

## The True Witness

And Catholic Chronicle

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1905.

MONTREAL AND THE SCHOOL  
ISSUE.

That element of the Protestant community in Montreal that has hung its lot in with the anti-Catholic agitation in Ontario and has sought to deny freedom of education to the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, has little to be satisfied with in the result. But far less reason for satisfaction will the intelligent Protestant people of Montreal find in the performance. The Territories have an excellent and satisfactory system of schools. No one outside the Orange faction in Ontario thought of asking that the erection of the new provinces be made an excuse for working a radical change in that system.

The Hamilton Spectator, an extreme Conservative organ, was the first to demand the insertion of a clause in the autonomy bills wiping out the guarantee of minority rights contained in the Act of 1875. That suggestion was made with a definite object. The Catholic minority in the Territories was small and unimportant. It was conceived to be without the power of resistance. It was much weaker comparatively than the minority in Manitoba that had fought and been beaten. But, however weak it might be, the Conservative press knew that the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier would stand or fall by the guarantee of 1875.

The cry of provincial rights finally adopted in the House of Commons by Mr. R. L. Borden and Dr. Sproule was not less antagonistic to the weak minority in the Territories than the brutal challenge of the Hamilton Spectator. Mr. Borden, however, was afraid to say in the presence of the Quebec representatives who had repeatedly heard him pledge himself to the constitution at two general elections, what the Conservative organs were openly declaring in Ontario, viz., that an opportunity having presented itself to make open war upon Catholic influence in the west, the Conservative party should make the cause its own and bolster up the attack. Mr. Borden has bolstered it up to the best of his ability, and Catholics will know where to place him in the future. Credit is due to Mr. F. D. Monk, who took refuge in no evasion, but avowed himself a supporter of the Government. Mr. Monk's words are an assurance to Catholics, if that were needed, that the substitute clauses which have been accepted by the Western Liberals, cover all the rights the Catholics of the Territories now enjoy in principle and substance. So the matter is settled. The clause will pass in this form.

What does it profit Protestant ministers in Montreal to have shown their hand in this incident? At the present moment they are claiming a larger share of school taxes in this

city for the Protestant panel. Is this the time for avowing their willingness to deprive the Catholic minority in another part of the Dominion of the use of Catholic schools, and of the taxes they have been paying for thirty years to those schools?

A correspondent who signs himself "Protestant," in the Daily Witness, writes as follows:

"School taxes are levied on lands, and are to be paid over according to the religion of the owner, not according to the prevailing religion in the Province of Quebec, which should have nothing to do with the apportionment. Banks, railways and other corporations are owned by their shareholders. They pay the school taxes, which are deducted from their dividends."

This is exactly in line with what we said some time ago, that by bigotry Protestant capital is assumed to possess the power of enslaving the Catholic people of Montreal, just as the Protestant majority of numbers is declared entitled to enslave the Catholics of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Bigotry here and there is the same. It is always insensible to reason, essentially so. It knows no justice. In the West it is the majority of the people who must rule. In Montreal land values must decide that Catholic children shall be deprived of their proper share of the taxpayers' money paid towards the cause of public education.

In Montreal the minority has been generously dealt with. Ald. Desroses has figured out to his own satisfaction that more generosity is in order. We do not know whether his idea is to drop coals of fire on the heads of the bigots who have equipped themselves in the present crisis with two tones to their voice, in one yelling that the Protestant majority must rule in the west, and with the other that Protestant shareholders must be given free rein over the majority of the people in the east.

Speaking in all sincerity and moderation, The True Witness deprecates the raising of strained contentions in behalf of right or privilege for class or religion. The majority always should give an example of generosity. But justice alone would demand of us, in this city of Montreal, to state our conviction that a few fanatics do not represent the mind of the Protestant community. The history of Montreal is a history of religious and racial amity and co-operation. Upon this harmony the city has prospered and religion and education have advanced here far beyond the average either for the Dominion or the continent. If Catholics have to learn from their Protestant fellow-citizens, it will not be from the inconsiderable clique of bigots they will ever profit anything. But they can afford to learn much by the evidence of broad-minded generosity to higher education which has made the name of Montreal known throughout the world.

## LIGHT ON THE IRISH SITUATION.

In another column we reproduce an article by Mr. Walter Wellman, of Washington, upon the position in which the resignation of Mr. Wyndham leaves Irish Home Rule. Mr. Wellman is the same correspondent who, upon the eve of Sir Antony MacDonnell's appointment, was informed of the plans then decided upon to lead Ireland by conciliation to the goal of self-government. Mr. Wellman at the time referred to carried to Mr. Balfour the credentials of President Roosevelt, a fact well worth bearing in mind now, when he says that, despite what has happened, both political parties in the United States are looking with favor upon plans to give Ireland a rational and modern government. The fact of the matter is that with Mr. Balfour's power passing swiftly out of his hands, his ability to carry out the Wyndham plans has practically collapsed.

But there is a phase of the question upon which Mr. Wellman has not touched, and which strengthens his view that Home Rule for Ireland has merely been deferred. This is the collapse of Imperialism. It was

the Imperialist movement that gave the first check to the advancing Irish cause. Then the Boer war came on and Imperialism became flushed with its fever. The English masses were told by Mr. Chamberlain and his lieutenants that the spirit of Imperialism comprehended an England dominant not only over Ireland but over the colonies as well. Time has dissipated that dream. Mr. Chamberlain will never take the field as the leader of a live political issue. He figures rather as the antagonist of Mr. Balfour than as his ally. The British mind is coming back to the rational ideals of democracy. The Liberal party will be placed in power at the next elections, and not only the British parliament but the British people will be in the mood for concessions which whilst Imperialism enjoyed a fictitious popularity would not have been entertained.

## FRANCE DRIFTS IN DANGER.

According to the cable reports of last week's debate in the French Chamber, the present Government is pressing harder than ever for the separation of Church and State, or as Count Boni de Castellane calls it, the extinction of the Church by the State. The time is past for hoping for a change for the better in France. The trend of affairs is being watched with deep concern not only in Rome, but throughout the Catholic world, and graver fears than before seem to be entertained as to the possible consequences of any strong action in opposition to the government course. The Supreme Pontiff himself has adhered to a prudent line of conduct from the beginning. When the rupture comes, it cannot fail to entail consequences to France which the Holy See would desire avoided for the religious peace of her children and for the interests of the Republic.

Count Albert de Mun, who is writing for the "Gaulois" a series of articles on the Separation of Church and State, proves that the whole campaign was started by the French Freemasons, who first utilized the Dreyfus case, and then got the Socialists to give up their special claims and economic projects and join forces with the anti-Catholics. Count de Mun has had no reason to change the views he has already given to the French people. He holds that the religious Congregations, as the advanced defences of the church, were first chosen for destruction. This was brought about, he adds, by spreading the legends of the Millard of the Congregations, the business monks, the Jesuit conspiracy, and the rest of it. There was not at first any intention of assailing Congregations like the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Charity. Now, the intention is to destroy all that remains with the parochial clergy. There is no doubt that the gloomy view taken by Count de Mun is warranted by his observation of the history of this anti-religious movement. He has not ceased to hope, however, that the eyes of the people may be opened in time, perhaps before a monarchist effort may be precipitated to work equal harm to France and the Church.

## SECOND READING OF THE BILLS.

The vote on the second reading of the autonomy bills for Alberta and Saskatchewan may not be taken by the end of next week. The political situation at the present time is perfectly clear, however. The discussion will nearly all turn upon the school clauses, and the only object of it will be that members may go on record upon the Hansard so as to meet their constituents afterwards. The majority in favor of the bills will probably be the largest ever recorded upon any important measure decided by the Parliament of Canada.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RUSSIA.

In connection with the ukase of the Czar proclaiming freedom of religion, the Vatican has received information that the Russian Government has, through Count Schmentz, Archbishop

of Mohilev, summoned all the Catholic Bishops in Old Russia to St. Petersburg, and has asked them to formulate their wishes in matters of reform. At the same time the Polish Episcopacy, assembled for the same purpose, have through Archbishop Popiel, of Warsaw, forwarded their requests to the Government. A copy has been sent to the Pope. The resolutions adopted at both meetings concluded by asking the Government to respect the fundamental laws of Russia, and abolish all additional rules limiting religious liberty.

The death of Mr. John Augustus O'Shea, a native of Nenagh, the distinguished war correspondent, journalist, and author, took place at his residence, Jeffrey's road, Clapham, London.

The German Emperor was a guest at a dinner given at the French Embassy in Berlin. This is the first time that a German sovereign has visited the Embassy since the Franco-Prussian war.

For the trip to England organized by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, 230 passengers have booked, including representative manufacturers from every province in the Dominion, with the exception of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Charles Santley, the famous baritone and distinguished convert, whose singing of Niedermeyer's "Pater Noster" in the Gesu Church, Montreal, in 1891 was so much admired, completed his 71st year on Feb. 28 and attributes his splendid health to the long walks he takes every day.

In Parkdale (Toronto) Congregational Church last Sunday, Rev. Dr. Wild told how it had been explained to him by "a gentleman prominent in Italy," that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a Jesuit, and ten years ago an arrangement had been made for him to apparently run counter to the Quebec bishops and priests at the coming elections. He had carried the country by his attitude. The plot was that, provided he secured a good majority in the second subsequent election, he should bring in his bill. The compact was kept a close secret between the Premier and hierarchy. The coming bill was not whispered of at election time, and only part of the Cabinet informed, but all along the Premier had every day been in consultation with Mgr. Sbarretti. There are people in Toronto who swallow stories like the foregoing and open their mouths for more.

Mr. Lyttleton, Secretary for the Colonies in the British House of Commons, was asked yesterday afternoon by Mr. Charles Devlin, as to whether or not his attention had been called to a statement made by the Secretary of State of Canada in the Senate at Ottawa on Feb. 22, 1905, that the policy of the Home Government in refusing to accede to the repeated demands of the Canadian authorities for a reduction in certain postal rates was extraordinary, unwelcome, unsympathetic and unpatriotic. What action did the government intend taking? Lord Stanley, Postmaster-General, replied that he had seen the utterances, and his attention had been drawn to the attitude of the Canadian Senate. He would furnish Mr. Devlin with a full report bearing on the whole subject, which was too comprehensive to communicate across the floor of the House. This would show that there were two sides to the question.

## DEATH OF MICHAEL O'CONNELL.

Death came suddenly to Michael O'Connell, a member of the police force, on Friday morning, when he came in contact with a live electric wire at No. 9 Police Station, Point St. Charles. The deceased had been on the police force only a short time and had proved himself an efficient officer. The funeral, which took place from his late residence, 57 Barre street, on Sunday afternoon, was largely attended. Chief Campbell and several members of the police force being present. Interment took place at Cote des Neiges cemetery.

JOHN REDMOND'S  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY SPEECH

At the great St. Patrick's Day dinner, held in the Hotel Cecil, London, at which over 600 guests sat down, the principal speech was delivered by Mr. John Redmond, who was received with plaudits, and said:

"Once more I have the pleasure of welcoming you all here to this Patrick's Day celebration, and once more, owing to the favor of the committee, I have the honor to propose for your acceptance the toast of the evening—that is, the toast of 'Ireland a Nation' (cheers). The celebration of the National anniversary ought to be, in my judgment, in the bravest and truest sense, a National one. This is not an occasion for party recrimination or bitter controversies. Amongst Irishmen of all classes and creeds and races who are proud of the land of their birth, and are desirous for her prosperity and her freedom, this ought to be a day of good will (cheers)—a day when party differences as to methods or means or persons ought to be forgotten in the glory of celebrating the nationality of Ireland (cheers). There are men I know in Ireland who do not fulfil the condition that I have named, who are not proud of the land of their birth, and are not desirous of her freedom, and, unfortunately, we have had quite recently a significant reminder of the ascendancy class in Ireland who opposed the first attempt at emancipation in the Irish Parliament in 1793, who drove Fitzwilliam out of Ireland in 1795, who created the Insurrection of 1800, and who carried the Union of 1800, and who since then thwarted Thomas Drummond in 1835, and have opposed every measure of reform for Ireland, large and small, from that day to this—we have unfortunately a significant reminder that the Ascendancy faction is still alive and still under British rule in Ireland potent for evil in our country. But even of these men, I say they are not excluded from our ideal of an Irish nation (cheers). For my part, I believe in the restoration of freedom and free institutions even upon such men. We in Ireland want no triumph of any class or creed or race (cheers). We want our Irish nation with the true attributes of Nationhood; we want a nation with a distinct individuality, with a distinctly national genius, standing alone, self-centered, self-reliant, so far as any rate as National character is concerned, and a nation armed with the weapon of National self-government (cheers). To achieve that end we repel the aid of no man, no matter what his origin, what race he springs from, what his creed or his class may be, so long as he is born on Irish soil and is willing to labor for Irish freedom (cheers). And, in truth, we say with Davis:

"And of it were a glorious thing to show before mankind,  
How every race and every creed  
Might be combined, yet not forget  
The source from whence they rose,  
As fed by many a rivald,  
The lordly Shannon flows." (Cheers).

How is the cause of Irish nationhood progressing? To our eyes, watching from year to year, from month to month, and from week to week, and from hour to hour, the progress may seem slow, and I suppose to everyone of us there come our moments of doubt and despondency and perhaps impatience. But, look back for 25 years, look back for 10 years, look back for even five years, and you will see the enormous advance which the National cause of Ireland has made, and the most satisfactory thing about that advance is that it has not been simply an enormous advance—it has been a steady and uninterrupted advance (hear, hear). It has been an advance on every field of National progress—National, social, literary and artistic (cheers). So far as the purely political field is concerned, I believe the prospects of Ireland never looked brighter than at this moment; and, although I am Chairman of the Irish Party, I will take the liberty of saying that Ireland never had in her service a more capable and more honest party (cheers). Ladies and gentlemen, the Irish question is the political question of the day (cheers). It dominates the House of Commons; it threatens the Government. At the commencement of this session Mr. Balfour and the Government found that on the fiscal question, which was regarded as the great rock of danger ahead, they had a comfortable majority of 56. But this very moment the Irish question came up upon the floor of the House of Commons, their majority went down to 28, to 26, to 21 (cheers). I

have noticed for some years past now what at first seemed to me a strange phenomenon—namely, that the approach of St. Patrick's Day so regularly year by year heralded a speech from Lord Rosebery (laughter) of insult to Ireland and of denunciation of our cause. This happened so often that the wonder of it has worn off (hear, hear), and I think sensible people have ceased to take note of these utterances. But let us make no mistake. There are some worthy people who apparently trouble themselves with or interest themselves in these speeches. When the spring comes we expect to hear the voice of the cuckoo (laughter), and when the first song of that interesting but somewhat unscrupulous bird (laughter) is heard, the fact is always duly recorded in the press, and there are always found a number of most worthy people who are deeply moved, and when St. Patrick's Day approaches we have learned to expect to hear the voice of Lord Rosebery raised against Ireland and Home Rule, and, again, a certain number of most worthy people who write articles in the papers about Irish affairs are deeply interested and concerned (laughter). But the truth is that neither in the one case nor the other is any living human being one-half penny the better or the worse (cheers and laughter). Lord Rosebery's denunciations of Home Rule have no more effect upon the progress of Ireland's cause than the voice of the cuckoo has on the sequence of the seasons (renewed laughter and cheers). I see that Lord Rosebery, in his annual Patrick's Day speech, delivered in the city of London the other day, says that Home Rule is the curse of dual government at the heart of the Empire. Well, I suppose that speech was intended to intimidate or impress the Liberal Party. It cannot have been intended to intimidate or impress the Irish Party (laughter), because the noble Lord is well aware of the fact that nothing he could say and nothing that he could do could intimidate or impress, or even surprise, the Irish people (laughter and cheers). We have for a long time recognized that Lord Rosebery is firmly rooted in the dishonor of his foreforn pledges to Ireland (cheers)—Ireland, by whose favor, and by whose favor alone (renewed cheers), he was for the first time, and I venture to say, for the last time in his life, Prime Minister of England (cheers). I do not think myself that his speech is likely to intimidate the Liberal Party; but if it does, then so much the worse for the Liberal Party (hear, hear). Our position is perfectly plain. We will support and keep in office in the next Parliament no Liberal Party, no Liberal Government, which takes the Rosebery view of Home Rule for Ireland (loud cheers). And in the spirit of the most complete friendliness to the Liberal Party I give them this word of warning—that even if they succeed in the coming elections in returning to the House of Commons with a majority which is nominally independent of the Irish vote—a thing which, I think, a good many of them are anxious for but which I do not myself believe will take place—that even if they return in that position to the House of Commons, they will find the government of Ireland a sheer impossibility, and it will be our duty to make it so (loud cheers), if it is attempted to be run upon the lines of Lord Rosebery's dishonorable recantation of his pledges on the question of Home Rule (cheers).

## AUSTRALIA AND IRELAND.

Mr. Redmond, on St. Patrick's Day, received the following important cable from Cardinal Moran from Sydney:

"Cardinal Moran sends the greetings of Irish-Australia and proposes the establishment of a Home Rule tribute in aid of the Irish Party of twenty thousand pounds a year to be subscribed by the sea-divided Gael and guarantees Australia's share."

Mr. Redmond immediately replied to Cardinal Moran:

"In the name of the Irish Party I thank your Eminence for your noble message of sympathy and support—REDMOND."

Mr. Redmond also received the following cable from Boston:

"United Irish League, Boston, unites with countrymen in Ireland and England celebrating National Festival. God save Ireland—O'CALLAGHAN."

## ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.

Report for week ending Saturday, 25th March, 1905.

The following people had a night's lodging and breakfast: Irish, 219; French, 121; English, 27; other nationalities, 26. Total, 393.

OPPOSING VIEWS  
THE

(Continued from F)

MONK SUPPORTS THE

MENT.

Mr. F. D. Monk, the Conservative leader, who has intention of voting with the Government on the Bill, said he was trying to prevent national separation of the right to be exempt from taxation to which Catholics objected all over the Union and the right to the education at the end of control of education in the Government. Religion going up there to teach obliged to qualify under what the Catholics were was little enough. They have to depend on the broad-mindedness of the Territories to be secure villages. The principle instruction in the school fully cherished in England this country there seems a desire to imitate States in this respect. Catholics of the United Kingdom have no more effect upon the progress of Ireland's cause than the voice of the cuckoo has on the sequence of the seasons (renewed laughter and cheers). I see that Lord Rosebery, in his annual Patrick's Day speech, delivered in the city of London the other day, says that Home Rule is the curse of dual government at the heart of the Empire. Well, I suppose that speech was intended to intimidate or impress the Liberal Party. It cannot have been intended to intimidate or impress the Irish Party (laughter), because the noble Lord is well aware of the fact that nothing he could say and nothing that he could do could intimidate or impress, or even surprise, the Irish people (laughter and cheers). We have for a long time recognized that Lord Rosebery is firmly rooted in the dishonor of his foreforn pledges to Ireland (cheers)—Ireland, by whose favor, and by whose favor alone (renewed cheers), he was for the first time, and I venture to say, for the last time in his life, Prime Minister of England (cheers). I do not think myself that his speech is likely to intimidate the Liberal Party; but if it does, then so much the worse for the Liberal Party (hear, hear). Our position is perfectly plain. We will support and keep in office in the next Parliament no Liberal Party, no Liberal Government, which takes the Rosebery view of Home Rule for Ireland (loud cheers). And in the spirit of the most complete friendliness to the Liberal Party I give them this word of warning—that even if they succeed in the coming elections in returning to the House of Commons with a majority which is nominally independent of the Irish vote—a thing which, I think, a good many of them are anxious for but which I do not myself believe will take place—that even if they return in that position to the House of Commons, they will find the government of Ireland a sheer impossibility, and it will be our duty to make it so (loud cheers), if it is attempted to be run upon the lines of Lord Rosebery's dishonorable recantation of his pledges on the question of Home Rule (cheers).

## SIFTON CALLS IT COI

Hon Clifford Sifton:

"We are face to face with a mutually irreconcilable statement. The Minister of Finance well the other evening. What are you going to do? Are you going to decide? Government must be carried. The business of the country must be carried. And there is of two ways in which this can be decided. The Protector of Canada says to the people: 'You cannot do this. You cannot do that. We cannot convince you, more of us than there are, we are going to vote you out aside a proposition of (Applause). There is no Government who would attempt to carry out that kind of thing if he were. Least of all would a friend who leads the Opposition to see a proposition carried out, no matter what the merits of might be? Then, what is to do? What is of affairs going? You cannot make use on these questions, the members of this House, the inhabitants of the Dominion, and even if you did, honorable friend, the Minister very well said: 'If thought in this House as I have said, and if their efforts were to drive this question, all that my friend the Minister of Finance the other night, and would be true. (Hear, hear). Greater political misfortune happen to hon. gentlemen that they could be called to take office under those circumstances. Suppose it happened. E who knows the political Canada knows that we are about this question year out for years. The financial progress of might be paralyzed, the country would be in condition of affairs, and all done we should simply have started, and the people have to come together of opinion and compromise that. 'What I desire to say, in conclusion, is, very strong views on this I have not concealed from the members of the House. I am prepared to go in the compromise, I have no objection to the Prime Minister to the extent which is embodied in this proposition before this House.'"