

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Sept. 29.

THE SESSION.—There is very much of interest going on in the House at present. In the first place the long-looked-for Resolutions to introduce the amendments to the Civil Service Act have been passed and the Bill has been introduced and read a first time. It provides for considerable increases in the salaries of the employees, especially those who are Deputy heads and Chief Clerks. It is not quite so generous for the men of the first and second classes, who really constitute the bulk of the service and who actually do the bulk of the work. But as it is there is a vast improvement on the past status of those employed by the Government. One strange feature of it is that it does not affect those employed in the House of Commons or Senate. It would seem that when there is question of a rule to be followed these employees are supposed to be under the Civil Service Act; but when there is question of an increase in salary or other advantages they are supposed not to be under it. It may be all right; but it looks queer to an outsider.

Since Tuesday, to the time of writing the House has been occupied with the last debate—prior to the third reading—on the now famous Transcontinental National Railway Bill. It is a certainty that no matter how the debate may turn the Bill will be carried through; but it is equally uncertain what reception, or what fate awaits it in the Senate. It would be difficult for any speaker to advance new arguments, for or against, the matter having been almost thrashed to straw in the House. Still Mr. Borden's effort of Tuesday was a really fine piece of argument and legal oratory, while that of the Premier, in reply, was possibly the most brilliant yet delivered by him in the House of Commons.

Apart from this great Railway Bill there remain some yet of the main estimates to be passed, and all the supplementaries which will meet with considerable detailed criticism. Then, there are the subsidies to be discussed, and finally the Bill to amend the Audit Act, a measure arising out of the recent dead-lock between the Finance Minister and the Auditor-General. When all these will be done with, and when the Senate will have got through with them is still a matter of conjecture. Some calculate the end of the session for Saturday, the 10th October; others for Wednesday, the 11th—the day before Thanksgiving Day—and again others think it may last till the 21st or 22nd October. In any case it will touch closely on the seven months, if it does not pass that limit—certainly the very longest session ever held in Canada and the one that has produced the greatest amount of legislation. At this moment the Bills, Public and Private, number 258.

A FINE LECTURE.—On Monday night last the hundredth anniversary of the death of Emmet, was celebrated in St. Patrick's Hall, under the auspices of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The hall was fully packed. The leading feature of the evening's programme was an address on the life of Emmet by Rev. A. M. Leyden, of Columbus, O. The chair was occupied by Dr. Freeland. The lecturer gave a brief sketch of the history of Ireland, from the time of Henry II. down. The horrors of dependence began in the reign of Henry VIII. Cromwell continued the persecution till, by depriving the people of education and trying to smother their religion, he brought about a state of affairs that became absolutely intolerable. O'Connell won Emancipation in 1829, but it is only in 1903 that the people have become able to be lauded proprietors in their own country. His Majesty King Edward VII. may yet succeed in winning forgiveness from Ireland for the centuries of misrule. His virtues are more modern, more enlightened, more Christian, and he may succeed in procuring Home Rule for the Irish. Previous to the Rebellion of 1798 were several minor insurrections headed by the "Whiteboys," the "Right Boys," the "Hearts of Steel," the "Oak Boys," the "Defenders," all forerunners of the United Irishmen, Wolfe Tone, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Arthur O'Connor, Thos. Addis Emmet, Samuel Neilson, Thomas Russell, and

Naper Tandy were goaded to rebellion in 1798, and were crushed. Then the Union of 1801 took place and Robert Emmet, son of Thomas Addis Emmet, returned from France to lead what was expected to be a successful rising. "He was only 25 years of age, but the world had seldom seen amongst her sons such purity of moral and intellectual attainments, nobility of purpose and lavishness of self combined in an orator, poet and patriot at the age of twenty-five, with social distinction, fortune and brightest prospects before him, with one of the fairest and most accomplished of Erin's daughters in his arms, and the scaffold yawning before him. He was engaged to Sarah, the daughter of the famous John Philpot Curran. It was their pathetic story that inspired the song 'She is far from the land,' for she died in exile." I have taken these passages word for word from the speaker. Before reading Emmet's speech from the dock, Father Leyden said: "Robert Emmet and his sweet heart are not dead. That generation may never be born that will see Ireland a nation, but I love to dream of a better earth, where the lost cause will be won, and the green hills of Ireland be turned to gold." "When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then and not till then, let my epitaph be written." These were Emmet's last words, and they also closed a very beautiful lecture. In fact, it was one of the finest entertainments musically, vocally, and from a literary point of view that has been held for a long time in Ottawa.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—The St. Patrick's Hall has become exceedingly popular; in fact, it is one of the finest Irish halls on the continent, and it deserves well to be patronized. The Irishmen of the Capital have shown themselves wonderfully patriotic and energetic in building and equipping such a splendid institution. On the 1st October, the Olive League of St. Bridget's parish held a most enjoyable ecuche party, which actually filled the hall. The proceeds were for the benefit of the parish Church, over which Rev. Canon McCarthy presides so successfully. On October 6th next, a regular monthly meetings of the St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Association will be resumed with great eclat. For the occasion Mr. W. J. McCaffrey, so well and favorably known in Montreal, and who has been the musical director for the association, has made elaborate preparations for a concert. These concerts are to form part of every meeting during the season, though the programme may be changed to allow of the presentation of a short drama or small comedy. On the 15th October another ecuche party, under the auspices of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will take place, but your correspondent has been unable to learn to what object the proceeds will be devoted. Thus it may be seen that there is life around St. Patrick's Hall and that the grand building is for use as well as ornament.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE.—Last week the Apostolic Delegate, accompanied by his English private secretary, left Ottawa for the West. He goes right through to Vancouver, where he will consecrate and present the pallium to the new Archbishop. On his way back Mgr. Sbarretti will stop over at Banff, then at Edmonton, Regina, and Winnipeg. We are confident that the trip will be a revelation to the direct representative of the Holy Father. As it has been for all who have come to Canada to travel, so will it be for the Head of the Church in this country, a veritable education in matters that Europeans cannot learn in any other way than by a personal visit here. He will also be enabled to send to Rome news about the vastness of the Catholic missionary field in Canada. We trust that he will have a most enjoyable journey and a safe return, and it is no exaggeration to say that this wish is unanimous, for he has endeared himself to all classes and elements in Ottawa.

EMMET'S GRAVE.

We need not go into the details of the investigation in St. Peter's Churchyard (the first one), which, after all, are very interesting, but will simply take the results of that operation, which are thus related:—

The vault contained four coffins, two of which were in a fair state of preservation; on two of these were coffin plates bearing different names and from the dates it was thought that these bodies were among the last buried before the prohibitory law went into operation, and the conclusion was reached that this had been the receiving vault of the church. After a search for five days nothing was found in connection with the Emmet family. The vault was carefully closed, but before filling in the trench where the concrete had been removed at different points, the ground beneath in every direction was sounded by means of an iron bar introduced to a depth of several feet. It was the opinion of all if another vault had been below it would certainly have been found by this means, while in no instance were the remains in any grave disturbed or even reached by the iron bar from above. It is proper to state during the whole time of exploration, Mr. Quaid or Mr. Robert Emmet, with one or more of the other gentlemen present at the beginning, attended and directed the work.

On the following day, after completing the search first undertaken, Mr. Robert Emmet, thinking an additional exploration might be in accord with Dr. Madden's statement, directed that another trench be extended along the south wall of the Church to the right of the Church entrance, but nothing was found. The only conclusion to be drawn from this investigation is to prove that, if a number of vaults were formerly situated in this portion of the Churchyard, the tops, with a portion of the side walls, must have been broken down and the vaults then filled in. The broad stone which Dr. Madden described as covering the Emmet vault must have been buried elsewhere after the destruction of the vaults, or it certainly would have been found by means of the iron bar, and as a proof of this supposition one large, flat stone, with the inscription perfect, and portions of broken ones were found, which had been used to fill in with.

The report concerning the investigation in St. Michael's Churchyard reads as follows:— "On Monday, Aug. 3, I met by appointment at 4.30 p.m., both of the above-named gentlemen, and they submitted to me for my inspection and opinion several human bones taken out of a grave which was alleged to be that of Robert Emmet, who it was alleged was placed in this grave some time in the year 1803. "The skull that was submitted to me I immediately stated was the skull belonging to an aged man, and could not have been that of Robert Emmet, who had not reached his twenty-fifth year. The lower jaw fitted the skull, and in my opinion belonged to the same person. In addition to these bones, and which were found in the same grave, were portions of a parietal bone of the skull of a young child, and portions of ribs of same. I stated to the above two gentlemen that I would far prefer before I gave a definite opinion and report in writing to have every bone that could be found in the grave removed therefrom and placed in order on a flat slab so that I could examine the skeleton as a whole and then compare accurately each bone separately of the skeleton submitted. Accordingly on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the hour of 5 o'clock, I again attended at St. Michael's Churchyard, being accompanied by Prof. Alec. Fraser, F.R.C.S., Professor of Anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in order that he should act with me in this important and far-reaching investigation. We then carefully examined the skull, lower jaw, vertebrae, and long bones of the limbs taken out of the grave and laid out in order as directed by me, and we had no hesitation in saying that the skeleton belonged to an old man, and one who must have been at least six feet in height, and therefore could not possibly have belonged to Robert Emmet, who was a young man of short stature. I am therefore of opinion that Robert Emmet could not have been interred in this particular grave in St. Michael's Churchyard. I also certify that another skull was submitted to me which I was informed was found in the vault under St. Michael's Church by itself, and for the same anatomical reasons already stated I adjudged that the individual to whom it belonged died at an advanced age.

(Signed) LAMBERT H. ORMSBY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Kt., President Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. Aug. 12, 1903.

Here lies the remains of Robert Emmet, Esq., M.D., who died the 9th of December, 1802 in the 73rd year of his age.

THE REV. FATHER TERENCE J. CULLEN, of St. Joseph's College, Mill Hill, London, England, was the guest of His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, recently. He preached in St. Patrick's Church at each Mass, in behalf of the Foreign Missions of St. Joseph Foreign Missionary Society. The Society has been charged by the Holy See with preaching the Gospel to the Maoris of New Zealand, to the Dyaks and Headhunters of Borneo, to the natives of Cashmere, Kafiristan and the Pungat in Northern India; to the Tamil and Telugu races of the Madras Presidency in Southern India, and to the natives of Uganda and Usoga in Central Africa.

EMMET'S GRAVE.

Not only has Emmet's tomb remained uninscribed, his epitaph unwritten, but even there is a grave doubt as to the place of his burial. It is believed that it has been found; but there is no great certainty, as will be seen by the following summary of the report on the investigation to determine the real burial place. The work has been carried on at the instigation and under the direction of Thomas Addis Emmet. The report is exceedingly long, but we will attempt to extract from it such leading features are likely to give a good idea of the subject to our Irish readers, all of whom must be deeply interested in the matter.

In 1889 Dr. T. Addis Emmet commenced investigation in Glasnevin, but meeting with discouragement had to give it up. Later on, the information he got through Mr. Bigger, of the Ulster "Archaeological Journal" of Belfast, and Mr. D. A. Quaid, a Dublin solicitor, whose book "Robert Emmet" is a very complete work, helped him to continue. The latter work shows that at some time Emmet's remains were placed in the family vault, St. Peter's Churchyard, Dublin. As Dr. Emmet resided in New York, and Mr. Bigger in Belfast, the work of investigation was committed to Mr. Quaid. From the start it was evident the investigation should be confined to three places: St. Peter's Churchyard; the uninscribed grave in St. Michael's Churchyard; and the open and uninscribed grave in Glasnevin cemetery. As we cannot pretend to reproduce the evidence, as published regarding the investigation in each of the three localities, at least we cannot omit to give the brief and hurried sketch of the Emmet family house and burial vault, both of which are historically important and rare. It is thus the description prefaces the report:—

"At the close of the eighteenth century the Emmet family of Dublin resided on Stephen's Green, West, and Lamb's Lane, near the corner of York street, adjoining the present College of Surgeons, and the house still stands, though having undergone some alterations in the front. The parish Church was St. Peter's, fronting on Anugier's street. According to a map used by 'The Wide Street Commissions,' between 1790 and 1800, the plot of the Churchyard may be described as a parallelogram obliquely truncated on the west boundary. Anugier street, running north and south, the north boundary being at a right angle and extending to Peter's Row, or White Friar's street, and this thoroughfare intersected the plot by an oblique course from N. W. to S. E., taking off a good portion of the length of the south wall, which was parallel to the north one. The Church at that time occupied the middle third of the plot in the shape of a parallelogram, extending east and west, with an addition to the north of an incomplete transept extending nearly to the north wall. At a later period, and subsequent to 1800, a similar addition to the Church was made southward to complete the shape of the cross. At one time outside the south wall of the yard extended Church Alley, from Anugier's to White Friar's streets, which seems to have been partially built up. In the southeast corner on Anugier's street and the alley stood a watch or guardhouse, built over the church property to the depth of twenty-two feet, and this building was in use before the beginning of the last century, and was removed after 1830.

There exists no known map to indicate the exact locality of the Emmet family vault, and the only clue is given by Dr. Richard R. Madden in "The Lives of the United Irishmen, Etc.," and in the record edition published previous to 1860. Dr. Madden records the death and burial of Dr. Robert Emmet as follows:—"Dr. Emmet died at Casina, near Milton, in the autumn of 1802. He was luried in the graveyard of St. Peter's Church in Anugier's street on the right hand of the entrance close to the wall on the south side." If my memory is correct, it is stated in the "Sham Squire" that the Emmet burial place was in the southeast corner of the graveyard, which would have been close to the rear of the old guardhouse, and the author of this work probably made the statement from his own knowledge. Dr. Madden further records that the stone covering the tomb, or vault, had the following inscription on it:

Here lies the remains of Robert Emmet, Esq., M.D., who died the 9th of December, 1802 in the 73rd year of his age.

Finally as to Glasnevin cemetery, we have the following:—"Recently the supposed grave of Robert Emmet in the Glasnevin parish Churchyard has been built upon by enlarging the channel to within a foot and a half of the uninscribed headstone. Through fear of injury to this building, the authorities have been unwilling to grant permission for opening this supposed grave to the full length, as it extended across the pathway nearly to the former rear wall of the Church."

Later on Dr. Emmet's son did succeed in examining this cemetery, but with no results. In fine, the Doctor thus ends his disappointing report:—"In conclusion, I can but express my great disappointment, in many respects; but, as a whole, the investigation and I am well satisfied that every effort has been made to obtain a successful result. By exclusion, the claims of St. Peter's are increased, but the question remains as much a mystery as before. The only solution rests in the hope that through agitation of the public press some forgotten document or correspondence may be brought to light, by which positive information may be obtained as to the last resting place of Robert Emmet."

THOS. ADDIS EMMET, M.D. So then Emmet's grave have obtained the obscurity he so much desired, but his name has not sunk into oblivion, nor has it remained unmentioned.

FIRST LETTER OF POPE PIUS X.

(From Boston Pilot.)

The text of Pius X.'s first public document of any nature, mentioned in our cable despatches last week, has been courteously furnished to us by the New York "Independent," to whom it was sent by its Roman correspondent; it was translated for "The Pilot" by the Rev. James J. Baxter, D.D., of St. James' Church, Boston.

The document consists of a letter addressed to Cardinals Vanutelli, Rampolla, Ferrata and Vivos y Tuto, confirming their appointment by Pope Leo as a commission to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and a prayer to the Blessed Virgin, which will acquire importance as being the first to bear the signature of Pius X.

The translation of the document is as follows:— To Our Beloved Sons Vincent Cardinal Vanutelli, Marian Cardinal Rampolla of Tindaro, Dominic Cardinal Ferrata, Joseph Calasanzio Cardinal Vives:

Lord Cardinals: If it is Our duty to treasure up all the documents and examples left by Our August Predecessor, Leo XIII. of holy memory, We should in a special manner seek to preserve the

means instituted by Him for the spread of the faith and the purification of morals. Now, in the matter of the fiftieth anniversary of the dogmatic definition of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Most Holy, the Venerable Pontiff, acceding to the desire of the faithful of the entire world that this occasion should be celebrated with extraordinary solemnity, appointed last March a Commission of Cardinals who should institute and direct the necessary preparations for the fitting observance of this auspicious event. We, therefore, filled with the same sentiments of devotion towards the Most Blessed Virgin, and persuaded, besides, that amid the doleful happenings of these present days there are for us no other comforts than those of Heaven, special among which is the powerful intercession of Her—Most Blessed—who for all time has been the help of Christians—We confirm you, Lord Cardinals, as members of that Commission; and We are confident that your efforts will be crowned with the most splendid success, and also that they will meet with the co-operation of those illustrious men who over and above their other claims to merit, are ever rejoiced to add also that of placing themselves entirely at your disposal for the faithful carrying out of your ideas.

Oh! May the Saviour, in this year of Jubilee, deign to hear the prayers which the faithful will direct to Him through the intercession of Mary Immaculate—of Mary who was chosen by the Most Holy Trinity to take part in all the mysteries of mercy and of love, and who has been appointed the dispenser of every grace!

Given at the Vatican this eighth day of September, 1903. POPE PIUS X.

PRAYER. Most Holy Virgin! Thou didst find favor with the Saviour and didst become His Mother! Immaculate in body and soul, in faith and love! In this solemn Jubilee of the proclamation of the Dogma which announced Thee to the world as conceived without sin, Oh! look with kindness on us, thy unhappy children, who implore thy powerful patronage. The wicked serpent on whom the first curse was pronounced continues alas! to wait for and wage war against the afflicted children of Eve. Oh! Thou, Our Blessed Mother, our Queen and Advocate, who, in the first instant of thy conception didst crush the enemy's head, accept, we beseech thee, our prayers and present them before the throne of God, that, never falling into the snares which are laid for us, we may all so achieve our salvation, that, notwithstanding the many perils, the Church of God and Christian society may once more join in a hymn of liberation, of victory and of peace. Amen.

To all who shall recite the present prayer once each day We impart an Indulgence of 300 days. Given at the Vatican this eighth day of September, 1903. POPE PIUS X.

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