

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

The Local Legislature met on the 14th inst., when his Honor the Lieutenant Governor delivered the following speech from the Throne:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is with much pleasure that I once more meet you, assembled for the despatch of the business of the Province and the legislation which the public interests require.

While in the last year the grain crops and the live stock trade have not been as remunerative as in former years, I am pleased to know that the products of our dairies are steadily increasing, and by reason of the improved quality command higher prices than at any time in recent years.

The numerous agricultural organizations which are aided by the Legislature have been increasingly active, the membership of most of them has largely increased, and the demand for their reports, published by the Department of Agriculture, is evidence of the interest taken in the good work in which these organizations are engaged. The attendance at the Agricultural College is larger than at any time in its history; the accommodation for the regular course has been taxed to its utmost. The summer course for teachers proved a most successful experiment, and will be repeated during the present year. The large number in attendance at the special Dairy School has fully justified your action in providing increased accommodation.

The signal success of the Province at the World's Columbian Exposition has been a matter of just pride and satisfaction to our people. By our exhibits of live stock, grain, fruit, honey, cheese, minerals, timber, natural history, and education, we have shown that Ontario possesses great natural resources, and in their development has kept pace with wealthier and more populous countries.

The lumber trade continued active, and the markets good during the early part of the last year, and until the monetary stringency in the United States caused much depression in business in that country. Prices since then have not been so high nor the market so active. Notwithstanding this, the receipts from woods and forests have, I am pleased to say, more than equalled the estimated revenue from that source.

A considerable area of fertile land has now been surveyed on the shores of Lake Temiscamingue, is easy of access, and capable of sustaining a large population. During the year a Crown land agency has been established at Halleybury, at the northern end of the lake, and several townships have been opened for sale to actual settlers. There is reason to hope that an important settlement may soon be formed to take advantage of the great natural resources of this northern portion of the Province.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the erection of the new buildings at Brockville intended for the further accommodation of the steadily increasing number of insane patients for which provision must be made. It is expected that before the end of the present year the main building will be ready for occupation.

The Act passed during the last session of the Legislature for the prevention of cruelty to and the better protection of children has been favorably received, and a gratifying disposition has been manifested by the public to take advantage of its provisions. The rescuing of children from lives of crime, and placing them in the way of becoming useful and honorable citizens, is a work which may well engage the best consideration and attention of the community.

Amongst the Bills in preparation for your consideration are: A bill respecting the representation in the Provincial Assembly, a bill making further provision to prevent the personation of voters, a bill for the organization of the Judicial District of Nipissing, a bill to further facilitate the administration of justice in certain matters, a bill respecting councils of conciliation, a bill affecting mining interests, a bill respecting the management of Upper Canada College, a bill respecting the law of libel, a bill respecting bills of sale, a bill respecting goods entrusted to agents, and a bill to make Rondeau Point a public park. The bills to consolidate and amend the drainage laws and the ditches and watercourses act, prepared by the Commission on the Drain-

age Laws, with some changes, will again be submitted to you.

There having been considerable discussion of late with respect to the mode of remunerating and appointing certain Provincial officials, and with respect to the extent of their allowances, it is my intention to issue a commission forthwith to collect the facts bearing on the various views which have been expressed on these subjects, including the practice and experience of other countries, the commissioners to report thereon with all convenient speed.

The plebiscite upon the question of prohibition was, in pursuance of the act of last session, duly taken at the recent municipal elections, and a large majority pronounced in favor of prohibition. The proceedings necessary for obtaining a final and conclusive judgment with regard to the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law are being pushed forward with all practicable diligence.

The public accounts for the past year will be promptly laid before you, and you will be pleased to learn from them that the expenditure has been less than was provided for by the estimates, and that the receipts have exceeded the amount anticipated.

The estimates for the current year will, without delay, be submitted for your approval. They will be found to have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the necessities of the public service.

I feel assured that your deliberations and conclusions, while affording proof of your wisdom and patriotism, will contribute to the continued development of the resources of our Province and the prosperity and happiness of all classes of our people.

The adoption of the address was moved by Mr. W. B. Wood and seconded by Mr. Conmee, who reviewed the various points touched upon.

In his criticism the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Meredith, touched briefly upon the "no-Popery" cry which had been raised against him and his supporters. "He repudiated most emphatically every charge or insinuation to the effect that the members of his side of the House were disposed to treat those of the Roman Catholic faith with the least degree of harshness. Far from it. Equal rights for all was the platform on which they stood."

One of the earliest notices on the list was Mr. Conmee's motion for the ballot in the election of Separate School Trustees being made optional by local Boards.

At high Mass on Sunday morning last Rev. Father Whelan, pastor of St. Patrick's church, Ottawa, spoke in reference to the memorial in favor of the ballot in Separate School elections which had been prepared in that city and signed by a score of Catholic gentlemen. He said that in his judgment these persons were mistaken in supposing that Catholics in Ottawa were so eager for the ballot, as they pretended. They had a right to speak for themselves, but not for the other 6,000 ratepayers of the city. He contended that the introduction of the ballot in Separate School elections would by no means place those schools on a footing with the public schools, as had been contended. For himself he was not opposed to the ballot, but he objected to asking for it or accepting it on false pretences. "Let it

not," he said, "be thrust upon us to satisfy the uneasy clamor of an ignorant Protestant faction whom all intelligent and fair-minded Protestants repudiate, or to soothe a few panic-stricken Catholics whose fears are as groundless as their pretensions."

The last occasion upon which the Holy Father said Mass in St. Peter's he received a very loyal address from the parish priests of Rome. They congratulated his Holiness upon the remarkable success of the Jubilee, upon his great labors in the interests of society with special mention of the Pious Association of the Holy Family. It closed with the prayer that God would preserve to the Church the precious life of its present Head upon earth.

In his reply the Sovereign Pontiff after touching upon the sublime functions of parish priests, and their union with the Supreme Pastor, dwelt upon the sad condition of Rome. The Holy Father said: "It is useless to close our eyes to the fact, the ruin of religion desired, planned, and knowingly carried out has been the cause of the present moral and material ruin. Hence not only justice but political good sense orders a backward journey upon the road which has led to these results, it orders that the religion of our fathers and of ourselves should be restored to its pristine honor, and that we should, without mistrust or suspicion, draw near to him, who from God has received the supreme magistracy of religion, for the words of life eternal which he possesses are endowed with a virtue which is capable of rendering prosperous even this mortal life."

His Eminence Cardinal Logue in his Lenten pastoral warns his people against a danger present and real—"the fell spirit of worldliness, indifference, luxury, corruption and exclusive devotion to the interests of this life which is spreading insensibly but none the less surely, and daily claiming new victims. Of all the causes which tend to propagate and intensify this evil none appears to be more active than indiscriminate and dangerous reading. The real danger lies not in what is openly bad, but in those publications which while preserving an appearance of decency conceal a secret poison which is insensibly instilled into the mind: in publications which, if they do not openly assail the truths of faith, treat them with ridicule or openly ignore them as myths which are not to be reckoned with, in publications which endeavor to bring religion and its ministers into contempt, to destroy the salutary confidence and mutual sympathy which should exist between the faithful and those who are divinely appointed to instruct, direct and guide them."

In concluding the Cardinal recommended very strongly the reading of Holy Scripture. "If the Word of God were more frequently and more carefully read, if the example of Christ, His Apostles and Saints and the inspired maxims which they teach were kept more constantly before the minds of the people there would be more fervor, more piety, and more charity, less worldliness, less insensibility to supernatural truths than is unfortunately met with at the present day."

More than 100,000 persons gathered in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome when the Holy Father celebrated what was the last Mass of the Jubilee year. His voice was clear and strong, and the despatches reported him as in excellent health.

The action of the Bishops in the English House of Lords and the uncompromising stand of the Marquis of Salisbury on the Parish Councils' Bill are intensifying the already strong feeling against the Peers. So bitter is it that the *Chronicle*, now a Radical organ, in an editorial practically called upon Mr. Gladstone to resign unless he will at once and effectually commit the Liberals to the movement now in force against the Upper House. When the Lords dealt summarily with the Home Rule Bill, it nettled the English, but nothing more. That was Irish. But when they dare to interfere in English affairs, they must look to their shields. It is another affair altogether.

It is rather amusing to watch the changes made by time. If a man would address an Evangelical meeting at Exeter Hall ten years ago on establishing Sisterhoods, he would raise such a storm round his ears, that his exit from the place would be necessary. "And yet," says the *Liverpool Times*, "the Pastoral Aid Society, which represents the Evangelical section of the Church of England, are about to start Sisterhoods, who will live in community, but will take no vows. It is rather late in the century for the Low Church people to turn their feet Romeward. The High Church party are far in advance of them." Dr. Pusey and the present Duke of Rutland, then Lord John Manners, established the first Anglican Sisterhood in 1845. Since that time their numbers have increased very fast. These Evangelical Sisterhoods are to have the peculiar Exeter Hall-mark on them.

The Liverpool Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children by its statistics shows the necessity for its activity. During the past eleven years the parents of 1,034 children have been brought to justice for the ill-treatment of their children. In the same period there were 6,732 prosecutions for cruel neglect, 7,797 for begging, vagrancy and exposure, and 581 for immorality. The society has effectively remedied the wrongs of over sixteen thousand children who had been victims of neglect, cruelty and wrong. It seems rather a sad state of things for human beings to be guilty of want of affection for their offspring.