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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consider their best interests, they would soon make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY, June 24, 1899.

THE CEREMONIES AT ST. PATRICK'S LAST SUNDAY.

There are imposing and magnificent ceremonies that the Catholic Church alone has preserved throughout the ages, and that are entirely in harmony with the sacredness of her institutions, her Sacraments, and her teachings. From time to time the faithful are called upon to witness the solemnity with which Christ's Church dedicates to the service of God those material objects that become holy in the use to which they are destined. The consecration of a Church is one of the grandest of all these special acts, for it is the dedication to God of an edifice in which the Saviour is to perpetually dwell in the Sacrament of the Altar, and in which the faithful are to congregate for the purpose of paying honor to the Eternal and of receiving that instruction which He has ordained should be imparted to "all nations."

Then there is the ceremony of the consecration of an altar which is the special possession of the Catholic Church. From the days of remotest antiquity altars were erected for the purpose of sacrifice to God. Even the pagan altars were copied from those of the "Chosen people." From the humble and rude altar of stones whereon Abel offered up an acceptable sacrifice, down to the altar whereon the last high priest of Israel slew a victim, throughout the whole pre-Christian period, this species of structure—no matter what form it took—was the symbol of man's dependence on God. But since the dawn of Christianity, the Catholic Church alone has preserved and perpetually made use of the altar.

will they find in the happiness of reflection upon the grandeur of their own work. And, as St. Paul tells us that "Faith without good works is dead," it is necessary that we should all have something substantial to show on the last day. When that time comes to each of these open-handed contributors to God's glory—as it must come some day to all—as an evidence of the Faith within him, or her, each will be able to point to the shrine of devotion and confidently proclaim, "I have built an altar whereon the Eternal Sacrifice has been offered, and this work must now proclaim how I have kept the Faith."

In addition there was the blessing of the four new Sanctuary windows, to which we referred at length, in last week's issue. The following is a full list of the clergy who took part in the imposing ceremonies which were under the able direction of that "master" of "master of ceremonies," Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., and needless to say they were conducted in a faultless manner.—

Consecrator, Right Rev. Alexander Macdonell; Deacon, Rev. A. Dreisehler; Sub-deacon, Rev. R. Neven, S.S.; Master of Ceremonies, Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S.; Bearers of the Sacred Oils, Rev. J. Quindivan, S.S.; Bearers of the Holy Relics, Rev. P. Fallon, D. Chevrier, S.S.; T. Hefferman, and A. Arnott; Director of Chant, Rev. P. Schielkling, S.S.; Incensers of Relics, Rev. M. Callaghan, S.S.; Rev. L. Aubry, in the Sanctuary assisting Very Rev. L. Colin, S.S., Superior of St. Sulpice and Rev. P. O'Donnell, of St. Mary's.

The choir under the leadership of Prof. J. A. Fowler occupied seats near one of the lateral altars and rendered the psalms in a very devout manner.

PURCHASING KILLARNEY.

Familiar are the words and music of Balfe's opera of "Inisfallen," and almost every one can recall those graphic lines which present such an admirable picture of Ireland's most beautiful and historic spot:—"Inisfallen's ruined shrine, May suggest a passing sigh; But man's faith can ne'er decline, Such God's wonders floating by, Castle, lough and Glenna bay, Mountains, Tore and Eagle's Nest, Still at Muckross you must pray. Though the monks are now at rest, Angels fold their wings and rest, In this Eden of the blest, Beauty's home, Killarney, Ever fair Killarney.

ers had sold their horses when they had secured the convenience of the cars. They were evidently under the impression that the road, once sold, would be carried off by the purchasers and set down in some other part of the country. The present case is not similar, but decidedly a goodly number were under the impression that Ireland would in some way, be deprived of the benefits of Killarney's beautiful scenery. Most certain it is, if that whole locality became private property it would be exposed to the dangers of being closed to all the world, except the proprietor. Last week we gave a statement of the amounts subscribed by prominent Irishmen in New York, for the purpose of buying the whole district and converting it into a national park.

At first sight this would seem a gigantic undertaking; it would be naturally expected that several hundred thousand dollars would be required. But Mr. James Boothby Roche, member of Parliament for the division in which the Lakes of Killarney are situated, has given a very clear explanation of the situation. Mr. Roche is actually in New York, and his mission is to secure the necessary amount to make that purchase. It is expected that he will visit some of Canada's leading cities, as well as those of the United States; and, in view of the possibility of his coming to Montreal, we deem it well to lay before our readers the exact circumstances of the case.

In the first place, it is not the whole district watered by the famous Lakes of Killarney that is for sale. It is only the Muckross estate. But this is the key to the rest of the district. It also includes some of the most historic places in and around Killarney—such as Muckross Abbey, the Gap, a part of Denis Island and the Tore waterfall. To use his own words, Mr. Roche says:—

"There are about sixteen thousand acres of wood and mountain, the only red deer forest in all Ireland. The property practically commands the Lakes of Killarney, and the owners of Muckross hold the key to the lakes from the tourist point of view. With Muckross closed to visitors, Killarney as a resort would cease to exist. If purchased by private capital this danger is undoubtedly present."

Mr. Roche holds an option on the Muckross estate, and, if the matter be at once taken up, he could obtain it for \$130,000. The Standard Insurance Company of Scotland, holds a mortgage of \$100,000 on the property, and will accept \$30,000 in cash and take a mortgage for the balance. A fee is now charged all tourists visiting the place. Thus we see that the immediate demand would be \$30,000—a small sum when we consider the importance of the object, and the number of wealthy Irishmen in America. It is not such a fearful danger after all, unless it be that the Irishmen on this side of the Atlantic, fail to aid in the project.

Leaving entirely aside the sentimental part of the question, Mr. Roche claims—from a business standpoint—that all subscribers to the undertaking will be guaranteed ten per cent. interest on their investments. Another M. P. is prepared to lease Muckross Abbey, turned it into a hotel and pay \$18,000 a year rental.

Here, then, is an opportunity at a very small cost, and with a very good assurance of a substantial return, of protecting, preserving, and forever saving one of the most charming places in the world. The only danger in connection with the matter is the lack of time—the demand is immediate. But once the \$30,000 paid, there would be ample time to breathe and to gather together the balance. And if the project were as great a financial success as anticipated, there is no reason why the revenues derived from the place should not pay off the greater part, if not all of the remaining amount due.

It is no easy matter to write about Killarney and to confine the pen to arithmetical calculations and interest tables. There is a spirit that hovers around those memorable scenes that awakens, despite every effort to the contrary, the tenderest emotions and the most reverent sentiments. It seems to us almost a sacrilege to speak of turning the old Abbey of Muckross into an hotel. Yet, without a doubt, if properly done, that would be the very best means of preserving the hoary old ruin and of perpetuating the glories of its past. Once a national park would be formed, the tourists of the world would flock to the place. Kate Kearney's cottage would become as well known by sight, to the millions who travel, as it is known, by fame, to the millions who read.

We trust for the sake of Ireland's ancient grandeur, of her glorious ruins and majestic but shattered temples, of her children's renown and patriotism, and of her future and infallibly dawning greatness, that Mr. Roche's mission will be a success.

THE PERILS OF PUBLIC TRUSTS

That the enormous "trusts" which have recently been formed in the United States constitute a real public peril, that threatens especially the interests of millions of the wage-earning class, is evident to those who take a glance beneath the surface. The case of the commercial travellers was stated before the Industrial Commission, at Washington, a few days ago, by Mr. C. E. Dowe, of New York, president of the Commercial Travellers' National League. From thousands of replies which he had received to a circular letter of inquiry addressed to commercial travellers throughout the Union, he arrived at some very suggestive facts. Through the recent organization of Trusts, more than 35,000 salesmen have been thrown out of employment altogether, and 25,000 have had their salaries reduced. Mr. Dowe estimates that the annual expenditures stopped by the direct influence of trusts amount to \$114,000,000, of which \$60,000,000 is due to the loss in salaries, and \$27,000,000 to the loss in railway tickets and excess baggage. The loss to hotels he places at \$27,000,000. If the organization of trusts goes on at the present rate one-half the commercial travellers will be thrown out of work, and the loss to the railways will be \$75,000,000 a year—about \$7,500,000 less than the dividends of all the American railways for last year.

But if we turn to the ordinary wage-earners we find that the livelihood of 3,547,000 workmen, who with their families represent over 17,000,000 individuals, is now dependent upon 116 trusts, which control nearly every necessity of life, and which have raised the prices of all the commodities they control from 10 to 100 per cent.

There is manifestly something radically wrong with the social and economic conditions in which such a state of things is possible.

ABOUT RAILROADS.

It was with no small degree of pleasure and satisfaction that we read the various accounts of Mr. Shaughnessy's promotion to the important and highly-distinguished position of President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. That he is an Irish Catholic only adds to these sentiments, and we feel that his rapid advancement is another evidence of the worth of our people and the degrees of prominence they are capable of attaining. However, while we are sincerely rejoiced on account of this important event, in the great railroad world of our Dominion, we cannot but give frank expression to our disappointment in regard to the treatment we have experienced at the hands of the powerful organization in question.

We can honestly claim—without fear of being accused of "blowing our horn"—that our organ is the only representative one, as far as the Irish Catholic element is concerned, in this Province. We may even go a step further and state that the "True Witness" is the oldest Catholic newspaper in the Dominion, and its pages—their form, their contents and their number—tell, without there being any need of a direct statement on our part, how it compares with any, or all the other Catholic organs in Canada. We feel it a duty, both to those who encourage our work, and to ourselves, to give credit to all our practical friends. And one of the best means of so doing is to invite our readers to carefully follow our advertising columns, and to give us substantial aid, by patronizing the firms, establishments and individuals who help us to keep their Irish-Catholic mouth-piece alive.

The value of our paper, the extent of its influence, and its utility as an advertising medium have long since and continuously been recognized, in a practical manner, by the Grand Trunk. Unconsciously has that large corporation kept its space in our columns, and it has done so because it felt that a benefit always resulted to it from such a course. Now we do not wish it to be understood that we are finding fault with the C. P. R., nor do we pretend that the Company is not in its rights when it entirely and positively ignores us, and even ignores our applications. But we do claim the regular business privilege of soliciting support from those who aid in supporting us, and of asking our readers—and all who are anxious to encourage our labors and our efforts—to show, by their custom or patronage, their appreciation of all who assist in maintaining a Catholic organ.

Therefore, we owe nothing to the C. P. R., and if we express our honest pleasure on the elevation of the new President to his exalted office, we certainly do so from motives other than some would suspect. And while we are individually glad of the promotion of an able and distinguished Irish Catholic, we none the less consider it our right and our duty to in-

form our readers of the great difference there is, as far as we are concerned, between the two companies. If every one of our readers were to act upon our request, the C. P. R. would soon discover, by its returns, that it is not over diplomatic, and the G. T. R. would learn the value of an Irish Catholic paper.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

On Wednesday the ladies of the Irish parishes, of this city, gave an "At Home," at the new Catholic High School, which, from an artistic as well as a financial point of view, was a most successful affair. The different features of the musical programme were of a high order, while the decorations of the different classrooms, in the basement and ground floor, were most appropriate. There were candy, refreshment, tea and coffee, ice cream, and temperance drinks booths, located in every room, and they were presided over by the fair young women of the various parishes. The attendance was a record one. Mrs. James McShane and her most efficient assistants who comprised the executive committee, deserve great credit for the manner in which the function was conducted.

THE LATE ABBE PRIMEAU.

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of the Rev. Abbe J. B. Primeau, which has occurred at Montserrat, West Indies. Father Primeau was well known in this province and also in the archdiocese of Boston, as a zealous and hardworking priest. He was born in Chateaugay in 1836, studied in the Ste. Therese and St. Hyacinthe Colleges, was a professor of philosophy at the former and afterwards was appointed superior of the college of Terrebonne. In 1869 he was invited by Archbishop Williams, of Boston, to accept the pastorate of the French Canadians at Worcester, Mass. He went there and founded the parish of Notre Dame des Canadiens, which has been flourishing ever since. Several years afterwards he went to the West Indies where he died.

CATHOLIC FORESTERS' CONVENTION

As we go to press the convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters is being held at Burlington, Vt. Canada held 23 delegates, the total number of members of the order in the Dominion being 12,000. The total membership on this Continent is 75,000. The most important subject that will come up for consideration will be the establishment of a reserve fund. There has already been accumulated, owing to the prudent and economical management, and to other causes, a sum of between \$80,000 and \$100,000 which is regarded at present as nominally a reserve fund; but it is the intention to form such a fund on the basis similar to that of the reserve funds of other fraternal benefit associations.

Of the three delegates representing the Irish Catholic section of the Order in Montreal, whose names we printed last week, one, Mr. J. J. Ryan, is a candidate for the office of High Vice Chief Ranger. It would be a well-merited compliment if Mr. Ryan were successful, as well as a recognition of a deserving member who has held many important positions in the branches of the Order in Montreal and who has always been an enthusiastic worker in extending its influence and increasing its membership. In our next issue we hope to announce Mr. Ryan's election to this high office and to publish a full report of the proceedings.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

From the very beginning in these columns we expressed our belief that the whole scheme of the so-called Peace Conference was a gigantic piece of hypocrisy, it was a "great fraud," on the part of the Russian auto-crats, and no person actually believed that it would ever result in anything more than the recording of a few more or less, practical suggestions. On the 16th the Arbitration Committee was to meet and resume work; but it did not meet. The Czar's deeply hurt and sadly grieved because the whole affair has not come off exactly as he had planned that it should. In fact, from the moment it became known that the Pope would not be invited, it became a foregone conclusion—open amongst the most anti-Catholic—that the whole affair would end in smoke. The following despatch, June 16th, to the "Sun" seems to foreshadow the doom of the Conference:—

"Tomorrow the Government of the Netherlands will entertain the delegates with a round of festivities. The Catholic members of the conference have returned their invitations as a protest against the exclusion of the Pope from the Conference." It is evident that peace and disarmament can never be secured without the intervention of the immortal Leo XIII.

settled convictions that real progress involves the recognition of two main propositions.

"The first is that the grievance flowing from the breach of the Union covenant presses directly not on property, but on consumption, not on the few rich, but on the many poor, that it presses hardest on the poorest."

"I agree and I rejoice that economic conditions ensure advantage to the rich from the relief of the poor. But this only makes it clearer that to talk of grants in aid of landlords' charges or of reductions of income tax as partial redress of this grievance is to add insult to injury.

Real removal involves the lightening of the undue burden which is borne real recompensation involves substantial restoration of the excess which is paid by the consuming masses who bear and pay.

"The second proposition is that to succeed we must be bold, importunate, and unremitting."

"This question should be brought up and ventilated on every possible occasion, and in every possible form, throughout the session."

Indirect taxes should be opposed and direct taxes preferred, since the one tends to aggravate, the other to lessen, the grievance.

"The vast recent increase in Imperial expenditure are parts of a policy of expansion and insurance of British trade, in which unhappily, Ireland has but a trifling share. Even as tolerable and justifiable in the case of Great Britain, they are (so long as the present fiscal in maintained) intolerable and unjustifiable in the case of Ireland. Accordingly they should, on this ground, be strenuously and constantly resisted."

Persistent attacks upon the swollen and swelling estimates will be more effective now than any full-dress debate.

Cordially welcoming such help as some of the Irish Unionist members may feel free to give, and bailing all occasions of co-operation, we must yet recognize the fact that their relations to the present rule and policy of Britain, and to the classes and masses of Ireland, would render it unfit that they should practically dictate the ends, control the pace, or dominate the tactics of this movement. Then let the four score Nationalist and the half dozen Unionist members, who find points of agreement, make such of them, and press them in concert when they can. But let each side recognize the obvious limitations of that concert, and let Irish Nationalism act freely even when Irish Unionism feels constrained to hold back.

"Thus we may in time succeed, else we shall surely fail."

The Belfast Nationalists recently held a magnificent demonstration which showed how strong is the patriotic sentiment in the very stronghold of the enemies. A great procession marched from Belfast to Hamah-town Hill, six miles distant, held an enthusiastic meeting there, and marched back to the city. On their return to Belfast the processionists were attacked by some Orange rowdies; but this was only to be expected. The demonstration had a two-fold object. One was to repeat and commemorate the '98 procession, held on June 6th, last year, which was somewhat spoiled by rain. The other was to express the adherence of the Nationalists of Belfast to the United Irish League. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this convention of Belfast Nationalists, fully representing the National Federation of Belfast, and the various clubs affiliated to the Belfast and Fife's United Centenary Association, heartily approve of and adopt the principles of the United Irish League, and declare our adhesion to its policy of winning self-government for Ireland and better conditions of life for the working classes in town and country; that we deem it desirable to hereby establish the United Irish League in the City of Belfast, and to secure as its members all Nationalists associated with the various national organizations in the city, and we call upon all who are determined to continue the struggle for Irish freedom to join with us in the effort to make this great organization which has already accomplished so much, a centre and rally ground for all the Irish race in keeping aloft the flag which the United Irishmen raised in Belfast more than a hundred years ago, and supporting the cause for which our forefathers freely yielded up their lives on the battlefield and the scaffold."

Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., the founder of the United League, was the principal speaker, and he made an impassioned appeal to his hearers to become re-united, to cast aside all personal ideas as to who should be leader, to cease to sigh and to talk in favor of unity, but to work and organize for it, so that Ulster might soon have a hundred thousand United Irishmen as it had in the days when Wolfe Tone was leader. They had made wonderful progress during the last hundred years. In Ulster the green flag waved that day in twenty-seven out of thirty-two councils. What they wanted was to plant the green flag over Dublin Castle, which would mean Home Rule; and to better the lot of the farmers and people of Ireland. To this they must unite and work and organize.

WEDDING BELLS.

A pretty ceremony took place yesterday at St. Patrick's church, the contracting parties being Miss Florence O'Brien, daughter of Mr. C. O'Brien, master painter and decorator, and Mr. Wm. F. Wall, of the gentlemen's furnishing department of the Montreal Steam Laundry Company. Mr. Joseph Maider sang the Salve Regina, in his usual fine way. The bride looked charming in a dress of white brocaded silk, adorned by orange blossoms, and was attended by Miss Margaret Hynes, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, while Mr. John J. Bolger acted as groomsmen. Numerous presents attested to the great esteem in which the happy couple were held by their many friends.