

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The Distribution of Catholic School Taxes—An Interesting Meeting of the Board.

The principal business at last evening's meeting of the Catholic School Commissioners was the discussion of the following motion proposed by Rev. Father A. G. Auclair, seconded by Dr. Desjardins:

That a special committee composed of Ald. Farrell, Mr. F. D. Monk and Rev. Father Leclaire, be appointed to enquire into and report concerning the way in which the school taxes are distributed among the different schools, and see if there cannot be a change made.

In making the motion, Rev. Father Leclaire contended that it did not call for anything binding upon the committee, but was simply a request that they be appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the distribution of the school taxes among the different schools.

Mr. Monk contended that many of the Catholic schools were not under the control of the commissioners, and they were not bound to equip and repair them. The taxpayers' money could not be employed for that purpose; it could only be used for certain definite objects. The proprietors of the schools which were not under the control of the board had allowed them to get into a disgraceful state, and, judging from the requests which had been made, it would cost the commissioners from \$70,000 to \$100,000 to put them in proper repair, etc. It was a preposterous position that such an amount should be spent on properties which did not belong to the board. He denied that any discrimination was shown between those schools which were under the control of the board and those which were not. He was anxious that equal justice be done to all; but he was opposed to any more money being spent on schools which did not belong to the board. The commissioners had not the naming of the professors in these schools, and had no control over them, although he was satisfied that they gave good teaching.

Rev. Father Quinlivan pointed out that the duty of the board was to educate the children of the ratepayers, for which purpose it received taxes. The fact of building and maintaining schools was only a means to an end. If the commissioners were not able to give a *quid pro quo* they should not accept the taxes. He considered that the question brought up by Rev. Father Leclaire's motion was ripe to be enquired into. Although it had been said that the buildings did not belong to the commissioners, he held that the work which was being done in them was the work of the commissioners, and it was the doing of this work that had caused the buildings to get into their present state. There might be a legal difficulty in the way of meeting the matter, but there was a natural way.

Rev. Canon Bruchesi thought that the board should, as a principle, take into consideration the public sentiment, and hear the complaints or requests which might be made by either the ratepayers or the professors, or by the commissioners themselves. And there were complaints made by these. Some of the commissioners thought there should be something done in the matter of distributing the public funds for the schools. The question was a very difficult one, and it must be studied very seriously. The object of the proposed committee was to study the question of the obligation of a principle. The commissioners had in Montreal only nine schools which were built by them with the taxes, and in these many children could not find accommodation. There was no separate school for girls; but there were some schools under the direction of the Brothers or Sisters which were not under the control of the commissioners, and there were some complaints that they did not receive sufficient money to keep the schools progressing. He was in favor of a committee being appointed to study the question.

Rev. Father Auclair's motion was carried, after which a communication was read from the Protestant Board of School Commissioners to the effect that, in consequence of the reply of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in reference to the pooling of school taxes, they had held a special meeting and had decided to satisfy the claims of the different parties for the present by subsidizing the Baron de Hirsch institute by paying a teacher. The communication asked for

the further consideration of the matter, and stated that the commissioners were still open to negotiations of the settlement of the matter.

It was decided, practically without discussion, to abide by the opinion of the Superintendent of public instruction.

Rev. Canon Bruchesi presided, and the others in attendance were Rev. Fathers A. G. Auclair, Quinlivan, Ald. Farrell, Mr. F. D. Monk and Drs. Desjardins and Brennan.

A GRAND CELEBRATION.

THANKSGIVING AT ST. LAURENT.

On the 28th of November, 1894, the eve of the American Thanksgiving, the members of St. Patrick's Literary Association, at St. Laurent College, presented a musical and dramatic entertainment, under the direction of Mr. M. J. O'Connor. At 7:30 the curtain rose, displaying to a crowded assembly an artistically decorated stage. The flags of various nations, exhibiting their cheerful colors under the rays of the glowing gaslights, added much to the beauty of the scene, and aroused the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of all present.

Mr. Moses C. Malone, secretary of the society, then stepped forward and delivered an eloquent oration entitled, "A Tribute to John Boyle O'Reilly."

The able manner in which the young speaker showed forth the noble qualities of this illustrious hero as an English soldier, an Irish felon, an exile, convict, and as an American citizen, had a magic effect on the audience. The silence which reigned in the assembly during this entire speech was broken only by several rounds of well merited applause, as the speaker touched some tender chord of Irish or American patriotism, or traced in a vivid manner the countless virtues of Boyle O'Reilly.

A French discourse, "Les Canadiens aux Etats Unis," was then delivered by Mr. Onesiphore Cote, a delegate from Societe de St. Jean Baptiste, of St. Laurent. This oration was rendered in a pleasing manner, and the speaker well deserved all the applause and attention given him by his auditors.

"Pizarro," a drama in five acts, was next presented, with the following cast of characters:

Ataliba, King of Quito.....	John McQuillan
Rolla, Commanders of Joseph M. McGinty	
Alonso, Ataliba's army (Robert P. Greene)	
Pizarro, the Spanish leader (Robt. E. Callahan)	
Valverde, Pizarro's secretary (John J. McGarry)	
Las Casas, a Spanish Priest (John O'Sullivan)	
Elvira, Pizarro's Protege (Peter J. Heffernan)	
Davila, Pizarro's Conn- (Jas. Fitzgerald)	
Gomez, sellers (John Duffy)	
Almago, (James McAtee)	
Orlino, (Edward Houltham)	
Gonzalez, an Old Blind Man (Thos. J. Laughlin)	
Topas, a Grandson of Old Blind Man (W. Ferns)	
Orsembo, a Peruvian Officer (John Eagleton)	
Spanish Sentinel (William Tighe)	
Cortez, a child (son of Alonso) (Joseph Coburn)	

We cannot too highly praise all those who took part in this magnificent drama. Special praise is due, however, to Mr. McGinty for the masterly manner in which he sustained the part of Rolla, the Peruvian Leader; also, to Messrs. Callahan, Greene, Heffernan, McQuillan and O'Sullivan, for the able manner in which they performed their respective parts. During the entr'acts the audience was enlivened in a very agreeable way by selections from the College Band and Orchestra, under the leadership of Rev. U. E. Vian, O.S.C., as well as by vocal solos from Mr. John O'Sullivan and Mr. James McAtee.

After the drama the farce "Medica" was presented. In this farce Mr. Manning, as the discoverer of a new medicine, played his part to perfection, and while all the others did well special mention should be made of Messrs. Deignon and Griffin, the colored attendants, who by their whimsical performances wrung from the audience continued laughter and applause. Mr. Tighe, too, the man with the fits, was so natural in his paroxysms as to make even his colored attendants turn pale from fear. At the close of the entertainment, Rev. Father Meahan, in a short speech, greatly encouraged the young actors by congratulating them for the very pleasant evening they afforded to all, and the promises they gave of future prominence.

A. B.

THEIR ANNUAL SERVICE.

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.

The annual services in connection with St. Patrick's Total Abstinence & Benefit Society were held on Sunday last. The pastor, the Rev. Father Quinlivan, celebrated Mass at 8 a.m., at the conclusion

of which the members of the society received the Holy Communion. At the evening service the sermon was preached by the Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., of St. Ann's. He chose as his subject, "Zal in the Temperance Cause." He pointed out that many were kept from joining temperance societies through feelings of false respect, and also by an erroneous idea that they would be deprived of their liberty. The services were concluded by the solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Rev. Father Bancart, C.S.S.R., of St. Ann's officiated, assisted by Fathers Poupin and McCallen. Representatives from the Total Abstinence and Benefit Societies of St. Ann's and St. Patrick's parishes were present in large numbers. A large number of men took the pledge from the Rev. Father McCallen at the conclusion of the Benediction.

WEDDING BELLS.

MACKAY AND FLYNN.

On the 28th November, last, at St. Patrick's church, by the Rev. Father Quinlivan, P.P., were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, Mr. G. R. Mackay, of Mexico, to Miss Sophia Rosanna Flynn, daughter of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. Thomas Tighe Flynn, of Her Majesty's Customs, and late of the Honorable Trinity Corporation, of London, England. The ceremony was accompanied with all the expressions of congratulation that the young couple and their relatives so well deserved. After the marriage a breakfast was partaken of at the residence of the bride's father, 312 St. Charles Brommee street, and a large number of relatives and friends assembled to do honor to the occasion. Subsequently the happy couple left for Mexico, amidst the congratulations and well-wishes of their numerous friends. May their future be happy is our sincere hope.

BYRNE—CAYES.

With the sincerest congratulations to the happy young couple, we announce the marriage of Mr. Daniel Byrne, of the Herald editorial staff, to Miss Marie Cayes, of St. Victor of Alfred, Ont. The event took place on last Saturday, and the ceremony by the Rev. Father Marre, S.S. Mr. Byrne, who is a native of Dublin, had been for years connected with the Irish and English press, and had already achieved a name for himself in his chosen profession, before coming to Canada. Since his arrival in this country, some few years ago, he has become one of the most popular and widely respected journalists in our Province. At present Mr. Byrne is connected with the Montreal Herald, and his talents are most highly appreciated. Needless to say that we most heartily extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Byrne, and we trust that their future will be most prosperous, and that they may, in the language of the poet:

"Move out on life's mystical ways,
Dividing the cares of existence,
But doubling its hopes and its joys."

A GALA DAY.

The twenty-third December will be a gala day in St. Mary's parish. On that occasion the Rev. Father O'Donnell, the beloved and universally popular parish priest, will celebrate the twelfth anniversary of his ordination. Rev. Father Heffernan, who will be ordained on the twenty-second, will celebrate his first Mass that day. What a glorious day it will be. The latter entering upon his sacred ministry, and for a first time ascending "the altar of God, the God who rejoiceth in his youth," the former beholding the completion of a dozen years of sacred ministry and receiving the tokens of love and veneration from the people for whom he cherishes such an affection. May the day be a herald of Christmas peace for the whole parish!

ST. GABRIEL'S BAZAAR.

The Bazaar in aid of the new St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church, Centre street, will be opened in the basement of the new church this evening, and will be continued for about ten days. The various committees have worked hard in making the necessary arrangements, and the tables will be tastefully decorated and attended to by a bevy of popular young ladies. In his remarks on Sunday morning, the Rev. Father O'Meara particularly requested those who would

work inside the hall to abstain from pressing themselves upon the young men and visitors, and to allow every person who patronized the bazaar to be free to come and go without being afraid of paying them a second call.

THE DANGER OF DYNAMITE.

A FEARFUL CATASTROPHE IN HULL.

OTTAWA, Dec. 4.—Five men were killed and a score of people were injured by an explosion of dynamite in Hull a few minutes before eight o'clock this morning.

The accident occurred on the Hull works extension, corner Duke and Wall streets. Two boxes containing 40 pounds of dynamite each, did the damage. The dynamite was used for blasting purposes on the extension.

Telephore Seguin, foreman; Norbert Martin, P. Martin, and another man were guarding the dynamite cabin.

Norbert Martin discovered the cabin was on fire. He immediately rushed towards it to extinguish the flames and was just about to open the door when the explosion took place.

Martin was thrown fifty feet into the air and fell dead.

Foreman Seguin noticed the flames about the same time that Martin did and was within ten feet of the cabin when the dynamite exploded. He, too, was thrown high into the air and came to the ground not dead, but dying. He died an hour afterwards.

Henry Laroche, night watch at Hurdman's lumber mill, who was passing by the scene of the accident on his way homeward when the explosion occurred, was instantly killed. His body was horribly mutilated.

Moise Barbeau, a 12-year old boy, who was passing along Wall Street, on his way to school, was struck by flying rocks and died a minute afterwards.

Albert Beauchamp, 15 years old, another school boy, was also struck by the flying stones.

Pudhorum Martin, one of the men who was watching the cabin, had an eye knocked out by a flying stone, and was otherwise seriously injured, but was not killed.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S RETREAT.

The Roman Catholic ecclesiastical year commenced on Sunday, and in accordance with a time honored custom, the Archbishop of Montreal and the priests of his household commenced their annual retreat yesterday, the Tuesday following the first Sunday in Advent.

ECCLESIASTICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Archbishop Fabre has made the following appointments:—Rev. A. St. Jean, vicar at the Sacred Heart; Rev. F. X. Trepanier, 'Vicaire Forain' for district No. 6; Rev. F. X. Trepanier, member of the diocesan officiality.

RETREAT AT ST. MARY'S.

The retreat for the ladies of the parish of St. Mary's will begin this evening at 7:30, and will continue until Saturday. Rev. Father Fahey, of St. Patrick's parish, will be the preacher, and services will be held at 6:30 and 8 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. daily.

CHILDREN OF MARY.

The young ladies of "St. Patrick's Children of Mary" Society commenced their preparatory Triduum of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the Chapel of Our Lady of Angels, Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The services, which will include an exhortation, a meditation and the singing of congregational hymns, are under the direction of the Rev. James Callaghan.

The grown girl of a family often doesn't wash her face for several days, claiming it is not good for the complexion. If the boy makes the same claim he is whipped.

Brown—"How long have you known that man you lent a dollar to this morning?" Jones—"I never knew him long. He's been short ever since I first met him."

Politics are full of uncertainties. To-day a man is on the stump, and next week he may be all in a tree.