

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

*Reddito quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.*—Matt 22: 21.

Vol. V.

Toronto, Saturday Feb. 6, 1892.

No 52

## MR. GLADSTONE'S MANIFESTO.

The long-expected manifesto by Mr. Gladstone to his adherents, it is understood, will appear on Friday next in the *Star*. The document referred to makes a leaded column of the *Star* and is worded in Mr. Gladstone's usually effective style. Summed up briefly the manifesto may be said to be a rehash of the distinguished statesman's former speeches upon various subjects of interest to the voters of Great Britain and Ireland. Mr. Gladstone does not advocate any particular policy, but simply makes some good points upon which to hang the elements of the Liberal policy. He deals particularly with the history and conditions of the rural population from the time of the severe oppression down to the present time. Summing up this review of the condition of the masses, Mr. Gladstone says that he considers that the conditions of the agricultural classes have slowly improved, but, he adds, the improvement made is not yet sufficient, and additional legislation for the agricultural population and the passage of further measures to enable them to acquire land are needed. During the course of his remarks Mr. Gladstone refers to the distressing incidents which happened at Manchester in 1819, when 100,000 workmen held a Reform meeting and while so doing were charged upon by cavalry who rode the defenceless people down beneath their horses' hoofs, killing eleven of them and wounding 600. The veteran statesman contrasts that event with the present rights of the people to hold public meetings, which right, he insists, ought not to be hampered in the slightest by unnecessary local regulations or other restrictions. Mr. Gladstone then deals with the question of the repeal of the combination laws and the effects they have had upon the immense growth of trade unionism, which, he explains, has been a great benefit to laborers of all kinds and conditions. The liberation of the press, according to Mr. Gladstone, is one of the greatest Liberal measures of the century, and has, in his opinion, been productive of an immense amount of good. In former years, within the recollection of many, the highest wages an agricultural laborer received in England was 9 shillings (\$2 25) per week, while now for the same class of work men average 15 shillings (\$3 75) per week, and there are but few cases where agricultural laborers are only able to earn 9 shillings per week. In Oxfordshire Mr. Gladstone thinks some rural laborers may only be able to earn the latter amount, but these are exceptions to the general rule. Referring to the commissary law settlement, by which a pauper is returned to the parish where he was born, Mr. Gladstone says that he believes that it would be better to make them chargeable to the poorhouse in the district in which he resides. The present poor laws are not sufficiently broad to cope with the amount of pauperism existing. The present land laws and the large holdings made possible by them are the cause of much of the pauperism referred to. In other portions of his manifesto Mr. Gladstone prays that the rural workers may be delivered from the landlord, the clergyman and the farmer who, he says, are holding themselves aloof from the laborers and setting themselves upon a high plane where they are unknown and do not care for the laborers. The Liberals by the county franchise gave the agricultural laborers the greatest boon possible at the hands of a political party, and experience showed that the Liberals were justified in adopting this course. In conclusion, Mr. Gladstone reviews the work done and the resolutions presented by the recent meeting in London of the Liberal delegates from the agricultural districts just previous to his departure for the continent, and he again advocates the establishment of parish councils as being an indispensable complement to local government and advises that various economic remedies should be adopted which would bring social salvation to the tillers of the soil. The formation of reading clubs for agricultural and other laborers is one of the suggestions made by Mr. Gladstone with the view of improving their social and moral condition.—*Special to Globe of Jan. 29.*

## CANADIAN BARLEY.

WASHINGTON, February 2.—Ex-Senator George H. Sloan, of Oswego, N.Y., who is here as a member of the committee of the Detroit Deep Water Ways convention, is emphatic in his expressions concerning the bad effect of the increased duty on barley under the McKinley law. He said to-day that in New York state the effect had been even more injurious than had been predicted. "It has been prohibitive," Mr. Sloan declared, "instead of protective. Its effect has been to stimulate domestic production unduly, and to bring lower prices to the American farmer than prevailed under the lower rate."

"Do you favor legislation to lower the present duty?"

"I do, and I have no doubt that the necessity of a reduction will be conceded by many Republicans who originally favored the increased rate. The increase was an error which grew out of a misapprehension of effects when the McKinley bill was formulated. There seems to have been an unusual and, I believe, an unreasoning pressure for this special drive at barley. The promoters of the McKinley bill apparently found themselves committed to this rate."

"Has the business of malting in Oswego been affected?"

"It has, indeed, and so has the business all along the boundary line of Canada. It was only to-day that one of my associates on the Detroit Convention committee, who is a malster, told me that he would malt this year only half as much barley as he handled last year, and that if his business came out even it would be doing better than he expected. This man's condition is typical of that of all the other malsters. The grain elevators at Oswego have been badly crippled by the high duty. None of them, save one, did enough business last year to pay a foreman's wages. Some of them did not turn a wheel throughout the season."

"How much Canada barley was received at Oswego in 1891?"

"About 1,200,000 bushels, but only half of this paid duty and went into American consumption. The remainder went through to the seaboard in bond and was exported to Europe. I have been asked why that market cannot be looked to in future for Canada barley, so as to give our people the handling and transportation charges, even though the grain should be placed beyond their reach for malting purposes. The reason is that the foreign market cannot be relied upon as an outlet for Canada barley, as a rule, because this grain is so very different from English barley, and will not make the ale which the Englishmen like."

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—The Sectarian Education Bill is under discussion in the lower House of the Prussian Diet and masterly arguments for and against the measure are expected. The Bill is a pet scheme of the Emperor, but is certain to meet with determined opposition. Chancellor von Caprivi to-day made a powerful speech in favor of the Bill and took occasion to denounce the attitude of the National Liberals on the question. He said that if the members of that party continued in their opposition to the measure the Government would give further proofs of its ability to swim against the stream. The Chancellor added that it was not the Liberals but the National Liberals, who had commenced the conflict by protests in which they adverted to the contention that the Bill would bring the schools under the influence of the Jesuits. The Chancellor declared in answer to this contention that the Government would steadily oppose the readmission of the Jesuits into Germany. The present campaign of the Government, he said, was directed against atheism. Chancellor Von Caprivi concluded his speech by warning the opponents of the Bill not to start an agitation in the country, as such a course would be doubly dangerous in the present difficult times. As soon as the Chancellor had finished he left the House, followed by all the Prussian Ministry.