

The Catholic Register.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER PUBLISHING COMPANY

SUBSCRIPTION.

For City, including delivery . . . \$1.50
To all Outside Points . . . \$1.00
Strictly in advance, otherwise an additional 50c. will be charged.

OFFICE, 9 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.

Approved and recommended by the Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy.

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Transient advertisements 10 cents a line. A liberal discount on contracts.

Resolutions should be made by Post Office Order, Express Money Order, or by Registered Letter. If by cheque, 25 cents must be added for discount.

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Telephone 489.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1901.

WATCH THE CITY COUNCIL.

The Board of Control, sitting on Saturday, with Alderman Sheppard in the chair, Mayor Howland being absent, decided to cut off the salary of the only Catholic on the list, as we believe, employed within the City Hall. The newspapers represent the appointment as having been a useless one, made by Mayor Macdonald. But in that connection there are some things to be considered. In the first place this was not the only appointment made last year. And again the facts are in direct conflict with the representation now put forward.

I give a short history of the office of Assistant City Relief Officer. Soon after Mayor Macdonald went into the City Hall he received a letter from Relief Officer Taylor declaring that his duties had greatly increased and that he needed an assistant to attend to a great deal of absolutely necessary enquiring into cases. Mr. Walsh, being acquainted with work of this nature, was recommended and appointed. There are two members of the present Board of Control who were on the Board last year when the appointment was made, Aldermen Sheppard and Frame. With the consistency and fairness which always characterizes him, Ald. Frame opposed the dismissal of Mr. Walsh on Saturday; and if Ald. Sheppard, who was in the chair, had done the same, the motion of Ald. Lamb, supported by Ald. Hubbard, could not have carried. But all the circumstances go to show a pre-arranged plan. Mayor Howland was absent; and his personal dislike to going on record is easily enough understood. Ald. Sheppard saved his name from the record also, although the fact that he did not vote with Ald. Frame classed him with Ald. Lamb and Ald. Hubbard. So that the two Controllers who consented to the appointment of Mr. Walsh last year, could have kept him in his position this year, if Ald. Sheppard, like Ald. Frame, had due regard for consistency.

And now let us consider the usefulness of the office of Assistant Relief Officer. Mr. Walsh had not been six months engaged in the work when Mr. Taylor came down to the Board of Control with a glowing statement of the results. The new officer, he showed, had saved so much money for the city, that the Board could well afford to increase his salary and that of Mr. Taylor as well. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Mr. Taylor asked a larger increase for himself than for Mr. Walsh. The balance of opinion on the Board was in favor of giving the increase to Mr. Walsh but not to Mr. Taylor, and the subject was put off from day to day by the divided Board until it dropped altogether. Those who opposed the increase could not see what Mr. Taylor had done to earn it, and more than one Controller said Mr. Walsh alone was doing the sort of work the city desired. Observe what has occurred now. Mr. Taylor, who at the beginning of 1900, claimed that an assistant was absolutely needed, and who in the middle of the year pressed for an increase of salary for the assistant and for him; if by reason of the good the assistant had done, came down to the Board on Saturday and said he would do the work of the assistant in addition to his own without any increase of salary.

We are very slow in imputing bigotry to anybody. But in face of these facts will anyone believe that there is not something behind this action of Ald. Lamb and Hubbard? It is not a mere coincidence that Mr. Walsh is

a Catholic. Nor is the excuse that Mr. Walsh was appointed by Mayor Macdonald sufficient ground for dismissing him. As we have already said he is not the only appointee of the late administration. There are others against whom a better reason for dismissal could be formulated. Besides we feel confident enough, that before the present year is out one of two things will happen should the council uphold the action of Messrs. Lamb and Hubbard; either Mr. Taylor will get a substantial increase of salary or another assistant who will not be a Catholic.

BRITAIN'S HEAVY TAXES.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, made his Budget statement in the House of Commons on Thursday evening last. He faced, perhaps, the most difficult situation that ever confronted a Chancellor of the British Exchequer. Hard as his position was, he had the distinction of having a missile flung at his head by a colleague, Mr. Chamberlain, in the shape of a despatch from Sir Alfred Milner, declaring on the eve of the Budget that the past half year of the South African war has been a period of retrogression, that South Africans are sick unto death of the war, and that the prolongation of the struggle may be indefinite. In face of this report, officially published by the Colonial Secretary, it was impossible for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to point to any visible sign of a silver lining to the financial cloud under which he stood, and, to do him justice, he acted like an honest man, telling the country the whole truth. The war, he said, has now brought South Africa to the verge of ruin; it has already cost the British taxpayer twice as much as the Crimean war—the enormous sum of \$755,000,000—and there is no present hope of obtaining contributions from the Transvaal. This being the outlook, the Chancellor asked the House to consent to an addition of \$800,000,000 to the national debt, making the total increase of debt as a result of the war \$635,000,000. "But," said he, "I will never be responsible for the fatal policy of paying the whole cost of the war out of the loans without putting a reasonable amount on the taxpayers of the day." Two pence would be added to the present shilling income-tax rate, a duty of four shillings and two pence per cwt. placed on sugar and an export duty of one shilling a ton on coal, which together would yield in new taxes \$55,000,000 a year or thereabouts.

There is consternation in Wales, which is affected by the coal tax, while the sugar and the income taxes will press very heavily upon wage-earners and persons of moderate income. Ireland, which is already scandalously overtaxed, will certainly not be able to stand the new burdens, and emigration will increase. But it would be in no way surprising to see a tide of emigration also beginning to flow from England and Wales, as people will think the colonies, which are escaping the taxes, more desirable to live in with modest means. Thus Canada, which could by no chance have expected any benefit from a triumph of the Imperialistic policy in England, may reap some gain from the collapse of that policy, and the subsidence of the Jingo spirit. Sir William Vernon Harcourt spoke the truth when he said the financial statement of the War Ministry is the most disastrous in the memory of living men. "We cannot go on," he added, "without involving the country in financial ruin." These words will make an impression on the people.

A BAD OMEN.

Year after year have the Irish clergy and people sought, by a magnificently conducted educational campaign, to enlighten the public of Great Britain upon the necessity for a Catholic University in Ireland. Not once, but a thousand times, the ground has all been gone over, and the facts marshalled and emphasized. Distinguished converts have been made on both sides of the House, it is true. Mr. A. J. Balfour is only one of a very respectable number. Indeed, most men of liberal mind in British public life have conceded not only the logic but the justice of the Irish claim. What does it all signify, however? Suppose converts to the truth should continue to be made at the same rate, it would take Ireland fully the balance

of the present enlightened century to win a parliamentary majority in the House of Commons.

It will be seen by the cable report of the debate in the House on Monday night, that the "brutal majority," as it has well been called, closed the subject on a division of 225 against 147, in the face of Mr. Balfour's personal appeal. Rightly did Mr. Redmond protest against the course pursued by Mr. Balfour, for of what practical value to any cause or principle is the support of a Government leader when he separates himself from his government and party before going on record? This is what Mr. Balfour has been doing with regard to the Irish University question for the past three or four years. He weeps for the British neglect of higher education in Ireland. He proclaims his firm faith in the justice of the Irish case as stated by her representatives. But at the end of the speech he never neglects to say that he is at variance with his government, upon whom his tears and convictions are wasted. Ireland may take all the comfort possible out of the support of such a government leader. For all practical purposes he might as well maintain a dignified silence; except, indeed, for his confession to the whole world that the gross misgovernment of Ireland is based on anti-Catholic prejudice. There never has been a question so patiently and reasonably agitated as this matter of higher education for the Catholic youth of Ireland. All the more is it contemptuously ignored in the moderation with which the demand is pressed.

In the same way the infamous land laws were never altered by a line as long as the protests of the tillers of the soil were moderately voiced.

IRISH UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

The London Daily Chronicle is responsible for the statement that negotiations are on foot for the constitution of the Royal Commission on University Education in Ireland. Sir Wm. Ayson and Sir Richard Jebb, representatives of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, are stated to have been invited to serve. If this announcement is to be seriously considered in view of the vote in the House of Commons on Monday night, to which we have made reference elsewhere, the opinion expressed by the Freeman's Journal is of the utmost moment.

The Freeman says if the names mentioned in connection with the promised Royal Commission are accurate it is evident that a genuine attempt is being made to so constitute it that the verdict will impress British opinion. Some of the names are those of the first repute among the British Universities. There is a further rumor, the Freeman adds, that the Chairman of the Commission will be a Protestant. The Catholic case is so strong that apprehensions that might be caused for a trial before such a tribunal will be to some extent allayed. If the Commission prove really impartial and independent, a favorable verdict from such a tribunal would be irresistible. And here the point of the Freeman's article comes in. It says:—

"Yet it is stated that not only is the Chairman to be an Englishman and a Protestant, for which there may be sufficient reason, if the verdict is to impress British opinion, but that the Secretary is also to be a Protestant Englishman. We can scarcely credit this rumor, which is so much out of harmony with the desire credited, not without reason, to Lord Cadogan to deal fairly with the Catholic interest. The Commission, constituted as it is rumored, will need an Irish and a Catholic interpreter. It is to be sincerely hoped that the chances of its success will not be lessened by a blunder in such a small but important detail. There are many Irish Catholic gentlemen thoroughly competent for the post, and the Government will have no difficulty in finding a well-qualified man, should it desire to secure for the post a person who may be trusted to do his best to assist the English Commissioners in their endeavors to understand the case.

An ornamental Commission to serve a political purpose would be in keeping with the vote of Monday night last.

THE POPE AND THE CATHOLIC PRESS.

It is of interest in connection with the recognition so frequently given by Pope Leo to the Catholic press to note that the committee formed for the celebration of the Pontifical Jubilee of his Holiness met on March 20, and decided to invite the Catholic papers and periodicals of the entire world to send each issue with the inscription: "Cuius pro Pontifice Nostro Leone,"

MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

The House of Commons discussed far into Thursday night the rival claims of Montreal and Quebec to be the national port of Canada. Opinions on both sides of the House was fairly well divided, and strong and patriotic arguments were made, without regard to party motive or advantage. That the members had well considered the transportation question was evident from the interest with which the debate was maintained; and the public cannot do otherwise than draw the conclusion that either port, with sufficient expenditure, could be vastly improved to meet the new transportation conditions now opening up before the country. But all this being admitted, the public must still consider the practical return for the money that will be spent. The national port of Canada on the St. Lawrence should be open all the year round. Canada must dispel the almost world-wide delusion that the country is an ice-field for half the year, and nothing else can do that as quickly and thoroughly as winter navigation on the St. Lawrence. Here, then, is the distinct advantage which Quebec possesses. The river below Quebec can be kept open all winter at comparatively small cost. The harbor is magnificent. Keep the river open into it and winter navigation is secured; which, being the patriotic desideratum, and the parliamentary and public discussion of the subject being essentially patriotic, Quebec—whether though it may be in local influence than Montreal—is entitled to the best support of the general public.

A SHOCKING CRIME.

Light as is the penalty that has been inflicted at Peterborough upon the medical student, Patterson, it is to be hoped it will not be ineffective in putting a stop to those unholy and detestable crimes. A horrid notoriety has been brought upon the Kingston district by the baleful stain of grave robbing. Shortly before his death the late Archbishop Cleary defined this un-Christian and criminal deed in a notable letter, which may have had more local effect than any deterrent sentence passed by a magistrate. It is significant enough that a Queen's student has been found guilty in connection with the midnight crime done in Peterborough. In both places, too, the Catholic burial places were chosen for desecration and robbery. Neither this age or country can tolerate crimes conceived in so base an spirit as these circumstances would indicate, and it is to be hoped the curtain has at last fallen upon the scandal.

THE CORONATION OATH.

From a Protestant source no condemnation of the King's Coronation Declaration has yet come as strong as that uttered on Monday last by Rev. Joseph Parker, pastor of the City Temple, London, in opening the annual conference of the Congregational Union. According to the cable report, Rev. Mr. Parker said he sympathized with the Roman Catholics, who were wounded by the pitiable insults heaped upon their religion by the antiquated and despicable oath put into the Sovereign's mouth. He declared that the oath must be improved off the earth.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir Thomas Lipton's challenger of the new century, Shamrock II., has, like her predecessor, been built in Scotland. Only an Irish Shamrock can claim that cup across the ocean.

Records in athletic events show no indication of failure to continue coming the way of young Irishmen in Canada. The latest victor is Mr. Jack Caffrey, of St. Patrick's Club, Hamilton, who, after the Marathon race in Boston, is hailed as the leading amateur distance runner on the Continent.

The women of France are engaged in signing all over the country a monster petition against the infamous measure against religious congregations. The text runs: "We, Frenchwomen, protest with all our souls, with the greatest energy, against the projected law concerning the religious associations. We demand liberty."

In another column we publish an account of the golden jubilee of the Marquis of Ripon. The Catholic Times, speaking of this event, says: "The Marquis of Ripon, by his sturdy devotion to the people's interest, and the Marchioness, by her kindness to those around her have well earned such proofs

of friendly feeling, and they are receiving them abundantly and in a graceful form on the occasion of their golden wedding. They enjoy in a special manner the esteem and affection of those with whom they come into closest contact." The Marquis is one of the leaders in the St. Vincent de Paul Society in England.

Citizens of Toronto who are of Italian birth are indignant that Police Magistrate Donison should, from the bench, arraign their nationality, for no better reason than that a single individual, who had been concerned in a stabbing affray appeared before him. It is not consistent with the place of justice to vent race prejudices.

Coal, we are told, will not be less than \$0.50 a ton in Toronto next winter. Taking advantage of any excuse for stiffening prices, the coal carrying trusts in the United States have readily found a pretext in the new coal duty imposed by the Chancellor of the British exchequer. Toronto and other Ontario dealers are at the mercy of the American railway companies; the Canadian householders will consequently lose as much as if bound to contribute to the British war taxes.

Aldermen Lamb and Hubbard, who were relentless economists when cutting off the salary of a loyal Catholic official in the city hall, proclaimed the policy of hang the expense, in supporting the proposal to give a \$500 grant to the Horse Show. In both cases the two Aldermen were in favor of what they estimated to be a vote catching policy. They came perilously near their finish in the last election and would make hay while the sun shines this year. Let them remember however that April is an inauspicious harvest season.

A cable despatch in Tuesday's papers described a bold profanity of sacred art in the new Paris Salon, for which the anti-religious agitation of the hour seems to have been the inspiration. The despatch adds: "The present revival of religious art has this curious feature about it—that the painters who started it have not a shadow of religious feeling." What chance is there for religious art in a country which makes war upon its parent and protector—the Church?

We had some doubts about the sincerity and the usefulness of Mr. Anthony Comstock, the guardian of morals of New York. But now that he has assisted the Catholic Truth Society in preventing the horrible Margaret Sheppard from spouting her obscenity there he has proved that he is a really serviceable factor in public life. He may have an Angolan stable to look after in the big city, but Margaret was worse than any such concern.—Buffalo Union and Times.

Mr. Merriman, the South African delegate, who has been refused the privilege of appearing before the House of Commons that he might explain the views of his fellow-Africans on the war, has arranged to address several meetings in the large towns of England and Scotland. The first series will be held at Edinburgh to-morrow, 26th inst., when the chair will be taken by Mr. Thomas Shaw, M.P., who has proved himself a sturdy advocate of the cause of peace in the House of Commons. This will be practically Mr. Merriman's first deliverance on the South African question since his arrival in England from the Cape.

The extremely harsh official proclamation which has just issued against the religious orders in Portugal was to have been expected after the spiritless response of King Carlos last week to the deputations from different Catholic bodies which waited upon him to make representations with respect to the recent proceedings of the Government. After hearing the deputations the King said: "As King of a Catholic country, I receive your representations, which I will commend to the attention of my Government, in order that the question may be settled in accordance with the laws of the country." Truly the Catholic body in any country is never so much at the mercy of its enemies as when Catholics in high places are afraid to proclaim personal loyalty to their Church.

In Mark Twain's discussion of the American Board of Missions, as THE REGISTER pointed out lately, the Catholic missionaries are mentioned. It will throw some light upon the general question of Missions in China to have evidence that, despite all the disturbances of last year, Catholicity has continued to progress in the Celestial Empire. The Univers, of Paris, says that never was the number of baptisms greater than last year, and that not for twenty years back have there been so many conversions in the Province of Hou-Nan Septentrional, while there have been numerous conversions even in the disturbed provinces. On the other hand, the disturbances have cost the Paris Society of Foreign Missions the lives of one Bishop and nine mis-

sionaries, completely destroyed the establishments and works of two of its missions, and in five or six others ruined several stations and several other establishments. The Society can nevertheless register several millions of baptisms of adult pagans.

The Catholic Church in the United States is increasing by leaps and bounds. According to Dr. Carroll D. Wright, head of an important branch of the United States Census Department, the increase in numbers last year was 80,482. The New York Christian Advocate, a non-Catholic organ, going into the figures in detail, remarks: "The largest gains in communicants between 1890 and 1900 were made by the Catholics—2,508,212. The Methodists (17 bodies) stand second with 1,327,005; the Baptists (13 groups) third, with 803,431; the Disciples of Christ fourth with 808,931; Lutherans (21 bodies) fifth, with 429,095; the Presbyterians (12 bodies) sixth, with 400,068, and the Episcopalians (2 bodies) seventh, with 179,120."

One effect of the persecution of the religious orders in some European countries is to create elsewhere an urgent demand for historical information concerning them. So it is in England for example. Mr. R. B. Cunningham Graham, a member of an old Scottish family and an advanced Radical, who has travelled much in South America, about which he has written in some English journals with a wonderful touch of nature, colour, and suggestion is presently, according to the "Pall Mall Gazette," to publish a volume entitled "A Vandal's Archæia," which "give a history of the work done by the Society of Jesus in South America, and more particularly in Paraguay. He deals with the aims of policy of the Company of Jesus in regard to savage nations," the writer adds, "and shows the building up and final development of their efforts up to the time of their expulsion at the close of the eighteenth century." Mr. Graham, while in the House of Commons, was prominently known in the literary world.

With regard to the paragraph which we published the other day upon the flight of the notorious impostor, Margaret L. Sheppard, from the New York police, our American contemporaries explain that the incident was brought about by the Catholic Truth Society. After several halls had been shut in her face, she made a bold challenge to the law. One of her books was purchased, submitted to six lawyers, who unanimously pronounced it obscene, and its sale a crime against the laws of the State of New York. The district attorney of Brooklyn, and the civil magistrate to whom the matter was referred, vied with each other in their efforts to discourage prosecution—"It was unwise to stir up religious hatred," "don't advertise her," etc. So timorous and so defiant were the public officials that one of them practically refused to allow a citizen to declare upon oath that a crime had been committed, and that a warrant should be issued for the arrest. The Truth Society laid a copy of the book before Mr. Anthony Comstock, who instantly declared that it had been pronounced obscene by the highest courts in England and in New York, and that he would stop its sale. Within two days his views were apparently accepted by the district attorney and Magistrate Brennan, who issued the warrant for Mrs. Sheppard's arrest.

The following note in the Washington correspondence of the New York Freeman's Journal, throws an interesting light upon diplomatic life in the American Capital: "The official promulgation of the fact of Mgr. Martinelli's elevation to the Cardinal purple was received here with unmingled gratification. The day after the publication of the statement of the Consistory, almost the entire diplomatic corps called upon His Eminence to wish him well in his new career. The fact always takes a significance in this capital, as although the United States is not a Catholic country, and Protestants are feign to believe that Protestantism dominates the civilized world, twenty-one of the thirty-six nations accrediting diplomatic envoys here, are Catholic. From the balance are to be subtracted China, Japan, Turkey, Persia and Siam which are infidel, and the casual observer will note that Protestantism and Schismatism do not control the freedom or civilization of the earth. Another notable fact is that at this levee sixteen of the Catholic nations represented were republics and none are other than the most liberal constitutional monarchies. On such occasions the dignity of the Church and the purpose of her teachings becomes more plain to the observant mind. The asperities of false historians lose their sting. It is plainly seen that the trend of the Catholic Church is toward broader and more civilized liberty, while Protestantism, with its boasted free thought, trends toward imperialism andocracy."