

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Sept. 20.

THE SESSION.—In the political world there is a really nothing new to tell your readers. This week is being occupied with the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Redistribution Bills. Once through the committee stage, these two measures will go to the Senate, which venerable body resumed its sessions, on Tuesday, 22nd, after a holiday of three weeks. All that remains for the Commons to do is to pass the Audit Act; to consider the supplementary estimates; and to settle the questions regarding subsidies for the coming year. It is, therefore, most likely that the session will end about the 10th or 14th October. There is no likelihood that it can possibly go past the 15th October—Thanksgiving Day; and many will say, "Deo Gratias" with a good heart when the Cannons boom on Nepean Point to proclaim the close of the longest session since Confederation. Meanwhile neither members of Parliament nor employees of the Commons can get a dollar. They had to wait till the dead-lock between the Auditor-General and the Minister of Finance would be broken. And as the Audit Act is to be the hammer that will break it, they have to now await in patience the passage of the same.

AN OLD CITIZEN DEAD.—One of Ottawa's oldest and most respected citizens passed to his reward on Sunday last, in the person of the late Mr. James Latchford, father of the Hon. Francis Latchford, Commissioner of Public Works in the Ontario Government. Mr. Latchford had reached the advanced age of ninety-four years, and throughout his whole life he had enjoyed perfect health. Death was due to old age. He had been a resident of Ottawa for fifty-six years. When he came here Sparks street had not been opened up, and Bytown consisted of a small village in what is now known as Lower Town. He was born near the city of Limerick, Ireland, July 27th, 1810. He came to Canada in 1846, and after spending a year in Quebec moved to Ottawa. For a time he acted as foreman for Mr. McIntosh, the constructor of the Rideau Canal. Then he was appointed foreman of the Britannia farm, which position he held until 1866, when he moved into the city and went into business. In 1890 he retired to take a well-earned rest after a life of continued exertion. He is survived by three children—Hon. F. R. Latchford, Ottawa; Mrs. Wm. Kerwan, Eardley, P.Q.; and Miss Latchford, who resided with her father. In the death of Mr. Latchford one more of the conspicuous and honored landmarks vanishes and the Irish Catholic population of Canada loses one of its most patriotic and exemplary citizens. His life was an honor to his race, a benefit to the land of his adoption, and a consolation for the Church of which he was a most devout and faithful communicant. May his soul rest in peace.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.—On Sunday His Grace Archbishop Duhamel paid his pastoral visit to St. Francis d'Assisi parish on the Richmond road, and preached a most instructive sermon on "Conscience." Next Sunday His Grace will visit the parish of the Holy Family, Ottawa East.

There are eighteen theological students in the diocesan Seminary under Rev. Father Poli, the director. Five more are expected to enter this week. At St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, Rev. Father Murphy asked for volunteers among the young ladies of the parish to take charge of two or three extra classes of little girls on Sunday afternoons, to teach them their catechism. There are a great many more children attending this year than for a number of years past.

The new Blessed Virgin altar in St. Patrick's Church is finished and stood uncovered on Sunday last, to the admiration of the congregations at the various Masses. Rev. Father Whelan announced in connection with it that about \$1,000 would be realized from the 100 home banks, about 25 of which are still to be returned. With other private subscriptions this will make a total of \$1,700 towards paying for it, but there is still a balance of \$500 necessary. Rev. Father Mothson, Superior of

the Dominican Order in the United States and Canada, has not yet been heard from in connection with the election of a prior to succeed Rev. Father Rouleau of the Dominican Monastery here. The community held the triennial election on Wednesday last, but until the superior's approval has been received the new prior's name will not be known.

The annual retreat of the Dominican Fathers began Thursday evening last, and will be concluded next Sunday morning. The sermons of the retreat are being preached by Rev. Father Maricourt of St. Hyacinthe, Que., who delivered a sermon at High Mass in St. Jean Baptiste Church.

Great preparations are to be made for the grand feast of the Dominican Order, the feast of the Holy Rosary, which is celebrated on Sunday, October 4th. The choir of St. Jean Baptiste Church, under the direction of Rev. Father Milville, is preparing special music for the occasion, and there will be a solemn High Mass.

CONGESTION IN CITIES

One of the subjects of discussion at the annual conference of the Royal Institute of Public Health at Liverpool, England, was on city congestion. Austin Taylor, M.P., said that the country "was only on the threshold of an enormous slum problem—a monster whose outward aspect was one of bricks and mortar, but in the interior dark with the tragic fate of men, women, and especially children, whose dreary mechanical life was only ended by death. It was useless to cure plague spots in the centre of the cities and to let the outlying belt grow up in a haphazard fashion."

He suggested the municipalities should be allowed to buy land three miles outside their boundaries where streets could be laid out on model lines, trees preserved, and a general style of architecture insisted upon. There must be expansion to cure congestion, and for that purpose he also advocated the compulsory acquisition of suitable areas on moderate terms, the reduction of interest on public loans for demolition and rehousing, and rating of vacant sites on their capital value, by which model dwellings could be erected at not greater rent than 1s. (24 cents) per room weekly.

Dr. James Niven, medical officer for Manchester, said it was generally recognized that an effort should be made by the sanitary authorities to house as many as possible of the poorer working class families on the outlying parts of these districts under the improved conditions of light, air, space, and construction of dwellings. So far, efforts in this direction had been the result of private enterprise and confined to persons above the laboring classes. A great impulse had already been given to the movement outward by the development of electric trams.

With a view to house persons displaced by sanitary and other improvements, the Manchester corporation had purchased a considerable estate in the northern limit, which is well provided with transport facilities. A committee had just begun the development of this estate by the erecting on and adjoining this road dwellings for artisans not of the poorest class, and were taking other steps to form a new colony. Powers were being sought to enable the Manchester corporation to provide shops, schools, churches, and other institutions, but a complete scheme had not yet been framed. Meanwhile, the Manchester corporation were endeavoring to provide model dwellings of various types which would assist in improving the future provision of houses by private enterprise.

The corporation had bought Blackley estate of 237 acres at £150 (\$729.97) per acre, and were erecting eighty dwellings on it at moderate rents; but a portion of the estate would not be built on, being intended for allotments. In the centre of Manchester eight unsanitary areas had been dealt with, of which three were to be left open spaces, while on the other side provision had been made for 2,729 people, in lieu of 3,127 displaced. Apart from the humanitarian aspect of the question, it was good finance for municipalities to remove as many people as possible from the centres of cities to a more wholesome atmosphere and all-round better conditions of the outskirts.—New York Evening Post.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Sunday, October 8, will witness a fitting religious commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the archiepiscopal diocese of San Francisco. The event will be celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral.

THE O'NEILLS OF CLARE.

(From the Clare Champion, Aug. 22)

We are sure that many of our Clare and Limerick readers will be pleased to hear that Mr. John M. O'Neill, eldest son of Mr. John O'Neill, formerly of the firm of Slattery, O'Neill and Co., Limerick, was sworn in in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, on the 11th ult. Mr. O'Neill was born in Limerick, where his grandfather initiated the building of the beautiful Church of the Redeemerist Fathers, wherein a tablet fittingly perpetuates his memory as "The Donor of the Stations of the Cross," etc. We have received a very interesting sketch of the O'Neill family from a correspondent, which we are confident will be read with interest and pleasure here. He says:—Mr. John Malachy O'Neill is descended from the old and much respected family of the O'Neills of the County Clare, and that he inherits in a marked degree many of the characteristics of the ancient family of the O'Neills, is exemplified by his brilliant success in gaining admission to the Bar of the State of New York at the age of twenty-three, after passing a very difficult and varied curriculum. Mr. O'Neill received his early education at a private school or college in picturesque Killarney, after which he entered Rockwell College, Cashel, and leaving dear old Cashel of the Kings, he resumed his studies at the Manhattan College, New York city. Referring to his success as a student, he frankly attributes it to the persistent continuity of his studies. He is not a believer in spasmodic effort, neither does he encourage haphazard methods in a student's work, his maxim being, "leave nothing to chance—work thoroughly and work all the time."

And now, sir, with your kind permission, we will make in the columns of the "Champion" a brief chronicle for the O'Neills of the County Clare. About four hundred years ago the first of the O'Neills migrated from his native County Tyrone, "the land of the O'Neills," and settled in West Clare. Being a man of great wealth, he acquired extensive properties in land in the County of Clare and neighboring counties, and his descendants, who were numerous, intermarried with the Moloneys, the Lynghts, and other leading families in Clare and Limerick counties. In those days the views of landlordism had not entered into the system of land tenure in Ireland, and the relations of chieftainship and clansmen obtained in the peaceful and happy intercourse between the owners and cultivators of land. To each of nine daughters this gentleman gave as dower an estate in land, and subdivisions of this nature, combined with the extravagant habits which were prevalent all through that period of Ireland's history, tended to the breaking up of this vast estate until the last of the old land titles became extinct in the lifetime of the late Mr. John O'Neill, of Slieve Donnelly, who was the grandfather of Mr. John Malachy O'Neill.

Throughout those dreary centuries the O'Neills offered a strong resistance to the encroachments of the enemies of the people, and always occupied their rightful place in vindication of the people's rights and in defence of their liberties. The self-reliance and plucky enterprise of Mr. James O'Neill in leaving his native northern county and traversing almost the entire extent of Ireland, in those days when roads were unknown, and the facilities of modern travel were not even dreamed of, may be likened to the pioneer experiences of the early American settlers but instead of having to encounter the hostile red Indian, he experienced the "caed mille failthe" of the warm-hearted descendants of the brave men who fought and won the battle of Clontarf with King Brian, the most illustrious Clareman in history, and with whose county and fortunes the O'Neills have thoroughly identified themselves ever since. It is recorded of this good gentleman that during one of those periodical seasons of distress in Ireland he entered upon the relief of the suffering people of his district with such zeal and energy that after all other sources of supply had been exhausted he caused his great herds of cattle to be systematically bled for the sustenance of the people in that direful emergency. It is also related that on subsequent occasions of a somewhat similar deficiency in the food supply his descendants acted in the same

benevolent manner, and while thus aiding the sufferers in tiding over the calamity they permanently endeared themselves to all the people.

Coming down through the centuries we find West Clare always in the front rank in every effort for either local or National amelioration. Some years ago, in conversation with The O'Gorman Mahon, that illustrious Clareman paid high tribute to the pluck and patriotism of the men of West Clare, especially during that momentous crisis in the Catholic Emancipation movement, culminating in the historic election victory at Ennis. O'Gorman Mahon told the writer that "O'Connell attributed much of the success of that historic event to the splendid bearing, discipline and remarkable solidarity of the West Clare contingent."

Riding at the head of that fine body of men on that stupendous occasion the representative of the O'Neills and his kinsmen did noble work for their country, for Ireland, and for humanity. It was this same O'Neill who, in his later life, said "that he had six sons, and nothing would give him greater pride than to see them die in defence of the liberty and independence of their country." (He had also four daughters, one of whom was the late Mrs. Thomas Gallery, of Young street, Montreal).

"The oldest son of the late Mr. John O'Neill, to whom I am referring, was Mr. Michael O'Neill, since deceased, and he too inherited all the family attributes and during his lifetime enjoyed widespread popularity in the county. His son, Mr. John Michael O'Neill, was elected to the District Council for his section of the county at the first election after the County Councils' Law was enacted, thus preserving the continuity of the representative character of the O'Neills and perpetuating the same cordial feeling among the people down to our time. The present senior representative of the family, however, is Mr. Martin O'Neill, of Slieve Donnelly, a chivalrous, patriotic gentleman, whose popularity in West Clare is also attested by the election of his son, John Martin O'Neill, to the District Council of that section.

Irishmen the world over are proud of your noble county—a county that has preserved its distinctive Celtic and National characteristics, its honor or untarnished, its faith unshaken, its spirit unbroken, and throughout all its calamitous history of alien domination, rabid bigotry, and resistance to every species of foreign tyranny—the county of King Brian and Smith O'Brien, of O'Gorman Mahon and Tom Steele stands to-day, statistically, as well as literally, ninety-five per cent. Irish, a record which, after eight centuries of the cruellest kind of cruel warfare, is without parallel in any similar area on the globe. The deeds of Claremen abroad also reflect honor upon the ancient county—instance Thomas J. Conway, of New York city, a Kildarsart man, the enumeration of whose benefactions would fill a good size volume.

"It seems to me, however, it be, 'Tis only noble to be good; Kind hearts are more than coronets, And simple faith, than Norman blood."

A FATHER'S DUTY.

The greatest duty every father owes to his children is to walk where it will be safe for them to follow.

AN ARCHBISHOP'S WIT.

Archbishop Ryan is noted for his repartee, and many notable personages have experienced his shafts of wit, says an American exchange. On one occasion, when George B. Roberts was president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Wayne MacVeagh was the special counsel, a reception was tendered to His Grace by Mr. Roberts.

In the course of conversation Mr. MacVeagh remarked that "Mr. Roberts never went anywhere without his counsel." The conversation was prolonged, and Mr. MacVeagh said: "Your Grace, Mr. Roberts can give you passes on all the railroads in the country; now can not you be equally generous and give him a pass to Paradise?"

"Yes," replied the Archbishop, "I could; but then I would dislike to separate him from his counsel."

It did not take long for the brilliant response to be made known to all the guests, who enjoyed the joke immensely.

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War In the Balkans.

(By a Regular Contributor.)

Will there be war between Bulgaria and Turkey, or will there not? According to the most recent despatches it would seem as if the final outcome of all the difficulty in that section of the world, must be a war; and that it may yet be some time before that war commences. This seems to be a contradiction. If there is to be a certain delay before that war can commence, may there not be a chance of it being averted between now and that time? This would appear to be a very natural question and an affirmative answer would also appear natural. But the situation over there is very complicated and very different from what many of us may imagine. If we follow the columns of despatches and the pages of correspondence on this subject that fairly deluge the press of Europe and America we will find that the more we read and the more we study the less we are able to grasp the entire situation. Yet it is a very simple one, in the end. To understand it we must divest the account of it of all details and all sentimental comments. This being done the position is about as follows.

The Balkans are that range of mountains that form the back bone of the Confederation of petty states known as Serbia, Bulgaria, Roumania, Macedonia and others—all grouped in one section of Europe and all differing from each other in many respects. The common enemy of them all is Turkey. In Macedonia a species of perpetual revolution is going on and is due to the tyrannical rule of the Turk over the Christians of that State. It is generally after the harvest time that the revolution, or rebellion breaks out. But this year it did not await the harvesting. In the mid-summer it commenced, for the people were goaded to it by exceptional atrocities. The result is that the Turks simply went into Macedonia with fire and sword, and declared a crusade of extermination on all the Christians—and carried their declaration into fearful effect.

Bulgaria has issued an appeal to the great Powers to protest Macedonia, the Macedonian Christians, and civilization against the power and barbarism of the Turkey. The Powers have so far been silent. For reasons unknown to us they have stood aside and with folded arms allowed the work of wholesale murder to go on. Bulgaria, a comparatively impotent State, delivers an ultimatum; if, within a reasonable delay the Powers do not take action against Turkey that the Bulgarian Government will declare war on the Porte. Here, then, is the secret of the delay and yet future certainty of hostilities. The object of the warfare on the part of Bulgaria is not any immediate or probable success. That Government is perfectly aware that it can no more cope with Turkey than with united Europe. Boris Saraf and his companions know that, when the war is declared, they will be simply cut to pieces, or else scattered and driven like wild beasts into the mountain fastnesses. Their aim is to provoke such deeds on the part of Turkey, that Christian Europe will have to intervene. And they equally know that if a war again takes place between Turkey and the European Powers, or any coalition of them, the arms of the Sultan will be forever broken and the tyrannies of the past can never be again repeated. It is to draw the great Powers into conflict with Turkey that Bulgaria will declare war, and not in any hope of being able, herself, to conquer. It now looks as if the feeble Balkan States may try that before which the great Powers quail.

If Bulgaria succeeds in bringing about the conflict, entirely new problems will arise. The Powers may try to isolate the war, as they did unsuccessfully with the Balkan Confederation in 1876, and as they did successfully with the inglorious Greek war of 1897. Should they again box up a war in the Levant, the Eastern question—or rather what we might call the Near Eastern question—would only be postponed, but would not be settled. That is an issue that can never be settled until the Ottoman garrison is finally expelled from Europe. It seems to us that we have placed the matter clearly before our readers and explained the reason why the war cannot fall to come, but also why it is not likely to be immediate. At least we have sought to explain the situation, as well as our limited knowledge of what is trans-

piring in Eastern Europe will allow. For years we have been reading of the "Eastern war cloud"—and it has almost become a standing joke. That cloud has been eternally threatening to burst and has always remained suspended over the brow of the Balkans. Like all storm clouds it has grown darker at some moments and lighter at others, but the sky has never cleared, the blue has never been unshrouded, the mist has always clung to the hill-top of the Levant. The source of it has been Turkey. It may seem unfair, even prejudiced to heap all blame upon the shoulders of Turkey; but the cold facts are there to justify the blame being attributed to the Turk.

In the first place the Turk belongs by nature to Turkey in Asia. All that portion of Europe which he holds under his sway is a kind of usurpation. He knows that he is an intruder and he is jealous of every Power that might be hostile to him, or that might find it to be in its own interest to undertake his expulsion. He is a hypocrite, and assassin by nature. He will fawn and bend to the one, or to the nation, that he is ready to cut to pieces the moment he can do so with impunity. He can tyrannize over the smaller and weaker states and carry devastation and all the horrors of savage warfare into the hearts of these petty nations, and into the domestic hearths of their people; and he will do so just as long as the great Powers permit him to keep one foot on each side of the Bosphorus. The sooner that Balkan cloud bursts the better for the civilization, the peace, the very salvation of Eastern Europe, and the sooner the Ottoman sceptre is flung across the Hellespont the better for Europe at large.

Indian Priest Ordained

Universal interest attaches to the Rev. Albert Negahmet, because he is the first full-blooded Indian to be ordained a priest in the United States.

A statement has recently appeared in several papers to the effect that Father Behor, the Jesuit, who in his time was known as an efficient priest and an orator, was the first full blood Indian priest of the United States. It appears, however, that Father Behor had white blood in his veins. The fact is, there have been several priests of mixed white and Indian blood. It is probable that Father Negahmet is the first full blood Indian priest of the United States. We do not contend that there might not have been an Indian priest at a very early date in the territory that is now a part of our great Nation.

Contrary to the current report in the newspaper, Father Negahmet never attended either Carlisle or Georgetown. His education was obtained at Sacred Heart Mission, Oklahoma, and in Rome. From a small child he manifested an admirable disposition, was devout, and quick to learn, and was particularly bright in mathematics.

He comes of Christian stock—he was taught his prayers by his old grandmother. His father is an educated, honorable man, who has the esteem of his neighbors, and his mother is a good, exemplary Christian woman.

When Father Negahmet was a little boy he was a pupil of Father Ketcham, the present director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, to whose aid and counsel more than to any other human agency may probably be attributed the fact that the Algonquin people can boast of having given to the altar a priest.—New Century.

NATIONAL TUNE.

The Secretary the American Navy has issued an order that the "Star Spangled Banner" shall be recognized as the national tune throughout the service, all officers and men being required to stand at attention whenever it is played.

THE KAISER'S GIFT.

As a souvenir of his recent visit to Monte Casino, the German Kaiser has sent an artistic painting of himself to the Benedictine Fathers there. Monte Casino is the recognized cradle of learning in Europe. Its illuminated manuscripts are wonders of beauty. There the original of Poe's "lordly raven of the madly days of yore" is to be seen ready to hide all pennies the tourist gives him. And thither to that mecca of the schools, poets and scholars make pilgrimages to dream above the clouds of the glories of monkish genius and all that the sons of St. Benedict have achieved for learning throughout the world.