

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1909.

RAILWAY SYSTEM
YORK EXCURSION
 MONTREAL ROUND TRIP FARE \$11.30

STOCK EXPOSITION
 CHICAGO, ILL.
 Fare from Montreal \$27.00

MONTREAL-OTTAWA
 Montreal to Ottawa 12.50 p.m. 11.15 p.m.
 Ottawa to Montreal 8.00 a.m. 6.45 p.m.

CANADIAN PACIFIC
 Christmas and New Year Excursions

COLONIAL RAILWAY
 Christmas and New Year Excursions

SAILORS' CLUB
 Ladies Welcome

BELLS
 Bell Company

The True Witness

TESTIS IN CÆLO FIDELIS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1909

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Senate Reading Room
 Jan 1 1909.

BLESSING OF CHURCH.

Large Congregation Witness Solemn Ceremony at St. Aloysius.

The happy fulfilment of the long-cherished hopes of the pastor of St. Aloysius was observed on Sunday last when the blessing of the new church took place.

His Lordship Bishop Racicot officiated, being assisted by Rev. Father Shea, pastor of the church, Rev. Father Kiernan, of St. Michael's and Rev. Father Fahey, of St. Gabriel's. Rev. Father Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's, celebrated High Mass. Several priests from the various English-speaking parishes were present in the sanctuary.

Just before the sermon the pastor, Rev. M. L. Shea, thanked all those who had so generously contributed to their church, and welcomed them to the new sacred edifice. Then Rev. Wafar Doyle delivered a very eloquent discourse, taking for his text "My house is a house of prayer," (St. Matt., chap. 21, vs. 13).

In part he spoke as follows: We thank God for our churches, and we delight to see them increase in number and in beauty. We congratulate you, therefore, reverend pastor of this church; we congratulate you the parishioners. You have built a magnificent temple of which any city might be proud. You have erected a large and majestic church, and have spared no expense in its appointments and decorations. And yet it is not the external beauty of this edifice, its stately proportions, nor rich adornments that are the beauty which we admire so much, but what they stand for.

They are as the jewel box to the jewels themselves. Rich and beautiful as it may be, the casket is but the cover of the sparkling diamonds and rubies within. So this church and this altar which it enshrines, are but fair Nature's tribute of its materials and men's handiwork in applying them to make an earthly home in the tabernacle for Christ our Lord and our God, where as priest and victim of the sacrifice of the New Law He might be offered up to the Father in Heaven by the hands of His chosen ministers. It is here where God wishes to dwell with His people, and would have them dwell with Him. It is here He wishes them to come as a family to meet Him at the altar as round the family hearthstone. It is here He would have us pour out our homage to Him in the tabernacle and take Him into the Holy Communion. Here He would feed our minds with His all-saving truths, console our hearts with His love, nourish our souls with His body and blood, and strengthen our wills with divine grace.

God grants that you, the parishioners of this church, will avail your selves of all the helps your holy religion will afford you through your grand new church, so that it may be a continual blessing for yourselves and pass down as a blessing to your children's children.

This church will be the home of the parish. It is here you should pray for grace to strengthen you through life. Be loyal to your country, to your church and your pastor and aid him to spread the Kingdom of God.

At the end of the Mass dinner was served by the ladies of the parish in the basement of the Church.

Emerald Snowshoe Club

The following report of the Emerald Snowshoe Club was submitted at the annual meeting, at which took place the election of officers for the season 1909-10:

To the members of the Emerald Snowshoe Club: Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration a report of the workings of your club during the season 1908-9.

The past year was a most successful one in every respect, and in the many races participated in by your runners the colors of the old Emerald Snowshoe Club were well to the fore, particularly was this the case on the occasion of the championship meet at Sherbrooke, when our representatives carried off two seconds and three thirds, a very creditable showing considering that all our men were practically in their first year.

Your runners were accompanied to Sherbrooke by quite a large delegation of members in uniform, whose

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

St. Michael's Advocates an Independent School Board.

A very large meeting of St. Michael's parish met after Mass last Sunday to consider the approval of a resolution passed by St. Michael's School Board under the presidency of Rev. J. P. Kiernan, P.P. It was unanimously passed that this resolution of the School Board advocating the continuance of its present school system should be maintained.

The people of St. Michael's are showing their consistency in determining to maintain their autonomy in school matters. What they possess involved strenuous efforts to obtain and presume herculean stamens to retain. The opposition with which they had to cope from many sources in their attempt at special school legislation, is familiar to all and what they did receive was so limited that they have had to strain every nerve to supplement deficiencies.

St. Michael's school board was authorized to collect taxes only from the proprietors of St. Michael's who would consent to pay the same to it, and consequently it was obliged to protect itself, to fix a rate that would not be likely to deter these proprietors from signing in its favor. This was the minimum authorization that could be given and that would have been acceptable to a population suffering as we were from the inadequate means furnished by the six practically French boards, to supply our children

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Discussion For and Against the Object of Retaining Such Institutions.

A large number of people attended at the City Hall in Dublin last week being the second day of the exhibition in connection with the Irish Industrial Schools. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Carberry, and the attendance included the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, and many clergymen and prominent laity from the city and county.

Lady Carberry, in opening the exhibition, said she had been deeply impressed when visiting some of the industrial schools with the devotion of the teachers, and also with the splendid ideals of the value and nobility of the work for its own sake, which they placed before the children. She trusted that public interest, excited by the exhibition of practical work, would not end there, but that many would be induced to visit the schools and see for themselves the excellent work done in them in training young boys and girls to be useful members of the community.

In the course of a lengthy address, the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly said that when the child left the industrial school or orphanage and went abroad into the world outside it was astonished to find it was in a new world, and that the child world it had built up to then was not the real world at all. Hence it

PROGRAMME OF EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS.

The general lines of the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Montreal on September 8th, 10th and 11th of next year have now been decided upon.

The Papal Delegate, who will preside, will be officially received at St. James Cathedral, on the evening of September 6th, and on the evening of the following day His Eminence will be tendered a civic reception. The congress proper will open with a midnight mass in the Church of Notre Dame, in the first Church of Thursday, September 8th, and during the day there will be a solemn service in St. James Cathedral, and a grand gathering in the Church of Notre Dame in the evening.

On Friday, September 9th, an open-air service will be held on Mance Park, near the Hotel Dieu, with sermon in French and English, and in the evening the Cardinal Legate will hold a public reception.

On Saturday morning there will be Pontifical High Mass in St. Patrick's Church, and a general meeting in the Church of Notre Dame in the evening.

On Sunday, the last day of the congress, there will be Pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral at 9.30 a.m., and a grand procession in the afternoon, at 2 o'clock. The procession will start from the Church of Notre Dame, and the following Notre Dame, Gosford, Champ de Mars and St. Denis street to Laval University, where a stop will be made for a short open-air service. The procession will then continue through St. Denis and Rachel streets to Mance Park, where Benediction will be given, and the return to the Church of Notre Dame will be through Park Avenue, Bleury, St. Peter and St. James streets.

It is an evidence of little wit to take offense at the truth under any circumstances, but especially so when it is a rebuke to yourself. Be humble, wise and profit by the lesson it would teach you.

The True Witness

Wishes all its friends and patrons

A Merry Christmas.

against the home was that the harder of the institutions was always full, whereas the grown up in the home knew the struggle the parents had to make to provide the food and clothing, and other domestic necessities. Mr. Fagan had made every effort to counteract this difficulty, and had been successful in the schools, so far as success was possible.

HOME TRAINING NECESSARY.

No man or woman would make an industrial school as good a training ground as a good home, nor even as good a training ground as the average home, and all that could be said of these institutions was that they were better than had homes, and better than no home at all. It was a very sorrowful consideration in Ireland, his Lordship continued, that with regard to lunatics the number of lunatics was growing up constantly. The burden therefore caused on the country was growing up, while the whole population was diminishing, and it would be exceedingly regrettable that the school training should increase. While such was the case with the population, industrial schools would be required and would be with them, but there was no desire, he should say, on the part of any thinking man to increase their number. His Lordship's distinct opinion was that with the existing industrial schools the contribution given by the County Council was ample. There must be some mismanagement. Just a year ago the Inspector classified the schools. Several girls' schools in that county were placed in the first division of first class, the boys' schools in the county came under the second class, and there were a few schools, not more than one or two in all Ireland, came under the first class. Now, if the schools were dealt with on the scale of efficiency, it was obvious that the grant to the girls' schools—first class girls' schools—should be increased, and the fact that the second class boys' school had a higher grant than the first class girls' school was an anomaly. However, it was his distinct view that that anomaly should be tolerated rather than that the grant should be increased to the other schools, and an unnecessary burden be cast upon the ratepayers. Not only would the burden be unnecessary, but it might be harmful. With other phases of the new Children's Act his Lordship did not at present express an opinion. There was a section that industrial day schools might be established for waifs and strays. Now these schools might be necessary in large cities, but they were a very dangerous remedy and should be dealt with extremely cautiously. The relieving of parents of their responsibility was one of the most serious questions that could be contemplated, and it might be that the new Children Act was intended to so relieve them.

WRONG END ACCOMPLISHED.

Like many other acts of Parliament, the new Children Act became a necessity in England, but his Lordship was very doubtful of its use in Ireland. England was now paying the penalty of that success as a manufacturing country, and therefore there were nothing masses of children growing up under his Lordship might say, brutal conditions, and hence there were many philanthropic men and women who said: "Let us at any cost save the children." While saving the children they relieved the parents of the responsibility. In Ireland they had not yet, thank God, reached that pass, and any one dealing with the case should be extremely cautious lest that, loosening the responsibility between parents and children, they were loosening the bonds of society, undermining the very foundations of the whole social fabric which might do a great deal more harm than good. Having dealt with some important and profitable developments in Baltimore Industrial School, with which he happened to be connected, he summed up by saying that industrial schools of the present day had been brought to a great degree of perfection; the children in them were getting a most excellent training; there could be no better place for those requiring to be sent there, and he was sure all would join, as lovers of their country, in the hope that the happy day was not far distant when there would be such an increase in the prosperity, an increase in the spread of labor and thrift, that the number of children in need of the shelter of the industrial school would be seriously reduced.

The gentlemen of this Royal Commission are therefore requested to report our board desiring to maintain its actual position and to influence the Government to give our school trustees all the powers that the School Commissioners have and that they have not.

There is nothing so beautiful in the character of youth as simplicity of manners and the absence of design in its undertakings; it is this quality that makes it lovable and attractive.