

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1891

The Canadian provinces send delegates to many of the religious and scientific and philanthropic and temperance and society conventions that are held in the United States; but they do not yet send delegates to our political party conventions.—N. Y. Sun.

No; and they neither need to do so or mean to do so. The United States send delegates to similar conventions in England but they do not send members to Westminster.

CHICAGO will undoubtedly be able to boast of having the greatest show on earth, but it is not going to have the only Columbian exhibition. Genoa, the birthplace of Columbus, has not made as much noise over its proposed World's Fair as Chicago, but it has every prospect of holding a creditable exhibition. The object, as stated, will be "to show the progress made by the two countries, and to develop the commercial relations between them." It is proposed to have it open for visitors in September, 1892.

THERE is something like a popular belief in the certainty of the coming of what has been called the "American avalanche." People pretend to see the shadow of an approaching anarchy menacing the vast accumulations of private wealth. In opposition to this pessimistic view, it is pleasing to find Mr. Chauncey Depew expressing the opinion founded on an experience of twenty-five years as attorney and counsel with men of great wealth, that eight-tenths of them lose their fortunes in their lifetimes. Wealth is made in America faster than anywhere else in the world, and is distributed with almost equal celerity.

If the Arabs who have revolted against the Turk are in earnest, they can maintain their independence and set him at defiance. This Arab rebellion, however, appears to be in the regular way of the disintegration of the Turkish Empire. For over a hundred years large dependencies and provinces, some of them possessing the area and population of nations, have successfully asserted their independence of the Porte. Some of these were Christian, one or two Mohammedan. In the case of these Arabs, there is a sectarian difference. They do not belong to that branch of Mohammedanism of which the Sultan of Turkey is the head. The Government at Constantinople is wholly incapable of suppressing the Arabs by force, or depriving them of an independence which they have practically enjoyed ever since the fall of Mehmet Ali. Should Armenia, Syria and Salonica also fall away, it seems not improbable it would be easily settling with all that would be left of the patrimony of the Turk.

SINCE the publication of the details of the execution of four murderers in Sing Sing prison, there has been a general expression of horror all over the neighboring country. It is as if humanity had suddenly awakened to a new view of capital punishment. Perhaps nothing that has ever occurred has done more to popularize the opinion of those who demand the abolition of the death penalty than the killing of those men in the seclusion of a prison by an agency so terrible and little understood as electricity. The appeals now being made to humanity, christianity and the science of criminal ethics, plead for the atonement of penitence and incarceration, from which the convicted murderer shall only escape by a natural death. The refined torture and agony connected with the new mode of execution have also been dwelt upon, but there are voices on the other side which declare for the existing law and maintain that the terrible death-chair alone can overawe the brutal instincts of homicide.

THE Hon. Count Mercier has returned from his extended European tour. The sensational papers have duly "interviewed" him, but the result has simply been an adroit mixture of the inspired statements already telegraphed and some facts already public property. Mr. Mercier evidently appreciates the force of the statement that speech was made to

conceal one's thoughts. The only important point in the "interview" was that the trip of the provincial premier, his cook, my "own man" and generally, has not, as alleged, cost \$140,000. It may also be gratifying to the truly loyal to know that Mr. Mercier intends, at an early day, to visit England, Scotland and Ireland, and also "pay his respects to the Queen." A marked copy of the paper containing the announcement will no doubt be sent to the Lord Mayor of London, at the Tower, in order that this fact may be duly known and proper preparations made.

GERMANY has always had the reputation of providing liberally for the educational needs of its people, yet a recent statistical writer has shown that education obtains but little real assistance in comparison with other public services. All German schools, exclusive of universities receive only about ten million dollars annually from the Government. At the same time nearly a hundred and eighty-five million dollars are annually disbursed for military and naval purposes. In Austria-Hungary, neglect of education is still more marked. Only six millions and a quarter of dollars are granted to popular education annually, while the army and navy cost sixty-five million dollars annually in sound numbers. Italy makes a still more deplorable exhibit. There the army and navy cost ninety million dollars annually, while only a beggarly four millions are devoted to educate the people. Strange to say, Russia makes a better showing than either Austria or Italy, but Russian statistics are notoriously unreliable. The figures attributed to England are interesting. Here we find twenty-four million dollars annually devoted to public education, while the army and navy absorb one hundred and fifty-six millions. Spain makes the worst showing of all. With an expenditure of one hundred millions a year on the army and navy, and only one million and a half for the liberal and technical education of the whole people. The deduction drawn from these figures is that, during the coming century, the continental nations of Europe will be utterly unable to compete with those of America in economical and industrial pursuits. Indeed, it is competently asserted, that should nothing else occur, the natural result of this competition between the two hemispheres will be utter and permanent collapse of the existing European system.

It is said, with some degree of truth, that the publicity in which all the world lives in these days, owing to the ubiquity and industry of the news-gatherer, has a tendency not altogether good on the minds of the masses. Human vice and crime, folly and misfortune are magnified abnormally by the attention they receive, while the vast amount of quiet, unostentatious, genuine goodness and, not infrequently, of heroic achievement or endurance, are passed over unnoticed and unrecorded. Still, it is consoling to reflect that if life has its vile and sordid aspects too frequently and luridly displayed, the nobler side of human nature, when it claims attention, goes far to redeem the character of our civilization. Charles Todd, an engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Charles Railway, who deliberately devoted himself to a frightful death in the discharge of his duty and to save the lives of the passengers on the train, was a hero far more noble than many whose fame is perpetuated in marble and bronze. He could have saved his own life, had he shrunk from the appalling alternative presented to him, for his assistant leaped from the engine-cab and escaped, when the obstructions on the track were sighted. But Todd, realizing, as we can well understand, the horror of his position and its awful responsibilities, reversed the engine, applied the air-brakes, opened the sand-valves. Thus he kept the train on the track. When taken mangled and dying from the wrecked engine, his first words were to ask if the passengers were safe, and with these on his lips he passed away. Here was a hero of the modern sort, who rose to the sublimity of the utmost self-sacrifice in the dull routine of grimy daily toil. He who said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend," knows the hero's reward, while earth and humanity are glorified by his example.

THE decrease of business and consequent depression in the railway affairs is not confined to Canada. The Chicago Railway Age states that sixteen American railroads, with a total mileage of two thousand five hundred and ninety miles, have been sold in the last half year to satisfy the claims of creditors. They represented bonded debt and stock of about one hundred and six and one-half millions of dollars, besides many more millions of unpaid interest and floating debt. This is described as an unusually large foreclosure record, but it does not tell the whole story of failure. Sixteen roads of fifteen hundred and twelve miles and fifty-six millions dollars of stock and bonds were placed in the hands of receivers during the same time. Chief among the properties sold were the Chi-

cago, Kansas & Nebraska, a line of one thousand four hundred and seventy-one miles, the Texas Central of two hundred and twenty-nine miles, and the Dayton, Fort Wayne & Chicago of two hundred and sixty-one miles. These lines run through regions considered the best in the West, but they failed because they were built in excess of the requirements of traffic, and had to face undue competition. Other roads throughout the States are reported as not earning working expenses, while rates are diminishing in other sections, through the growth of competing lines. All over the western country, at the same time, fixed charges are said to be increasing faster than gross earnings, along with a progressive increase of working expenses. These facts may be taken as proofs that railway building has been overdone. As in railways, so has it been in other lines of business, and the opinion is gaining ground that enterprise must seek new channels if a continuance of depression is to be avoided.

IRELAND'S PROSPECTS.

Mr. Gladstone is reported as having announced that all rumors to the effect that he intends to retire from public affairs are void of foundation. He goes further, and states that he intends to take an active part in the general elections when they are brought on. Despite all assertions to the contrary, it is not at all likely that the great statesman will allow his party to throw the Home Rule question overboard. Time and again he has asserted that he desired the achievement of that measure, as the crowning act of his political career, and most people are firmly convinced of his sincerity in that declaration.

In Ireland things must soon come to a climax. People are discussing, on all sides, the probability of the reunion of all sections of the Irish Party under the leadership of Mr. Dillon, who will shortly be liberated from prison; even Archbishop Croke has spoken favorably of Mr. Dillon's leadership. It would be a cause of general rejoicing could such a state of things be brought about. Carlow election settled the fate of the Parnellites for the present, and the utterances of Messrs. Harrington and others at a meeting in Dublin, where they stated that it would be as well to be the slaves of the British Government as of the Irish Bishops, must further deprive them of the sympathy of the Irish people at home and abroad. No one who has followed the movement for Irish Home Rule can deny that the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, almost without exceptions, have been loyal and true to the cause of the Irish people, and it is the rankest ingratitude to assail them now, after the many sacrifices they have made for the National Cause. Mr. Justin McCarthy will no doubt retire before long from a position he never sought nor wished to occupy, and should Mr. Dillon or, as the latest despatches announce, Mr. Sexton, succeed in uniting the people and clergy of Ireland in a grand effort for the old land, bright days are in store for her in the early future. Irishmen in America, who have stood aloof from the contending factions will again rally to the standard, and those who have been gloating over the prospect of Ireland's hopes being dashed to pieces will be made to realize that the spirit of the Irish nation has been able to rise superior to the calamities that have befallen her during the past year.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The Session of 1891 drags along its weary length, without much prospect of coming to a close. The debate on the budget is still going on, the old lines being adhered to, and nothing fresh being laid before the House. The only hope for the new parliament is, that some of the members elected, for the first time, at the late general appeal to the people, give evidence of considerable ability and debating power. Amongst those who have come to the front is the members for Glengarry, who is universally styled "Chief McLennan" by the Conservative forces. He is a giant in stature, at one time was the champion athlete of America in all the Scottish sports, and by his speech on Friday last proved himself a common sense speaker and a dry humorist, at the expense of his political opponents. Mr. McLennan is destined to occupy a prominent place in parliament.

The prospects now are that the House will not adjourn for another month.

Hon. Michael Adams, M.P. for Northumberland, N.B., is another valuable addition to the Parliament of Canada. He defeated the Hon. Peter Mitchell, in the late general election, by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Adams is well known in New Brunswick, where for many years he held a prominent place in local politics. He is an able lawyer, in good practice, a fluent speaker, a keen debater and a wholesome Irishman. During one of the recent debates he made an effective speech, in which he dealt hard

blows to those who had opposed him in the campaign of 1887. Resenting that speech, the Montreal Herald, generally supposed to be controlled by Hon. Peter Mitchell, published a scurrilous article against Mr. Adams. Such tactics can only result in strengthening the Hon. gentleman's popularity in his county, where he is well known, and respected, and in weakening his late opponent, who will be held responsible for the unworthy attack.

The Tarte-McGreevy enquiry still continues to proceed, but, as yet, nothing has been proved concerning the Hon. Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works, against whom the whole attack is directed. At one of the recent sittings of the enquiry, an order was made for the production of the bank books of the Messrs. McGreevy and of Mr. O. E. Murphy. At that juncture, Mr. Curran, M.P., jokingly remarked that it might be well to have the bank book of Mr. Tarte also. This provoked the fiery member for Montmorency, who fiercely replied to the member for Montreal Centre, winding up his remarks by stating that all his transactions were open and that he had nothing to conceal. Mr. Curran rejoined that it was a pity Mr. Tarte was not willing to tell the Royal Commission all about the \$5000 he was accused of having received from Mr. Pacaud, out of the monies squeezed from Mr. John P. Whelan. This taunt so irritated the chief actor in the investigation that, meeting Mr. Curran some hours afterwards in the lobby of the House, where he was holding a conversation with the Hon. L. O. Taillon, he went up to him and denounced him as a liar. Mr. Curran quietly told him to take the words back, and as he did not do so, but repeated the insult, he received a blow in the face, and would have come in for due punishment had not several members interfered and put an end to the fray. The circumstance is a very regrettable one, but no man can blame the member for Montreal Centre for having resented by a blow so foul an aspersion. Some people do not consider the epithet "liar" a very great insult, but Irishmen are not amongst this number. It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant, now that Mr. Tarte has set up as an apostle of political purity, when he will consider it the proper thing to let the public know all about the five thousand dollars referred to, and cease to shield himself behind the declaration made before the Royal Commission, that he claimed his privileges as a British subject, and, therefore, declined to answer.

Amongst the young men suspended for irregularities in the Department of the Interior is Mr. E. McCabe. On all sides it is admitted that Mr. McCabe was merely imprudent, and that his high character, heretofore unblemished, ought to secure his reinstatement. It is understood that Messrs. Curran, Devlin and other M.P.'s will exert their influence in his favor.

A Mr. Palmer has been giving evidence of certain acts of crookedness before the Public Accounts Committee, and in speaking of an alleged conspiracy amongst certain members of the staff to injure the Government, introduced the name of Mr. P. Nungesser as one of the conspirators. Mr. Nungesser, better known to readers of the Irish-Canadian press as "The Rambler" over which *non de plume* he has written several interesting letters, did not allow the charge to remain long unanswered, but in a correspondence addressed to the Ottawa Citizen, denied Mr. Palmer's statement to the committee, and proffered to establish that his accuser's statement was wholly devoid of truth. Our old friend "The Rambler" has his faults, like other people, but treachery has no abiding place in him.

MR. DESJARDINS' AMENDMENT.

A correspondent requests us to publish the text of Mr. Desjardins' amendment to the amendment of Sir Richard Cartwright, which is to the following effect:

"That the situation of the country requires that the Government should forthwith reduce all duties on articles of prime necessity—and more particularly on those most generally consumed by artisans, miners, fishermen and farmers; and further, that the negotiations which the House has been informed are to open at Washington in October next, should be concluded upon the basis of the most extended reciprocal freedom of trade between Canada and the United States in manufactured as well as natural products."

In answer to the query of our correspondent, it may be said that the rules of the House do not allow an amendment to be made to a motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means. In order to permit the tariff resolutions to be carried promptly to prevent any possible frauds on the revenue being perpetrated, Sir Richard Cartwright withdrew his motion, and a promise was made that the very fullest discussion should be allowed. The debate was ac-

cordingly continued, and at a later stage Mr. Desjardins, after a powerful speech, moved the following amendment:—

And in concurring in these resolutions this House desires to express its approval.

1. Of the fiscal policy of the Liberal-Conservative Government, which, by permitting the free importation of raw materials and by a judicious production of our natural and manufactured products, has resulted in the marked development of Canadian industries;

2. Of the liberal aid which has been granted to important and necessary public works, notably railways and steamship lines, which have proved such important factors in developing our resources and facilitating our commerce;

3. Of the wise and prudent management of the finances, which, while adequate for providing for the public service, has maintained and advanced the credit of the country and, while producing substantial surpluses for capital expenditure, has made no appreciable addition to the public debt during the last two years;

4. Of the policy of relieving from duty articles of universal use, such as tea, coffee and sugar (in respect to the latter the consumer being freed from taxation to the extent of three and a half million dollars during the present session), and of the mode of meeting the larger part of the loss of revenue thereby caused by the exercise of economy in expenditure;

5. That this House, while approving of the special efforts made by the Government to increase Canadian trade with the far East, with the West Indies, with Great Britain and the United States, desires to express its confidence that any negotiations for the extension of commercial relations with the United States will be so conducted that their result will be consistent with the proper control of our own tariff and revenues, which every self-respecting people must maintain, and with a continuance of those profitable business and political relations with the mother country, which are earnestly desired by all intelligent and loyal Canadians.

To the great surprise of the Government and every one else, the Opposition hushed themselves into a white heat and charged the Government in choice billingsgate with breach of faith and other deeds of apoplexy. Fortunately, the records showed that the Government had never done anything of the kind and had acted in the most ordinary manner. With a great deal of magnanimity under the grossest provocation, the Government, after an apology from the Opposition for its ill-manners, permitted it to assume the position that no amendment could be moved. What Sir R. Cartwright and his friends expect to benefit by such tactics it is not easy to divine. The motion of Sir R. Cartwright is somewhat of an equivocal character, and there are points in it which are those the Government has for years declared itself in favor of under reciprocal conditions. But in the present case it will have to be treated on a rigid party basis, and the amendment of Mr. Desjardins, when moved later on, carried, as exposing the policy of the National Party and National Policy alike.

The Quebec Mining Law.

A deputation from the Mining Association of Quebec province, consisting of Hon. Geo. Irvine, Q.C., Quebec; Capt. R. C. Adams, Montreal; Mr. J. Laisson, Wills, Ottawa; Mr. W. B. Ives, M.P., Sherbrooke; Mr. A. Desjardins, M.P., Montreal; Mr. C. McGee, of the Bristol Iron Co.; Mr. Hector Melin and B. T. A. Bell, of the Canadian Mining Review, Ottawa, waited upon the Minister of Justice on Friday and were given a hearing in reference to the constitutionality of Mr. McCreary's mining law. Mr. Irvine went very fully into a review of the various mining laws and legislation concerning the disposition of Crown lands in Quebec, pointing out the many inconsistencies of the recent legislation. The retroactive features and the unjust nature of the bill, and the deterring effect it would have on foreign capital, were also dwelt on, and he showed that the law was not only irregular in being retrospective, but also that it was opposed to the policy of the Federal Government, inasmuch as in the case of several of these industries the Government had fostered them by bonuses, which would be nullified by the royalty demanded. Considerable stress was laid upon the inequity of the royalty tax, which it was pointed out would practically close many of the mines. So heavy a tax as 3 per cent. on the gross output at the pit's mouth would, it was held, compel some of the largest mines in the Eastern Townships and elsewhere to cease operations and throw out of work a large number of people who were dependent upon the mines for a livelihood. In many cases, also, the Act proposed absolute confiscation of private property, for it reclaimed to the Government mining lands granted over one hundred years ago, and which had changed hands several times. Short addresses were also made by Captain Adams, Mr. McGee and Mr. Bell, and the Minister, who had listened with attention throughout, promised that their representations should have the most careful consideration of the Government.

Struck.

QUEBEC, July 17.—Lightning struck the stable of the Convent of the Good Shepherd at St. Pierre de Charlesbourg on Tuesday night, and did considerable damage. Fortunately the horses and cattle escaped unhurt.

The Queen's Sympathy.

The Baroness Macdonald has received a letter from Her Majesty the Queen, written by herself, expressing the Sovereign's deep sympathy with Lady Macdonald in the bereavement she had sustained and her sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the services rendered by Sir John Macdonald to Canada and the Empire.

AN APPEAL.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHURCH,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONT.

Charitable reader: In order to preserve our historical Church—the oldest on the frontier—from falling to ruin, thorough repairs are necessary. Being heavily in debt, our people cannot unaided do all that is required. Through want of employment at home the Catholics have been thinned, till only forty families remain; hence our confident appeal to your Catholic heart to hold us. Instead of organising a bazaar with (to some) dubious features and possible prizes, we shall send to every one who forwards us one dollar, a copy of the Catholic history romance "Irene of Corinth." In this way a twofold good will be accomplished; the restoration of God's house, and the spread of Catholic literature. The book alone is worth the money in a Catholic household. I promise to say for the intention of all contributors one mass every month for a year. Enlist your friends in this good work, and send us the names of any whom you think likely to help us of the abundance of charity. Send money by P. O. order or registered letter and address Rev. P. J. Harold, P. P. Niagara-on-the-Lake Ontario.

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE,
TORONTO, June 2, 1891.

Rev. P. J. Harold:—I cordially endorse the favorable judgment passed on your work, "Irene of Corinth," by several Catholic scholars and reviewers. This delightful book shows a vast amount of erudition and of careful, diligent study of the historic period of which it treats, and is creditable alike to your talents and scholarship. Its perusal is calculated to refine, elevate and instruct. I earnestly recommend its sale for its own intrinsic merit and especially in view of the fact that you intend to apply the proceeds of its sale to the much-needed renovation of the church at Niagara.

I am yours sincerely in Xt,
John Walsh,
Archbishop of Toronto.

Count Mercier.

FATHER POINT, July 17.—Hon. Count Mercier, Hon. Joseph Shehyn, Mr. Benatchez, M.L.A., and party passed up on the Royal Mail steamship *Parisian* at 5 o'clock this afternoon. The Hon. R. L. Flanagan, Dr. Fiset, ex-M.L.A., and a couple of other gentlemen went off with the pilot. The party are evidently in excellent health and spirits, and were loud in expressions of pleasure at nearing home once more. It is reported that Mr. Mercier is bringing out with him from Paris Mr. Paul Joland-Barral to run an agricultural college which Mr. Mercier intends to start here.

The "Sunday" Bill.

OTTAWA, July 16.—A bill entitled "An act to secure the better observance of the Lord's Day" has been agreed upon by the special committee to whom it was referred for consideration and report some weeks ago. The committee has made extensive amendments to the original bill as submitted to it, chiefly by striking out clauses considered too stringent in their provisions and not practicable in application to some of the provinces of Canada, with many of whose established customs it would interfere. The amended bill reported from committee prohibits work and traffic on Sunday as follows: "The printing, publication and sale of any newspaper, provided, however, that necessary office work may be performed after 9 o'clock in the evening of the Lord's Day, for the purpose of facilitating the publication of the Monday morning issue of any daily newspaper;" the opening of any of the canals in Canada to traffic or business from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday. This provision may be suspended in any year by an order-in-council after the 15th of October. No railway train is to be loaded at any railway station, or empty cars moved from one station to another, nor any freight train permitted to start from any railway station in Canada on Sunday except such as are made up of live stock or perishable freight, and where the despatching of trains to relieve sufferers by accident or fire is deemed necessary; but through passenger trains each way, with their necessary connections, shall be permitted on any trunk line in Canada, but merely local passenger trains are prohibited. A sub-section to this provides that at such time as the laws of the United States shall make corresponding provisions, no through freight in transit from one point on the frontier of the United States to some other point on the said frontier, shall be allowed to pass over Canadian roads on the Lord's Day, except live stock and perishable goods. Sunday excursions by steamboat or railway, or by steamboat and railway, are prohibited. The penalties provided for infringement of the act are pretty heavy fines and imprisonment in default of fines not forthcoming promptly after judgment.

"Successful Administration"

LONDON, July 16.—The absence from the House of Commons of Right Hon. William Henry Smith, first lord of the treasury, who represents the Strand district of London in Parliament, is on the plea of illness. It is understood that Mr. Smith will not again assume the position of leader in the House, but will retire permanently, leaving the duties of that position to be filled the remainder of the session by G. J. Goschen, chancellor of the exchequer. This arrangement will be only temporary, as next session Arthur James Balfour, chief secretary for Ireland, will hold the reins, his successful administration of the affairs of that country, and the majority of Englishmen, having protests of the Irish themselves, being in general esteem pointed him out as the man for the place. The coming session, therefore, will witness the crowning measure of Lord Salisbury's administration, home rule for Ireland, pushed through the House under the supervision of its statesman whose name now is identified, whether for praise or blame, with the Emerald Isle.

Doing light work—Cleaning lamps.