

Cowan's Cake Icings

Save time and labour
Chocolate, Pink, Lemon Colour
and White

VOL. XII, No. 1

Chronicles of An Old-Timer

The Chicago Theatre Fire Horror—
Marriage of Miss Louise Brega,
Daughter of an Irish-Canadian Millionaire—Death of Mrs. Margaret Buchanan Sullivan—The Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 1, 1904.

Dear Register:

Toronto, I am happy to say, never had any such horror as that which visited Chicago on Wednesday afternoon of this week, when nearly six hundred persons, mostly women and children, lost their lives in a fire in a theatre.

Besides the dead, many have been seriously injured, and some are yet missing. No doubt the daily papers will have conveyed to you the full particulars of this dire catastrophe, but I have a few facts of my own that I wish to convey to your interested readers.

I happened to be in a neighboring building when the terrible tragedy was being enacted, but had no idea of its seriousness for an hour later. It was the Wednesday matinee at the Iroquois, and the play was "Blue Beard, Jr.," a holiday spectacle brought from London.

There are between thirty-five and forty theatres in Chicago, and of these the Iroquois was the newest and best. It was constructed last fall and the proprietors aimed to make it the best equipped and safest in the world.

No money was spared on it and I have seen it stated that it cost nearly \$400,000 before it was opened for business. It was supposed to be entirely fire-proof. There was not a theatre fire of any consequence that ever took place that the architect had not studied and aimed to guard against the cause of it in this new structure, which was considered a matter of pride for Chicago, and there was the utmost confidence that the Iroquois was perfectly safe and people did not hesitate to trust themselves and their children in it.

But it is the unexpected that happens, and so it was here. The Iroquois theatre had an asbestos curtain that was designed to shut off any fire that might occur on the stage from the auditorium, but it failed to work, refusing to drop more than half way down to the stage, and could not be coaxed or forced. Defects in manufacture, installation or handling, is stated by the attorney for the fire department to be responsible for the catastrophe.

or acquaintances were among them. It is a sad and silent New Year's. The usual noise, horn blowing and rejoicing is absent, and to-morrow Saturday, 2nd of January, by proclamation of the mayor, will be observed as a day of mourning.

The coroner has entered on his work of inquest holding, and we are promised a most searching investigation. As I write streams of people are still moving along the streets to view the scene of the terrible disaster, which is the sole subject of conversation.

Chicago has one Canadian alderman, named Rayner. His daughter's dead body was the first removed from the theatre by the firemen. One of the proprietors of the new ill-fated play-house is Harry J. Powers, an Irish-American, who owns another theatre named after himself. It is in this house Ada Rehan usually plays when she comes to Chicago, and where she lately filled an engagement with Otis Skinner in Shakespearean roles. The star in the spectacle of "Blue Beard Jr." is "Eddy" Foy, a Chicago Irish-American product, who is the joy of all Chicago people, for no comedian on the American stage is funnier.

The fire and police departments of Chicago are mostly Irish and they receive great praise for their courage, devotion and efficiency in this trying ordeal. Chicago is a hard city to manage. It is a dangerous city to live in. Not a day passes that does not bring its sudden and violent deaths. The police force is altogether inadequate for the vast territory it covers. The tremendous burden of traffic in the streets, the railroads, the street cars, all have their list of deaths day by day, and with the murders and suicides, the accidents in factories, the casualties caused by badly kept streets, make the list of sudden deaths appalling.

All that we can do is to look at each other and ask, "What next?" Anyone making a living elsewhere should hesitate well before coming here to make their abode, for life is not worth living in this pandora of rush, struggle, confusion and lawlessness. The Irish are largely responsible for conditions in Chicago, for they are the ruling element. Just now the acting mayor, Lawrence McGann, is Irish born; the chief of police is Irish born; the chief of the fire department is Irish born, the sheriff is Irish born. Crime goes on, accidents multiply, assaults and hold-ups increase and alarm is general.

Some of these officials are negligent and do not perform their duties faithfully; but conditions are against them. The population increases so fast; enterprises are so vast, the streets are so obstructed, the saloons are so numerous, life is held so cheap, and political pulls are so powerful that the administration of law becomes paralyzed. "Reform," "reform," is a slogan one constantly hears and the endeavor to reform is sincere if ineffective. In winter time this city is the abiding place of tramps, loafers and lawless people coming from all quarters, and the congestion is trying.

You cannot travel comfortably, either walking or riding. For walking the sidewalks are icy and you are menaced on every side. For riding in the street cars or elevated trains in the rush hours most of the passengers are set on end like standing cordwood, there being too many crowded in so that one can hardly breathe. I envy you good people who live in Toronto. You have convenience, comfort, law, order and decency in your daily lives.

Before the terrible theatre tragedy occurred and on the very same day, my mind was set on two events that greatly interested me—a wedding and a funeral. The wedding brought me back to my early boyhood days in old Hamilton, and the funeral was that of one of the brightest women of the Irish race at home or abroad. I rejoiced and I sorrowed, and then came word of the appalling theatre catastrophe in my immediate neighborhood.

127999

The Catholic Register

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

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1904

CANADA PERMANENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Formerly The Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation

EVERY FACILITY

MONEY RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT

Interest as low as 3% compounded half-yearly

An interest bearing account may be opened with \$1

ABSOLUTE SECURITY

YOUR SAVINGS SAFE

Head Office: Toronto
Toronto: Toronto

in Chicago society, and numbers among her associates such distinguished persons as Lady Curzon. Her travels were very extensive and covered the four continents, and were duly heralded in the society columns of the daily papers from place to place. The wedding took place in an Episcopal church and was fashionably attended, with many bridesmaids and attendants. Chas. Brega, her father, was a clerk in the Hamilton post office before he came to Chicago, and no doubt will be remembered by many of your readers in that city. He possessed no great intellectual gifts, but his opportunity came in this city of opportunities, and he has thrived as many other Canadians are thriving here to-day.

I was at one time inclined to think the Bregas were originally a Spanish family settled in Ireland, but I have found that the name Brega is Irish of a very ancient date. I devote these lines to the interesting event for old acquaintance sake and for the interest of your many Hamilton readers.

The funeral I was interested in was that of Mrs. Margaret Buchanan Sullivan, wife of Alexander Sullivan, a well-known Chicago lawyer, who was born in Ontario of Irish parents. I have known husband and wife since I came to Chicago, twenty-five years ago, and Mrs. Sullivan's fame as a newspaper writer was then well known and established. We are proud of our Irish-American women here in Chicago, but there was more than pride held in Mrs. Sullivan; there was respect and admiration for her gifts were great and her reputation filled two hemispheres. Col Fenner, in his "Citizen" of this week claims she was "the most brilliant woman of the Irish race," and no doubt she was; and there was no more brilliant woman anywhere that we know of. She was 56 years of age and was born near Dublin, but in her early youth was brought to America by her parents and received her education at the Sacred Heart Convent in Detroit. When 18 years of age she was made a principal in one of the Detroit schools. It was there she met and married Mr. Alexander Sullivan, at that time a handsome young business man of the place. On account of Mr. Sullivan's health they went to New Mexico. After a short stay there the couple came to Chicago, where both immediately attained prominence. Mrs. Sullivan's first work was on a paper called the "Evening Post," then on the "Times," which brought better remuneration; later she joined the staff of the "Tribune," and still later that of the "Herald," as all were anxious to secure her services. Her last position was with the "Chronicle," which she served for five years, and was with it at the time of her demise.

She became known internationally in 1900, when the Associated Press appointed her one of its representatives to the Paris Exposition. She was there given official recognition by the French Government, the first honor of the kind accorded a woman correspondent about the exposition. She was considered the most brilliant that was sent out.

In her newspaper work no subject was strange to her and she wrote on politics, science, sociology, as freely as she did of art, literature and history.

In 1896 she was stricken with paralysis, but seemed to have completely recovered. She was stricken again Sunday, Dec. 20th, but there was no dread of a fatal result, but on Monday last hope for recovery was abandoned and she died on Tuesday, the

event producing a profound shock. The remains were sent to Detroit for interment. Her residence was 378 Oak street, on the North Side, not far from the Cathedral of the Holy Name, of which she was a devout member. She never had any children of her own, but took a great interest in some of those of her neighbors that she had pleasure in teaching. Solemn funeral services were held in the Cathedral, which was filled with her sorrowing friends. A star of the first magnitude has dropped from the Catholic firmament of Chicago, one that will long be remembered for its brilliancy, its goodness and its devotion.

The annual report of the Archdiocese of Chicago, just published, shows that the number of Catholics in it is 1,000,000, the number of Catholic churches in the city is 157, and the number of priests in the Archdiocese is 619. Some of the Chicago parishes have immense congregations—St. Stanislaus (Polish) has 32,000; the Holy Family (Jesuit) 20,000. 67,388 children attend the parochial schools in the city, while those pupils attending colleges, academies, asylums, etc., bring the total up to 93,388.

William F. Curtis of the Chicago Record-Herald, now in Rome, continues to describe conditions in the Holy City in a reverent and interesting manner. In one of his letters he says only a small part of the business of the Holy See is transacted at the Vatican, numerous other buildings being employed for various purposes.

WILLIAM HALLEY

For the Religious Life

Toronto and Kingston Young Ladies Are Received.

Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V.G., representing His Grace Archbishop O'Connor, received eleven young ladies on Monday last as members of the Community of St. Joseph. The chapel was tastefully decorated for the occasion and outside of the priests in the sanctuary only the parents and immediate friends of the young ladies were present.

The names of the young ladies are: Miss Mary Flanagan, Sister Mary Leonard; Miss Margaret Inglesby, Sister Mary Anita; Miss Mary H. Anderson, Sister Mary Magdalene. These three ladies took the veil and the other seven novices made their professional vows to the community. The sermon was preached by Rev. Father Urban, C.S.S.R., of St. Patrick's, and mass was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Teedy, principal of St. Michael's College.

St. Vincent De Paul Children's Aid Society

The third quarterly meeting (9th year) of the Board of Management of the St. Vincent de Paul Children's Aid Society of Toronto will be held in St. Vincent's Hall, 25 Shuter St., on Monday evening next, the 11th inst., at 8 p.m. All friends are cordially invited.

A NEW SYSTEM For THE NEW YEAR



Start the year well by installing the Card Index System. Send us \$1.50 and we will send you one of our Trial Outfits fitted with cards and guides as follows: Prepaid

- 1-5 in. 5x8 Card Index Tray
- 400 Gum Block White Cards
- 5x3, Ruled
- 1 Set each daily, monthly and A-Z guides.

\$1.50

The Office Specialty Mfg. Co.
Limited
77 BAY STREET, TORONTO, CANADA
Factories - - - Newmarket

Another Old-Timer

Editor Catholic Register:

Dear Sir,—With more than ordinary interest and pleasure have I perused "Old-Timer's" reminiscences of gone-by days in this city from his first contribution to the "Irish Canadian" to his last in your valued journal. No doubt other "old heads" have done likewise. They awakened memories of the past and brought vividly to mind the incidents and struggles of Irish Catholics for and in defence of their religious and political rights during the early fifties and down to confederation.

William Halley was a well-known figure on our streets, even to the school boys, and endeared himself to and wielded a large influence with our people by reason of the deep interest he took in them and by his loyal and unswerving advocacy of any movements relating to our interests. By the business community he was highly esteemed and respected for his ability and sterling integrity.

Some years prior to withdrawing from the management of the type foundry business here to seek a more lucrative one in a more congenial climate, he with characteristic energy edited and issued the first Canadian illustrated newspaper published in Toronto, which I think, however, was not a successful venture financially. With perhaps little or no material at hand to refresh his memory "Old Timer" displays wonderful accuracy, as to the facts, dates, names and locations of those early days referred to.

I, however, recall a few slight inaccuracies and omissions which may not be amiss to correct and supply at random. The present generation little dreams of what Irish Catholics of those days had to contend with. The priests, brothers and nuns were unable to walk the streets without being subjected to verbal insult. No wonder, then, that the late Michael Murphy saw the necessity for the formation of the Gaelic League, the Hibernal Benevolent Society. It was essentially an absolute necessity for the protection of their churches, educational and charitable institutions, and many a night was this faithful, dutiful and patriotic body of men forced to stand sentry around them.

Each recurring 12th of July, unfortunately, witnessed the perpetration of outrages by Orange mobs; even private residences were not secure from their wanton attacks. The free exercise of their franchise was interfered with at the polls by this rabble, led by such characters as Bob Moody. As a boy in the late fifties I witnessed a violent attack he made at the head of a gang of those ruffians from St. John's Ward on the voters at St. Patrick's Market, with the intention of seizing the booth and preventing the recording of votes. For this purpose he utilized a large pile of brick which had been placed for building purposes on Queen street near Renfrew, now McCall St. Not a brick of that pile was left. Fire arms were discharged. Many serious injuries, cut hands and bloody faces was the result of that encounter.

Eventually they were repulsed and complete rout followed. In their retreat eastward they committed a most cowardly assault on an innocent and innocent cab-man, knocking him from his box and injuring him severely. The Riot Act was read on that occasion. Sam Sherwood was then Chief of Police, and he with Major Cummings (a Catholic, an efficient officer and an exceptional appointment) under him, did effective work in quelling the serious disturbance. It was then the watchword at the city hall that "no Irish Catholic need apply" for any civic employment in the gift or under the control of the council, unless indeed it was one of peril and risk of limb and life without remuneration attached. Hence it was that No. 4 Co. (Victoria) engine Volunteer Fire Brigade was manned by them, captained by Geo. Lennon, a brother of Dr. Lennon, and right manfully did they fight many a fierce fire in the cause of humanity and property. This band of volunteers was housed in old St. Patrick's Market, a frame structure in rear of the present building of that name. Thank heaven those days of outrage are past and gone, and it is pleasant to think that such rowdyism no longer exists and that a more law-abiding and intelligent element prevails in Orange councils.

Anent a few of the men referred to by "Old Timer" as being prominent in legal, medical and literary life I think with him they were men of rare and brilliant attainments, and I believe we have not to-day in our ranks their superiors. I doubt if there now lives in this province an equal to James McCarroll (Terry Finigan) in his special political humorous writings which appeared in the "Grumbler," the funny paper of the day. His style was inimitable and his political hits great. He sometimes essayed as a comic lecturer, notably in "The House That Jack Built," and was a flutist of considerable note.

While writing on the "Irish Canadian" he is credited with suggesting, to the late Mr. Boyle that he take hold of the editorial work himself, with what result we know—creditable and fearless advocacy and defence of Ireland and the Irish appearing in every line—an earnest and enthusiastic supporter of freedom and independence and a bitter enemy to intolerance and tyranny.

The name of "Paddy O'Day's" newspaper, edited by McCarroll in Buffalo, was, I believe, the "Fenian Volunteer."

A pleading drawn by the late Jas. Halloran in a case in which he and the late Henry Eccles were acting for the opposing litigants, drew from so eminent an authority in legal matters the opinion that he doubted if there was in the province another man capable of drafting such a "special plea."

The late James Fahey was admittedly the ablest newspaper paragraph writer in Canada. He would say more in a paragraph than most writers could in a quarter column. As a writer on the editorial staff of the Toronto World, his pithy, humorous style attracted the attention of busy business men who wanted all the news in "a nutshell," and they got it. He materially aided that journal in its struggle for existence in its early days, and had no use for "blanket sheets" or "pulp towers." His early experience was had on the editorial staff of the Globe, afterwards editorial work in Stratford, on the *Queen's Herald*, *Toronto News* and *World*.

A happy and humorous after-dinner speaker, an ardent Conservative, well posted in the politics of the day, fluent and quick at retort, he was very much in request during election campaigns, and at one time unsuccessfully contested East Grey himself. In rural districts he would often frighten the new aspirant to political honors out of his wits with the formidable array of blue books he would pile on the table to support his contentions, but which had, perchance, no relevance whatever to the questions under consideration. When I first heard him he was replying to the late Hon. George Brown in Wellington County at the general election in '73 I was forcibly reminded of the rhymes of the "ant and the elephant." I was amazed that the little insignificant looking man should tackle a giant in avoirdupois and politics, but I soon discovered he was no midge in politics, had the courage of a lion and handled his man in a masterly manner.

He sometimes took the lecture platform. I heard him deliver a delightful discourse on "Goldsmith." It was a fine effort. He had a bright future, but ill-health cut short a prospective, brilliant career at a comparatively early age. Had he been spared to us his abilities would no doubt have shed lustre on his co-religionists and fellow-countrymen. Sad to say, he died too soon.

That the Mayor of Stanley Street (Dan Dwan) possessed considerable native wit and drollery every one of his way well knew. In his later days Dan kept a small grocery on Church street, near the corner of Stanley street, now Lombard street, which was much frequented of an evening by students of the legal and medical literature who delighted listening to his drollery and wit. Restriction and inspection of liquors were not very strict then, and he took advantage of their presence to "turn an honest penny" in the sale of some stimulants. He was also the owner of a well hidden-bound horse on seeing which one day the late Mr. P. Boyle asked him what he fed the animal with and was met with the ready retort, "on Irish Canadians." That put the quietus on Mr. Boyle's enquiries as to the horse's condition for the future, and the reply became public property.

That Toronto furnished a self-sacrificing, fearless and patriotic contingent of Irish descent in the ill-advised movement to redress the wrongs and avenge the tyrannies of years inflicted on the land of their forefathers, goes without saying. Burning with zeal and imbued with an intense desire to right Ireland's wrongs, they espoused her cause with eagerness and enthusiasm in the full hope of success regardless of the stupendous difficulties they would necessarily have to encounter. Some of those named as being of the noble band arrested at Cornwall on their way to Ireland with the late Mr. Murphy were not of the number. Evidently Mr. M. did not select his chosen few from all the captains of companies, as presidents of branches of the Society was then called. Since then some of them died in the United States, others here—peace to their ashes—while there yet remain some in the flesh. Of one of those who had previously reached Ireland and

SMOKERS

Buyers
10c per ounce.
Alive
Bolland
199 Yonge St.
TORONTO

Perfect Smoking Mixture
Positive Costless Preparation

PRICE FIVE CENTS

had taken an active part in the case of Kelly and Deary at the latter, which resulted in the untimely death of that officer it must be said that State Secretary Seward with the British Government in half of Edward O'Mahony (Capt. Shore) it was the late John A. Macdonald who was instrumental in securing the return of Kelly and Deary to Ottawa and influence and punishment of the life of the officer in favor of his son and who effected the historic sentiment "God Save the King," made memorable in history, which he defiantly brushed the judges as a partisan shot including his speech from the Mackay had many a narrow wonderful escape from capture, outwitted and successfully eluded pursuers and finally settled in Detroit. He was not married, but in Cork, and to a Cork restless spirit did not allow remain long in the American. Goaded to desperation by the punishments inflicted upon patriots, he returned to Ireland some measure, and in his own less way, avenge the terrible deed meted out. The departure of this little man was unfortunate, as related, too true.

T. F. Burke was certainly a fine specimen of manhood and a drier every inch. His brother, although, he studied classics, take holy orders, but became a successful school teacher.

Phil Cullen was a clerk in Toronto Savings Bank and held his position to lend his aid in Irish cause. He was succeeded in office by the present manager, Mason.

I have watched in vain for reference by "Old Timer" to the early struggles for Separate Schools. He will well remember the battle fought by the late Mr. near Bruyere, then Vicar-General of this diocese, with the late Dr. Supt. of Common Schools, that it was effective and the victor for was evidenced in the declaration of the national controversy in pamphlet form. This did not deter the V.G. from doing so. In this connection I was surprised at the indifference Catholic gentlemen who should have an active interest in our educational institutions. It is not for material, for there is ample room for "non-professional," financial, mercantile and business men. In our numerous and large, I cannot single instance of one by a Catholic. The Protestant ever know of a more fitting way to perpetuate their memory and names down to posterity than through our educational institutions. It is a monument more lasting than marble. Would that we had men in our midst to-day, like Capt. Elmsley, who respected and means to their advancement, it is not been for the devotion and sacrifice of our priests and orders I dread to think the condition of our schools would be in.

In giving us the history of the gatherings of Catholic representatives from all over the province, "Old Timer" made reference to the formation of the Catholic League when Sir John and Geo. Brown bidding for our votes through Sir Frank Smith, Senator. It is truly was a very important venture and brought to the attention of the public many of our from all points in the province. I think perhaps he had bidden good-bye before that.

BELL ART PIANOS

One Finds The Finest Qualities That Musicians Desire

The Delightful Toronto part by the illustrious repeating Action has made Popular in Musical Institutions among which Moulton College Toronto and Hamilton Conservatory of Music use exclusively. Send for Descriptive Catalogue No. 64 (free).

BELL PIANO AND ORGAN CO. LIMITED
FACTORIES, QUELIMONT
TORONTO WAREHOUSE
146 Yonge Street

DINEEN'S FURRIERS

This is a splendid season in which to buy, because we find that our stock is larger than we anticipated even considering our large Christmas Trade.

Here's a line of Alaska Sable Ruffs 72 inches long, eight tails.

\$18.00
ORDER BY MAIL
The W. & D. DINEEN CO. Limited
100 YONGE & TEMPERANCE STS. TORONTO

Only One School

in Canada using 100 machines and providing 12 teachers in training young men and women for business. We do our work well, and business men know it. Enter any time.

Catalogue Free
CENTRAL BUSINESS COLLEGE
Toronto
W. H. SHAW,
Principal.