

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

THE SESSION.—Now that the Easter holidays are over the political pot has been set boiling in good earnest. While the snow is melting, the ice breaking up, and the spring making a tardy appearance on all sides, Ottawa seems to be in a state of transition, and it is quite evident that the gaiety of winter is past, while the glow of summer is yet in the future. It is, therefore a time when people can give their minds, having little else to do, to what is taking place on Parliament Hill. This session is to be productive of two important measures, and no more. The first concerns the amended agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Government, regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific contract; the other is the new militia bill, which affects more citizens of Canada than may, at the first, be imagined. As there is little or no news of importance in the social, educational and religious spheres, I will touch, this week, upon each of these important measures.

GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.—The debate upon the resolution, moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for the alteration of portions of the contract entered into last session, was commenced on Tuesday, by an hour's speech from the Premier. He was followed by Mr. Borden, leader of the Opposition, in a speech of nearly four hours. The debate was then continued, next day, by Hon. Mr. Sifton, Minister of the Interior, and kept up by alternate Liberal and Conservative members without any interruption down to the moment of writing.

It would be useless to attempt a summary of any of those speeches. Last year's Hansard contains over a thousand pages of them, and all that could ever be said, for or against the scheme, has been said—in every one, and every style. The result is that this year the debate has lost its novelty, and the best speeches have fallen somewhat flat, having failed to awaken any real interest. The plainest way I can do is to take the proposed alterations to the contract (of last session) between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, and to give them in the form in which they appear on the Sessional Paper No. 37a. Nothing more can now be added, for there is no telling when or how the debate may end, and there is little explanation needed to render more clear the character of the alterations. It will be seen, on perusing them, that they do not affect the fundamental principles of the bill. They are as follows:

Time for the completion of the construction of the Western Division fixed as December 1, 1908, is considered short. Failure to complete within the time should at least not create a forfeiture of the deposit.

Upon the issue of the guaranteed stock now forming the deposit already made being approved by the shareholders of the Grand Trunk, legislation to be passed confirming its substitution and acceptance in lieu of what is called for by the agreement.

The company to be entitled to a release of the deposit at least to the extent that it forms security for the construction of the Western division upon the expenditure in such construction of five million dollars realized from the proceeds of bonds to be guaranteed by the Grand Trunk.

Upon the completion of the construction of the Eastern division, the company should have the option of operating under lease the portions constructed upon undertaking to pay working expenses and to hand to the Government a portion (to be fixed) of the net earnings.

Rental payable under the lease to be made by the company upon the completion of the Eastern Division to be made a charge only upon net earnings for the whole term or at least for a longer period than the three years provided in the agreement (section 20.)

Inasmuch as bonds issued by the company and bearing 3 per cent interest and guaranteed by the government will not realize par, it should be provided either

(1) That the government guarantee the payment of principal and interest of an issue of bonds bearing 3 per cent, to be made by the company for a principal amount sufficient to realize 75 per cent. of the cost of construction of the mountain section and prairie section respectively, or

(2) Instead of the government guaranteeing bonds of the company for the purpose of assisting in the construction of the Western division, they shall raise the aid proposed to

All the male inhabitants of Canada, of the age of twelve years and upwards, and under eighteen, not disqualified by bodily or mental infirmity, and being British subjects, shall be liable to drill and training as Cadets in the manner prescribed.

Cadets or Cadet corps shall not be liable to service in the militia in any emergency, save only in the case of a Levee en Masse.

The next most important item is that section telling us who are bound to serve, when they may be called upon, how selected, and what the divisions of the Militia are. All this we get in the following clauses:

The male population liable to serve in the militia shall be divided into four classes:

The first class shall comprise all those of the age of eighteen years who are unmarried or widowers with- and upwards, but under thirty years, out children;

The second class shall comprise all those of the age of thirty years and upwards, but under forty-five years, who are unmarried or widowers with- out children.

The third class shall comprise all those of the age of eighteen years and upwards, but under forty-five years, who are married or widowers with children.

The fourth class shall comprise all those of the age of forty-five years and upwards, but under sixty years.

And the above shall be the order in which the male population shall be called upon to serve.

The militia of Canada shall be divided into active and reserve militia. The active militia shall consist of:

(a) Corps raised by voluntary enlistment.

(b) Corps raised by ballot.

The reserve militia shall be raised and maintained under regulations prescribed by the Governor in Council.

The period of service in time of peace shall be as follows:

For the active militia, three years.

For the reserve militia, such period as is prescribed.

Every corps duly authorized previously to, and existing on, the day on which this act comes into force, including the officers commissioned thereto, shall, for the purposes of this act, be held to be existing, and shall be continued as such, subject to the provisions of this act.

There are only a few other provisions that need be quoted. They concern the methods of enrolment and are as follows:

The Governor in Council shall, from time to time, make all regulations necessary for the enrolment of persons liable to military service, and of persons liable to drill and training as cadets, and for all procedure in connection therewith, as well as for determining, subject to the provisions of this act, the order in which the persons in the classes fixed by this act shall serve; and such regulations shall have the same force and effect as if they formed part of this act.

When men are required to organize or complete a corps at any time, either for training or for an emergency, and enough men do not volunteer to complete the quota required, the men liable to serve shall be drafted by ballot.

The Governor in Council may, from time to time, make regulations for fixing the day on which the taking of the enrolment shall be commenced in each of the several military districts respectively, for notifying the men liable to be taken, or those balloted for service in any quota, for finally deciding claims of applicants for exemption, and for the administration of oaths before a commissioned officer of a corps, to ascertain any facts in reference to such claims of exemption, for medical examinations, and for the discharge of such men as are unfit to serve, and relating to every other matter and thing not inconsistent with this act, and necessary to be done, in the enrolling, balloting, warning of and bringing into service, of such number of men as are required at any time; but any man balloted and notified for service may, at any time, be exempt, until again required in his turn to serve, by furnishing an acceptable substitute, on or before the day fixed for his appearance; but if, during any period of service, any man who is serving in the active militia as a substitute for another, becomes liable to service in his own person, he shall be taken for such service, and his place as substitute shall be supplied by the man in whose stead he was serving.

Every man of the active militia who, during any period of service, attains the age of thirty years or forty-five years, according to his class shall be required to complete the full period for which he volunteered or was balloted to serve.

Persons who, from the doctrines of their religion, are averse to bearing arms or rendering personal military service,—under such conditions as are prescribed.

Half-pay and retired officers of the regular forces shall not be required to serve in the forces on a lower grade than that of their rank in such forces.

No person shall be entitled to exemption unless he has, at least one month before he claims such exemption, filed with the commanding officer within the limits whereof he resides, his affidavit, made before some Justice of the peace, of the facts on which he rests his claim.

When exemption is claimed on any ground, the burden of proof shall always rest on the person claiming it.

Exemption shall not prevent any person from serving in the militia if he desires to serve and is not disabled by bodily or mental infirmity.

The remaining one hundred clauses

of the bill deal with the service of the militia to support the civil authorities and all the internal military rules that are the business of the officers and men, and that affect the Department of Militia.

Hon. Edward Blake
On Ireland.

Speaking at the banquet in the Hotel Cecil, London, Eng., the Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., in responding to the toast of the Irish Parliamentary Party, said:

Our duty is to present our case in an unconfined atmosphere, and to fore men who know not much of, and care very little for, our sufferings. You know that after one hundred years of Union there remain capital grievances with reference to education, taxation, and even with reference to the question of the land, though a measure which might have been wholly beneficial has been largely marred and must be seriously amended before it can be, as I trust it will soon be, a helpful measure for Ireland, and we have before us always the dreadful culminating proof—the saddest proof of all—of this Government's failure, the sad depletion of the population of Ireland. That population now is only half what it was fifty years ago. It has been bleeding year by year, the country losing its vigor and strength, until those who are sometimes despondent and sometimes are dejected fear that before Ireland shall be made free she shall cease to be a nation.

I rejoice with our friends that we are at the dawning of a better day. The general election draws nigh. For us in Ireland it is not a very exciting operation. We Irish, with all our vivacity and heat and high spirit might be supposed to charge a bit; we have never changed for 20 years, or six general elections, while English parties have risen and fallen, and while great majorities have become trivial minorities, Ireland has retained four-fifths of the members to sustain the National cause, and we know, and our enemies know, that if there is going to be a change at the next general election it will be a change a little for the better rather than for the worse. (Applause.)

It is and will be the centre of interest, because it is here the good work for Ireland can be done by you and such as you throughout this island. We are agreed in our policy. We want to return, by your assistance, as many genuine Home Rulers to the British Parliament as we can return, and that done we want so to use such force as we have as may produce a more reasonable tendency to equality in numbers in the two great parties who sometimes ignore us and to teach them that the Irish vote can count again as before, and can do good work for Ireland. (Applause.)

4. That we, the A.O.H., County Tyrone, in connection with all other Nationalist bodies in Ireland, call upon the Government to grant a University for the education of our Catholic youth, as we believe it would be nothing but our legal right and that we will never rest contented while our country is in chains.

5. That the meeting hereby publicly express our unabated confidence in our worthy representative (Mr. P. C. Doogan) and promise him our whole-hearted support at any time he may require our services.

Mr. John Trainor, county delegate, Armagh, seconded the resolutions.

Mr. P. C. Doogan, who was warmly received, said he congratulated them on the glorious meeting which is a red letter day in the County of Tyrone, and the organization in Ireland. He had heard with pleasure that the dark cloud "do long hanging over the heads of the Irishmen had floated by, and that in future they will be recognized by all Nationalists and all the clergy alike as being a sound, solid body of Nationalists worthy of the confidence of the people of Ireland. He knew that the A.O.H. have the support and approval of the united Irish Party, and he had pleasure in informing them that before he left the House of Commons he had to report the circumstances of his being invited to address this meeting, and Mr. Redmond readily acceded to the proposition and expressed his appreciation of the A.O.H. and the great and noble services they had rendered to the Nationalist cause, not only at home here, but the great organizations in America. They have at all times, at home and abroad, stood behind

From the American daily press we learn the following particulars which illustrate how non-Catholics respond to appeals of their ministers:

In response to an appeal of the pastor, Rev. William O. Waters, \$50,000 was pledged within a few minutes to the endowment fund of Grace Episcopal Church, Wabash Avenue and Fifteenth street, Chicago. It is hoped within the next year to increase the fund to \$100,000.

Ninety thousand dollars in money—cash and checks—was taken up in the collection plates at the Easter offering at Grace Church on the heights (Protestant Episcopal). This is the largest money offering ever collected at any one time in any Brooklyn church.

The money is to be used as an endowment fund. For some time the church has had \$88,000 towards such a fund, and Dr. Wrigley six weeks ago asked the congregation for \$80,000, to be given as an Easter offering, so that the endowment fund might reach \$100,000. It was a great surprise to the pastor to find that his fondest expectations had been exceeded by \$80,000.

Grace Church on the heights is one of the best known and richest Episcopal churches in Brooklyn.

ECHOES FROM ERIN.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Our Irish exchanges bring the cheering news that the national festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and without any jarring incidents or unseemly display. "The spirit of tolerance and good humor prevailed," says the Irish Weekly of Belfast.

In no part was the anniversary more elaborately celebrated than in the town of Coalisland. From early morn special trains began to arrive in town from various parts of Tyrone, Armagh, and Derry, carrying with them large contingents with flags, drums and banners. At the various entrances to the town green arches, carefully erected, spanned the entrance. At two o'clock one of the largest and most magnificent demonstrations was addressed from Annagh Hill, overlooking the town.

It was computed that upwards of 10,000 were present. The districts represented were—Ballyloughan, Stewartstown, Killyman, Drummully, Upper Back, Clady, Tullylyh, Aghamullan, Killeter, Ballinderry Bridge, Cookstown, Trillick, Old Cross, Ardvarnish, Blackwaterstown, Curran, Killycolpy, Mountjoy, Dungannon, Coalisland, Clonoe, Coolnaghery, Maghera, Newtownbutler (Co. Fermanagh), Derrylyn (do.), Kildress, Killeen, Moy, Collegeland, Loughgall, Annaghmore (County Armagh), Donaghmore, Tullyallen, Pomeroy, Rock, Slaterquarry, Robert Cranston Branch I.N.F. (150) Coalisland.

Mr. John Dillon, county delegate, Cookstown, moved the following resolutions:—

1. That this grand demonstration, assembled under the auspices of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, tender our sincere thanks to His Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, for the friendly way in which he received the deputation of the A.O.H. of Tyrone on the 9th September, and as our principles being faith and fatherland, we assure him we will always live faithful children of the Church and pray that God may spare him long days to rule over his flock.

2. That we send from this meeting our hearty congratulations to Most Rev. James McFaul, Bishop of Trillick, and to Bro. James E. Dolan, N.P. of the A.O.H. of America, and to all the brethren of America, and to the Very Rev. Bishop Farley, who blessed the bonds of unity of our Order, and we assure them that the parent body at home will always support the glorious cause of faith and fatherland.

3. That we renew our confidence in the U.I.L. and the united Irish party under the able leadership of Mr. John Redmond, and that we pledge ourselves to support their principles and policy in the future, as we have done in the past, and pledge ourselves to never give up the glorious struggle until we get back our native Parliament, and until Ireland's green flag floats once more on College Green in Dublin.

4. That we, the A.O.H., County Tyrone, in connection with all other Nationalist bodies in Ireland, call upon the Government to grant a University for the education of our Catholic youth, as we believe it would be nothing but our legal right and that we will never rest contented while our country is in chains.

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and supported the Nationalist movements.

This great meeting, which had been called under the auspices of the A.O.H., has pledged its support to the Nationalist cause. The united Irish Party are all to co-operate, as far as possible, with the A.O.H. The last time he had the pleasure of addressing their order in Pomeroy he pointed out how much it would tend to the advancement of the National cause if all the National bodies were united. The United Irish League is the official organization. It is the duty of the A.O.H. as Nationalists, whose glorious traditions go far back into the past, to assist in the struggle until Home Rule is won.

The chairman put the resolutions to the meeting, and they were unanimously adopted.

At the conclusion of the meeting the interesting ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a hall was performed by Mr. P. C. Doogan, M. P., amidst applause. The site selected is Plater's Hill, Gortgonal, overlooking the town.

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NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The National convention to which reference was made in our last issue, will be held in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin, on April 21. The scale of representation has been announced as follows:

1. Prelates and clergymen of all denominations.

2. All members of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

3. All members of the National Directory of the United Irish League, and the Chairman, treasurer and secretary of each divisional executive of the League.

4. Three delegates from each branch of the United Irish League duly affiliated with the National Directory.

5. Two delegates from each branch of the United Irish League of Great Britain.

6. Three delegates from each branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

7. Three delegates from each branch of the Irish National Foresters.

8. Three delegates from each affiliated branch of the Land and Labor Association.

9. Six delegates from each County Council.

10. Eight delegates from each county borough.

11. Other towns electing Mayors, six delegates each.

12. Two delegates from each rural district council.

13. Two delegates from each urban district council.

14. Town commissioners (other than urban councils), two delegates each.

15. Boards of guardians, not identical with rural district councils, two delegates each.

16. Three delegates from each trade and labor council.

IN DUBLIN.—St. Patrick's Day was strictly observed as a national holiday in Dublin. All the large business establishments were closed, as were also the smaller ones, with rare exceptions. The vast majority of the licensed premises also kept closed doors, the same rule being observed in the Four Courts, the various Government offices, the National and municipal libraries, the City Hall, and other public offices, and efforts were also made to afford as far as possible a holiday to the staffs of such institutions as the Port and Dock Board, the Richmond Asylum, and the North and South Dublin Unions.

The Masses in the Catholic Churches were attended by large congregations, and at the early Masses crowds devoutly received Holy Communion. The national festival was observed with special solemnity in the Pro-Cathedral.

REMEMBRANCE.

(By Cealla Murphy.)

Each morn when the sun will peep
Beyond the pale blue vault above,
May thou then remembrance keep
Yes, remembrance of me that love
As ever my most treasured friend,
And shall till my journey's end.
When the fragrant flowers will bloom
And will smile on the path thou'lt
trod,
Again shed their sweet perfume
Oh! then think of me on that sod.
When the sun will sink to rest,
And leave thee in sorrow's thrill,
May the thought beat in thy breast
Ah! now she e'en loves me still.

NOTES

ON STRIKE.—A late meeting of the painters' strike was ordered, the strike having refused to increase demanded by the 150 men are for the employment. They are about to be opened by

EUCHRE AND SOCIETY

never before did Tara a larger or more select a similar occasion that gathered there on Monday attend the euchre and by the Ladies' Auxiliary Division, A.O.H. The tastefully decorated with bunting and presented a sight. Among the several of the Rev. Father Patrick's Church, who hours mingling with the ers, and their presence much appreciated by all ed. Upwards of 50 tal- vided, and there was no many. Several non-pla- seats in the gallery wh- was in progress. Play- about 9 o'clock and was

til 11, the contest being each one at the comm- the game declared his tion if possible to carry the handsome prizes of the checkers were count-

secured by each player, freshments were served, during the remainder of The lucky ones were: prize, Miss M. Hurley; Gurry; 3rd, Miss Doh-

gentlemen's first prize v- by Mr. Jos. Burns.

When the result was a winners were applauded ward to receive their pri-

then commenced and wa- with vigor till the we- morning, the music bel- Quebec's best orche-

gether the event was a n- ful and enjoyable one, the greatest credit on t-

the Auxiliary and th- who had charge of the e- ev'm worked like Troja- ev'n thing possible to pl-

fertain their guests. P- evidence was the popular Miss Katie Murphy, wh- be in half a dozen places time. It was conceded

that the event was the n- ful of the kind ever held which is saying a great

TO ASK HIGHER WA- carpenters and joiners of have decided to ask for in their wages, and shor-

labor. Several largely meetings of the Brother- penters and Joiners have recently, when some 60 m- ed the union. A delegat-

Brotherhood had an inter- number of the employes they consider satisfactory the employers seemed fa- vored to the Union. It

Rev. E. J. Devine, S- snowed to local readers of "Witness," in his "Alask- published in the Canadia- of the Sacred Heart, say-

"There are miners living this country with their left palatial homes bel-

Only the necessities of life ed in now while the gold cumulating. But the c-

that is ever present and t- smile that brightens it st-

clearly shows that happi- the exclusive appanage of fortune. A career of th-

led for several years in A- surely have an influence and habits of rich miners

return to the outside wor- summation devoutly to b-

Would not this be a diff-

Some Notes on Al-