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Catholic Record.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APR. 26, 1884.

THE PARLIAMENTARY FUND.

The Western Catholic says:

"Parliament wants \$200,000 for a Parli-
mentary Campaign Fund, but where
is the money to come from? The Irish
Americans are disgusted at the energies
of the home leaders being diverted from
the cause of Irish Independence in
order to minister to the selfish clamours
of the present occupiers of the consoli-
dated farms from which the fathers of
thousands of the Irish exiles had been
evicted. It would be a good riddance
if England were to forcibly expatriate
the whole of these miserable land-
grabbers who would not stir a finger for
the liberty of their native land unless
they were assured they would profit by
the change themselves."

We cannot say that we quite under-
stand the allusions of our contemporary
to "land-grabbers." But we heartily
agree with him when he affirms that the
money required for the Parliamentary
fund will come from the Irish. And we
are happy to state that little doubt now
remains of the success of the project at
once so just in its provisions and so
necessary in Irish interests. A late
despatch conveys the pleasing intelli-
gence that the private acceptance of
Mr. Parnell's scheme to raise a fund
from which to pay a salary to the
nationalist members of parliament is
making rapid headway, and that the
success of the project is becoming
assured.

We trust Irishmen both in the United
States and Canada, will make it a duty
to assist their brethren in the old land
in the organization and enlargement of
this fund. For the Irish in Canada
we may say that if they have not given
that assistance to the Irish party in the
old land which might be expected from
them, it is largely due to the unaccount-
able neglect with which they have been
treated by the envoys and agents in
America of the Irish leaders.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT.

For the first years after the passage of
the British North America Act (1867)
matters ran smoothly enough between
the Dominion and the Provinces. There
was for the first five years something
like political accord between the federal
government and the administrations of
the greater provinces. But time
wrought changes. In 1878 came the Que-
bec coup d'état, and the complications
arising therefrom did not even momen-
tarily cease till the fall of the Joly gov-
ernment late in the autumn of 1879.
Nor did the fall of that government
settle the difficulties raised by the ac-
tion of Lieutenant Governor Letellier—
the merits or demerits of which it is not
now our purpose to discuss. In Ontario,
on the other hand, difficulties of a char-
acter not less grave have arisen to dis-
turb the relations between the federal
and provincial authorities—the bound-
ary question, the license dispute and
the disallowance at Ottawa of the
Rivers and Streams Bill of the local leg-
islature, have certainly very seriously
disturbed the peace and concord upon
which it was hoped the union of the
Canadas had been founded by the British
North America Act. At the close of
the last session of the Provincial Parlia-
ment of Ontario Mr. Pardee moved and
carried a series of very strongly worded
resolutions on the subject of federal in-
terference with provincial railway legisla-
tion. And now we have the Hon. Mr.
Joly in the Quebec legislature moving
in favor of amendments to the B. N. A.
Act. On Thursday, the 24th, the hon.
gentleman moved a series of resolutions
setting forth substantially that whereas,
by an address to the Queen, the imperial
parliament was asked to pass, and did
pass, the act known as the British North
America Act, for the union of the pro-
vinces, on the basis of certain accom-
panying resolutions known as the Que-
bec Resolutions; that, short as the trial
has been to which the new constitution
has been subjected, it has already shown
that germs of discord already exist be-
tween the provinces and the federal
power, the origin of which may be traced
back to the changes made by the B. N. A.
Act in the resolutions upon which
that clause 45 of said resolutions gives
control over licenses without any res-
triction whatever to the provinces in

the following terms—Section 12—"Shop,
saloon, tavern, auctioneer and other
licenses," while the B. N. A. Act de-
clares that such control may be exercised
by the provincial governments in order
to the raising of a revenue for provincial,
legal or municipal purposes; that this
radical change made in the conditions of
the federal compact is one of the sources
of this discord between the provinces and
the federal power; that the said resolu-
tions, while setting forth the subjects
which are under the control of our fed-
eral parliament, assign to it "all such
works as shall, although lying wholly
within any province, be specially declared
by the acts authorizing them to be for the
general advantage," while the B. N. A.
Act goes much further, and gives to the
federal parliament jurisdiction over such
works as, although wholly situate within
a province, are before or after their ex-
ecution declared by the parliament of
Canada to be for the general advantage
of two or more of the provinces, that
the direct result of this change has been
to take from the Province of Quebec its
control over all the railways built within
its limits with the aid of provincial
grants, except over one, whose control
it may also lose at any day; that these
changes and others whose influence has
not yet been practically felt, neutralize
the precautions taken to ensure har-
mony between the provinces and the fed-
eral power; that in order to avoid in
future any cause for a conflict between
the provinces and the federal power, it
is expedient to adopt the necessary
measures to have the British North
America Act modified so as to meet the
views of all parties as expressed in the
federal compact."

We had not heard at the time of writ-
ing the fate of these resolutions, but,
granting that they have been defeated,
the fact remains that the relations
between the federal and provincial
authorities are not as harmonious as
they ought in the public interest to be.
The time, in our estimation, is at hand
when amendments to the constitution of
1867 must be made if confederation is to
be anything like a permanent success.

OTTAWA RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

We begin this week the publication of
the report of a debate in the Canadian
Parliament in March, 1870, on the subject
of the long-discussed improvement of the
Ottawa River. The debate was, as our
readers will see, one of very great inter-
est. The speeches of Messrs. Wright,
Shanly, Oliver and Grant are specially
deserving of attention. There was on all
sides a very earnest expression of opin-
ion in favor of removing obstructions to
the navigation of the Ottawa. Little doubt
can be entertained that had not the
annexation of the North-West Territories
and British Columbia rendered the con-
struction of a Pacific railway a necessity,
some scheme for the improvement of the
Ottawa in the sense urged by Mr. Wright,
and so ably supported by Mr. Shanly and
others, would have been by this time
devised and at least partially carried
out.

The country may now be fairly consid-
ered to have done its full duty in regard
of the Pacific railway. It has no other
scheme of national importance just now
to undertake, if we except this of the
canalling of the Ottawa and the consequ-
ent opening of a through Canadian
water route from Montreal to Port
Arthur.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN IRE- LAND.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal in a late
issue says:
"We understand there was very near
being a serious crisis in the Royal Uni-
versity the other day. There were two can-
didates for the vacant Fellowship, both
Catholic clergymen. One, who was elect-
ed, was an English Jesuit; the other, the
distinguished head of one of our most
distinguished Catholic Colleges. The Car-
dinal Archbishop advocated the election
of the latter reverend gentleman. Not-
withstanding this he was defeated, and
immediately his Eminence sent in his re-
signation. However, owing to the strong
representations made to him from the
highest possible quarters and elsewhere,
the Cardinal Archbishop was induced to
reconsider his determination and with-
draw his resignation. The incident, how-
ever, is suggestive, and suggests grave
doubts as to the permanency of the pre-
sent makeshift arrangement for the Uni-
versity Education of Catholics in Ire-
land."

The fact is that the so-called Royal Uni-
versity is a thorough sham, the inven-
tion of the late Lord Beaconsfield to secure
the support of the Catholic hierarchy by
giving them shadow for substance. The
Catholics of Ireland cannot without the
very gravest injustice be kept out of a
university of their own. But as it is with
the franchise and county government
questions, so it is with the university.
The government hesitates not at injustice
because Ireland and the Irish are in ques-
tion.

We congratulate our able contemporary,
the Buffalo Union and Times, on its
greatly improved appearance in a neat
new dress, as also on its really excellent
exhibit of able original articles from some

of our best writers. The Union and
Times is one of the very best Catholic
papers published. While Father Cronin
wields the editorial pen and Mr. O'Reilly
looks after the management we feel safe
in predicting for the paper a long and
useful as well as brilliant career.

MR. GLADSTONE ON IRISH REPRESENTATION.

Mr. Gladstone's speech on the fran-
chise bill was certainly one of the great-
est of his life. With good reason indeed
might his friends congratulate them-
selves on the wonderful vigor and ora-
torical power of their leader. We have
but space for one extract from the liberal
chancellor's speech—dealing with the
question of Irish representation. On that
point Mr. Gladstone was exceedingly
clear and vigorous. His position, as may
at once be seen, is irrefragable. He says:

"I fully admit that at the present
moment Ireland has but one seventh of
the population, and that upon that basis
of one-seventh of the population instead
of 103 members Ireland is entitled only
to 13. That is not a very great range of
margin. In the first place, in my own
mind, but it is most painful theory, and
this continual decline of the Irish popu-
lation is a permanent and normal factor.
(Irish cheers.) It may be that there are
cases where a great reduction of
population is necessary to a
people's well-being. It may be that
Ireland has presented one of these
cases, but it is most painful theory, and
that depletion is in itself a subject of
regretful reflection (hear, hear), while
the consequences produced by the dis-
semination of the population over the
globe, who carry away with them the
idea that they have been driven from
their homes, are consequences painful
enough for us to bear in mind. I do not
abandon a hope that Ireland may recover
something of the ground that she has
lost. Considering that it has been once
in 50 years that we entertain a question
like this, I should certainly not assume
the permanence of this continual descent
in the numbers of the people of Ireland.
Further, I would say this, that those who
have been niggardly and unjust in former
times must be cautious when they come
to plead on their own behalf for the
strictest application of laws—which they
might have claimed if they had never
deviated from them themselves. I do
not think that it is possible to state the
case more temperately and fairly than
the hon. member for Cork. It is not
a question of very large
extent, take it as you will. But
look back to the year 1832, and see
how we dealt with Ireland on that
occasion. On that occasion Ireland had
almost three-tenths of the population,
and we gave her considerably less than
one-sixth of the representation (Cheers.)
I do not think that, looking back to that
proceeding now, we would say it was
handsome treatment; and I could not
entirely dismiss from my recollection
that fact in coming to consider the Irish
question when we deal with redistribution
of seats, in presentation of the plan
contemplated by the present Govern-
ment. I commit no one—I do not wish
to commit anyone; but I say it is not
a desirable position for a great country
to occupy, to claim the most rigid
application of laws, when the
Irish tell in her favour, and to apply
a very lax view when they tell against
her. (Irish cheers.) I do not argue the
point, because I have proceeded on the
assumption that it will be allowed that
103 was not a liberal allotment to her
in 1832, and that if Ireland had
been treated according to her
numbers, she would have had a num-
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