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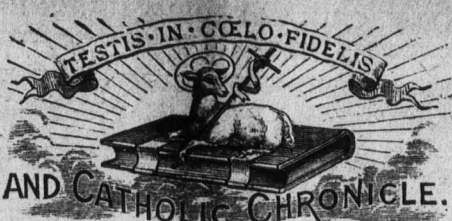
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The True



Witness

Vol. LVI., No. 44

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1907

PRICE FIVE CENTS

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de Lecture
Feb 19 1906
Assemblée Législative

Council Bill.

Little Self-Government Conferred.

If Workable, However, Mr. Redmond Will Accept.

The English Government presented on Tuesday its long-awaited Irish bill to the House of Commons and the country. The bill is designed to meet the demands for Irish Home Rule. It was presented by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Birrell, to a crowded house. Prior to the appearance of this measure it was popularly termed a "Devolution bill," but to-day it is referred to as the "Irish Council Bill," or even the "Irish bill."

Compared with the Home Rule bills of 1886 and 1906, the measure of to-day confers little self-government upon Ireland, merely giving to the council control of the eight departments now managed by Government boards. Twenty-four of the council are to be appointed by the Crown, and while the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is given power to nullify its measures, the crown retains control of five of the eight departments, including the constabulary. The control of this branch has always been a thorn in the flesh of Irish people.

It is natural and quite to be expected that this half-way measure is wholly pleasing to no political party. The Unionists regard it as a step toward Home Rule. They object to giving to Ireland the management of many departments of local affairs, while the Irish members of the House of Commons retain the right to legislate in similar affairs for England and Scotland. They criticize also the plan of government by a council through eight committees as complicated and cumbersome. The Radicals are disappointed that the measure falls so far short of the actual home rule, and the Irish members are even more disappointed with it. The Irish leaders, however, are maintaining a diplomatic attitude until they have time to study the provisions of the bill and learn the sentiments of the people.

A Nationalist convention will be held in Dublin soon to decide upon the policy of the Irish party. The Laborites will support the measure because they are all home rulers. To prevent the first reading of the bill being deferred, and while Walter Hume Long was still speaking, Mr. Birrell moved the closure. Then, amid a great uproar and protests and shouts of "gag" the closure was carried by 417 votes to 121 and the bill passed its first reading by 416 to 121.

After the bill had been presented and explained by Mr. Birrell, it was criticized and ridiculed by A. J. Balfour on behalf of the Opposition. John Redmond then delivered a brilliant speech, noteworthy principally for its dignified and forcible exposition of Ireland's claims for complete home rule.

The audience was worthy the historical and parliamentary occasion. The entire ministry occupied seats on the front benches. The floor of the House was packed, and the galleries held a notable assemblage, including a number of peers, the visiting colonial premiers, notably Alfred Deakin, premier of Australia, and several bishops. Members of the Irish clergy were conspicuous in the galleries.

Mr. Birrell rose to an oratorical height when he described the present system of Irish administration. He called Dublin Castle a failure, saying: "There it stands, remote without a friend, and melancholy, while the current of Irish life sweeps past." No governor had entered, he continued, "the gloomy portals of Dublin Castle without a sinking of the heart almost equivalent to abandoning hope." Parnell had said that one way to govern Ireland was to send a man there to hold the balance of all parties, and administer the country in a spirit of courage and independence, but the government had no such man in its eye. "I would rather write the biography of a deceased autocrat," Mr. Birrell said, "than live under his rule. Such

men do not make good history." With all its shortcomings, an elective body would be educational and teach the Irish people self-respect.

Nobody, said Mr. Birrell, believed that the present system of the administration of Ireland was sound in principle or economy. It had been switched off from the great current of the national life of the people. Under the proposed new scheme the Irish members of Parliament would continue to sit at Westminster undiminished in numbers, but he hoped hereafter to find a more profitable channel for their inquisitiveness, in managing local affairs at home. It was the intention of the bill to establish a representative administrative council consisting of 82 elected and 24 nominated members, the latter to be nominated the first year by the King and thereafter by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Elected members would be elected on the local Government board franchise. The under-secretary to the lord-lieutenant would be an ex-officio member of the council, which would have complete control of the powers vested in the departments to be handed over to its care. The president of the council would be appointed by the council itself, and the chief secretary would have the right to attend the meetings. If the existing officers of the departments were retired by the council they must be given full pensions. No exercise of the powers vested in the departments would be controlled by resolutions of the council, and the supremacy of the imperial government would be safeguarded by the power given to the Lord Lieutenant to reserve his consent to any resolution of the council and the eight departments which would be made subject to the new council. The departments coming under the control of the proposed Irish council would be the local government board, the department of agriculture, congested districts boards, commissioners of public works, national education and intermediate education, inspectors of reformatories and industrial schools, and the registrar-general. The Supreme Court, judicature, royal Irish constabulary, Dublin metropolitan police, the land commission and the prison board would remain under the control of the Imperial authorities.

Mr. Birrell went on to explain that the council, being elected on a local Government board franchise, peers and women could vote. The constituencies, roughly, would be the same as the present Parliamentary areas. He did not think 17 members were too many to discharge the important duties assigned to them. The council would be elected for three years, and authorized to establish as many commissions as it pleased, but it must establish a finance, public works, education and local Government committees, the chairman of which would be appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant. It was proposed to establish a new education department for primary and secondary education, to be placed under the control of the council.

AN IRISH FUND CREATED.

For the financial purposes of the eight departments, a certain annual sum, to be fixed by Parliament every five years, would be charged to the consolidated fund, and paid into a separate Irish fund. The present cost of the eight departments was estimated at a little over \$10,000,000 yearly. The Government proposed to hand over in addition the sum of \$3,250,000 yearly, of which \$1,500,000 must be devoted to public works and the general development of the country, including other statutory payments. An Irish fund, therefore, to the amount of a little over \$20,000,000 annually would be created. The Irish fund would be paid into a special Irish treasury to be created by an order-in-council and having an Irish treasurer at its

head. The council would have the power to appoint or remove the officers of the departments mentioned above, but the rights of the existing officers would be preserved. Under the bill, any British subject would be able to hold the office of Lord Lieutenant, without preference for any religious belief. A clause was also included providing that no preference whatever shall be shown to any religious denomination in appointments, and that any resulting from such preferment shall be invalid.

In conclusion, Mr. Birrell said: "The Government has been told that the bill paved the way for home rule. If the bill passed, and the new council is a success, then I dare say it might pave the way. If, on the other hand, it is a failure, it might present considerable obstacles, but surely the Unionists will not refuse Ireland an opportunity for training her people to acquire any right they ought to possess, because if the measure proves successful, one of the difficulties in the way of home rule will have been removed."

JOHN REDMOND'S VIEWS.
John Redmond, the Irish leader, said that until he and his colleagues had time to consider every feature of the bill, and elicit Irish public opinion in regard to it, no one could expect him to give either a deliberate or a final judgment. Mr. Gladstone proposed to solve the problem by the full and frank concession of self-government and autonomy to the Irish people, but what the present government offered was not home rule, nor a substitute for it. The Irish still demanded home rule, and rested their claim on their historic right and the admitted failure of a century of British government of Ireland. As home rulers, Mr. Redmond thought they were justified in regarding the scheme as consistent with the maintenance of their aspirations, and proceeded to apply certain texts to the scheme regarding giving general and effective control to Irish public opinion over the matters which the bill dealt with. He said he did not like the nominated element. Mr. Redmond agreed with Mr. Balfour that it was not democratic, but if he was told that the Government's object was to give a large representation to the minority, who were suspicious regarding the action of the majority, then he would be perfectly willing to accept this undemocratic principle. He believed that the minority's fears were honest, but groundless. There were no limitations to which he would not go to meet these fears.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

ST. MARY'S C. Y. M. SOCIETY.

St. Mary's Catholic Young Men's Society (dramatic section), will give a dramatic entertainment in St. Bridget's Hall, corner of Maison-neuve and Rose streets, to-morrow (Friday) evening. The entertainment will be under the auspices of Division No. 6, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the company will produce "O'Donnell's Triumph," which proved such a striking success when given on St. Patrick's night.

MONTHLY CONCERT OF ST. ANTHONY'S JUVENILE T. A. & B. SOCIETY.

On last Friday evening a musical contest took place in St. Anthony's Hall. The competitors were Masters O'Brien, Dupuis, H. O'Brien and Gaudry, each of whom carried off a valuable prize. Mention is due Masters O'Shaughnessy, Drumm, Hogan, Mr. Geo. Holland, the orchestra from l'Association Musicale, of Ste. Cuzegonde, and any others who in any way aided to make the evening enjoyable.

FRANCISCAN MONKS LEAVE FOR FOREIGN FIELD.

The Franciscan church, Dorchester street west, was crowded to the doors Sunday evening on the occasion of the ceremonies attending the departure of two members of the order as missionaries to Japan. The missionaries are Friar Peter and Friar Gabriel. Coadjutor Bishop Racicot officiated, assisted by Canon Savaria, of Lachine, and Abbe Vauthier, parish priest of Westmount. There was a large attendance, including Canon Roy, Archbishop Bruchesi's secretary; Abbe Lecoq, superior of St. Sulpice, and Abbe Ferrier. Rev. Father Raymond thanked Bishop Racicot for his participation in the ceremony, and outlined the missionary work accomplished by the followers of St. Francis Xavier.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CONCERT.

On Wednesday evening last the Catholic Sailors' Club was the scene of the opening concert of the season. Shortly after eight o'clock Rev. Father Malone, chaplain of the Club, made his appearance, and he was greeted by the heartiest applause. In a few well chosen words he introduced the new president of the Club, Mr. Felix Casey. The concert was under the patronage of Miss Marchison. The programme was certainly one worthy of the occasion. Mention is due in a special manner to Miss Marchison, patroness of the evening, the young ladies who figured so well in their callisthenic exercises, and the Misses Goodyear, also to Messrs. Paterson, Major, Rodden, Bridge, Hennessey, Skinner, Rielly, Merrill, Gardner and the two Masters Goodyear, lately from England.

On the whole, from the indications of the first concert we may certainly look forward to a successful year. Next week's entertainment will be under the auspices of the Literary Committee of the Club.

REV. J. A. BELANGER CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARY.

Rev. Father J. A. Belanger, parish priest of St. Louis de France, on Sunday celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his priesthood. Some sixty of his confreres joined the faithful of the parish to do honor to the popular pastor and capable administrator.

At 10 o'clock the Church of St. Louis de France was completely filled. Rev. Mr. Belanger singing mass and Rev. R. Labelle preaching the sermon of the day. In the sanctuary were Rev. Canon Dubuc, Rev. Canon Lepellier, cure of Mile End, and about twenty priests. After Mass, Mr. Rodolphe Forget, M.P., chief warden, read, on behalf of the people, an address to their pastor, to which the parish priest made a touching reply. The invited guests comprised His Grace Archbishop Bru-

chesi, who presided and some sixty priests and the parish wardens, roped to the pastor's residence, where dinner was served by the boys from Mount St. Louis College, who had also acted as ushers in the church. His Grace, the parish priest, Mr. Forget and others delivered addresses. During the day Rev. Mr. Belanger was the recipient of over a hundred handsome presents.

ST. JOSEPH'S TOMBOLA.

The young ladies in charge of the Rose Tree and Tombola in aid of St. Joseph's Home for Catholic working boys, 396 Wellington street, wish to thank their many friends for making the Rose Tree a success and to give notice that the drawing will take place on Friday evening, the 17th of May, at the Home, 394 and 396 Wellington street. The drawing was unavoidably delayed on account of the absence of Rev. Father Holland, C.S.S.R., on mission. All coupons must be returned before that date.

Seventy-five really fine prizes are to be drawn for. The list, with the winning numbers, will be published as soon as the drawing has taken place.

The following are some of the prizes: Oil painting, Picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pope's date, statue of Blessed Virgin, statue of St. Joseph, gold watch, silver watch, silver mounted rosary, statues of Our Lady of Pity, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Christopher, St. Anthony; cheese dish, bisquit jar, 5 o'clock tea set, wine set, ladies' hat, gold plated frame, gold plated

Card of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill wish to thank their many friends for the kindness and sympathy shown them in the recent bereavement they suffered in the death of their son Michael.

IN MEMORIAM.

Sacred to the memory of our father, Mr. Peter Dunn, who died at Warden, Que., May 8, 1905. Anniversary service at parish church. Thy memory like the ivy clings. R.I.P.

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

A few kind words from **The Sisters of Misericorde.**
"Having made use of Abbey's Salt for some time in our Hospital, we are pleased to say that it is a very good medicine in cases of indigestion."
ALL DRUGGISTS, 25 and 60c. BOTTLE.

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75 doz. Men's natural wool spring weight underwear at - - - - - 85c
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1-4 size collars, only at

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7 ST. CATHERINE ST. EAST.
Our Uptown Branch Store will be opened about May 15th
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Anyone at all interested in automobiles will find the Cadillac the most dependable of popular-priced cars, to which is added the incredibly low cost of maintenance.
We're selling these machines as low as \$1100 and recommend them for all sorts of service in town or country. There is more certainty of good value and thorough satisfaction in a "Cadillac" than in any other car in sight.
The simple fact that more Cadillacs were sold last year than any other car in the world carries its own argument.

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ink stand, fancy ink stand, Napoleon from Corsica to St. Helena, Catholic Oratory (illustrated), Montreal and vicinity, by N. H. Hinchelwood, gold plated holy water font, nickel holy water font, nickel crucifix two fancy cushions, bird cage, fancy rocker, child's rocker, sack granulated sugar, ham, one doz. cabinet photos, parlor clock, gold enameled brooch, large doll, 3 pairs fancy slippers, 4 pairs ladies' boots, photo album, Stodart's Tour of the World, The Irish Rosary (two volumes) 11 candlestick, fancy shade, nickel shaving set, nickel soap tray, fountain pen, four pictures, each a prize, tea cosy, fancy silver fork, rose vase, two pairs of vases, bronze clock, picture, Face of Christ; picture, Madonn and Child; fishing can, leather writing pay, one year's subscription to the True Witness, Catholic Record, Catholic Union and Times and Catholic world, one box of cigars.

Wear Trade Mark D. Suspenders guaranteed 50c.