward.

In 1864, the legislature passed a resolution authorizing negotiations regarding maritime union.

In the following September, a convention was held at Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Meantime, Quebec and Ontario were having a political crisis on the question of representation according to population, and were practically at a deadlock, in 1863. Hon. John Sanfield McDonald's government ceased to command its proper influence, and in 1864 he resigned. Sir. E. P. Tache formed a government, but with no better success.

Then, a coalition government was formed for the purpose of a Canadian reform bill, to apply to the united provinces.

Meantime the P. E. I. convention, upon opening, received word from the Canadian government, that a delegation would wait upon them, and decided to await their arrival.

The delegation was heard, and put up a broader union, as against maritime union. It was then agreed to take no further proceedings, to suspend deliberation, and adjourn to Quebec to further consider the union. They adjourned the following day, to report to their respective governments what had occurred.

On arriving at Halifax, they were given a banquet, and upon reaching St. John, were similarly entertained at Stubb's hotel on Prince William street.

On October 10th, 1864, the convention met at Quebec, and there were representatives present from the Maritime provinces, as well as Ontario and Quebec. The voting was by provinces, separate from the convention, the results being reported back. It was decided that federal, instead of legislative union would be much the best.

Apportionment, representation and financial difficulties were the principal troubles in the proposed confeder-

ation. It was decided to make Quebec the pivot, and future representation should be as to the number of members upon the same proportion of the province, that the number sixty-five bore to the population of Quebec.

Under the British North America act, section 8, it was provided that the census be taken in 1871, and every tenth year thereafter.

The matter of financial burdens was also discussed. The simplest method,—direct taxation of the Maritime Provinces was opposed and upon this question loomed up the rock of shipwreck. The parties disagreed, and argument seemed of no avail; and it was finally decided to adjourn for one day, and the finance ministers of the several provinces meet and see if some arrangement could be agreed upon.

The following day, they reported the conclusion at which they arrived, which, after some modifications agreed to; and the crisis was over. Discussion, then followed on local legislation, crown lands, mines and minerals, which matters were arranged. Uniform law was wanted for all the provinces, except Lower Canada, i. e. Quebec.

The many details were put in the form of seventy-two resolutions for submission to the several legislatures. The final resolution of the B. N. A. act differed somewhat from these.

The convention at Quebec closed, and the delegates proceeded to Montreal.

"Whether it is a custom by descent or otherwise," said Mr. Regan, "I cannot exactly say, but true it is, that the habit of the English speaking race, and their descendants in every part of the world, to inaugurate great undertakings with eating and drinking."

A banquet was given at Montreal, and from there the delegates went to most of the important towns in Ontario. The selection of Ottawa as seat of government was at first unpopular, but was afterwards looked upon as wise and judicious.

The selection was finally left to Her Majesty, but, Sir Edward Head was credited with the choice.

In brief the agitation started in 1854, and enlarged and developed, as outlined until the provinces, except Newfoundland, fell into line.

In closing, Mr. Regan urged his hearers to do all in their power to further the interests of this Canada of ours.—Times.

LECTURE.

Mr. John A. Barry will repeat his lecture on the life of John Boyle O'Reilly Sunday afternoon before the Father Mathew Association.

REVERSING THE USUAL ORDER.

Balty Moore—I notice that a colored pugilist is planning to start a prize fight at 3 o'clock and get married at 5. Calvert, Jr.—This is certainly the age of revolutionizing old customs and getting things reversed.

TOO MUCH.

(Puck.)
 A young theologian named Fiddle Refused to accept his degree; "For," said he, "'tis enough to be Fiddle. Without being Fiddle D. D."

PERFECTLY NATURAL.

Old Gentleman—How old are you, my dear?
 Little Girl—I was eight years old yesterday.
 Old Gentleman—Indeed! You don't look to be that old.
 Little Girl—Ah, how you naughty men do flatter us poor, weak women!

A GENTLE HINT.

"Energy," said the young man, who had been calling steadily for about a year, "energy and promptitude—these are what are wanted nowadays."
 "Yes, indeed," replied the young lady with meaning. "Just look at young Mr. Wilson. He met Miss Anderson only two months ago, and he is engaged to her already."