

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1905. THIS QUESTION IS SETTLED.

The Speech from the Throne read at the opening of Parliament contains the following paragraph: "The rapid growth in the population of the Northwest Territories during the past two years justifies the wisdom of conferring upon those territories provincial autonomy. A Bill for that purpose will be submitted for your consideration."

This announcement had been anticipated, and it is little short of astonishing that its appearance could have afforded to any class or section of the Canadian people grounds for believing that another Northwest school question is presented to us. But already we have the press in Ontario not only imagining but saying that the "fight" upon the Bill will turn upon the "establishment" of Separate Schools in the proposed Province. These writers of the Press must either be sadly ignorant of the course of legislation in Canada in recent years, or must have forgotten that the entire question of separate schools in the Northwest Territories was settled by the act passed in 1875.

To make the facts absolutely clear we have but to turn to the Revised Statutes of Canada, and to the discussion upon the Northwest Territories Bill during its passage through the House. In those days we had no misunderstanding by the public men of Canada of both parties as to the constitutional history of this country. The principle of Separate Schools was accepted on every hand as the cardinal provision of legislation wisely calculated by its fairness and toleration of religious freedom to induce settlers both Protestant and Catholic to go in and make their homes in the Northwest Territories. The law-makers of Canada proclaimed and placed upon the statutes the plainest guarantees of religious freedom in respect to education, and depending upon these guarantees settlers have gone in and made their homes in the new land. Settlement, especially in recent years, has been so rapid that, as the Speech from the Throne sets forth, the present population is fully entitled to provincial autonomy. Can it be surmised by any sane or patriotic person that when the population has been gathered in under the most solemn statutory guarantees, those guarantees are to be destroyed by any government of Canada? The True Witness cannot for a moment suppose such an eventuality and considers it absolutely unnecessary to discuss it. The guarantees were given. They will be respected by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. There can be no doubt about it.

On March 12, 1875, when Mr. Mackenzie introduced in the House of Commons the Bill to consolidate the laws respecting the Northwest Territories, he spoke in the plainest terms as to the decision of the government of that day and of both parties with regard to the establishment of an entirely independent government in those territories. "It seemed," he said, "very clear that there was an absolute necessity for the establishment of a firm government within the boundaries of the Territories, and that provisions should be made

for a popular government, for the establishment of schools and of some municipal system."

In the course of the debate the principle of separate schools was affirmed by the leaders of the House on both sides.

Mr. Blake said: "It seemed to him, having regard to the fact that as far as we could expect at present the general character of the population would be somewhat analogous of the population of Ontario, that there should be some provision in the constitution by which they should have conferred upon them the same rights and privileges in regard to religious instruction as those possessed by the people of Ontario. The principles of local self-government and the settling of the question of public instruction seemed to him ought to be the cardinal principles of the measure."

Thereupon Mr. Mackenzie stated the exact terms of the clause he proposed to insert in the Bill in Committee. The clause provided that the Lieutenant-Governor by and with the consent of his Council or Assembly, as the case might be, should pass all necessary ordinances in respect of education, but it should be specially provided that the majority of the ratepayers might establish such schools and impose such necessary assessments as they might think fit; and that the minority of the ratepayers, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, might establish separate schools, and such ratepayers would be liable only to such educational assessments as they might impose upon themselves.

And now let us quote the Act in its concrete form as we find it in the Revised Statutes of Canada, chap. 50, sec. 14:

"The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall pass all necessary ordinances in respect to education; but it shall therein always be provided that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of the Territories or of any less portion or subdivision thereof by whatever name the same is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit and make the necessary assessments and collection of rates therefor, and also that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein—and in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to the assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves in respect thereof."

Is it necessary, after this, to discuss the protection of the principle of separate schools in those Territories? The final word of endorsement of this principle was spoken in the House on April 2, 1875, by Sir John Macdonald, and was considered upon his side quite as essential to the settlement and upbuilding of the Territories as it was by Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Blake and the Liberal party. So that in regard to the granting of provincial autonomy the school question is already settled. Nor is there any useful purpose to be served by the opening of the discussion by Ontario elements whose aims we must decline to suppose have found encouragement by the public men of the Northwest Territories.

THE THEATRE IN MONTREAL.

The City Council has been asked to take belated cognizance of a play that attracted crowds daily to a well-conducted city theatre. But from the point of view of public morals, it is not the individual play, which is a short-lived evil in Montreal, or any other city of its size, so much as the matter of local theatrical management that presents a practical problem to the Council, and indeed all citizens, who have at heart the public welfare. It is an undeniable fact that shows presented in Montreal where women as well as men bestow their patronage, are at once a disgrace to the stage and the city, and a degradation to all who witness them. Broad, coarse and ugly is the vulgarity thus staged. Montreal is a city that receives a large and constant stream of visi-

tors. What must these people imagine when they innocently turn for an evening's amusement to a bill that provokes disgust a dozen times in an hour. The city newspapers in their so-called criticisms condemn in a general way these productions, but fall short of telling the truth concerning them which amounts in a manner to public toleration. Montreal should stamp out the low plays that get a respectable housing nowhere else than here.

EXIT COMBES.

The "bloc" has broken under the Combes Cabinet, and this was but the natural consequence of the rent in the Masonic foundation revealed some months ago. While it is premature to expect any instant and radical departure from the anti-religious warfare, this much at least may be said, that the fall of Combes brands the persecution so long persisted in with discredit, and some improvement must necessarily take place under a new Cabinet, however constituted.

When the honor of the army was threatened from the same source that had steadily turned on the sore of religious persecution month by month, the public mind was aroused to the deep deception of those politicians who would seek to identify the Church with the enemies of the republic. They had played their game too far and were obliged to throw it up. Had they sought to reveal antagonism to the Republic in the army they would have plunged France in a ferment. General Andre saw the danger and resigned. Combes and his Masonic advisers for a little while longer endeavored to control the situation by holding the "bloc" together, but the support fell away and in the division preceding the Premier's announcement of resignation the majority had dwindled to six. Defeat could not be courted further.

The new Ministry may turn out to be an effort at reconstruction, or it may mark the point of retreat by the anti-religious fighting line.

Our readers will observe that the tone of the press despatches represents the collapse as a circumstance incidental to the system of Government by many parties as compared with the British dual party system. But it must be remembered that political conditions in the British state are very different from those found in France. In England, as in Canada, the two great parties stand opposed upon well known ground. In France there cannot be a free trade party as opposed to an aristocratic combination of interests leaning towards higher protection. Had the Combes policy succeeded along its original lines there would possibly have been an effort made to place the opponents of the "bloc" in the position of an anti-republican party. Such a device could never have succeeded. The Church has proclaimed herself time and again loyal and content with the Republic. The sons of the Church in France will always be on the side of established authority. They stood out in the open to resist Combes and his methods, because the man and his school had introduced into the government of the French nation a system of tyranny more intolerable than any autocratic power on earth could foster. This tyranny had already threatened the internal and external peace of France by making a religious cleavage in the masses of the people and representing the army as divided in its loyalty to the State. It will be an auspicious day for France if the fall of the author of such dangerous politics puts a decisive check upon the peril it had brought into plain view.

Mme. Loubet, mother of the French President, died on Sunday at the age of 92.

The authorities of the Palace deny the rumor set about a few days ago that His Grace Archbishop Bruchési would visit several countries before returning home. He is expected here early in February.

MGR. RACIOT.

The appointment of Mgr. Raciot as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Montreal will be heartily appreciated in every part of this province as an honor well merited and a suitable provision for the increasing labors of administering the important affairs of the Catholic Church in this city and district. Naturally enough our French-Canadian fellow-Catholics feel more than others the satisfaction which the new episcopal office affords to the entire community. Mgr. Raciot, by his long connection not only with the Cathedral parish but also with our Catholic institutions of learning, has been respected and honored by all as a prominent public figure in the life of this city. The True Witness joins in the cordial congratulations expressed by its French contemporaries to the Auxiliary Bishop.

MR. MORINE TALKS.

Mr. A. B. Morine, leader of the opposition in the Legislature of Newfoundland, has been interviewed in Montreal upon the affairs of the Island Colony, and has taken advantage of the occasion to attribute the defeat of his party to the influence of Archbishop Howley. Mr. Morine is reported in the following style:

"He explained that the signal triumph of the Bond Government was due to the fact that Archbishop Howley, of St. John's, had taken strong grounds against the Opposition. His Grace had in fact issued a manifesto during the contest and his influence was such a potent factor in the campaign that the Opposition candidates were so seriously handicapped that success was almost impossible. The Roman Catholic electorate, Hon. Mr. Morine added, as well as the other elements were against the Government, but the influence of the Archbishop was sufficient to swing them into line. The Opposition leader said he had no personal quarrel with the clergy. He was on the best of terms with them all, yet from the time Mgr. Howley had taken so open a part against the Reid contract, it appeared to be natural that His Grace should support Sir Robert Bond to the end of the chapter. Mr. Morine's party had in every Catholic constituency a 'candidate of' that faith, yet, the Archbishop's influence was sufficient to swamp them.

"A curious feature of the contest was one of Mgr. Howley's own nephews as opposition candidate in St. John city, yet of course he went down with the others. "Is His Grace an anti-Confederate?" Mr. Morine was asked. "No," replied Mr. Morine, "that is

the strangest part of the whole business. While Sir Robert Bond's friends accused us of being Confederates, the Archbishop of St. John's openly proclaimed himself as the most pronounced supporter of Confederation in the entire island, his efforts were all against the Opposition.

"The leader of the Opposition said that there were two bishops who were Canadian born and they had taken little part in the campaign, but Mgr. Howley, the native born prelate, worked the oracle for all it was worth."

It will be observed that Mr. Morine claims the Archbishop turned the Protestant community as well as the Catholics against him. "The Roman Catholic electorate, Mr. Morine added, as well as the other elements were against the Government, but the influence of the Archbishop was sufficient to swing them into line." The inference is put forward further on that this was because the Archbishop possessed a peculiar influence as "the native born prelate." This raises a tender question with Mr. Morine. It is well known that he went into Newfoundland many years ago to instruct the natives how they should run their affairs. They have been irritatingly slow either to learn or appreciate the methods of the aggressive sojourner in their midst, and he perhaps naturally feels this keenly. Why they refuse to accept him as a heaven-sent leader to conduct them into Confederation is perhaps not so hard to understand if their objection is not so much to Confederation as to Mr. Morine himself.

The Catholic boarding school of St. Paul de Metis, N.W.T., was burned down on Sunday night. Nineteen nuns and eighty-five children had an almost miraculous escape. The building was a new one, and one of the finest in the West.

We were pleased to read in the Daily Witness of last Saturday the appreciative letter of the Rev. G. G. Huxtable with regard to the temperance demonstration in St. Gabriel's Church a week ago, and also to the splendid stand the people of St. Edwards have taken against a license being granted in their district. It is good to read such words from one of our separated brethren; but it is not the first time that we have had reason to notice the broadminded, tolerant spirit of the Rev. Mr. Huxtable, who, while working untiringly for the furtherance of his own cause, is not blind to the good in others.

Knights of Columbus Convention

Los Angeles will be the scene of another great convention this year, when the Knights of Columbus hold their National Council and general reunion in that city June 5-11.

The Executive Committee of arrangements for the reception of the visitors has already organized, and elaborate preparations are being made at this early date to give suitable accommodation and entertainment for the pilgrims who will number about seventy-five hundred people. Tourist clubs are being organized in various parts of the country and special trains are being made up from one end of the country to the other. The programme of entertainment will give a view of the unsurpassed scenery of Southern California, including trips to the old missions, the far famed Catalina Islands and through the orange belt of that section.

The Knights of Columbus of Los Angeles have determined to make a unique feature of the reception to be afforded the ladies who will accompany the visitors and to that end have enlisted the services of Madame Helena Modjeska, the distinguished actress and zealous Catholic, who will head the Ladies' Reception Committee, and has promised her unstinted efforts to the success of the gathering. Madame Modjeska's home at Arden, in the mountains behind El Toro, is within easy reach of Los Angeles, and her husband, Count Bozenta, is an enthusiastic charter member of Los Angeles Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Headquarters have been opened for the Executive Committee at No. 533 Douglas Block, Los Angeles, California, with Alphonse Zinmeister in charge, to whom all inquiries for information should be addressed and where every facility has been afforded to cope with the enormous mass of correspondence which will be sure to accumulate incident to this gathering.

The chairman of the Executive Committee is Joseph Scott, the State Deputy of California, well known in Knights of Columbus circles, who is supported by twelve other gentlemen—bankers, lawyers and men of high commercial standing with local prestige sufficient to secure the success of the meeting in every detail.

Special rates have been arranged for by the transcontinental lines, which include a rate of \$62.50 first class from Chicago, round trip; \$57.50 from St. Louis and \$50.00 from Kansas City.

The Knights of Columbus extend an invitation to all their friends to gather in the Angel City for June 5-11, where they will be sure of an open house with the latch string on the outside.

NOTES FROM THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

The feast of the Holy Name celebrated with great solemnity at St. Patrick's. At 8 o'clock Mass was said by the Rev. Killoran, at which between 1,000 men, members of the Holy Society, approached the Holy Sacrament. At 10 o'clock High Mass by the Rev. Father Robilliot, pastor of St. Eusebe. After the usual announcements, the Rev. Father made the usual announcements of the subjects for the month of the ensuing year with the consideration of the virtue of piety. Whereupon he gave a most impressive sermon on the above subject.

In the evening, a second meeting of the Holy Name Society took place at which the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Singleton, followed by a most interesting address by Rev. M. Callaghan, assisted by Rev. Fathers P. Healy and R. E. Callahan, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH

On last Sunday afternoon a meeting of St. Gabriel's Juvenile Total Abstinence Society took place. Six new members, and eight more whose names were enrolled took the pledge of total abstinence for life. Major Phillips presided at length on the necessary work in connection with the formation of a cadet corps at the end he was enthusiastically applauded. Three new officers were appointed, a grand marshal and assistants. The constitution of laws for the society will be for the next meeting.

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH

Rev. Father Thos. Heffernan, at the low masses and also High Mass, referred in particular the abominable habit of cursing, swearing, and taking the Holy Name in vain among Catholic men young and old. The practice is increasing, and parents should guard their children from such habit.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME

St. Joseph's Home, under the direction of Rev. Father D. H. O'S.R.R., is doing remarkably well, and considering the many calls upon it, it is supplying the need with food and shelter. Several called to receive aid and were employed besides. Father Heffernan contemplates the conversion of a part of the back premises in kitchen, thus leaving more room for arrivals. The corner room always open during the day and ten o'clock at night for the accommodation of those who have to sleep on the street. A mirror placed between the two windows that the St. Etienne car can be seen while the passengers are under way. A contribution box inside this waiting room seems to be very well patronized. On the whole the home is doing well and the director and the inmates are pleased with its work. The blinds given by Mr. Daly, of Morine, place the place a home-like appearance, and the yellow curtains large windows are an improvement on the former style of window. One source of income is a which Father Holland says will cure old age, but can be tried anything else, and will be away to the home's benefactor for a box, and if it does good to the home. A Mass said last Wednesday for the benefactors. This will be repeated time to time, and announced Ann's Church.

The following is a complete list of subscribers: Mr. T. C. O'S.R.R.; Mr. William Daly, City and District Savings Bank, \$5; C. O'S.R.R.; Mr. Michael Burke, \$5; Father O'Meara, P.P., St. Gabriel; Margaret Burke, \$2; A friend, \$2; Mrs. Cunningham; Mrs. Shearon, \$1; Mrs. Walsh; Rev. Father O'Rourke, Westport; the employees of H. R. Ives, \$50.00; Mr. Chas. McCarthy, \$5; Miss Flanagan, \$2. Those who contributed to the meter fund: Dr. Mintie, Glasgow; Mrs. Goulder, Ottawa; Mr. J. J. O'S.R.R.; Miss Lauretta Stanton; Arthur Jones; Mrs. Burke; Misson; Rev. Father Deane; St. H. Toronto; Masson.

FURS advertisement featuring images of a stag and a woman, with text: COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF COATS, JACKET, STOLE, MUFFS, PELLERINES, BOAS, Etc., Etc., IN ALL SORTS OF FURS. NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY. Our Prices are Always More and More Reasonable and Moderate. OUR HOUSE IS THE LARGEST AND HAS THE BEST ASSORTED STOCK.