

THE SCHOOL BILL DEAD.

On motion of Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville the Legislative Council—that irresponsible Upper Chamber, the Quebec House of Lords—killed the Bill, which Ald. Kennedy had brought in and carried through the Lower House, concerning the appointment of Catholic School Commissioners for Montreal. This is very natural; that same Council was the originator of the present ridiculous and illegally concocted law, and it would be unfair to expect that the paternal chamber should slay its own offspring—no matter how deformed or ungainly it might appear.

Henceforth be it understood that—as long as the irresponsible chamber exists—the only persons eligible to occupy places on the Board shall be, “in as far as possible,” University men. Commercially trained and experienced as well as highly educated men, the choice of the people who pay the taxes, are, according to the self-nullifying enactment, excluded from the right, “in as far as possible,” of course, of having a say in the handling of the funds that they are obliged by another law to pay for the education of their children. No wonder that delegation after delegation proceeds to Quebec to protest against the numerous enactments that this session is originating.

Well, if the object of certain members of the old Board is to prevail, and the Legislative Council is going to keep that blot on the statute book, and, as a consequence, some of the best interests of our people are to be illegally, by law, ignored, simply because some of the non-university but experienced financing and commercial men are to be excluded—“in as far as possible”—we will find another way of ventilating some of the grievances that exist and of making public a few of the very things that this enactment—with its “as much as possible” clause—would tend to cover up.

To that system, which has been most unfair in the past, and is still unjust to a vast section of our tax paying citizens, we say, with the ghost of Pompey, “We are thy evil genius, we’ll meet again at Philippi.”

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

GENERAL MEETING—RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

On Friday evening the Catholic Truth Society held its general monthly meeting. Owing to the approach of the festive season and the many preoccupations of the different citizens at this special time, the attendance, particularly of ladies, was small. It is to be hoped that in future, as the public meetings take place on the third Friday of each month, the ladies—especially those interested in the reading circles, will attend in large numbers. The readings, lectures and literary treats given must contribute greatly to the spread of Catholic literature and the propagation of Catholic Truth.

During the meeting a resolution of condolence, on the occasion of the death of the late lamented Premier, was moved and unanimously adopted. The resolution was as follows:—“Moved by Mr. Wurtele and seconded by Mr. Lafferty, and resolved,—that the members of the Catholic Truth Society of Montreal, having heard with deep regret of the sudden and lamentable death, at Windsor Castle, of the Right Honorable Sir John S. D. Thompson, P.C., K.C.M.G., Premier of Canada, in the hour when the highest honors ever conferred on a colonial statesman were showered upon him, desire to convey the expression of their profound sympathy to the wife and family of the deceased statesman, in their terrible affliction; and to express their sense of the severe loss the whole country in general has sustained, and the Catholic Truth Society in particular—the Ottawa branch of which had the privilege of having the lamented Premier as honorary President—in the death of so good and great a man.

Resolved—That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Lady Thompson, as

a mark of sympathy, and to the press for publication.”

Mr. Wurtele, in moving the resolution, delivered a very touching and appropriate address upon the mournful subject. The resolution was carried amidst silent consent, a token of the grief felt individually by each member present.

After the regular readings the meeting adjourned until the third Friday in January, when a large attendance is expected to enjoy the literary feast prepared.

REV. FATHER O'DONNELL

The Kindly and Popular Pastor of St. Mary's Honored—The Twelfth Anniversary of His Priesthood.

Sunday was a gala day in St. Mary's parish. The occasion was of two-fold rejoicing; the celebration of the twelfth anniversary of Rev. Father P. F. O'Donnell's ordination, and singing of his first High Mass by the first priest ever ordained in the parish, Rev. Father Heffernan. Well indeed does Father O'Donnell deserve the spontaneous and splendid tribute paid to his zeal, his devotedness, his piety, his love of the poor, his goodness to the children, his watchfulness over the interests of his large and important congregation and his increasing, untiring efforts to happiness, spiritual and temporal, on all sides, while bringing down the blessings of God upon the large flock that has been placed under his guidance.

Before giving the account of this memorable event, THE TRUE WITNESS, as a Catholic organ, in its own name, and in the name of all whom it represents wishes to tender Father O'Donnell the expression of sincere congratulation, and of the hope that his New Year may be bright and happy, while praying to God that he may be granted many a long year to come, in health and prosperity, to carry on his good works and to enjoy the love, respect and admiration of all who know him.

Rev. Father O'Donnell was ordained by Monsignor Fabre twelve years ago in the Montreal Seminary and celebrated his first Mass in St. Antoine Abbey, Huntingdon County, where his parents reside. Since entering holy orders he has been connected as curate with all the English-speaking Catholic parishes of the city. Nine years ago he was appointed resident curate of St. Mary's, succeeding Rev. Father Kiernan, now of St. Mary's, St. John, N.B. Two years ago he was appointed pastor, succeeding the Rev. Dr. Salmon. Since his appointment he has devoted himself with unwavering fidelity to the interests of his congregation.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the congregation assembled in the hall of the church, when Mr. James Morley, on their behalf, presented Rev. Father O'Donnell with a Persian lamb cap, overcoat, guntlet and other accessories, valued at \$500. Accompanying the presentation the following address was read:—

Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, P.P., Our Lady of Good Counsel.—Since that blessed day on which you came into our midst you have ever manifested yourself to be the true and faithful father and devoted pastor, loving only for those entrusted by Divine Providence to your spiritual care. Our sorrows and our joys have ever found a true echo in your heart, which beats responsive to the emotions by which we were moved. Therefore it is but natural that we should be but one in spirit with you and take a lively interest in all things that concern your dearest interests, spiritual and temporal. Your sorrows and your joys should be ours, your joys particularly in the happy assembly, the 12th of your elevation to the dignity of God's holy priesthood. Your heart to-day is full of the remembrance of the glorious events which have transpired during the last twelve eventful years. This anniversary is to you like a turn in a long straight road, where a traveller is wont to take a retrospective view of the ground already traversed, and your mind becomes, as it were, a mirror, wherein is reflected the good you have accomplished in the work of the Heavenly Father. Your precious thoughts on this solemn occasion must undoubtedly be of a more than ordinarily impressive nature at the great pleasure you experience in seeing for the first time a devoted son

of your own parish ascending the steps of that holy altar with which you are so familiar to celebrate the first holy sacrifice that he offers to the Holy Creator of the universe. Quite naturally, therefore, our most profound thoughts are in unison with yours to-day. We can readily imagine your first celebration of the most august sacrifice. Yes, beloved pastor, we see you at the altar as a beautiful flower, long and carefully protected, opening its bright petals, and filling the house of God with a sweet and sanctifying odor. Such you were and such you continue, but the flower has expanded and is fully developed in all the magnificence of true virtue and devotion. It is then fitting that we should tender you on this momentous occasion some slight tangible mark of our esteem and appreciation, which we hope you will accept in the true spirit of affection with which it is presented.

In conclusion we simply say: “Ad Multos Annos.”
YOUR DEVOTED CONGREGATION.
Rev. Father O'Donnell replied in feeling terms. After mutual congratulations had been exchanged the children of the parish were regaled with a bag of candy each, specially imported from New York for the occasion.

ROMAN NOTES.

A special representative of the Pope (probably Mgr. Ajuti, Papal Nuncio at Munich) will be sent to the coronation of Nicholas II. as Czar of Russia.

At the reception of Monsignor Hanlon, the Pope presented him with a beautiful pastoral cross and vividly encouraged him to spread the progress and benefits of the faith in his new African vicariate.

The report is confirmed that the Nuncios at Paris and Lisbon, as well as Mgr. Nocella, Secretary of the Consistorial Congregation, will be raised to the purple at the next Consistory.

Cardinals Rampolla, Ledochowski, Vincent Vanutelli, and Galimberti have attended, at the Vatican to treat of affairs relative to the Eastern Churches in presence of the Holy Father. Mgr. Vecchia was also in attendance and officiated as secretary.

King Humbert has received M. Emile Zola, who admits that his family are Venetian. His literary morals, we fancy, might be ticketed “fragile.” M. Brunetiere, director of the Revue des Deux Mondes, has been received at the Vatican and afterwards presented himself at the Quirinal.

The Holy Father has received in private audience Mgr. Luzon, Bishop of Belle; Mgr. Maucchi, Bishop of Lyra in Greece; Mgr. Guillard, Archbishop of Lucca; Mgr. Dabourg, Bishop of Moulins; Mgr. Hortsmann, Bishop of Cleveland; Mgr. Priori, Bishop of Assisium; and Mgr. Mora, Bishop of Tebuantepec in Mexico.

The Banco Santo Spirito has been ordered into liquidation in consequence of a recent decree of the Italian Government. This establishment was started by the charity and solicitude of the Popes to offer to private individuals and traders a place for the safe deposit and the employment of their capital without the risks of the fluctuations and failures of private banking firms. It was, in a sense, a sort of an asylum and coffer for the safe keeping of property, and it was the more beneficial that its profits were designed for the assistance of the sick in the hospital known as the *Santo Spirito*.

The Holy Father has named by Brief, as the usage is between the intervals of the Consistories, Bishops to the vacant sees for which it is urgent to provide, attending formal publication. In this manner Father Holz, Provincial of the Bavarian Capuchins, has been elevated to the bishopric of Augsburg, and Mgr. Genuardi, Bishop of Acireale, to the archbishopric of Catania, vacant by the death of Cardinal Dusmet.

The first Pontifical document which is to appear will be that promulgating the decisions of the recent conferences on the Eastern Churches. The two Encyclicals to the Bishops of Northern and Southern America will be brought out later. In the meantime the Pope has sent to the hierarchy of the United States a strong letter recommending a better organization of Peter's-pence under the direction of the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Satolli, in view of existing needs.

ST. MARY'S YOUNG MEN.

A meeting of St. Mary's Young Men took place in their hall, Craig street, on Thursday evening. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for a concert that is to be held on Saturday Tuesday. Mr. H. J. Codd, president of the society, proposed a vote of condolence with Lady Thompson, which was unanimously accorded. After a few words on the personal virtues of the dead premier, the members were requested to offer their monthly communion for the repose of his soul. Among other business, it was decided that a sum of money be immediately expended in procuring games and other amusements.

OUR NEW ADVERTISERS.

THE WILLIAMS CO'Y.

There is one instrument that is indispensable in a household, and that is a sewing machine. Had these useful and necessary articles existed three-quarters of a century ago, the world might have been deprived of Tom Hood's “Song of the Shirt,” but it would most certainly have seen less of the toil and misery that the poet describes. If any of our readers are without a good, first-class sewing machine, we would heartily advise them to go visit the “New Williams” sewing machine establishment, 246 St. Lawrence street. We are perfectly prepared to recommend anything that is purchased from this splendid establishment, and we trust that our friends will not forget the “New Williams” when there is question of a sewing machine for the household.

MR. J. M. PROCKTER.

If you are going up St. Lawrence Main street, and find that you have a few moments to give, look in at No. 39, J. M. Prockter's. In the windows you will find attractions enough to amuse you for a time, but in case you should block the street, it would better to go in and examine the magnificent assortment of jewellery, watches, rings, silver and gold ware. It is a season for such like presents, and no place could you secure them better, and at more reasonable rates, than Mr. Prockter's fine store. Remember the number—39 St. Lawrence street.

MR. JAMES M. AIRD.

Both on Notre Dame Street and on St. Lawrence, above Sherbrooke, may be found Mr. James M. Aird's fine bakery establishments. At this season of the year, there is no line of business more important than that of the “staff of life.” Mr. Aird's establishment has even more than a local fame; the assortment of cakes, buns, twists, home made, scones, and, in a word, every style and class of pastry and bread that can be imagined, may be found there fresh, ready, and what is more important, good in every sense of the word. We advise strongly our readers, who require Christmas and New Year bread, cakes, and confectioneries, to not fail in calling on either establishments belonging to Mr. J. M. Aird.

A merry Christmas to all our advertisers, and lots of business—is our sincere wish.

Student: Professor, which is the logical way of reaching a conclusion? Professor. Take a train of thought, my boy.

WANTED MEN AND WOMEN

TO SELL THE LIFE AND WORK OF Rt. Hon. SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

This splendid book entitled “Life and Work of Rt. Hon. Sir John Thompson, P.C., K.C.M.G., Q.C., Prime Minister of Canada,” by I. Castell Hopkins, with copious illustrations, is now on press. It gives an account of Sir John's early life and struggles. His rapid rise to fame and position. His great work for Canada. His brilliant abilities and achievements. His noble services to the Empire and loyalty to the Crown. His conscientious devotion to duty and high religious character. His distinguished place as a Parliamentary debater, orator, and statesman. His leading speeches upon public questions. His last days and dramatic death. Thousands in Canada are waiting for this truly great book. We want agents to introduce it everywhere. A live man or woman can coin money with it for the next three months for Canada is stirred as never before. Will send handsome full bound Prospectus for the nominal sum of 85 cents. Retail full cloth \$1.75. Leather, full gilt edges, \$2.50. Any intelligent person can sell this book. Send for outfit to-day with your choice of territory.

BRADLEY, GARNETTSON & Co., Brantford, Ont.