

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1905.

A CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER.

The Toronto Globe has begun the publication of a series of letters from Regina bearing upon the school question in the Northwest Territories and presenting it as a constitutional problem. It is evidently the intention of the Globe's correspondent to show with elaborate detail the actual working of the system of separate or dissentient schools in the proposed new province under the Act of 1875. And it is most important that the public should have all the available information upon this point in order to expose the entirely mistaken position of our contemporary, the Gazette, and a section of the Ontario press, and possibly of some public men also, who speak of the forthcoming measure of autonomy as an opportunity of wiping out the Catholic schools established there, or at least leaving their fate to the government of the new province to deal with them as public sentiment or political expediency may dictate. And the correspondent of the Globe is at pains to point out that the phrase "separate schools" is misleading, inasmuch as they are minority schools for the protection of Protestants or Catholics who insist upon denominational teaching. As a matter of fact as well as of law the separate school in Canada, so-called, is not the school of any separate denomination. It is the school contemplated by the British North America Act in which the religious teaching of either the Protestant or Catholic denomination is recognized; and this school being created, erected and authorized by the state, is in fact and in law a state school or public school. It is mere abuse of common words that gives the denominational school the distinctive title of public school.

The statesmen who framed the Northwest Territories Act and established separate schools, or provided for their establishment in that part of the Dominion, consulted most assiduously the intention of the British North America Act. Their idea of separate schools was schools subject to regulation, subject to inspection, subject to rates and all the conditions and machinery of state or public schools, their special provision being for the education of the mass of the people, according to the wishes of the two great religious denominations of the community, Catholic and Protestant. The discussion that took place in the House when the bill was going through and the text of the Act itself, are sufficiently impressive upon this score. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake, when they framed Sec. 14 of the Northwest Territories Act, were fucidly determined to bring the denominational system in the Northwest Territories unmistakably within the meaning and comprehension of the British North America Act. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick there has been no "system" of separate schools prior to the union. Quebec and Ontario had their systems of denominational schools, and the example of Ontario was expressly mentioned by Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake as the system it was their intention to harmonize education in the Territories with. It must be remembered that they were offering guarantees to in-

coming settlers, the guarantees of the Parliament of Canada, grafted upon the British North America Act. The discussion and legal decisions upon the Manitoba schools case are not so old that the public can fail to remember one clear principle which the Privy Council dwelt upon, viz.: that under the British North America Act the privilege of having a separate school system; and not being brought within an undenominational system, was intended to be preserved. But rights and privileges can be preserved only where they have been created or erected. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake made it absolutely certain that separate schools within the full intent and meaning of the British North America Act, should be established under Sec. 14 of the Northwest Territories Act. This section we have quoted repeatedly. The Globe correspondent shows how the system established is working out in actual experience. The guarantee of the constitution so frequently impressed upon us in connection with the Manitoba schools case was as follows: "Where in any province a system of separate or dissentient schools is after the union established by the legislature of the province an appeal shall lie . . . from any act or decision affecting any right or privilege, etc."

This is the constitutional guarantee of the protection of rights acquired by legislation subsequent to the Act of Union; and no legislation could have given more emphatic and solemn guarantees to the denominational minority in the Northwest Territories than the Act of the Mackenzie Government in 1875. The True Witness has no doubt whatever that the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will maintain every right guaranteed by the Parliament of Canada in 1875 to the minority in the Northwest Territories. As we said some weeks ago, the school case in the Northwest Territories is settled, and any thought of unsettling it now by throwing it back upon the province can only be entertained by persons who do not understand the constitution of Canada. The rights and privileges of those who have established separate or denominational schools in the Northwest Territories stand protected in the fullest sense of the word. If prejudicially affected by subsequent legislation of the Province we suppose a new history of the Manitoba Schools case would be inaugurated by a minority appeal. In this case the Parliament of Canada made the law, and the Parliament of Canada being a legislative body having its origin in a written constitution is bound by honor and the solemnity of its guarantee. As Hon. Edward Blake has well expressed it: "Ordinarily all rights and privileges given by act of parliament are to be enjoyed sub modo and are subject to the implied right of the same legislature to repeal or alter it if it chooses to do so. But the fundamental law may make it otherwise."

When the Northwest Territories autonomy bill is before the public, it will be seen that the statesmen who are to-day entrusted with the government of Canada are men who understand the nature of the guarantees given by Mackenzie in 1875.

CONSTRUCTIVE STATESMANSHIP.

Not the least important action of the Dominion Government for this year was announced in the House of Commons on Monday. When we say important we mean to the mass of the Canadian people. There need not be the slightest hesitation in predicting widespread popular benefit to follow the establishment of a Canadian mint. That Canada, with an annual gold production of \$20,000,000, should have her own mint, and that the circulation of Canadian specie throughout the commercial world which will naturally follow the conversion of her native gold into coin of various denominations up to \$20, will be a potent factor in developing and expanding the commercial interests of Canada, was the position taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Premier presented for the considera-

tion of the House the alluring picture of a Canadian mint coining British sovereigns out of Canadian gold as a contrast to the existing condition under which Canadian gold is sent to the United States to be minted into foreign coinage, and Canadian coin is the product of the Imperial mint. The discussion was precipitated by the pessimism displayed by Mr. J. G. H. Bergeron, and echoed by Hon. Geo. E. Foster, regarding the necessity for the new mint, the contract for which the Minister of Public Works announced he had let.

THE CHARACTER OF FATHER JOGUES.

It is not often that we receive from a Protestant and prejudiced source so outspoken a tribute to the Catholic missionary character as is contained in the following references to the Jesuit Martyr, Father Jogues, which we take from the Chicago Record-Herald:

"In all the history of religious zeal and martyrdom there is probably no character that is worthier of the high honors of the church than this simple, devoted and courageous soul. Carried off by the Iroquois as a captive, he was the first white man to see Lake George, and when he had been taken into the Iroquois country he acted as if captivity itself among the most cruel of foes was a rich favor and blessing bestowed upon him by Providence. Though he was compelled to undergo sufferings the mere description of which makes the reader writhe, he kept up the work of proselytizing with a constancy that seems more than human. Neither unspeakably brutal treatment nor the ever present menace of death deterred him, though Parkman says that he was constitutionally timid and a man of great sensitiveness and refinement. When finally he made his way to the Dutch settlements and was given an opportunity to escape from the country he hesitated. He spent the night in great agitation, tossed by doubt, and full of anxiety lest his self-love should beguile him from his duty. Was it not possible that the Indians might spare his life, and that, by a timely drop of water, he might still rescue souls from torturing devils and eternal fires of perdition? On the other hand, would he not, by remaining to meet a fate almost inevitable, incur the guilt of suicide? The long debate was decided in favor of a retreat, but when he had reached France in an utterly forlorn condition his thoughts immediately went back to the new world, and he soon returned to Canada. Once more, too, he visited the Mohawk country, once more was subjected to frightful tortures, and this time death came to him from the savages as a merciful dispensation. "One of the purest examples of Roman Catholic virtue which this western continent has seen," declares the historian, and it might be added a rare example of human virtue for any land and any time."

AN UNPARALLELED SPECTACLE.

The revolt of three members of Hon. Mr. Parent's Cabinet presents a unique political situation. The action of the famous "nest of traitors" in the Bowell Government was far less sensational. The latter merely bolted. The three Quebec ministers have revolted, because it is their intention to wage war upon their late chief. They must have accepted responsibility under him with the intention of embarrassing him in office. What their idea of Cabinet responsibility may be need not be examined too closely. At all events, they seem to have lost no time in proposing that he should resign and request the Lieutenant-Governor to send for one of themselves. If there were any reasons of public or political policy behind this proposition, why did not the Lieutenant-Governor, immediately after the general election, request some one else to form a government instead of the Premier who had conducted the campaign as the leader of the Liberal party? Mr. Parent had given no hint that he contemplated resignation. All who accepted office under him knew this. Why then did these three gentlemen go into his government? Did they merely think that inside the Cabinet they would be more powerful than on the outside in forcing war upon him? The public, of course, cannot know what took place between Mr. Parent and

his colleagues while they sat beside him in the Cabinet. There were all sorts of rumors. Their intention to resign was known and announced before the event. These things are truly remarkable. They are amazing. When Lord Randolph Churchill bolted from a British government and made the news public himself before the Premier had been given time to do so, he was denounced as a man who had no conception of the responsibilities of public life. But his action was prompted by sweet reasonableness as compared with the spectacle now presented to us in this province. Lord Churchill simply disagreed with his chief upon a question of public policy and took the public into his confidence. In the Quebec government there is no question of public policy involved. The only trouble was that Mr. Parent was personally not acceptable to three members of his Cabinet, though they were acceptable to him. That being so, they should not have associated themselves with him. The Lieutenant-Governor did not consult them. He consulted Mr. Parent. They came in to re-arrange the business of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier. And because Mr. Parent was not found pliable they have resigned. Not only that, but they will continue outside the Cabinet the cabal they started from within. Truly they are makers of political precedents. The newspapers opposing the Premier, and for that reason sympathetic towards the revolt, say that the ex-Ministers deeply resent the act of the Lieutenant-Governor in postponing the opening of the Legislative Assembly in order that Mr. Parent might have time to consult his party and reconstruct his Cabinet, if, despite this confusion and its consequences, he still finds himself able to continue the government of the province. Had the Lieutenant-Governor done otherwise he would have misunderstood the nature of an enterprise that would make the representative of the Crown the puppet of a disaffected political element that has not, as we have said, made any appeal to public policy, although party interest is rightly or wrongly involved.

The members of the Quebec Assembly are Liberal by an overwhelming majority. Liberals in Canada have always stood up for the observance of constitutional practices. They understand by reason not only of their political training, but by the experience of government in Canada from the time responsible government was first won, that if the representatives of the people are to protect their rights under the political system we enjoy here, they must not, on the other hand, abuse their privileges nor expect the representative of the Crown to be swayed by pressure irregularly and improperly applied. It is the duty of Liberals in this province to stand for the observance of the accepted forms and practices of government. There is no need to waste epithets upon the present unparalleled revolt. Its course cannot be recommended to any reasonable or public-spirited element in the community.

The statement of the French Cabinet has not produced a bad impression at the Vatican, where it is considered to indicate that M. Rouvier will institute a less severe ecclesiastical policy, which will be followed until the general elections, when the Catholics will be directed to support the more moderate elements of the majority in order to defeat the Socialists and render the attitude of the Government more benevolent towards the Church. This would be an attempt to repeat in France the policy followed successfully in Italy during the election last September.

The old Papal city of Bologna has just been the scene of a remarkable municipal election. A union of Catholics and Monarchists has wrested the municipal government from the Socialists, who were defeated by a majority of five thousand on a total poll of less than ten thousand. Last year the Cardinal Bishop of Bologna received King Victor Emmanuel II on his visit to the city, and the

event was noted as an evidence of a rapprochement between Pope and King. The local reconciliation between Monarchists and Catholics has borne remarkable fruit, and it cannot fail to show the Monarchist Party in Italy upon which road lies safety for the Monarchy—reconciliation with the Vatican or an alliance with the Revolutionists.

Paris takes some little amusement out of the fall of the Combes Cabinet. Its head has been compared to a mock Napoleon owing to the impudent tenor of the letter sent by him to President Loubet announcing the resignation of the Ministry. M. Combes grandly hopes that the Left of the Chamber will be able to defy the machinations of the Clericals and Nationalists even without his help. No such letter was ever written before by a retiring Minister to a Chief of State.

When the Combes Ministry was formed the Nationalist "Eclair" offered a prize of 10,000 francs for the best guesses as to the time when it would fall. The money has now been divided among several persons. The first of these, who gave the date 8th February, 1905, receives 4000 francs, and he badly needs it. He is a struggling accountant named Debarle, and has never earned more than a hundred a year. The next prize-man, who gets £80 is also a struggler. He is a M. Legrand-Cattiaux, and is a humble postman at Maubeuge, in the north of France.

Mgr. Le Nordez, it will be remembered, resigned the See of Dijon into the hands of the Pope last summer, and made a dutiful submission. The Combes Ministry, however, refused to accept the resignation. That, however, caused no difficulty in Dijon; for the Pope conferred the necessary powers on the Vicars-General of the Diocese; and as they had been regularly appointed by Mgr. Le Nordez, their acts were valid even under the Concordat. Now, however, Mgr. Le Nordez has cancelled their appointments because he disapproves of their administration. He has, in fact, exercised under his State appointment, which still endures, the powers which he resigned to the Pope; and as the Ministry of Public Worship still insists on regarding him as Bishop, the regular administration of the affairs of the diocese is brought to an end. Strong resentment is expressed in the Catholic and Moderate Republican press at this action, which goes far to justify the original action of the Holy See in reference to the Bishop. But the impasse is another illustration of the eccentricities of the Concordat.

Newfoundland Correspondence.

In the northern districts of the island, comprising about thirty places of more or less importance, there was only one place, Kings Cove, where liquor was sold. A few days ago, the local option election was held, and resulted as follows: For local option, 124; against, 33.

The Dawson City hockey team were invited to play at St. John's by the managers of the Prince's Rink, but the gold diggers wanted a guarantee of \$1500, which was considered too high a figure for a place like St. John's, with a population of 80,000. The directors of the rink offered them 75 per cent of the gate receipts, but such an offer was turned down by the Klondikers.

The Sisters of St. Patrick's Convent realized over \$400 from their annual festival in aid of the poor children attending the school. The Sisters feel grateful to all who helped in the good work.

His Grace Archbishop Howley has issued a book of poems which is meeting with good success. The feast of Candlemas was appropriately celebrated on Thursday last at the Cathedral, where a solemn high Mass was sung and a procession around the church took place. The northern steamers Prospero and Virginia Lake had very trying trips lately. With the thermometer down to 25 degrees below, the captain of the former steamer had his face frost bitten three times in one day. Passengers and freight had to be landed on the ice, as it was impossible to make port.

NOTES OF THE NEWS

The opening of the Quebec Legislature has been postponed until March 2, His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Jette having granted the motion adopted by the Parent Cabinet on Saturday last.

The C.P.R. Directors propose to spend upwards of \$4,000,000 in improvements this year. Five hundred miles of new standard rails will be laid between Montreal and Vancouver. The intention is to work towards the shortening of the passenger time tables on the main stretches and to add to the equipment for handling freight in general and wheat from the West in particular.

Owing to the fire which occurred last Friday in the G.T.R. workshops at Point St. Charles, four hundred men are out of employment. The loss is \$10,000.

At a special meeting of the Irish Cattle Traders' Assn., it was decided to ask the Irish party to take all steps to prevent the importation of Canadian store cattle.

The Hon. M. Tweedie, premier of New Brunswick, announced last Friday a change in the Cabinet. The Hon. W. J. Sweeney, of Westmoreland, has been made Surveyor-General, and Mr. W. P. Jones, of Carleton County, Solicitor-General.

An accident occurred on the C.P.R. on Sunday at Eaton, N.H. A special with five hundred immigrants on board rushed into a standing freight at the station, with the result that both engines were smashed. Two persons were injured.

Messrs. E. B. Devlin, J. M. McDougall and Louis Cousineau were nominated on Monday in Hull for the parliamentary bye-election that takes place in Wright County a week from to-day.

The second informal dinner of the Quebec Press Association will take place next Tuesday evening at St. Lawrence Hall.

The Ladies' Committee of the House of Industry—L'Assistance Publique—821 Dorchester street, will on Feb. 16 give a eucbre and concert in aid of the work. The home was established only a year ago, and maintains at present 50 old people.

The Hon. W. S. Fielding was tendered a dinner on Tuesday evening by Mr. David Lloyd-George in London. The guests included Mr. John Morley, Winston Churchill, Lord Tweedmouth and others.

There was a frightful wreck on Tuesday morning fifty miles from Halifax, when the Furness Line S.S. Damara struck a ledge of Pleasant Point.

Money is a greater torment in the possession than it is in the pursuit.

The only way to shine, even in this false world, is to be modest and unassuming. In the course of time truth will find a place to break through.

A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts. We should be blessed if we lived in the present always and took advantage of every accident that befell us, like the grass which confesses the influence of the slightest dew that falls on it, and did not spend our time in atoning for neglect of past opportunities, which we call doing our duty.—Thoreau.

The wailing of the wind at night, the hum of insect life, the nightingale's note, the scream of the eagle, the cries of animals and above all the natural inflection of the human voice; such are the rough elements of music, multitudinous, incoherent, and formless. Earth and sea and air are full of these inarticulate voices; sound floats upward from populous cities to the cloudland, and thunder rolls down its monotonous reply. Alone by the sea we may listen and hear a distinct and different tone each time that the swelling wavelet breaks crisply at our feet, and when the wind with fitful and angry howls drives inland the foam of the breakers the shriek of the retiring surge upon the shingles will often run through several descending semitones.

IN SIGHT. The path is gone; I've lost my way Far from the light. Grant me, Oh God, strength—day by day— To walk aright! In pity cast a feeble ray Across my night; Oh Father, be my guide, my stay— Keep me in sight! Mary M. Redmond.

NOTES FROM THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE C.

FEAST OF CANDLEMAS. On Sunday last the feast of Purification, or Candlemas Day, was appropriately celebrated in the Catholic churches of the city. The blessing of the candles during the procession of the "Lumen ad Revelationem" and "Nunc Dimittis," then the congregation holding lighted tapers meanwhile, as well as the Gospel, making the scene of grandeur.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH. At the high Mass the pastor, Father M. Callaghan, read the usual and general report of the year for the past year. There were baptisms, 154 marriages and deaths. The sum of \$28,521.10 was received from all sources, and expenses amounted to \$23,365, leaving a surplus of \$5,156.10, which being added to last year's surplus of \$4,469.73, leaves a total of \$9,625.83 in the bank. In the afternoon the Holy Society held a meeting, at St. Patrick's, Father James Killoran presiding.

In the evening the Sacred League held a reception of professed members at the direction of Rev. Peter Heffernan. A very edifying sermon was preached by the Rev. Thomas Heffernan. A procession was held around the church. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Next Sunday afternoon the members of the Total Abstinence Society will hold their monthly meeting.

ST. ANN'S PARISH. Rev. Father Rioux, P.P., C.S., officiated at the blessing of the candles, assisted by Rev. Father Heffernan as deacon, and Rev. Father Heffernan as sub-deacon. In the evening the sermon was preached by Father Strubbe.

The Ladies' Sodality of the Sacred Virgin, under the direction of Rev. Father Fortier, now number four hundred members. Meeting held on the first and third Monday of each month.

The Total Abstinence and Purity Society will meet on Sunday afternoon when the election of officers will take place.

ST. MARY'S PARISH. The postponed debate of St. Mary's Young Men's Society will take place on Wednesday evening, Feb. 15, at 8 o'clock. The subject of the debate will be: "Resolved, that straight insurance is preferable to fraternal organization insurance." A special class of boys under the direction of Rev. Father McDonnell, engaged practising dumb-bell exercises, fancy drills, calisthenics for the annual contest which will be held on the evening of March 17th and which promises to eclipse anything of the kind held in the parish.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH. Immediately after high Mass on Sunday the Total Abstinence Society met and transacted considerable routine business. Communication was received from St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society congratulating the St. Gabriel's Society on the formation of the same body. The date of the social annual religious celebration changed from January 6th to a date to be hereafter named by the pastor. A grand opening of the amusement program in connection with the members of the juvenile society will take place in the form of a eucbre party, which will be held on Friday evening, Feb. 24.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH. The Redemptorist Fathers of St. Michael's, N.Y., will give a mission on Sunday. The eucbre held on Tuesday evening was attended by a large crowd. A nice sum was realized for the benefit of the Church fund.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME. The Home was photographed by Mr. Gordon, of St. Catherine street, on Sunday, and made a handsome picture. Many applications were made for admission since last issue, and were accepted. The same made at the Home are doing excellent work, and demand will far exceed the supply. Since our last issue the following questions have been received: