

way. In these days of manhood suffrage it is a pity that the State does not guard itself against the more obvious dangers of the present system. A voter should at least be able to read and write, which is still far from being the case even in England. Although the Conservatives have been losing ground in the English bye-elections, the other side have nothing to congratulate themselves upon. The Conservative candidates have, without exception, been careful to limit their pledges to the electorate to possibilities. The Liberals, on the other hand, have been absolutely reckless upon the point being ready to promise anything.

Lord Salisbury's last despatch in answer to Mr. Blaine, on the Behring Sea matter, ought to close the controversy. At any rate, the whole question is now on a fair road to arbitration. Such being the state of the case it seems at first sight odd that Mr. Phelps should so late in the day come forward in support of all the absurd contentions which even Mr. Blaine has had sense enough to drop. But, looking back a little, we seem to see a reason for Mr. Phelps' interference. That gentleman was a member of the Cabinet which had so nearly arrived at an arrangement with the English Government two or three years ago, when the Canadian Government intervened. The Republican papers that are crowing so loudly over Mr. Phelps' letter should pause awhile and consider whether Mr. Phelps is not making Democratic capital out of a Republican difficulty.

The massacre of the alleged Mafia conspirators in New Orleans need surprise no one, but should awaken Americans to the necessity of revising their methods of appointing the judiciary and officers of the law. All civil appointments in the United States, from the scavenger in the streets to the President, are political, and are for the most part purchaseable. A Superior Court Judge (Miller of New York) only the other day paid \$10,000 for his appointment. The judges are, as a rule, appointed for a term of years. Now, when a man goes on the bench he must drop his practice and at the end of his term he may find it difficult to pick it up again. He therefore naturally seeks re-election. In order to be re-elected he must be popular with the clique that controls the appointment. But inasmuch as that clique is composed for the most part of the scum of the district, it follows that the ex-judge's popularity has been gained at the expense of all justice and fair play during his term of office. Hence, lynch law.

There is a feeling of wide-spread dissatisfaction at the Franchise Act, which might more properly be called the Disfranchise Act, and we hope the Government will set about amending it. The returning officers in many districts displayed the grossest partizanship. Fully 150,000 young men were debarred from voting, and the names of many old citizens were culpably omitted from the lists. The political issue having joined upon the question of British connection, the ANGLO-SAXON was anxious to secure the return of the Macdonald Government, but we were not anxious to secure that return by unfair means.

Political Dialogues, NUMBER SIX. A CABINET MEETING (All Rights Reserved.)

SCENE.—The Council Chamber. Sir John Macdonald, who is alone, is seated at the table engaged in business relating to his Department (of Railways and Canals). (Enter Messrs. Haggart, Bowell and Dewdney.)

Sir John (looking up).—Ha! gentlemen; glad to see you. When does Council meet? 3 o'clock? (Glances at his watch) It is a quarter to 3 now. Anything new, Haggart?

Hon. John Haggart.—I have heard nothing, except, perhaps, a rumour which has reached me that the Catholic Church is preparing a remonstrance against the Manitoba School Act.

Sir John.—But the matter is before the courts.

Mr. Haggart.—True. But as the courts have, so far, declared the act to be *intra vires*, the Hierarchy will probably make an effort to get the Government to disallow it on the ground that

it constitutes an oppression of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba.

Sir John.—Well, suppose you observe I merely say, *suppose*—such a demand were made?

Mr. Haggart.—I think we should resist it.

Mr. Bowell (cautiously).—It would scarcely do for us to make fish of Quebec and fowl of the English-speaking Provinces. If the Manitoba School Act is *intra vires*, as the courts declare, I can hardly see that we could interfere, especially after the stand we took on the Jesuits' Estates Bill.

Mr. Dewdney.—I can assure you, Sir John, that there is a very strong feeling about the matter up West.

Sir John.—You fellows have evidently been talking this thing over. Speaking quite personally—and confidentially—I agree with you. But wait till you hear Langevin on the subject. You would imagine the Roman Catholics in Manitoba were being treated with the most awful barbarity. Now, Langevin is a very representative man, and if the Act throws him into such a state of mind, you may depend on it there will be a tremendous row in Quebec, if the Government should allow the Act to become law. The question is, can we afford to disregard Quebec?

Mr. Haggart.—Are we always to yield to Quebec?

Sir John.—Let us first hear what Quebec wishes in this matter. Here come Langevin and Thompson.

(Enter Sir Hector Langevin and Sir John Thompson.)

Sir Hector Langevin.—Good-day, gentlemen. There are, I think, enough of us here to constitute a quorum. Do you not consider that the time has come for us to deal with the Manitoba School Act? The period in which to disallow that most infamous Bill expires on the 12th April, and in advising the Governor-General it will be necessary for us to state why the Bill should be vetoed.

Sir John Thompson.—With submission, I beg to say that I am not prepared as Minister of Justice to advise disallowance. (Great astonishment manifested.) I realize perfectly what is in your minds. You naturally concluded that as a Roman Catholic I would view the Act with detestation, and that my feelings would influence my action as Minister of Justice. (Aside to Langevin, who is evidently much surprised and alarmed:—Be quiet. There are many ways of killing a cat!) I may remark that I have consulted with the leaders of my Church and it has been arranged that whatever else may be asked, disallowance will not be proposed. (Renewed manifestations of astonishment.) The Province of Manitoba received its constitution from the Dominion Parliament in 1870 by an act which was subsequently confirmed by the Imperial Parliament. One of the provisions of this act provided that the Provincial Legislature might make laws exclusively in relation to education, subject to the following provisions:—

1. No Provincial legislation shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege which any class have by law or practice in the Province.

2. An appeal shall be to the Governor-in-Council from any act of the Legislature affecting any right or privilege of the minority in relation to education.

3. In case the Province refuses to pass any Provincial law for the purpose of securing the right of the minority as may seem requisite by the Governor-in-Council, or in case any decision of the Council in appeal is not duly executed by the Provincial authority, then the Parliament of Canada may make remedial laws in order to secure to the minority any rights they may have in reference to education.

Now, as you are aware, the matter has been before the courts, which have, so far, declared the Acts of 1889 and 1890 to be *intra vires*. An appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court

which will be heard in May, and if that appeal be successful the Acts now in question will be annulled, and the former acts, providing for the separate schools, will revive. But, supposing the Supreme Court should take the same view as the lower courts—

Sir Hector Langevin.—In that case, the time for disallowance will have gone by and we shall have to depend upon Parliament for a remedial act.

Sir John Macdonald.—Hear, hear. (To Thompson.) Then you are disposed to allow?

Sir John Thompson.—It is a choice of evils.

As the Ministers leave the Council Chamber, Sir John Thompson points out to Sir Hector the obvious dangers of disallowing the Manitoba Act in view of the Jesuits' Estates Bill; leading as such a course inevitably would to the strengthening of the Equal Rights movement, and probably to the formation of an ultra-Protestant Party in the country. Sir Hector assents, but fears that the allowance of the Act will play the deuce in Quebec. "The Hierarchy will take care of that," rejoins the Minister of Justice reassuringly.

St. George's Society, Ottawa.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the St. George's Society was held on the 7th inst., the president Mr. W. Lake Marler presiding.

Treasurer Mr. Wm. Mills presented his annual report, showing receipts of \$1,598.79, disbursements, \$485.30, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,123.49, \$900 of which cannot be used for any other purpose than building a hall.

The President addressed the members urging them to do all they could to further the objects of the society, as it was purely benevolent in character and explained that at the annual Christmas distributions needy people were assisted belonging to almost every nationality.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary's report showed that at the last Christmas distribution 189 families were relieved, representing 800 persons, with 250 general cases relieved during the year. The society reported with regret the death of four old and valued members, Mr. C. V. Noel, Rev. Mr. Jemmett, H. Meadows and H. G. R. Frapp.

A communication was received from the St. George's Society of Washington, D. C., inviting the Ottawa Society to name its choice for the next meeting of the American St. George's Society. Ottawa was unanimously named and it is hoped to see the next meeting held here.

THE OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Mr. W. Lake Marler, president; Lt.-Col. White, 1st vice-president; Dr. Mark, 2nd vice-president; Mr. Wm. Mills, treasurer; Mr. C. D. Frapp, secretary; Mr. R. J. Tanner, assistant secretary. Chaplains—Rev. Messrs. Bogert, Pollard, Mackay, Winfield, Hannington, Deeprose, Timberlake and Wood. Physicians—Drs. Sweetland, Church, Horsey, Janson, Powell and Shillington.

Solicitor—R. A. Bradley. Committee—Lt.-Col. Bacon, E. D. Jones, H. Bott, F. Gillott, Geo. Low, sen., A. Pritchard and J. W. Watts. Stewards—J. E. Andrews, G. E. Preston, W. R. Stroud and C. L. Bott. Auditors—E. J. Darby and William Parris.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION.

It was suggested to hold the annual church service on the Sunday following St. George's Day at Emmanuel Church and invite Rev. Mr. Winfield to preach the sermon.

The society decided to celebrate the 23rd by a dinner, leaving the arrangements in the hands of the Committee of Management.

Sons of England Naval Brigade.

ANNUAL CONCERT.

The first annual concert of the Naval Brigade took place on Friday evening, April 3th, in the auditorium, Shaftesbury Hall. The platform for the noon had been transformed into a representation of the quarter deck of the good ship H. M. S. Arethusa, lolling about which in Jack Tar fashion were a large number of the members of the brigade, while a red-coated marine paced the hurricane deck. The first part of the programme was made up of a series of scenes representing life on board of a man-of-war. They were: Watch evolutions, taking the bearings, cutlass drill, a visit from Neptune (capitally represented by Bro. W. E. Ramsay, whose identity was perfectly concealed) a tar's introduction to Neptune with the time-honoured custom of shaving the neophyte upon his first crossing the line, which was rudely interrupted by the captain (Bro. George Taylor) making his appearance upon deck and declaring he would not have such nonsense on board his ship. The arrival in port was noted by the double reefing of the anchor (is that the proper nautical term, Mr. Editor?) and the advent of visitors on board consisting of R. Caddick, High Admiral, T. R. Skippon, Vice-Admiral, who had been arrayed in proper nautical attire

would have looked the skipper to the life—Miss E. Matthews, Mrs. W. E. Ramsay, Mrs. J. N. Dean, Mrs. J. L. Nichols, Bro. H. M. Blight, Bro. J. Lister Nichols, Bro. J. M. Dixon, Mrs. T. Carlisle and Bro. W. E. Ramsay, who took part in the concert which had all the free and easy characteristics of an entertainment on board.

The idea of the representation of the deck of a man-of-war was well carried out and its novelty gave much pleasure to the large audience assembled, the men lolling all over the floor of the deck in picturesque attitudes and the watch pacing the hurricane deck made a very striking picture. What the entertainment lacked was (what is called in theatrical parlance) business; the boys had not sufficient work given them. Some nautical choruses should have been introduced, which would have given some vim to the show. Had the management taken the Admiralty Paymaster into their councils who has some knowledge of stage business they might have received a few pointers. Bro. J. L. Nichols, was in excellent voice and his singing of the "White Squall" was perfect and created quite a furore which resulted in a recall and another song.

Miss E. Matthews, although young, is ambitious and justified her ambition by the manner in which she sang the Walby song (by Ardit), a song only essayed by the first prima donnas.

Bro. H. M. Blight is always welcome to a Toronto audience. His singing of Rule Britannia in the chorus of which the tars and the audience joined elicited a hearty encore.

Bro. W. E. Ramsay as usual had to appear three times for each number put down on the programme, the audience going on the old axiom that we can never have too much of a good thing.

Bro. J. M. Dixon sang Hearts of Oak, and the Tar's Farewell in a very acceptable manner. Mrs. J. N. Dean, with the two songs, The Good-bye at the Door and Have I not been kind to thee, satisfied the most critical. Mrs. Dean's voice, which is sympathetic, enlists the feelings of her hearers at once and carries them to a very successful ending.

The experience gained by those who had the control of the entertainment will no doubt lead to good results, the material and the novelty of the nature of the concert properly worked out and some bustling business introduced will make it one of the events of the Toronto winter season.

A most dastardly sentiment has been attributed, apparently with abundant foundation, to the Unionist strikers in Western Queensland. These men, foiled in their efforts to exert better terms from the employers, are now endeavouring to introduce the rabbit pest into Central Queensland as an act of revenge against the squatters. Needless to say, this has provoked a storm of indignation against the Unionists, and even Lynch Law was being talked about as a means of punishing anyone caught in the act of carrying this terrible threat into practice.

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