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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Canada

—Mgr. Begin, Archbishop of Quebec, was lately received in private audience by the Pope.

—To celebrate Mass at Sebastopol church on a recent Sunday Rev. F. L. French snow-shoed from Brudenell.

—Mgr. Pascal, Bishop of Prince Albert, Sask., has arrived in Montreal on his way to Europe, whither he is going to render account of his administration to the Holy See, and also to visit his family in France.

—The marriage of Dr. Donald Hingston, son of the late Sir William Hingston, Montreal, and grandson of the late Hon. D. A. Macdonald, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, to Miss Lillian Peterson, Goderich, took place Tuesday at Goderich.

—J. G. O'Donoghue is in Hamilton this week as arbitrator for the Street Railwaymen's Union in the Theaker case, and addressed the Canadian Club on "The Senate and Other Ailments," at the club's night at Bennett's Theatre on Monday.

—On Sunday morning, Feb. 10th, St. Patrick's Church, Whitehead, Guy County, was struck by lightning and set on fire. Notwithstanding that all the assistance available was willingly rendered, the building was totally destroyed. The lightning struck the tower.

—One of Canada's most efficient and valuable public officials, Judge A. C. Killam, Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners, died at 8 o'clock Sunday morning of pneumonia, after a very brief illness. News of his death came as a great shock to nearly every one in Ottawa.

—The death of Rev. Father Daniel, the oldest Sulpician priest, occurred last Thursday. Deceased, who was eighty-eight years old, was able to attend to his duties up to a few days before his demise. As director of the catechism classes at the Church of Notre Dame, Montreal, he prepared two or three generations of the French Canadians for their First Communion.

—The untimely death of Mrs. John Brady, formerly of Pembroke and latterly of Eganville, caused great sorrow in the town and neighborhood. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late H. George and was only 46 years of age. Besides her husband, one son, Thos. Brady, a student at Loyola College, Montreal, survives, also one sister, Mrs. T. Brennan, of Flint, Mich., and three brothers, Messrs. Henry, John and Thomas George.

—Mgr. Gauthier, cure of St. Roch, has written to the Mayor, enclosing a number of resolutions adopted at a meeting held on February 2nd by the Anti-alcoholic League in St. Roch's Church. These resolutions, signed by over 5,000 citizens, convey the congratulations of that league to the City Council for adopting the Saturday early closing law, and hope to see the Council pass a by-law for the closing of bars on feasts of obligation. They also suggest that the bar licenses should be limited to one license for every thousand of the population. The letters were ordered to be filed in the archives.

United States

—By means of a five-cent weekly collection, St. Paul's church, Wilmington, Del., has during the year been able to pay off a church debt of nearly \$15,000.

—It is possible that during the coming year, says a Rome correspondent, the people of America may have a great treat in store for them, for efforts are being made to persuade the great Perosi to pay a visit to the United States and to produce there his latest oratorio, "The Passing of the Soul."

—John Durkin, the first man in Chicago to sign the pledge in the Father Mathew movement, died recently in that city. He was eighty-four years of age, and for sixty years he worked

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A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

(Aubrey Fullerton in Saturday Night)

There have been many old-timers' tales told in the West for, as Professor Bryce of Winnipeg, pointed out in a recent address, the people of the West like that kind of thing, and improve every opportunity to hear or exchange stories of the days gone by. Some leeway must, of course, be allowed as to what length of years constitutes old-timerness; a term of residence covering two or three years is sometimes assumed to be sufficient qualification, but in the mind of the real pioneer the distinction is a thing of far greater depth. There is one man in the West who, above all others, is, by virtue of length of years and variety of experience, entitled to the highest degree in the Fraternity of Old-Timers. That man is Father Lacombe, the quiet little French-Canadian priest, who is still fresh of heart and strikingly vigorous of body, despite his many years of pioneer missionary work among the Indians of the Northwest.

The other day a hundred of the business men of Edmonton gathered at a luncheon of the Canadian Club, at which Father Lacombe was the guest of honor. He talked to them, and in an hour's recounting of pioneer experiences he revealed to these men of the modern West what it meant to live in the West that used to be. It was in very fact, a wonderful address from a wonderful man. Standing at the table, in the quiet garb of the Oblate order, he was imposing, not because of either stature or manner, but because of the work everyone knows him to have done, and the experiences he has lived through and the blessing he has been to the West. It is useless to say that the man of affairs is without respect for the heroes of the mission. No king or prince is surer of respectful hearing and honest esteem than is this venerable priest in any part of the great West.

It is still with some hesitation that Father Lacombe expresses himself in English. The accent of the old-Quebec still lingers on his lips, and his words come slowly and with occasional effort. It may be for this reason, that he is eloquent in gestures, expressing by a shrug of the shoulders, a wave of the hand, or a quickening of the eye, a thought which would sometimes take many words to express, and not half so well. For instance, in telling of one of the Indian massacres of many years ago it was not necessary for Father Lacombe to describe in many words the horrors of a scene, of which he himself had been a witness. The stretching with two hands of an imaginary rope, the bending of his head, and the quick stiffening of his body, were enough—his hearers seemed to see the line of bodies hanging in mid-air.

Imagery, it may well be taken for



FATHER LACOMBE.

granted, has long been an art in which this veteran missionary has been practised; for in interpreting the Better Things to the children of the wilds he, like every other preacher, has found it necessary to paint pictures that can be seen and understood. And the fact that this method still clings to him, in the presence of even a cultured audience, makes Father Lacombe a speaker of rare interest and no little charm of manner.

There is much in word-emphasis, too. Father Lacombe knows the West, knows the spirit of the West, knows what it is that sends men here and gives them hope. It takes pages and pages of text and picture for the magazine writer of to-day to explain all this, but Father Lacombe told a little story, and in his quiet, quaint, graphic way laid stress upon one word, and made every man present feel just what it is that inspires us all with confidence in our West. He said that once upon a time, in the days when new-comers were not so numerous and when he himself knew practically everyone in Alberta, he one day caught a glimpse, from the trail, of a woman, barefooted, at work beside a newly-built shack. There was no other habitation within sight in any direction, and the country was new and bare and risky. He went to her, found that she and her man, who was at work a bit down the trail, had been there for a month or two, and that together they were braving the dangers of absolute pioneering. He asked her if she were not afraid or discouraged, and she said, "No, for we expect to do well here."

It was a commonplace, and from almost any other man the story would have fallen flat, but Father Lacombe showed, by somehow ringing the changes on that one word expect, that the spirit of that prairie woman is at the bottom of every effort that has been made in the West from then till now. It is the glorious expectation of what is to be that has sustained the men and women by whom the battles of the West have been fought. Father Lacombe does not tell overmuch of himself. He does not need to. What he has done is known not only to the people of his own faith, but is known and valued by everyone who reads western history with fair-mindedness. For fifty-nine years has this man of the cloth been working in Alberta. He came from Quebec, a young man, in the days when it took six months to travel from Eastern Canada to Edmonton. The route was either by way of the Ottawa, across the Great Lakes, or up the Mississippi to St. Paul, thence by ox-cart to Fort Garry, and from there still a two-months' weary jaunt over the trail to Edmonton.

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NOTES FROM OTTAWA

(By our own Correspondent)

Rev. Father Lemer, of Chicoutimi College, was in the city during last week on a business trip in connection with the College of Agriculture.

Rev. Father Motard of Orleans is confined to the Water Street Hospital with a serious attack of general debility. He has been in ill health for some time.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood have entered upon their annual retreat which will not terminate until Ash Wednesday.

Among the recent visitors to the Archbishop's Palace was Rev. Canon Dauth of Montreal, who was in the city on a business trip and stayed here for several days.

Rev. Canon Beauchamp, of Gatineau Point, Que., has returned from Montreal where he spent several days during last week.

An ecclesiastical conference of all the priests in the district of St. Rose de Lima was held at the residence of Rev. Father Dequire of that place, recently. Rev. Father Croteau of Buckingham presided.

Rev. Father H. Yelle, who was formerly curate at St. Andre Avelin, has been appointed parish priest of St. Gerard, Montville, Que., which position was rendered vacant by the resignation of Rev. Father Lamonde.

The Ladies' Auxiliary, No. 1, A.O.H., has held an enjoyable party in St. Patrick's Hall, for which many prizes were disposed of. The entertainment was under the direction of the president, Mrs. M. A. McElride, and was conducted by an industrious committee.

The advance sheets of a Catholic directory have been prepared and show the following statistics of the Ottawa diocese: Catholics, 151,000; clergy, 263; churches, 132; colleges and academies, 29; schools, 410; children in attendance, 28,100; charitable institutions, 12; Grand Seminary, 1; students, 20; University, 1.

The past week has been one of much activity among the church workers. Two annual entertainments under the auspices of St. Mary's and St. Jean Baptiste churches, were held. Both proved quite successful in every way and substantial sums were realized, which will be utilized in the church affairs. In both enterprises the success was directly due to the energetic efforts of the parishioners.

Rev. Sister Duhamel has been elected Superior-General of the Grey Nuns' Community, replacing Rev. Sr. Kirby, who has been honored in that position for two terms. The term is for five years. Sr. St. Anne was elected first assistant; Mother Demers, first councillor; Sr. Kirby, second councillor, and Sr. Rosque, councillor. Sr. Mary Victory was elected mistress of novices.

Conspicuous among those who on Paardeberg Day, gathered around the monument to the fallen soldiers, was Rev. Father O'Leary, who was chaplain of the first Canadian contingent, and ministered to the dying in the

In 1849 Edmonton was but a hand-ful. The Indians called it the Fort of the Beaver Hills; the French called it the Fort of the Plains; the English in a later day called it Fort Edmonton. Working from here south and west and north Father Lacombe established missions among the Blackfeet and the Crees, and won his way into the confidence of both. That, in itself, was a missionary triumph, for the Blackfeet and the Crees were sworn enemies and fought many a desperate duel, staining the plains with rivers of blood before they killed themselves out. The priest himself passed through many a fearful experience, and on one occasion particularly, when the two Indian foes fought in very devilishness of savagery, the good priest was within an inch of death. Father Lacombe still looks back upon that night with as much of a shudder as his brave, wiry-strung nature is capable of.

Through all the following stages of the Indians' history, through war and peace, through scourges of smallpox and wilderness tragedy, Father Lacombe has ministered, as few men have ever ministered to the needs of the Red Men. To a very great extent they have, as a race, passed away, but the priest, still treasuring the memories of the past, when the Reds were a great and powerful people, is still at work among the remnant and still proving himself their friend. He regrets the degeneration of the half-breed, but in his address in Edmonton the other day he pointed out, with his accustomed knack of summing things up, that the half-breed has been the link between barbarism and civilization.

Leading brightly and cheerily through a field of reminiscence of very special interest to men of the West, Father Lacombe ended his story and, as he sat down, turned to Lieutenant-Governor Buleva and shook hands with him, in lieu of a general handshake with the audience.

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memorial battle. His appearance was greeted with ringing cheers and he was one of those who delivered brief addresses.

Rev. Mgr. Richard of Eggerville, N.B., was a guest of Archbishop Duhamel during last week. Mgr. Richard has returned from a trip abroad, during which he visited His Holiness, the Pope, and spent six months in Rome. At Naples he met Archbishop Begin of Quebec, who will also visit Rome. While here Mgr. Richard visited His Excellency Mgr. Sbarretti, the Papal Delegate. He has returned to Quebec.

Although much time still remains, the local branches of the C.M.B.A. have begun preparations for the Dominion Convention of the Society, which will be held here in the summer of 1910. With the purpose of creating a more extensive sociability, St. Joseph's Branch has held a most successful gathering at which members of all the local branches were present. The event was conducted by the president, Mr. O. Forest.

Preparations for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day are being rapidly completed. On Sunday, March the 15th, a grand church parade will be held to St. Patrick's church, where an appropriate sermon will be delivered. Committees from the local Irish societies are conducting the preparations and aim to make this year's celebration even more successful than those of former occasions. A concert will be held on the evening of the 17th and the Irish students of the Ottawa University will also hold an entertainment. Dr. J. K. Foran, Secretary of the Law Branch, House of Commons, will deliver an address in the Russell Theatre on "Ireland in sunshine and shadow."

Rev. Father Dewe, Professor of English in the University of Ottawa, recently delivered a splendid sermon at High Mass in St. Mary's, Bayswater. Taking St. Paul as an example, he stated that even in the most virtuous lives—those where honesty, piety and charity reigned supreme—there was still a twinge of conscience which was an acknowledgement that even then we had not been as consistent in our faith as was desired by our should. While the temptations of this life are realities, the reward of everlasting life is not. But that is assured by the teachings of Christ and His Apostles and no better proof of the activity of God could be found than in the lives of His Saints who were not only protected against great temptations but were also entrusted with the power to perform most wonderful miracles. He urged that all persevere in their duty towards God, and, though their lives might not be as good as they desired, their sincere efforts to be consistent with their beliefs, would surely be rewarded in the future.

Pilgrims for Rome

Rome, Feb. 16.—Much gratification was felt in the Vatican when it was learned that a pilgrimage of American Catholics, numbering nearly a thousand, is being organized for the Pope's Sacerdotal Jubilee year, the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest. The Pope will go out of his way to do honor to the American visitors, who are expected during Lent, and who will be presented to him by Rector Kennedy of the American College.

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7. Fresh Fish. 15. Sole Leather.
8. Fresh Meat. 16. Tinware.

Details of information as to form of contract together with forms of tender, will be furnished on application to the Wardens.

All supplies are subject to the approval of the Warden.

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