

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

Reddite quae sunt Caesaris, Caesari; et quae sunt Dei Deo.—Matt. 22: 21.

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NOTES.

The precedent which has been established by the Hon. Mr. Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, in the distribution of the annual departmental reports, namely, that of furnishing all the leading papers of the country, irrespective of politics, with the report, the Minister fixing a day upon which their contents should be made public, has been commented upon with much satisfaction. The *Mail* editorial says in its issue of Thursday: "The Minister has thus risen above partisan considerations, and has shown an example which those of his colleagues who are blessed with broad and intelligent views on public matters will be certain to follow."

It is encouraging to note that the Temperance work amongst Catholics is being vigorously pushed, if not in Toronto, at all events in other cities in Canada, and with the happiest results. Thanks to the zeal of the Jesuit Fathers, the League of the Cross in Guelph is the model of a Temperance organization. The same good results are being obtained for our people in Montreal, through the efforts of Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., of St. Anne's Church, and of the Rev. Father McCallen and clergy of St. Patrick's in that city. At the meeting of one of the large societies in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday last, Father McCallen spoke upon the text: "Wine, drunken with excess, raiseth quarrels and wrath and many ruins." The rev. speaker said that no man who loved his religion or his country or the fair name of this city, could afford to ignore this subject. As members of society, as Catholics, they had interests at stake, spiritual and temporal, which were threatened by the giant evil drink, and unless they were up and doing they would pay dearly for their inactivity. He said that since society had the right to protect itself from every enemy that puts in jeopardy its interests, it should fight to the bitter end the greatest of our social

evils. It caused an increase in taxation for the support of prisons, hospitals, asylums, courts of law, administration of justice—all of which were necessary, but increased beyond proportion by drink's doings. Two-thirds of the evils which afflict society were caused by drink. Why, then, so much procrastination in fighting this enemy in his stronghold? Was it the fault of our statesmen, the lawyers, or was it the fault of society? The man who adulterated our food was punished; the druggist who, by neglect, caused sickness or death, was punished. We pursued every violator of the law. Police forces were paid to protect our life and property, but there was really no law to restrain men from dealing out rank poison, called drink, to every poor victim who asked for it. There was no law, or rather no zealous enforcement of the law, to protect the Lord's day from desecration and scandal. It would seem as if that day, above all others, was selected for the moral ruin of the working classes. The law must step in and save society from this evil; it must separate the liquor traffic from all other trades; it must diminish the number of taverns, saloons, etc. If it did not, then they as members of society must ask the reason why, since the greater advances this cause of temperance make in our midst the less misery we shall have to deplore.

The report comes that Mr. Edward Harrington, M.P., has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for publishing in his paper, the *Kerry Sentinel*, reports concerning a suppressed branch of the National League. No appeal was taken. The cruelty of this decision is not in the imprisonment; but in the degradation heaped on a gentleman by the sentence, "with hard labour." This means that Mr. Harrington will be allowed no privileges whatever; that he shall be classed with the lowest criminals, to work with them, eat with them, sleep with them; and that the full rigour of the petty persecution known to the servants of Dublin Castle shall be wreaked on him. And this gentleman is a member of the British Parliament, a leading Irish journalist, and one of the most respected public men in Ireland.

How Christmas is celebrated in some parts of Ireland will be seen from the following letter, which appeared in the *Dublin Freeman's Journal* :—

DEAR SIR,—Late on Christmas Eve I received the following telegram from Father Stephens, of Falcarragh :— "Sergeant noticed publicans to-day to prepare accommodation for forces." To have selected Christmas Eve for such a work seems to me a cynical piece of brutality; and what makes the action of the landlord and the Executive more revolting in this particular instance is that, if I am correctly informed, the potato crop has totally failed in the district this autumn, and already, I am told, most of the tenants on the Olphert estate have no potatoes left, and it is very doubtful whether there is money enough in the district to buy meal till the next crop comes in.—

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DILLON.
2, North Great George's Street, Christmas Day, 1888.