CANADA, BRANCH d, 18th November, 26 meets at St. li, 92 St. Alexander Menday of cach egular meetings for ion of business are nd and 4th Mendays Sec., P. J. McDonagh r, Jas. J. Costigan; H. Feeley, jr.; Medi-Drs. H. J. Harrison, or and G. H. Merrill

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# Witness

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#### EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Wisness" one of the most prosperous and best interests, they would soon make of the "True Wisness" one of the most prosperous and best interests, they would soon make of the "True Wisness" one of the most prosperous Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellen "TPAUL, Archbishop of Montreal." work

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OUR DUTY AS CITIZENS .- Now that our civic elections are over, and that we have two years to look ahead before another appeal will be made to the people, we must not con-clude that there is nothing to be done. This is the time to begin, to there is no change from the old time indifference that generally followed the excitement of a general contest, we may simply expect to find our selves in two years hence no farther advanced than we are to-day. With out giving expression to either ap-preciation or criticism of those who happen now to represent us in the halls of civic legislation, we claim it to be the duty of the Irish element to begin at once and to select some one man, or some men, upon whom the hopes of the future can be founded. It is high time from this hour forward, to commence to prepare for the times to come. But to do so there will be need of certain personal sacrifices. Men whose years indicate that their energies cannot warrant them indulging in public life, should curb their personal prejudices, and not block the way for those who, if afforded an opportunity, would do effective work and work that would redound to the credit of the race from which they have sprung.

To our mind it should not matter from what ward or section of city the right Irishman or Irishmen , provided they are possessed of all the requisite qualifications, our entire element should rally around them, should pave the way for them, and should force them to the frontnot at the last hour and on the eve of an election, but from the very start. It takes time to make known to a vast public the hidden qualities of a man. Generally he is so modest and diffident that he will not assert himself; others must do so for him Why should we be circumscribed any more than any other people by certain defined limits? If any ward in the city-and we have a strong vote wards-can produce, an Irishman of the calibre required, in the discussion and carrying out of Ireland." great issues, there is no reason why he should be relegated to obscurity, within given limits.

Not only is there a duty to per form regarding the men to be s ed, but also in regard to the nature of the duties that they are expecte to perform. The paving of a street building of some public edifice, and such-like works are all very important; but they are things that any or dinary man who performs his duty can have done. Away beyond this conception of civic duty there is something else needed. Apart the fact that our nationality will be judged by the measure of public spir-it it manifests and the character of its representatives in public office there are large and general issues that belong to the whole city, and that will leave marks upon the an-nals of Montreal in years to come. nals of Montreal in years to come. In the planning, carrying out, and perfecting of such great schemes, we wish to have our share. And to take part in the higher workings of our civic machinery we have need of more representation. We also have need of some leader, one whose actions will leave their traces on the pages of the city's history. There is no reason why only one, or only two, or only any limited number of wards should be allowed to have Irlahmen as representatives.

Thus our idea of the duty of the hour reduces itself to these two points; the immediate duty of finding out the man, or men, most competent to put into practice the highest principles of civic representation, and the equally important duty of . prelay the basis of future action. If paring the way for a more extensive representation in the years to come. It will not be next year that we should begin; but from this day forth, if we hope for any degree of

> MR. REDMOND, CHAIRMAN. We learn by cable that Mr. John Redmond has been re-elected chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party. That position is equivalent to Parliamentary Leader. The selection again of Mr. Redmond was a foregone conclusion, for certainly his leadership has been the most successful that we have yet experienced -especially since the Irish cause has entered the groove that it has followed along the lines of constitutional agitation. In Mr. Stead.s new 'Daily Paper,' of London, a series of interviews, with leading politicians, has been commenced. Amongst others has appeared one with Mr Redmond, and, in view of the session now commenced, and Mr. Redmond's re-election as Chairman of the Parliamentary Party, it may be interesting to take an extract or two same. Being asked concerning the fiscal struggle in British politics and as to whether he had, in recent speeches, alluded to it, Mr. Redmond said: "Except in so far as the fiscal problem affects the position of English parties, it has no particular interest for us at the present moment. Years would pass before any noticeable benefit would accaue to the farmers. Protection if arranged in Ireland by men desirous only of developing Irish industries, would be one thing. As far as the English situation is concerned, 1 have refrained from expressing any opinion, and when the Irish party meet in council and decide upon a definite course of action, you may take it that they will be guided by one principle only-the interests of

> Then speaking of the probable programme for the coming session, we have in a few words, the situation pretty clearly defined. Now that the time for action in the great arena of Parliament has come the words of Mr. Redmond will prove important. He said:-

> "We are committed to an amending of the Land Bill, and I believe there ought not to be much trout passing a very satisfactory Labor-ers' Act. The Catholic University problem must be faced, and if the Government remain in office they must not shirk the matter. Besides I must not shirk the matter. Besides I have made up my mind to press the question of Home Rule, and to do so in such a fashion that no panty can pass it over. Everything that has happened within the past four or five years strengthen our demand for a thorough reformation of the present system of government."

Being asked if the necessity for an amending act to Mr. Wyndham's fin-al Land Act makes the case for Home doing anything practical in Ire-door for Ireland under the pre-t system could not be mentioned the position we have been place! Mr. Wyndham plainly stated the meant to accomplish by cer-a clauses of the Act. Take those ting to the congested districts as example. You will not ask me to

go into details which I have already discussed in speeches in the West and South of Ireland. But the fact is, that the Irish legal officials in the to his son defending the administra House of Commons sat there night after night listening to the Chief Secretary's pledges, and endorsing them; yet when they came bach to Ire land and read the Act as drafted and passed under their own supervision they signed their names to a legal opinion which, to put it mildly, falsified their own interpretation, and the Chief Secretary's interpretation, of the provisions of the measure, for whose phraseology and terms they were responsible."

This much indicates pretty clearly that there are three main features in the programme for the present The first is an amending act to sion. the Land Act of last session, to make it more workable; the second is the Catholic University question; and the third and last is Home Rule. Thus we may fairly look to this session as about to be one of the most important that for many years has been held of the Imperial Parliament. And all this only affects Irish issues has not to do with the great fiscal issue that is dividing English parties. The session is also likely to be a long one.

REAL SUPERSTITIONS .- Before a very fashionable audience of ladies, in New York city, Rev. Dr. Joseph McMahon, director of the Catholic Library Association, delivered a most striking lecture on "The Follies of the Age." He pointed out, in a most striking manner, the real superstitious of our day. It is a good subject should be treated, for there thousands who rave about religious superstition, while being, themselves, the slaves of the most childish and heathenish superstitions. He pointed out that palmistry, clairvoyance and other forms of fortune telling are among the chief weak nesses of society at the present time, and he classed Christian Science, Dowieism, faith healing and Buddhism in the same category. Amongst other things the learned lecturer said:-"Take up the daily newspapers or study a certain set in fashionable life in this city and you will find its members are taken up with clairvoyance and such vagaries of superstition. Every priest hears confession in this city feels that the circle of this influence is widening daily. I am frequently amazed at the character of some people who yield to these crude forms of superstition. Take for example, palmistry. What is it? A certain amount of science, some shrewd guessing, and a bit of humor. What is palmistry in effect but a form of what is known as the Bertillon system of measure ments.'

All this is so true that to the least reflecting it needs but be mentioned clearly to be fully understood. The most important part, however of Dr. McMahon's lecture, is that in which he indicates the best remedy to counteract this growing superstition. He advices closer adherence to the dogmatic teachings of the Church Thus we see that what the incredulous, the infidel, the foolish minds o the age regard as religious superstition, is, after all, the only remedy against the real superstition that de grades man.

THE IMPERIAL SESSION. -The Speech from the Throne, on the occasion of the opening of the British Parliament, was brief, and gave no indication of what the next months may bring forth. It alluded to the Alaskan Boundary question, to the situation in the far East, and tain with other countries; but it ignored completely all the matters affecting Ireland. In the House of ommons the situation was iramatic, and a series of unusual pircumstances helped in rendering it

In the first place Premier Balfpur was too ill to be able to attend in person. The duty of leading the House fell upon Mr. Austin Chamberlain, son of the famous Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. This tended to make matters appear still more complicated. In all his long Parliamentary career the ex-Colonial Secretary never attained the position of leader

he sat below the gangway, amongst the ordinary members, and listened tion from which he had resigned. It appears, by the way, that the de-fense was far from being strong or pointed.

The Irish party appeared to hold the balance of power, and it was clear that Mr. Redmond and his following have no intention of taking any immediate stand, as they do not wish, at this juncture, to embarrass the Government, or risk its being defeated. They are reserving their forces for some more decisive moment, or some more favorable oppor tunity. As far as the Government is oncerned the changes in its composition became more apparent than ever when so many of its ex-Ministers were seen seated amongst the ordinary members, while the new faces on the Treasury Bench accentuated the changes that have recently taken

In his lengthy speech on the fiscal policy of the Government, Mr. Austin Chamberlain referred to his father as "my hon, friend from West Bermingham." Each time that an allusion to the ex-Secretary become necessary all who were present had a vivid illustration of the rigidity parliamentary language, and the distinction that must be made between the public representative of the people, and the private citizen, in his relations with those connected with him by the ties of family. Possibly in the history of the British Parlia ment no such peculiar situation has ever been experienced. There are great issues at stake, there are mighty political and national schemes on foot and the near future contains many surprises and not a few critical periods that will test the skill of the most consummate parliamentarians. There will be abundant food for study and reflection in the divers phases of the session now commenc-

# Loyola Literary Club.



Dollard Des Ormeauz was the subject of a most interesting address delivered by Dr. Hugh Lennon, on the 27th of January, in St. Mary's College hall, under the auspices of the Loyola Literary Club. Before tracing the fortunes of Dollard, the lecturer gave a brief sketch of the history of Montreal and its condition at the time this brave young Frenchman undertook an expedition against the Iroquois. Threatened by an invasion by these savages, terro reigned in the little French colony when Dollard young men to accompany him in an ncounter with the enemy who wer preparing a big attack on the French. The hardships of their journey, their meeting with the Iroquois the desertion of the Huron allies, the levalty of their chief Annahota the attack on the palisade by the quois, the brave defence of Dollard and his seventeen companions, the final assault and the capture of the fort were graphically told.

It is a matter of regret that there was not a larger audience to enjoy this secture, so replete with interesting details and delivered in such a delightful manner. At the close of his address Dr. Lennon was tendered a hearty vote of thanks by Reverend Father Doherty, spiritual director of largest Club.

## RUSSIA

(By a Regular Contributor.)

As we go to press the news that

comes from the far East is of a more alarming character than any received during all these past weeks. It is quite evident that all peaceful negotiations have fallen through, and that all the procrastination of Russia in replying to Japan's offers was mere ly to gain time in order to strengthen her fleet. At Tokio the situation is considered to be most alarming. Within the last few days Russia has secured 20,000 tons of coal. Her fleet has sailed from Port Arthur without there being any indication as to its destruction. At Vladivostock the Japanese inhabitants have been warned that they must prepare for a state siege at any moment. Immense ice-breakers have been busy crushing the ice and keeping the port of Vla divostock open. It must be remempered that this port is the Eastern terminus of the great Trans-Siberian Railway, which connects Moscow and St. Petersburgh with the Pacific. There may still be hopes that a final peace-securing settlement may be reached; but these hopes are very pale and feeble. Russia has been playing the hypocrite in the face o Europe. Preaching peace, northern Bear has been growling con stantly in Manchuria, pawing its way towards Corea, snarelling at Japan, bullying China, menacing In and calling upon the Western nations to meet in arbitration congress and to maintain the principles laid down at the Hague. If we go back sixty years in the history of the world, we will find Irwin, the Irish poet, who had a clear insight into the domestic affairs of Russia and a prophetic knowledge of what follow her ponderous movements along the pathway of her ambition, picturing the scenes that we are likely to behold realized.

"At length the great war that the Prophet foretold, From his love ocean prison, around

us is hurled; The mandate is given-the lightnings

are roll'd,

From the long gathered clouds on the brow of the world,

O, who may declare how the nations shall rise,

When Peace scatters light o'er the tempest of doom?

Vague forms of the future are shaped in the skies,

Where the Cossack and Christian contend in the gloom."

Turning, then, from this general question as to the ultimate of such a war, the poet looks towards Russia as the one destined to commence the movement and he sings:-

'Far off, 'mid the wastes of his many-zoned land, The Despot, enthroned o'er the pomp

Grasps Glory's dead trump with a warrior's hand, And clarions a prayer unto victory's

star, Through the white stately streets of his city, this hour, Swells the mustering host's multitu-

dinous hum. And the great bells are tolling from temple and tower. 'Mid the trumpet's drean blast, and

the throb of the drum, Demons of Force-weep Angels Rise

The Scythian is gathering the Armies of Night."

Will France eventually find herself forced to join in the conflict? To-day she claims to be absolutely neutral, and even indifferent. But harken to what that seer-poet beheld in his visions of such a time as the pre-

Lo, southward, where oft they have traversed of yore. Phrough the Mediterranean's azur

expanse,
By the ruins of Greece—by the swart
Africa shore,
Speeds on to the War the bright
phalanx of France,

Blow, favoring winds, on the warrior's path-

Rise, memories of Moscow, through bosom and brain; Now the deep passion'd Fury, retri-

butive wrath, Gives a flame to your chivalry once, once again;

Speed, spirits as bright as the sun and as warm,

But fierce in your strength as the white Russian storm

. . . Will England find that she has interests sufficient at stake to turn her arms against the menace of the North? This we cannot say; but her interests are greater to-day in the East than even when the poet penned his vision. It was thus he wrote:

'Lo. England, aroused from her torper at last By the slow Scythian terror, moves

sullenly forth;

Like full-feathered eagles aslant on the blast, Her thunder brimm'd Fleets surge a-

long the North. O. what may arise when from Cronstadt's gray steep

The iron-tongued destinies roar through the fire-The sea-pride of Britain a wreck on

the deep? The snow-city's towers a tuneral

pyre? Speed on-o'er the bleak wintry skies

The dusky-browed Phantom of India looks down."

These may all be visions, mere dreams of an Irish poet; but if the crash comes, and Russia pours her millions into the East, who is there that will say that the prophecy of the foregoing lines may not be fulfilled to the letter? Time will soon

# Mgr.Brunault Enthroned

On Wednesday afternoon last, after the sad and solemn ceremonies connected with the obsequies of the late lamented Mgr. Gravel, Bishop of Nicolet, were over, the enthroning of his successor, Mgr. Brunault, took place. Almost all the people were present for the funeral service of the late Bishop remained to take part in the more joyful ceremonials of the afternoon. Mgr. Brunault made his solemn entry into the Cathedral accompanied by all the Archbishops and Bishops, the other ecclesiastical dignitaries, and the members of the clergy. After the chant-ing of the "Te Deum," he gave his blessing to the assembled hundreds. Then each of the clengy came forward in turn, and as the newly enthroned Bishop took his seat the Episcopal throne, bissed his ring. The clergy then read an address, to which the Bishop made a most happy neply. This was followed by the reading of the "official letter" from Rome, appointing Mgr. Brunault. Finally an address was read on behalf of the congreg of the diocese. The Bishop's reply to this address was a very touching and eloquent one. The ceremonies over, the solemn events that had the past week in Nicolet were brought to a close. Thus it is that individu al workers in the vine-yard of Christ go to their reward, and the church goes on, unchanged and unchecked in her glorious mission. May Mgr. Brunault's pontifical career be long, prosperous and happy is the fervent wish that we express, as we salute his advent to the See of Nicolet.

#### LOCAL NOTES.

A COMING EUCHRE.—The ladies of St. Patrick's will give a euchre on Monday, the 15th of February, in their hall on St. Alexander street. This will be the last euchre of this

VISITORS.-His Grace Archbishop Gauthier, Kingston, was a guest of Rev. Martin Callaghan, P.P., at St Patrick's presbytery this week

MISSIONS .- The Lenten Mission at