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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1903

IRISH PROBLEM PRESSING The new organization of Irish land-

lords formed for the avowed object of

breaking the United Irish League of the tenants is one of those blunders of aggression that, though they fall of other effect, ensure the prominence of the Irish question on the Parliamentary stage at Westminster, and help to bring the final solution of Home Rule nearer, contrary, of course, to the intentions of their authors. This latest organization has been formed under the leadership of Lord Barrymore-the new title of the notorious Smith Barry, the foremost rackrenter and evicter of Ireland Some may feel disposed to say that if the Irish tenants enjoy the right of organization under the law, it is only British fair play to concede the same recourse to the landlords, just as in the case of the industrial trusts of America which are formed in opposition to the labor organizations. people. In the case of the Irish landlords' trust, however, the conditions are wholly different. Lord Barrymore and all his associates are Privy Councillors, and form the dominant influence in Dublin Castle administration. They represent the administration of English law in Ireland, not formally in their organization as a pack of rackrenters but in their capacity of adviners of the Crown It is through them the Crown moves; and if any application of coercion or sup-

For the time being the evictors may succeed in devastating a great deal of the country, but in the end they will find they are blindly helping on the cause of Home Rule, as they were when they got the policemen to commit "agrarian outrages" and convict innocent peasants by perjury They will find they are only helping. Home Rule when they make a sort of a head balliff of the responsible member of the Cabinet, the Irish Chief Secrotary, Mr Wyndham, who was told to his face in the llouse last week by Mr. T. W Russell, a member of the former "Unionist" Government, that "he had solu himself body and soul

pression of ordinary public right be

underbaken in Ireland it is they who

advice and their advice is taken. So

that the problem of landlord and ten-

ant at the moment in Ireland re-

solves itself into this simple, proposi-

tion, that the landlords organiza-

purposes in the coercion of the ten-

ants. ,Thus the landlords' organiza-

tion suppressed the League and the

right of public meeting in various

districts, where the ovictors are busi-

est, using the forces of the Crown to

level the cottage walls and carry off

the crops and stock. It is a conspir

acy between the Crown and the land-

fords; a conspiracy flagrant in it- op-

eration and insolent in its corrupt in-

to the landlords " . The Irish party will not however, wait until the evictors tumble into the ditch of their own accord Steps have been taken to bring the landhords' conspiracy more prominently before the world by legal proceedings Of course the Government will be hostile to those proceedings, but the greater the hostility shown the more good must result to the public cause,

which is the tenants' cause The United Irish League is doing magnificent work, and it is a thousand pities that it is not being extended more rapidly in Canada It is already as powerful in the United States, in England and Australia, as was ever the old Land League in the early days of the Parnell movement

SERIOUS OUTLOOK FOR FRANCE

According to the despatches of the past work an ugly problem is developing in France. M Combes, the new Premier, has been as good as his threat to strain the Associations cand leading Methodists being freak-Law to its final letter and attach a lishly sensitive at times about the be-Mourish thereto. M. Waldeck-Rousseau I havior of the press.

was a reasonable and deliberate man to comparion. The intense real of M. Combes is not to be wondered at the mar is a renegade priest who has lost his religion descried his Order and made Socialism bis faith It only needed to have the red of authority placed in the hands of such a person to arouse the long-suffering people from their hypnotic sleep to which they were made to imagine that with religious teachers in the schools. Republicanism was imperifled in the land. Encounters, between the military and the people have already taken place in Paris and various parts of the Provinces. The people are making preparations to take up arms against the Government and fortify the schools from which it is intended to eject the religious teachers, especially the Nuns How far things may go in their present course it is impossible to say. Only this may be said at all times of France that when political citques and conspiracies have developed to the extent that is now apparent, a revolution of serious proportions is at least possible

The gravest feature of the situation as it is recorded in the cable despatches appears to be the organization of the Socialist forces on the streets They never hesitate to attack the crowd of sympathizers with the teaching Orders. Sympathy must naturally flow to the side that stands for the traditions and interests of France. The Government cannot establish a tyranny except by the use of the army, and when the day comes that estranges the army of France from the sympathics of the nation, the Government will have passed completely out of the hands of the

It may be that a military crisis lies outside the range of vision at the present moment. If the disorders that have occurred were the result of M Combes renegade hate, a Parliamentary crisis should settle everything. Catholic leaders are stirring up . the Provinces as it is and Parliamentarians inay find it expedient to check M Combes before the revolution gets beyond their control

### AN EVIL CRUSADE.

daily papers of Toronto, which reprint in another column, deserves the thanks of every resident of Ontario who believes in the name Cantion is the Crown, for all practical adian When this "Prof." Villard's speech to the Methodist "Young Peoplo was published in the newspapers ast week it must-bave excited just such a general feeling of disgust as "A Torontonian" expresses We don't know who "Prof" Villard may be, and we don't care, but it was evident that he came to Toronto to arouse sectarian feeling against the French-Canadians, for no other cause than that they are French-Canadians And the intelligent "Young People" of a religious denomination that prides itself not a little upon the patriotism of its adherents, cheered the harangue "Prof" Villard, in short, sized up his audience, and the result proved that he had diagnosed their case very accurately. Nor is it to be wondered at that "Prof" Villard displayed this perspicacity, inasmuch as the average individual in Montreal, where he comes from, knows how the Toronto crowd' may be "caught

> The only wonder is in the behavior of the press, and this is the point "A Torontonian" puts his finger upon and presses it hard The press of Toronto will report every species of attack upon the French-Canadians, but will not dare to make any adverse comment. If, however, a French-Canadian Catholic were to sail into the English-speaking portion of the heretogeneous community enjoying the protection of the British flag in this or any other element of it, there to them." would arise at once upon the calm summer air of this "banner province" a regular howl of massed bands of patriots in the press, from the Ottawa River to the Soo This is what has astonished "A Tozontonian," and it is what astonishes a good many more of us However, our astonished friend has given the patriots of the press a call which they have long deserved, but for all that he could not spur them into comment upon "Prof." Villard's oration, because to do so might hurt business. Timothy Eaton and many other big advertisers

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier en terfumed a large and distinguished company to dinner at the Hotel Cecil Ataong the guests were Princess Louise, the Covernor-Cleneral of Canada, Lady Minto and Lady Aberdeen

A Melbourne dispatch dated June 8 says "Women franchise is at last an actual fact, as the Congruor-Coneral has assented to the Franchise Act conferring he vote on every Austtalian adult over tweety-one years

Mr John Redmond M P sent the following telegram to the late. Mr. William Johnston's son "Allow me as one who, though so strongly upposed to your father, yet greatly respected his transparent honesty and kindly nature, to express deep regret at his death."

Abbe Combes, the French Premier, has addressed a circular letter to the prefects, requesting them to inform all establishments managed by lous confraternities which had a receive authorization when the recent law on associations was promulgated, and which have not yet applied for authorization, that they are allowed eight days in which to dissolve or disperse

In a sympathetic tribute to the late head of the Orange organization. Mr Wallam Johnston, M P, The Freeman's Journal, the great Nationalist organ, says "He Mr Johnston) saw the son who inherited his property become a Nationalist, and his daughter become a Catholic II was quite usual on a Sunday morning during the recess to see him leading his convert daughter to the gate of the local little Catholic Church, and, perhaps, this is the picture which the majority of Irishmen will most wish to remember of 'Johnston of Ballykilbeg ' "

It is one of the failings of Catholics that they are affected with creeping paralysis in matters which concern publicity Let some charge be made by our enemies, and every one lays The writer of the letter to the the burden of exploding it on the shoulders of somebody else Were Catholics throughout the world to send to their own papers correct and speedy accounts of events in their acighborhood which are being dished 'up into reputed scandals by inimical correspondents to the secular press, half the public feeling about the Church would die away at once Leth argy has nearly killed the French Church, and has grievously injured the Church in other lands. We are by no means free from it here. Everybody is desirous of a strong Catholic press, very few will take the trouble to strengthen it When critics become contributors, the contributors will cease to be critics -- Catholic Times

Canadians will have reason to thank Sir Wilirid Laurier for the plain speaking in which he indulges at meetings of an ultra-Imperialistic sort in London. At a dinner at the Trocadero, the Lord Mayor of London had proposed the toast of "The Dominion of Canada." The Dominion, appetites. he said, was never more loyal and never more Imperial than at the present moment Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave the reason why. "The loyalty of Canada had been enhanced by the free institutions given to her. If it had not been for the charter of liberty which she had received, perhaps the condition of things would have been different In 1837 Canada was in a state of turmoil and excitement. There was rebellion not only in the province of Quebec, but in the British province of Ontario. The rebellion, in his mind, was quite justified by the unworthy system which then obtained, and by attempting to rule colony, or for that matter, into the what ought to have been a free peo-Doukhobors, or Dutch, or Hebrews, ple by methods which were unsuited

## HIBERNIANS TO BE INCORPOR-

ATED. Denvet, Col., July 21.-It has been decided by the National Board of Directors of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, chosen at the last session of the biennial convention, to incorpurate each State division of the order President Dolan was authorized to act as the agent of the order in the United States, Canada and Mextoo in arranging the details of affilation with other continental bodies of similar character. This is the first step in the general federation of Irish Catholics throughout the world.

# Destroyed by fire

Oka, July 24 -The wonderful Trappist Monastery of Oka, which it fool years to build and where ninely-seven priests and monks from all over the world were carrying out vows of perpetual labor perpetual praver and perpetual ellence, is to-day a heap of crumbling ruins

A fire started, no one knows how fed by a strong eastern aind, which, as it swirled in between the surrounding mountains, was discovered at 6 u'clock yesterday afternoon and though the priests and monks, and laymen employed about the building, headed by Father Columbin the prior, worked with all their might to save the buildings, and though they were assisted by the thirty odd pupils of the agricultural school be longing to the monastery, and situ ated a mile distant therefrom, their efforts could not prevent the magnificent edifice from burning entirely to the ground

Wonderful to relate there was no loss of life and all the ninety-seven monks and priests got out safely although two monks, Brother Serapin, who was blind, and another brother. whose name is not known, and who was in the hospital suffering from consumption, are expected to die They were rescued from the top story at the risk of the rescuers lives

A choice had to be made between the magnificent library and the beautiful church with its main altar and its two score of side alters and it was decided to first try and save the church Father Aurelieu took charge of this work and they succeeded in saving all the holy vestments and the Eucharist and other holy vessels and a great many of the big illuminated prayer books. Part of the walls and ceilings began to fall in and the work was only accomplished at great risk to the life of the workers

All of a sudden it was remembered that there were half a dozen sick monks in the infirmary and a rush was made for the second story through the blinding smoke The rescuers made chairs of their arms and one by one the sick were carried down. Just in the nick of time There were some exceedingly narrow escapes One of the students had to jump from the third story and another only saved himself by sliding down the hose from the fourth story Among those who distinguished themselves were the Landon brothers (Greeks), and Messrs. Cardinal Boivert, John Daly, Chouinard, Bourdeau, Page. Giguere and J. De St. Maurice, professor of chemistry at Mc-Gill, who is spending his vacation here.

The Sulpicians from Oka offered all possible help. The abbott, Dom Marie Antoine, was in Montreal at the time of the fire.

Nestled among the great range of Hauretian Hills, three and a bail miles back of the quaint village of Oka, which is situated on the banks of the Ottawa River, was the monastery of Notre Dame du Lac des Deux Montagnes, where dwelt some fourscore men, who, for religion's sake, had taken the most solemn vows to devote their lives to mortifying their

The stone monastery, which was crected a few years ago, near the old wooden one, was a fine structure and formed a hollow enclosing a large court-yard The western wing was called the hospice, and was set apart for the use of guests. The eastern and central portions were occupied by the

Interesting, indeed, is the history of this order, and equally interesting was the life led by those who devoted themselves to it.

Seventeen years ago, ten men, tired of the pomps and vanities of the world, were given one thousand acres I can " of land on these wild and densely wooded hills for the purpose of forming a monastery, and by cultivating the land, to pay for the humble buildings, they purposed erecting and passing their lives in, and for the little they ate. As the years stole by their number gradually increased, and as they did, the dense wood which surrounded them began to recede back from the valley where the monks had built the little monastery, 'towards the vast range of kills on the north Soon the large area of cultivated land brought forth more than their needs called for, and they sent the fruit of their labors to Montrea. where it was sold The money thus procured was invested in farm implements, and in improving the land Up to the breaking out of the fire,

Monastery of Trappist Monks | scores of powerful horses, over three hundred head of cattle and hundreds of pigs and sheep, besides valuable barns, gardens, young orchards a blacksmith shop, and a saw mill, all of which were tended by the monks, who began work long before the sun

> throte a man was allowed to take the life row at the monastery at Oka he had first to spend tho years in the institute preparing for the mo mentuous ordeat If he found, during this time, that his health gave out or that he had not the courage to take the life-vows, he was allowed freely to depart. The working dress of the Trappists was a white tobe, looped up from the warst in order not to impede their walking

All the monks worked in the fields from early morning to sunset, driving6 horses, milking cows, turning over the earth, cutting has and making putter, cheese and eider, which was sent to Montreal and sold to large quantities

All the monks had to take the vow of silence The visitor to the monas tery was struck by the absolute si lence of the place. Only on the most important occasions were the monks allowed to converse with each other One dining room, where the monks ate, was severe in the extreme. A narrow board ran the entire length of a long room, paved entirely in dark unattractive stone, the walls were darkened in order that the place might in no wise be attractive to the senses Before eating the monks frequently chastised themselves

They only had two meals a day consisting of soup, no meat was ever ate Near the dining-room was a set of stations of the Cross These the monks visited every day, praying on their knees at each. In order that there might not be the slightest sourd in the monastery, the latches of the doors were made of wood, and even the forks and spoons were

The great aim of the monastic life was the complete annihilation of self, and in order to aid the monks of the monastery to attain this end mottoes such as these were painted on the walls and even in the stables and the cowsheds "Think not, brothers, that you are humbling yourselves, for you are not, you are merely putting yourselves in the position to which you belong

"This life is nothing, eternity is

Visitors came to the monastery from all over the United States and Canada Very often the wing set part for visitors was filled. Many of the visitors stayed days and even weeks to fast and pray

The monastery of Oka, although burned to the ground, is more than ever a shrine for semi-religious pil-

Carts and wagons of all descriptions fill the road from the village of Oka to the "Valley of Silence." What the priests are going to do is as yet unknown. The writer of an article in The Montreal Star had a

talk with Father Columbin, the prior, about it. He was directing the men, who were, some in the act of picking valnable things out of the debris, and others making preparations to tear down some of the parts of the walls

"It was a great calamity," he said, "and the thought that is uppermost in our minds is how severely, the Abbot will feel it " "What will you do?" he was asked

which were still standing, and which

looked dangerous

"Do what can we do? Where are we going to get the money to do anything? We will have to remain for the present in the agricultural school, and though it is not by any means fitted up to serve as a clotster, we will have to do the best we

"You have no intention of leaving here?"

"No, we have not, but the way which we are situated we are certainly unable to build again "

"Still if people would furnish you With the necessary money, you would not hesitate to erect another build-

"Let them give us two hundred thousand Jollars and we will start again at once '

The conversation was interrupted constantly by the rumbling and crackling sound of the crumbling wails At the end there was a warning shout from some of the agricultural students to be careful, and then there came a heavy detonation, and the ruins threw up a cloud of dust. and vomited bricks and atones high they had a fine stone structures, up in the air, parts of one of the other inflamable stuff. Not five

to blow up with dynamite

All afternoon as soon as the ruins began to cool off, the work of entire ly demolishing and bringing to the ground the walls of the portions thereof which remained was gone on with, squads of students and monks drugging them down with thick long ropes, a work in which many of the former boarders participated, and which Professor de Maurice of McGill particularly distinguished himself

"I came here for a quiet time the said, "and you can see how well. I succeeded in getting it

They, as well as the monks and priests, lost all of their clothing except what they had on

Although desolution inhabits if

the talles of silence is still beautiful. Upon the hills along the road still stands the little chapet from which a magnificent view is obtained over the Lake of Two Mountains It was only spared because the wind happened to blow the other way. The agricultural school, to which the monks and priests return for the present, has sheltered them before. In fact, it was the first monastery, into which the moved in 1881, shortly after Father Bellefontaine had como from La Trappe, near Dyon, France, and had obtained from the seminary of St Sulpice the thousand acres they now occupy, and which the Oka Indians and Chief Kennatosse ciaim are part of their inheritance

In the same year the foundation stone of the new monastery was laid in the valley, a low hundred yeards north of the hill where the agricultural school is situated In 1889 the actual work on the edifice, which two days ago became a prey to the flames, was commenced, and in 1891 the late Archbishop Fabre, with great ceremony solemnly declared the monastery open. Next year it was finished.

In September, 1897, the church was solemnly consecrated by Archbishop Bruchest, and this was again the occasion of much ceremony, in which all the heads of the Catholic Church in Canada, which could come, were

great calamity to an onlooker, is the philosophical manner in which the Ore is looked upon

All sorts of articles used for ornamentation of a church were strewn what was the main building, and the found their barvest, although a close ye was kept upon them yesterday Yet there was many a quaintly fashioned wooden spoon, and many a quaintly carved wooden fork, and many other things that could be casily concealed, that found a way in the pockets of even the respectable looking sightseers. Some picked up almost anything they could find on the grounds, or in the ashes, and took their lives in their hands at the base of tottering walls to get a relic. Hard to believe though it may seem, one man actually picked up a white china spittoon, carefully did it up in a piece of paper, and took it with him in his carriage. This was nothing, however, to what went on during the actual fire The visitors from the surrounding villages, at that time, were actual freebooters, and looted right and left. Nothing was sacred to them, and some of the most rapacious ones came to grief The priests and some of the stu-

dents had managed to save the pharmacy, and they had put the bottles containing the drugs, some liquid, and some in powder form, in baskets along the roadway, just beyond the grasp of the fire When they did not see anything else to take, the looters seized upon the bottles containing the liquid drugs, and, thinking perhaps that it was some new kind of Trappist Liquer, several of them took good big swallows. Not very long after two or three of them lay writhing and groaning in the road. tied up in knots, and although it was impossible to find out exactly what they had taken, the priests managed to find time from their task of battling with the flames to administer something to them that cased their pains, after which they disappeared.

The quickness with which the build. ing succembed to the flames was perhaps the one thing that surprised the former annates One of them said

"It was only Thursday, about noon, that I took around a young American, who had come on purpose to visit the menastery, and I called his attention to the absence of curtains and

chimbers which they had teen trying | hours afterwards the whole place was in flames. Brother Florent led the was to the back, and into the cemetery Pieces of the statues of saints, the main body of the high altar, the flowers and vases and other attributes that adorned the minor alters were all scattered about

> The complets, always a cold dreaty looking place to the man who lives in the warm, living, throbbing world, with its half-open grave yawning to receive the next brother who dies. world mote dreaty and desolate than ever The crosses that were not notually burned down were blistered and statted, but these were outs few. and the others were demolished. The little regetation there was was scorched to death, and the top crust of the latest grave was actually baked It was only two days before tha they had filled it. There had been the Solemn High Mass, twenty-four hour after the brother unknown, and jur went for, had dropped out of th world in which he had only been part of a great machine

Then there had been the processic to the grave the brothers all carr ing lighted candles following and p ceding the stretcher upon which dead man lay attired in nothing

When the grave was reached corpse was lowered upon the bott laver of earth, with nothing but brown habit between its embraand the body of the dead. Then father in charge of the anfirmary is stepped into the grave, and had \$den the dead man's face in the bren cowl, and then the earth was head upon the body, and the new gre dug for the next to die After at for the living work and forgetfulnes, and prayers through which to or-

There were two safes One of these was opened, and the papers it ontained were found intact. The otier at a late hour last evening was sill hovering like. Mahomet's coffin between heaven and earth, it having been built in the wall of the second or third story, above an arch wilch up to that time had resisted the One of the strangest things of this flames, the ropes of the demolishing squads and oven the dynamite.

A visit to the agricultural school. which has accommodation for two hundred students but nothing in the way of cloisters, showed large lofty around, and the road in front of airy apartments, turned into temporary curiosity shops, the contents of ditch beyond were lined with the which were all objects one is accussmaller altars. Here the relic seekers | tomed to see in connection with Catholic churches

The only heap of goods which did not recall the chapel, was that which had been saved from the shoeshops, and consisted of huge rolls of leather, and heaps of finished and partly finished boots, all of the heavy hobnailed kind.

Amidst all the confusion, of people running hither and thither, and bringing in constantly new articles from the ruins, including a partially domolished group of Saints, and other altar pieces the priests, whose hour it was to spend their time in contemplation of the Scriptures, and prayers, went on with their devotion as if they were in their old cloisters, and in the very midst of it ail, looked just the same as they did a few months ago in the monastery

As night began to fall, there was no change in the scene about the ruined place Visitors still kept coming, monks and students still kept working and the moon only served to make if all incre weird, more wonderful and more apparently unreal.

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