

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1891.

How sickening it must be to the Banahoe and blue ruin party to be compelled to read such paragraphs as the following, taken from the Washington Star:

The Canadian Pacific Railway is giving our boasted transcontinental speediness a few tips which are valuable and suggestive. The Yankee must not let the Canuck outspeed him.

On the subject of protection, The Boston Pilot is not at all reticent concerning free trade and protection. It says:

The free trade papers are relating with occult joy the fact that the Golden Club, at home in England, is so poor that it has had to forego its annual fish dinner this year. In this benighted land of Protection we should judge that a club, founded for the teaching of economic principles, offers a poor illustration of the truth which it endeavors to propagate when it cannot buy itself a square meal after forty or fifty years of existence. But perhaps the free traders think that Golden Club poverty is better than Protection prosperity, for a club or a nation.

MR. AMYOT has a small bill before the House of Commons, having for its object the establishment of compulsory voting. But though the proposed measure makes it punishable not to go to the polls and ask for a ballot paper, Mr. Amyot fails to provide machinery to prevent any one who does not want to vote leaving his ballot blank. As long as voting is secret no one can very readily be made to vote against his will.

By order of the directors at home, commencing on 1st May, employees of the Grand Trunk Railway earning \$750 and downwards will have a reduction of 5 per cent, and those earning over \$750 will be reduced 20 per cent.

The directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company make the mistake of retaining the headquarters of that great Canadian institution in London, England, instead of having the directorate on Canadian soil. Were the control of the company here, its affairs would be so prosperous as not to need a cheese-paring policy of reduction in salaries, which at best will not do much to promote its effectiveness.

The argument on the constitutionality of the Manitoba School Act took place last week before the Supreme Court of Canada. The ex-Attorney-General of that province, Mr. Martin, had a hard road to travel in defending his iniquitous legislation. From the remarks of the hon. judges during the progress of the case, it would seem that the judgment of the Court of Appeals of Manitoba, sustaining the act, would be unanimously reversed. We have never had any doubt upon the subject, and feel confident that our co-religionists in the prairie province will get justice without delay.

The report of the Bank of Montreal, read at the annual meeting, held on Monday, appears in another column. It will be seen that the directors and proprietors have every reason to be satisfied with the exhibit in view of all the conditions of the commercial world. There have been some heavy storm clouds of late in financial centres, and the reduction in net profits have arisen from causes with which the bank management has nothing to do. The general report is as satisfactory as possible and the new manager has shown himself by his inaugural address to be the right man for the important office he holds.

The policy of the Brazilian Government in sending Russians back to their own country in order to promote emigration is a wise one in theory, but if the result should be a large flow of the subjects of the Czar into the country the result would, in the end, simply be the substitution of the Russian race for the now effete and decaying descendants of the Spaniards. The weaker people would have ultimately to go to the wall. At present forty per cent of the population are Indians and only 19 per cent Europeans or of European descent. The balance are half-breeds and the waning vitality of the people of Spanish descent would be soon utterly destroyed in the presence of the hardy sons of the north. This would be a good thing for Brazil.

The Boston Pilot, whose course during the present crisis of Irish national affairs, has received so much commenda-

tion from all quarters, refers in friendly terms to the new association, recently formed under the name of the "National Federation of America." The attitude of neutrality between the contending Irish factions has its dangers no doubt, but it is the only one that can be adopted without transferring the feud to this continent. Our able contemporary closes its article with the following remarks:

That wretched quarrel has now lasted for half a year and more, without showing any decrease of intensity or prospect of settlement. The attitude of Irish-Americans has been one of friendly neutrality, an attitude always dangerously akin to that of indifference, and indifference on the part of Ireland's friends here would mean death to the hopes of Irish nationality. The growth of the new Federation will be watched with interest on both sides of the Atlantic. Its members have difficult and delicate tasks before them. They are able, experienced, patriotic, and pre-eminently honest men. That they may preserve themselves equal and foremost is the prayer of every friend of Ireland.

The idea of federation does not appear to be wholly acceptable in Australia. As in all small communities smallness of mind seems to have been very generally begotten and the petty provincial spirit, which has always blocked the designs of those broad-minded statesmen like Dalley and a few others, who have desired to found in the southern hemisphere a great British Dominion like Canada, still asserts itself. The telegraphic despatches tell us that the new South Wales Assembly has only avoided defeating the government and federation at the same time by the casting vote of the speaker. Yet it seems hard to see why the Australians should object to becoming a united people. Free Trade and Protection are, of course, opposite principles, but it is said that the free trade colony has ceased, so far as the public are concerned, to care much about the question. Leaving the differences on this score out of the question it seems impossible to see why there should be any opposition to the projected unification of the present isolated colonies.

The absurd bill introduced by Mr. Charlton to the House under the title of "An act to secure the better observance of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday," will, it is to be hoped, receive prompt and effective treatment at the hands of the members. It proposes to establish as offences some harmless and necessary actions and make them punishable misdemeanors. Post offices must be closed, no one must fish, street and railway cars must not run, steamers must be tied up, all shops and places of public entertainment must be closed, no one must buy or sell, publish a paper, or in short, do any work or business of his ordinary calling, works of charity alone excepted," according to this precious bill on the day "commonly called Sunday." This pharisaic kind of legislation is not likely to commend itself to the judgment of the Houses of Parliament. The *unco guid* are not likely to establish the law in Canada, though it is evident that there are those fanatical enough to wish for them even in this later part of the nineteenth century.

The elevation of Sir George Stephen to the peerage marks a new and very noteworthy departure in the higher circles of Imperial Government. The question of the representation of the various portions of the Empire in the central parliament has long been one much discussed and full of difficulty. In France the colonies are represented by elected members sent to the Legislature. But to this system there have always been objections raised when it has been discussed in relation to its application to the British Empire. There can be no such objection to the elevation of leading colonists to seats in the House of Lords, where they can speak for their respective localities when necessary and give the Parliament the benefit of their knowledge when matters affecting the interest of any part of the Empire from which they may come is under discussion. As a representative Canadian, Sir George Stephen will be a useful addition to the House of Lords. A man of practical business experience, great wealth, and with interests closely bound up with the most important of Canadian business undertakings, notably the great railway which has chained the provinces together from the Atlantic to the Pacific, he will make a good representative of this country in the palace at Westminster.

Those who, in the columns of disreputable party rags, have for some time past been speculating on the possible results of Sir John Macdonald's death, now have an opportunity of seeing how far their ghoul-like anticipations will prove incorrect. The announcement that the veteran statesman had been stricken down had not been made known many hours before, like the vultures around the carcass, the politicians of the party which recently tried to betray their country were in convulsive gloating over the death of the old chieftain. We have faith enough in Canada to believe that the departure of the great leader will not in any essential respect change the trend of public affairs. The way in which Sir John guided the young nation has been the right way and the one most calculated to produce good results and firmly fix the foundations of the Dominion.

The principles of Liberal Conservatism are now too deeply rooted in the Dominion for their future to be in any way changed even by so lamentable a national disaster as the removal of the great statesman who has held the helm of state so long and well. He though dead will yet speak, and those who live in the future will look back and regard the history of the ministry of Sir John Macdonald as the example for Canada for all time. His mantle must fall on another's shoulders but the ship of state must keep on her present course. Those who are "speculating" on the chances of a different result will find themselves as much disappointed in this respect as they have been in other matters. Great as was the personal power of Sir John Macdonald it must not be forgotten that it was the political principles he maintained which won for him the support of the people, not alone the magnetic influence of his name.

The Americans seem to cling to the idea that as wheat-growers they will always hold their own. Most elaborate treatises have been written in support of this theory. Unfortunately for the theorists the facts are against them. The efforts of the Imperial Government in the direction of causing the Indian people to grow grain with the end of checking those terrible famines which have desolated portions of their country at intervals has so far developed that it seems ere long India will become a great grain exporting country. Bombay this season exports 5,000,000 bushels and the Punjab and Karachi are following. This new area of production is bound to make its effect felt on the grain markets of Europe before very long to a very large extent.

SOME doubts have arisen as to the status of a ministry suddenly deprived of its premier. The following statements made by Dr. Bourinot, clerk of the House of Commons, will explain the position:

"What would be the procedure in the event of Sir John's death?" said The Engineer, "said Canada's best constitutional authority, because the existence of the Government depends on the Premier. Under such circumstances it would be for the Governor-General to call upon some person to serve as Premier. That is a matter entirely within his discretion. He might call upon a member of the present Cabinet to form a new Administration, or he might call upon an outsider. That person could ask the present members to continue in office. I assume that the present heads of departments, the Ministers of the Crown, would continue until successors had been properly appointed. The Cabinet could meet in their capacity as individuals. There must, however, be a Government, and some one would have to be named by the Governor-General to form a Cabinet. How would his death affect the sitting of Parliament?"

"Very seriously. I assume there would be an adjournment, but of course Parliament would need to make provision for carrying on the public service. This could be done by voting money on account, as is so often done in England and elsewhere. But it may be said that pending the organization of a new Government, legislation will be at a standstill."

"What would be the status of the new Ministers?" In reply to this question Dr. Bourinot quoted from his standard work as follows: "It is the First Minister who appoints and dismisses the Administration and recommends the sovereign to fill vacancies therein. If he himself should vacate his office by death or resignation, or dismissal, the post must be filled by a new Minister, as colleagues of the incoming Premier. They must make a fresh agreement with him, as when in 1854 Lord Melbourne succeeded Lord Grey as Premier of substantially the same Administration, and in 1868, when Mr. Disraeli became Premier upon the retirement of Earl Derby from the office."

Has the death of a Premier ever occurred in Canada? Yes, in 1855 Sir E. P. Tache died. In England there was the well known case of Mr. Pevelin in 1832, who was assassinated while serving as Premier.

There is in addition to these points the question of whether the members of the new Government would need to appeal to the people. The weight of authority seems to lean to the view that they would not. They would be nothing to prevent his excellency from conferring with anybody whom he chooses respecting the nomination of Sir John Macdonald's successor, but he must very quietly name some one.

FRANCE is evidently determined to prevent any calm settlement of the difficulties now arising from her claims in connection with the Newfoundland fisheries. From preposterous claims to high handed outrage seems but an easy and short step, but the time has evidently come to say "thus far but no further." It is true that the action of the Imperial authorities and that of the local government in accepting the *modus vivendi* may be calculated to lead the French to the conclusion that they will be allowed to work their own sweet will as they choose and that the day of reckoning will never come. But in this they will certainly find themselves mistaken. Arbitration is uncertain but it seems hard to believe that the arbitrators in the present case will sustain the monstrous pretensions of the French. It may be assumed that the arbitrators will take International law as the basis of their decision and in that case the confusing declaration of the King, which cannot override law, will not be permitted any further to add to the difficulty of the dispute. But there can be no doubt that be the arbitration what it may the present condition of affairs cannot be permitted to continue. The British authorities are responsible for much of the difficulty because they have had, time and again plenty of opportunities afforded them of denouncing the obsolete treaty of Utrecht. Why it should have been permitted to continue it is hard to tell. Perhaps when the great wars ended adversely to France and the matter might have been summarily settled Newfoundland was not deemed worthy a thought, and our statesmen lacked foresight. This may be the more easily understood

and appreciated when we recall the shortsightedness of statesmen in connection with the boundaries and the failure to demand the cession of Alaska after the Crimean war. But such high handed and barbarous conduct as is followed out by the France cruisers is not to be tolerated. It would at least be sufficient to assert their principles without inflicting suffering on poor fishermen.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD.

As will be seen by the full reports we give elsewhere from Ottawa it seems certain that before the next issue of THE TRUE WITNESS will be the hands of our readers Sir John Macdonald will be no more. His death can be regarded as nothing less than a national calamity. It will be hard for Canadians to realize the fact that the familiar figure will be seen no more among us, that his patriot's brain will work no longer, and his voice will be for ever silent in the land he loved so well and served so faithfully. Faithfully we may say under existing circumstances unto death. Canada has received a great and crushing blow and though we should have been, in view of the premier's advanced years, not wholly unprepared, the suddenness of his death makes the public loss to some extent the more keen. Though the hour be dark for Canada she may, however, keep a stout heart so far as the future of her weeping children are concerned. Her dead chieftain has girt the country round with such strong political armour that if Canada be but true to herself she need fear no storm that may beat upon her shores in the future.

SIR A. A. DORION.

The almost sudden death of Sir A. A. Dorion removes a great and upright judge from the highest court of the province of Quebec. His death makes a void not easily filled. It is an acknowledged fact that for some time the bar has not been able to supply the demand made upon it in an altogether satisfactory manner when vacancies on the bench have had to be filled. Lawyers conversant with the changes which have taken place in legal circles have their own theories as to the causes of this, but their explanations have in no degree helped the advisors of the Crown in filling the vacancies. The loss of such a judge as Sir A. A. Dorion is therefore the greater to the province and the country. One of the best known legal critics in Montreal, the editor of the Legal News, thus sums up the many sided abilities of the late Chief Justice. After noting his power as a politician, briefly sketched in his obituary notice which appears elsewhere, this writer says:—"His death vacates a seat on the bench not many can aspire to fill, as he filled it. For he was as able as a judge as he had been skilful and successful as a politician. He was a master of both languages, using either as occasion required with perfect fluency, and possessed in an eminent degree what men call the judicial manner. His calm logical summing up of the points of an intricate or difficult case was a lesson. His taking away is a public loss, though the regret at it must be softened by the memory that it came only when it was to be expected, and while his intellect was yet clear and vigorous. His life extended over seventy-three years, almost forty of which had been spent for the public. He leaves the memory of an upright statesman—an able and just judge—a man to be pointed to as a model of what is most worthy in public life."

CABINETS AND PREMIER.

It may be interesting to note at a moment when so much attention is being drawn to the office of the first minister that the premiership and the cabinet, both of which titles are so familiar to us all, have no real existence under the constitution or at law. There is a reference as long ago as Bacon's time to a Cabinet Council, and such a body becomes more conspicuous during the reign of Charles I. and II. But a Cabinet Council can only be a part of a strictly constitutional government, and the Stuart monarchs were of too autocratic and absolute tendencies for such a piece of machinery to flourish during their reigns. The growth of the responsible ministry has been gradual side by side with the development of popular government. In Anne's reign we see the modern theory of a premier taking root, Godolphin establishing the precedent of the first officer of State selecting his colleagues. At that time, it appears, the Great Council worked by divisions and met at different places according to their several functions. Thus the foreign affairs were delegated to a committee of council which met at Whitehall. Others took control of fiscal matters. The third section was the cabinet council. By degrees all the divisions were absorbed into the cabinet, which is to-day an informal committee of the Privy Council. There is one peculiar feature in connection with the cabinet and this is a circumstance due to accident. In Anne's day the Sovereign was always present, but since the acces-

sion of the House of Hanover there have, it is said, been but two instances of this occurring. This was due to the fact that George I. did not understand a word of English and so absented himself. The meeting of the Privy Council, or, as it is sometimes called, the Queen in Council, is generally merely composed of the Cabinet without any other councillors being present. The premier is merely the minister in whose judgment the Crown thinks it best most firmly to confide. But the growth of the Cabinet and its leader is a constitutional study, both interesting and instructive.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

Adopt Resolutions of Condolence on the Death of their Vice-President, Mr. M. Cullinane.

The St. Ann's Young Men's Society has lost one of its most active members in the person of Mr. Michael Cullinane, who died on Friday last, after a brief illness, of typhoid fever. The deceased, who was the eldest son of Chief Detective Cullinane, was in his 28th year. He has been for some years teller in the Point St. Charles branch of the City and District Savings Bank. The deceased was highly esteemed by all his acquaintances and was very popular with his fellow-members of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society. His funeral, which took place on Monday morning to St. Ann's Church, was numerously attended and very imposing. The members of the above society, as well as a large delegation of the Young Irishmen's Association of Kingston, were present with full regalia, draped in mourning. At a meeting of the St. Ann's Young Men, resolutions of condolence with the family of deceased were adopted, expressing the grief which his fellow-members felt at the loss of one who was so beloved by all of them, and resolving to have a Solemn Requiem Mass offered up for the repose of his soul in St. Ann's Church, at which all the members will assist.

The Young Irishmen's Association, of Kingston, Ont., arrived in Montreal on Sunday morning last, accompanied by their band, for the purpose of taking part in the *Fete Dieu* procession. They are a fine body of men, and during their stay were entertained by the members of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society. On Sunday afternoon the latter engaged a number of cabs and drove the visitors through the principal points of interest in the city, including the Mountain Park, and on the following (Monday) evening gave a most enjoyable entertainment in their honor in St. Ann's Hall. The St. Ann's Young Men evidently made a favorable impression on their Kingston brothers, who cordially expressed the hope that they would soon come and see them at Kingston, when they might rely on getting an enthusiastic reception. The visitors left for home after the entertainment on Monday night, being accompanied to the depot by the members of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, each body declaring the other to be "jolly good fellows."

Mr. George P. Holland has been one of the principal attractions at all social gatherings in St. Ann's parish for many years, and no member of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society is more popular with his confreres than he. His fellow-members availed themselves of his presence at the entertainment in St. Ann's Hall on Monday evening to present him with a substantial token of their regard in the shape of a well filled purse of gold, on the occasion of his marriage which took place the following day in St. Gabriel's church. The happy recipient acknowledged the gift in one of his characteristic and genial speeches, and expressed the hope that the members would soon be repeating the pleasant duty in favor of some other favored one. Mr. Holland received a handsome present at the same time from Rev. Bro. Arnold, which he also gratefully acknowledged.

Electoral District of Montreal Centre.

Abstract of statement of election expenses of John Joseph Curran, Esquire, Q.C., a candidate for the said Electoral District, at the election held on the 5th day of March last, for the House of Commons of Canada.

Printing, advertising, stationery, etc., \$ 664 40 Expenses of committees, clerks, etc., etc., 2,750 26 \$3,414 66 Total expenses, three thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars and sixty-six cents.

(Signed) A. W. GREIDER, Agent. Montreal, 1st June, 1891. T. J. DOHERTY, Returning Officer Montreal Centre.

Answer to Question. J. Mc G. (Hullfax).—The law on the subject you write about is very plain. Clause 70 of the Post Office Act says:—"Everyone who steals, embezzles, secretes or destroys any post letters is guilty of felony and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years and not less than three years, unless such post letter contains any chattel money or valuable security, in which case the offender shall be liable for a term not less than five years. (80.) Everyone who unlawfully opens, or wilfully keeps, secretes, delays or detains, or procures, or suffers to be unlawfully opened, kept secreted or detained, any post letter—whether the same came into possession of the offender by finding or otherwise, or neglects to deliver up any post letter to the person to whom it is addressed, is guilty of a misdemeanor." The postmaster is the proper person to see in the first instance if you have reason to suspect anyone of taking letters which do not belong to them.

A Vacant Senatorship. The Senate last Friday formally expelled Hon. Geo. W. Alexander, of Woodstock, who has forfeited his seat by reason of his failure to be present for two consecutive sessions. The committee on Privileges reported the facts and stated that Mr. Alexander had acknowledged that he had forfeited his right to sit in the Senate and the report was adopted without discussion.

FEDERATION.

Sir Charles Tupper's Address at the Dinner of the Fair Trade Club.

Speaking at the dinner of the Fair Trade Club in London on May 14, Sir Charles Tupper said, it was impossible of greater importance than their subject held he could not enter upon any controversial or party questions; but with respect to the Imperial Federation definite policy had been propounded. It did not, however, follow that no good had been done. It was a great thing to have united members of different parties in the common proclamation of the doctrine of the unity of the Empire and the desirability of bringing the colonies into closer communion with the Mother Country. (Cheers.) But he was convinced that to make that union closer it was necessary, as he was sure it was practicable, to make a new fiscal departure. He did not undervalue sentimental bonds; but if we wished to strengthen those bonds further measures would have to be adopted, and the tie of self interest would have to be joined with that of sentiment. (Cheers.) He had always declined to discuss free trade as an abstract question. The great party had found it necessary to adopt what was called here, but was never so called in Canada, a protective policy. The result was that they changed deficits into surpluses, and Yokohama had been brought within three weeks of London. The Government of Canada were prepared to give handsome subsidies to ocean steamers, and by this policy of what he would call "incidental protection" Yokohama had been brought so much nearer to Great Britain. The Empire covered such an enormous portion of the world that no country could possibly be in a better position for allowing its outlying portions to flourish with all it needed. This country was already fully occupied and populated, and it was a blessing that the Queen's subjects were not compelled to seek refuge in foreign countries. No British subject was driven to seek the protection of a foreign flag and we were even able from continental countries, from Germany, Norway and Sweden, and other countries to bring under the dominion of the Queen some of the best blood of foreign countries. The treaties we had with Belgium and Germany had tended to make foreigners of those who were now our fellow-subjects. We ought no longer to allow such obstacles to stand in the way of the closer connection of our colonies with this country. There was nothing in the policy which they were met to advocate inconsistent with the most favored-nation clauses. Those clauses related only to foreign countries, and there was no reason why the most effective means of Imperial federation should not be carried out by uniting the bond of self-interest to the already powerful tie of sentiment.

A Mint Proposed.

Senator Innes, of British Columbia, has on two or three public occasions advocated the establishment of a mint in Canada, and he proposes to move: "That a select committee be appointed for the purpose of collecting information as to the expediency and probable cost of establishing a Dominion mint capable of coining a sufficient quantity of gold, silver or copper to meet the commercial demands of Canada."

A New Industry.

Messrs. Adam Brown, ex-M.P., and McKay and Hyckman, M.P.'s for Hamilton, interviewed Hon. Mr. Bowell last week and asked that a certain quantity of steel, which is used in the manufacture of safes, but is not made in Canada, be placed upon the free list. It was contended that if this were done Canadian safe manufacturers would be enabled to compete with Americans in the West Indian market.

An Unknown Region.

Hon. Mr. Girard, in the Senate last week, called attention to the necessity of the Government taking action to develop the resources of the great Mackenzie basin and received an assurance from Mr. Abbott that the Government were alive to the necessity of developing our far Northern heritage. They had sent a party to the district to explore the country and ascertain the position of the deposits of the anthracite coal and their report would be laid upon the table at an early day.

C. M. B. A.

The regular meeting of branch No. 50, C.M.B.A., was held in their hall, St. Antoine street, Monday evening, P. Doyle, president, in the chair. The quarterly reports were read and handed to the finance committee to audit. The reports were favorable, showing a large beneficiary and dues fund. A committee was appointed to close arrangements for the holding of the annual picnic on Dominion Day, and it was also decided to take part in the procession at St. Gabriel next Sunday afternoon. This branch of the C.M.B.A. has a very pretty hall, nicely furnished, pool and billiard table, also other amusements for its members at no extra cost, and its membership is now second in the city.

Ontario and Quebec.

At the last session of the Ontario and Quebec legislatures measures were passed providing for the arbitration of the accounts in dispute between the Dominion and the provinces. Hon. Mr. Abbott introduced a similar measure in the Senate last Friday afternoon. It provides that for the final and conclusive determination of such disputes as may arise in the settlement of these accounts the Governor General-in-council may unite with the Governments of Ontario and Quebec in the appointment of three arbitrators, to whom shall be referred such questions as may be agreed upon for submission. The arbitrators are to be three judges, one to be appointed by the Dominion and one each by the provinces, and any award they may make shall be subject to appeal to the Supreme court and to the judicial committee of the Privy Council. The arbitrators are not to assume to decide any disputed constitutional questions, but to report any such with their award.