

TO OUR PATRONS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1886

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We are now sending out our subscription accounts to subscribers to THE POST and TRUE WITNESS, and we earnestly trust that our patrons receiving these accounts will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness at an early date.

CATHOLIC voters in Ontario should bear in mind that Mr. Mowat has been condemned by the Tories because he has been friendly to the Catholics, gives aid to Catholic institutions, and helps the cause of Catholic education.

THE result of the elections in Manitoba is only what was expected, and has no special significance as bearing on the approaching general elections for the Dominion Parliament.

MR. BLAKE'S remarks on Prohibition seem to have excited the ire of certain of the temperance advocates of the Boanerges type. For them nothing but the "axe to the root" and "down with everything" will do.

Blake—who speaks too seldom—than in half a dozen acts of Parliament.

THE ELECTIONS.

The elections on Saturday resulted in one case in a sweeping victory for the Attorney-General, and in the other, what will probably be called by the governmental organs, a "moral victory."

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.

There are two counties in Ontario where the Catholic vote is so large that it can always decide the political character of the representation at Ottawa and Toronto.

Catholics and French Canadians will see by this extract the spirit and temper animating the Tory party in the present campaign.

A "CASE" FOR ENGLAND.

The British Government has shown itself so incompetent in its dealings with Ireland, and so utterly ignorant of its condition, that we are not surprised to observe that it has supplemented its Royal Commission to enquire into matters that ought to be familiar to everyone by an order to a gentleman to prepare a "case" for it.

"must necessarily turn out as severe a task as ever taxed a nation's energies, for to maintain the Treaty of Union with any good effect means, while refusing to accede to the wishes of millions of Irishmen, we must sedulously do justice to every fair demand from Ireland, most strenuously and without fear or favour assert the equal rights of landlords and tenants, of Protestants and Catholics, and must at the same time put down every outrage and reform every abuse."

THE DECADENCE OF ITALY.

In matters pertaining to morals and manners "Ouida," that very peculiar specimen of feminine writers, would hardly be regarded as a safe guide.

"The United Kingdom of Italy may, as a political fact, disappear tomorrow in any European war or any great Socialistic uprising; but historic Italy, classic Italy, artistic Italy, is a treasure which belongs to the whole world of culture, in which, indeed, the foreigner, if he be reverent of her soil, is far more truly her son than those born of her blood who violate her and desecrate her altars.

But this sad picture is made more lurid in succeeding paragraphs of "Ouida's" indictment. The following is her description of the Italy that has risen on the ruins of the Papal inheritance.

What are the Italians doing with her? It is sickening to note and to record. Nothing can ever give back to the world what, day by day, municipal councillors having houses to sell, syndicates and companies merely looking for speculation and speculation, contractors who seize on the land as a trooper seizes on a girl in a sacked town, are all taking from the fairest and the most ancient cities and towns in the world.

A CUT AT THE "MAIL."

It has been already pointed out in these columns that the intelligent Protestants in Ontario, no matter what the base kind of the Orange type may say, do or think, is strongly opposed to the abominable course of The Mail, as shown in its attempts to create religious prejudice and strife.

That this convention approves of the votes of the Parliament of Canada in sympathy with the just claims of the Irish people for local self-government in Ireland, and trusts that no proper occasion will be neglected by the Parliament of Canada to express the fullest sympathy with, and aid by their moral support, the Irish people in obtaining the extension to Ireland of the system of local self-government such as we enjoy in Canada, and which is here found to be inconsistent neither with loyalty to the crown nor with the integrity of the empire.

each Province of Canada to regulate the civil rights of the inhabitants of such Province, as provided for by the constitution of Canada, in accordance with the wishes of its people, and repudiates as contrary to true Conservative principles any interference or intermeddling by the Dominion Parliament, or by any Province with the rights of the people of another Province, to regulate their own civil rights, privileges and customs.

There is a wormwood—at least for the Mail. But then the Mail is an "independent" organ. It is clear that its "independence" is not of a type that commends itself to the favorable consideration of the electors.

DOMINION FINANCES.

The financial outlook for the Dominion is gloomy indeed. Every honest and intelligent citizen of Canada should look with alarm upon the corrupt methods by which the present government seeks to promote the interests of a party and retain power.

At the present moment a statement of the net public debt of Canada, if made by the Finance Department, would certainly exceed \$220,000,000! Add to this obligations already incurred, but not discharged, such as railway subsidies and expenditure authorized on capital account, and the shrinkage our nominal assets would undergo if converted into cash, and \$250,000,000 is many millions less than the actual net amount of the burden now resting upon the taxpayers of Canada!

This vast sum would represent \$33 for every man, woman and child in the Dominion. It represents a debt of over eleven dollars per acre on every acre of improved land in the Dominion, according to the census of 1881; and the payment of the interest on this great sum at 4 per cent, if raised by direct land tax, would require 44 cents yearly on every acre of improved land in the country; or, if levied as a poll tax, \$2 for each man, woman and child would annually be required for interest.

While our financial condition is rapidly growing desperate, as an admitted deficit last year of nearly \$6,000,000 clearly proves, no efforts at retrenchment are made. The expenditure has increased from \$23,503,000 in 1878 to \$39,176,000 in 1886! An increase in eight years of \$15,673,000! During the same period and up to June 30th, 1886, the net debt has increased at least \$80,000,000! The increase from 1884 to 1885 was over \$14,000,000, and for the financial year, ending June 30th, 1886, the increase will exceed \$20,000,000, showing most conclusively that matters are rapidly going from bad to worse.

The systematic, wholesale corruption that has been inaugurated at Ottawa, the waste of public resources, and public property, by gifts and grants to favorites and party hacks, and the debauching of Parliament by grants at railway subsidies, and sales at a mere fraction of their worth of timber limits, pasture leases and mineral lands to members of Parliament and their friends, is the most lamentable and dangerous feature of the political situation to-day.

It remains to be seen whether the people of Canada whose resources are being wasted, and whose common possessions are being sold for a song, will continue their confidence in the administration which wastes the public property and imperils the future of the country.

THE MONTCALM ELECTION.

It appears, from a despatch we have received from this constituency, that Mr. J. Curran imagines that he can obtain a coat of political whitewash by means of an address signed by a few local Irishmen.

many addresses he may receive, that at a great crisis in the history of Ireland, when the question of Home Rule was trembling in the balance and English speaking people the world over were looking anxiously to Westminster, the member for Montreal Centre failed in his duty.

That this convention endorses and maintains the system of Separate schools provided for by the constitution as the right of all classes of the people, and favors all measures to render more efficient the Separate school system, not inconsistent with the rights of the supporters of the Public school system.

At Aymer, Ont., on the 7th inst, Mr. Blake made a speech, in which he dealt with the Prohibition question. He maintained that the country is not ripe for a prohibitory liquor law, and distinctly refused to take it up as a party question.

MR. BLAKE ON PROHIBITION.

This declaration by the leader of the Liberal party is, like all his utterances, a clear, manly, unequivocal statement, which will be accepted by all as a reasonable, understandable position for one in his position to take.

Considering the state of opinion in both parties, he is not prepared to drive away from his side of general politics. Reformers who do not think as he does on temperance and prohibition. Nor will he refuse on temperance questions to co-operate with Tories who oppose him on general politics.

In his views on repressive legislation, Mr. Blake takes solid ground, ground that every man who is not a faddist must take when he considers the actual state of public opinion and the social habits of the people.

Mr. Blake then referred to the two financial questions involved in the consideration of his subject. The first of these is the question of revenue. He thought that the prosperity resultant from the disuse of intoxicating liquors would in time restore very largely the loss from the duties.

Mr. Blake was conscious that these views would not please the extremists of either party, but he could not help it. It was his duty to give his countrymen his honest views and take the consequences. That advice he gave, and those consequences he was prepared to face.

We look upon this statement as eminently satisfactory, and are glad that Mr. Blake has assumed a position in relation to this much vexed question, which agrees with the conclusions that all sensible men have arrived at. Let the advocates of prohibition address

themselves to the labor of educating the public. In that they have the hearty cooperation of the press, the pulpit, and the social powers. The temperance cause is making rapid progress, and can only be injured by repressive legislation which must fail through the indifference and hostility of large classes in the community.

"FACTS FOR IRISH ELECTORS."

Allusion has been made in these columns to a fly-sheet, issued by the Tories in the Ontario election campaign of 1883. As The Globe points out, all these three movements were going on simultaneously:—

- (1.) Sir John Meredith and Bunting were stirring up Roman Catholic prejudices against Mr. Mowat by means of this pamphlet. (2.) The same Sir John Macdonald was sitting enthroned at Ottawa by means of the disgraceful compact known as the Chestnut Park Treaty, and made between himself, Hon. Frank Smith, John O'Donohue, John Shields, Orange Sentinel Clarke, Sir David Macpherson, and others. (3.) Mr. Meredith and The Mail were trying to excite Protestant feeling by uttering cries about the Marmion business.

The affidavit follows:—

"AFFIDAVIT OF M. W. KIRWAN. I, the undersigned, M. W. Kirwan, of the city of Quebec, and presently in the city of Montreal, solemnly affirm as follows:— "I am a journalist. When in the city of Toronto in the year 1882 I was shown a letter from Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, addressed to a prominent Conservative friend of mine, urging the desirability of my services as a writer of campaign literature for the Conservative party during the approaching Ontario Provincial elections. The letter was an autograph one. I was accordingly engaged by the Conservative party for Ontario. My salary was \$800 per month. The understanding was that I should assist the Conservative party by special appeals to the Irish Catholic electors. Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, were aware of the agreement. I accordingly began to write an appeal to the Irish Catholics of Ontario. I wrote several doctored extracts from which have recently appeared in The Globe, of Toronto. While I was preparing it I had, occasionally, to make inquiries as to the nature and scope of my work from Mr. Meredith, to whom I had always easy access. This was during the session of the Ontario Legislature, and my researches were made in the Parliamentary Library, it was there that my consultations with Mr. Meredith generally took place. When the sheet, 'Facts for the Irish Catholic Electors,' was completed, I submitted a proof to Mr. Meredith in his private room in the Queen's Hotel, and I showed a proof to Mr. Bunting in his private office in the Mail Building. He received the proof as if expecting it and expressed no surprise. I also sent a proof to Sir John Macdonald under cover, marked 'private and confidential.' It was returned to me with several marginal corrections in Sir John's handwriting. I have a distinct recollection of some of the corrections made by Sir John Macdonald. He mentioned the names of some Irish Catholics who had been appointed by him to positions of emolument and trust. These corrections by Sir John were embodied in the sheet and published with it. I have also a distinct recollection of Mr. Bunting saying that if some of the corrections were made by Sir John Macdonald, or words to that effect. I remember, too, that Mr. Meredith raised no objections to any statement made in said sheet after reading the proof. He smiled approvingly, and said 'it would do,' or something similar to that. I am, too, the author of the circular containing the following letter and questions—

(Private and confidential.)

Toronto, Jan. 7, 1883.

Dear Sir,—A letter will be forwarded to you in a day or so making enquiries with reference to the Catholic vote in your riding. Be good enough to answer the questions and forward your reply without delay to H. H. Smith, Esq., Peterboro'.

Yours faithfully,

QUESTIONS.

- 1. About how many Catholic electors are there in your riding? 2. About how many of them voted for the Conservative candidate the last election? 3. About how many voted for the Reformers? 4. About how many were there who did not vote at all? 5. Who are the Catholic clergymen in the riding? 6. How did they vote? 7. Did they take an active part in the contest, and if so, how? 8. What reasons, if any, do the Catholic electors give for supporting Mr. Mowat? 9. Have you any suggestions to make as to the best means of putting the Conservative cause fairly before the Catholic electors? 10. Give the names of a few of the most influential Catholics in your riding? 11. Send a complete list of the Catholic electors in your riding, with names and addresses. 12. Oblige by returning this list at once, and the reply to question eleven, as soon as possible. 13. Name of riding.

"These questions were also submitted to Mr. Meredith and approved by him. It was, to the best of my recollection, on his suggestion that the answers were directed to H. H. Smith, of Peterborough, although said circulars were mailed by me from Toronto. My salary was regularly paid by Mr. Smith during this time, and for several months while I was canvassing and addressing meetings of the Irish Catholic electors of Ontario. "And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An Act for the suppression of voluntary and extra judicial oaths.'"

"Solemnly affirmed before me at Montreal, on this fourth day of December, A.D. 1886,

"W. A. WHEAT, a Commissioner in Quebec for receiving affidavits for Ontario, 181 St. James Street, Montreal."

Now, Sir John Macdonald has taken the opposite tack, and is howling at Protestants to put down the Papists. Does he imagine Irish Catholics are such purblind idiots that they don't see through his miserable game?

THE TORY CREED.

Everybody accepts The Mail as the mouth-piece of the party led by Sir John Macdonald in the Dominion. Mr. Meredith in Ontario and Dr. Ross in Quebec. Should there have