

The Catholic Register.

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

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Register of the Week.

The most important event to register for the past week in Canada is the close of the Local Legislature. Toronto, it is true, was actively engaged in sports at the Woodbine, where were gathered "all our beauty and our chivalry" to witness the races which have been of late years rendered attractive by the usual attraction of such amusements, and, be it said to their credit, by the honorable manner in which the sports are conducted. But the fact of Martello carrying off the Queen's plate is already in the hands of our readers, so that we pass to the Legislature, where, on Friday night last various gentlemen of various ages rose from the dignified seats upon which their constituents had placed them, and sang Auld Lang Syne—for they had finished their task. The week had been passed in severe criticism on the part of the Opposition about the Agricultural College, some appointments and other matters, which were just as severely defended by the Government. The patent medicines are left alone until July, 1894, before which time the whole question of their preparation and sale will be fully considered by the Legislature. Mr. Ross bill "to enable the electors of the province to pronounce upon the desirability of prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale as a beverage, of intoxicating liquors" was discussed. Mr. Meredith opposed this plebiscite upon the ground that it was shifting the responsibility from the floor of the house to the public and to municipal politics. A long debate followed, after which the second reading of the plebiscite was carried by a vote of 48 to 28. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the House on Saturday when he delivered the following speech from the Throne:—

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

"In relieving you from further attendance upon your legislative duties, I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon the advantages which have already been experienced from the completion of the new Parliament buildings. While they have greatly contributed to your comfort and convenience in the discharge of your legislative duties, they have also proved themselves to be perfectly adapted to all the other requirements of the public service. It is very satisfactory to know that buildings so substantial and commodious have been erected at comparatively so low a cost.

"I desire to express my appreciation of the diligence and zeal with which you addressed yourselves to the work of the session. Although called together at a season of the year when the demands of private business are most urgent, you have shown no desire either to hasten legislation unduly or to postpone the consideration of measures important to the Province.

"I recognize with pleasure your prudence and forethought in providing for the establishment of a large national park, about 12,000 square miles in area, in the northern part of the Province, and in thereby securing for all time a forest reservation of untold value to the country, and included to it a reserve for such animals as it is desirable to protect. The name Algonquin, by which the park is to

be known, will form a connecting link between its former and its future occupants, while, amongst other advantages, its ample area of lake and forest will furnish unbounded facilities to coming generations for rest and recreation.

"I heartily concur in the provisions of your act granting liberal aid to certain railways to be constructed in localities hitherto unprovided with railway facilities and which, opening as they do the way to localities believed to be rich in iron and ore deposits, must prove to be of great advantage to the general community.

"I am pleased to learn that steps are to be immediately taken for ascertaining whether, or to what extent, a provincial legislature has the power to deal with the prohibition of the liquor traffic, and that in the meantime, in response to numerous petitions from all parts of the province, a plebiscite is to be taken on the advisability of prohibiting by law the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage. It is but reasonable that before legislating you should procure the settlement of any constitutional doubts as to the powers of the legislature, and that you should ascertain whether there is such a substantial public opinion in favor of prohibition as would ensure its enforcement in the case of legislation being adopted. I shall watch with interest the course of events with respect to both these questions.

"I have assented with great pleasure to the bill which you have passed for the prevention of cruelty to and better protection of children, as a means of rescuing from a possible or probable criminal career many who would otherwise be homeless and unprotected. I am confident that the measure will be of great service.

"I have given my assent with pleasure to the measures which you have adopted for securing the better registration of voters in cities, for the further improvement of our municipal laws, for the extension of jurisdiction of division courts, and for further facilitating the enforcement of the just rights of wage-earners and sub-contractors. I notice with satisfaction that the laws respecting the registration of instruments relating to land, and the laws for the protection of game, have been improved and consolidated. The measures also concerning houses of refuge, respecting the public health, and amending the liquor license laws, are timely and important, and will be found beneficial.

"I thank you for the liberal appropriations which you have made for the public service. The supplies which you have granted will be expended with care and in the public interest."

The provincial secretary then said:

"Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of legislative assembly:

"It is his honor's will and pleasure that this legislative assembly be prorogued; and this legislative assembly is accordingly prorogued."

The lieutenant-governor and staff retired, the band played "God Save the Queen," and the house was deserted.

Lord Salisbury, who never went to Ireland while in power, is now traversing Ulster, where last week he assumed the role of prophet and peacemaker. In this latter capacity he is trying to undo the evil done by his nephew, Mr. Balfour. Speaking at Belfast the noble Lord thought that the Home Rule Bill would pass the Committee, but the House of Lords, which represented the loyalists of England and Ireland, was impregnable. After advising his hearers to abstain from all disorder he did not consider that the position of Ulster "should depend upon the insane wishes of a single statesman." He asked the men of Ulster to be firm; "he asked them to resist such a surrender, not only for their own sake, but in order to relieve the shame of England from black or irreparable disgrace." That is the advice of a patriotic peacemaker surely—and well worthy of Coercion

legislators. He ought to be looked up. In a second speech Lord Salisbury repudiated the reports that, if Home Rule should be defeated now, the Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists would suggest a similar scheme. There was no truth in the rumor, and whenever the Conservatives returned to power they would go back to the policy which for six years they had tested with considerable success. No man is so blind as one who will not see. There never was such failure in the very first object of government as during the reign of coercion under Salisbury and his nephew.

The Hon. Edward Blake is winning laurels for himself in and out of the house of parliament. At Birmingham on May 4 an enthusiastic audience assembled to hear him, upon which occasion *The Daily Argus* of Birmingham has the following personal reference:—"To-day, in the British Parliament, Mr. Blake is engaged, heart and soul, in making real and effectual the union between England and Ireland. That is an object lesson of which we invite the Unionists to make the most that they can. The sincerity, earnestness, and self-devotion which characterize Mr. Blake enlisted the interest and maintained the attention of last night's great audience throughout a lengthened and closely-reasoned speech. Of fine physique and commanding presence, Mr. Blake's oratory is marked by great powers of exposition. Lucidly direct when his argument demands it, he is sonorous in phrase, and here and there recalls the nice convolutions and the brilliant dialectics of the Prime Minister. In his finely-concentrated statement of the case for Home Rule, he literally pulverized Unionist contentions on the religious, minority, Imperial veto, and financial clauses. Point by point, he followed the halting steps of uninformed and misinformed critics, and left his enthusiastic audience with a perfect conviction that the self-government of Ireland by men such as he would build up and solidify the British Empire."

A rabid party song entitled "The Two Jesuits" is going the rounds of London, England. It is thoroughly Orange in its language and conservative, Balfourian, in its purpose. No stone will be left unturned, from religious bigotry down to local jealousy, and from parliamentary debate to ballad singing, to rouse bitterness and fan the flame of hatred and discord. The two Jesuits are the Hon. W. E. Gladstone and the present Lord Mayor of London. One couplet reads:

"We'll save the Union from its foe,
We'll give the rebels rope."

The Central Party in Germany have issued a manifesto, taking a decided stand against the Army Bill. The question with them is not the secur-

ing of the fatherland, but whether a military state shall be established. They will, therefore, oppose even the Heuene amendment, which limits the increase, but they will, so far as they deem prudent for the country, vote to maintain a strong army and navy. They propose bringing in a motion permitting the Jesuits to return, and lastly they declare war against Socialism. But all is not peaceful in the ranks of the party; for some of the landlord class have withdrawn and are preparing a separate address, in which they urge a strong army for the defence of united Germany. This development has so far improved the Government prospects that some suspect the split and the secession to be the outcome of the Emperor's visit to Rome.

A crisis which had all but occurred last week in the Italian ministry, was averted. It was partially caused by the misuse of municipal funds by the ministers. Various municipal securities had been withdrawn by the ministry and long-term treasury bonds substituted to a very large extent. This, in case of a sudden demand, would leave bankruptcy unavoidable. King Humbert opposed any sweeping change in the ministry as he feared a general financial crisis. The King refusing to accept any resignation except that of the former Minister of Justice, the crisis is ended. The Government remains in power, but weaker in their reputation, which was never very good.

While congresses of various kinds have a large part in the programme at Chicago, a very important one was also held lately at Toulouse in France, at which a very able explanation was given of the religious and political situation of the French republic. M. de Bellomayre, regretting the many divisions of Catholics upon minor questions, said: "Reason and experience invite Catholics to the loyal wiping out of their particular opinions and rival pretensions in the interest of what is superior to all else. Furthermore, it is advised to them by the most august authority. Who, therefore, amongst them will dare to raise his personal judgment above the wisdom of the Vicar of Jesus Christ? Who would wish to assume the heavy responsibility of openly preventing the concentration of the Catholic forces, or even of retarding it by blameable abstention?" The Assembly "considering that the defence of religious liberties is the first duty of Catholics, and that it calls for their unanimous action in imposing upon each the effacement of his personal preference; considering that Catholic action, in order to be independent of all parties, ought to abstain from contesting the existing form of government; that it is henceforth necessary for Catholic action to place itself on constitutional grounds, and by a loyal declaration to cause all doubt to stop in this regard; considering that there is room for Catholics to use their rights as citizens and to safeguard the higher interests of liberty of conscience by a permanent and legal organization, be it resolved: That the Catholics of each department are invited to meet in a general assembly for the purpose of naming a committee of twenty members, who will have charge of the local organization of the Catholic forces."