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MONTREAL, CANADA.

WEDNESDAY.....FEBRUARY 13, 1884

CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY, 1884.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH.—Feast. Bp. Fitzpatrick, Boston, died, 1868.
THURSDAY, 14TH.—Office of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Valentine, Martyr.
FRIDAY, 15TH.—St. Faustinus and Jovita, Martyrs.
SATURDAY, 16TH.—Office of the Immaculate Conception.
SUNDAY, 17TH.—Saxaginta Sunday. Epist. 2 Cor. xi. 19-31; Gorp. Luke vii. 4-15.
MONDAY, 18TH.—St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr.
TUESDAY, 19TH.—Feast. Bp. Loras, Dubuque, died, 1858.

THE WINTER CARNAVAL.

In to-day's issue we describe both by illustrations and letter press the great Winter Carnival of 1884, which was undoubtedly one of the most memorable events in the history of Montreal. The readers of THE TRUE WITNESS who visited the Carnival, and those who were unable to do so, will, we are certain, appreciate our efforts in giving them so full a description of the event. All our friends are particularly requested to point out to their neighbors the attractive features of this week's issue, and induce them to become subscribers to THE TRUE WITNESS.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

There are yet a large number of persons who have made no response to the bills recently sent to them. We regret that all those indebted to remit the bills of their liability at the earliest opportunity. All past due accounts must be pressed to an immediate settlement, and all renewals for the present year must be remitted promptly in advance.

The Little State of New Jersey obtains by tax upon railroads the sum of \$677,557.76, or more than two-thirds of what is required to meet the entire State expenditure. Here in Canada it is quite the opposite which takes place; the railroads are fed from the national treasury and are exempt from taxation.

The strength and durability of Mr. Mowat's government in Ontario have been finally settled. A division, the first this session, has taken place in the Assembly on an amendment to the address, and it shows that the Premier can count a certain majority of 12 and a possible majority of 15 in a House of 88 members. This is large enough for all practical purposes.

Mr. CHARLTON, M.P., is interesting himself in the matter of a reduction in our Canadian letter postage. He strongly recommends that Canada should follow the example set by the United States in this regard, and there is some appearance that the government will take a favorable view of his recommendation. The statistics show that the reduction in the United States of letter postage by 33 per cent. only reduced the postal revenue by 3 per cent., as the quantity of mail matter was greatly increased by the lower charges. Taking it for granted that this increased ratio would also be the experience of Canada if the reduction were to take place, the loss of revenue from this source would not exceed \$15,000 per annum. Mr. Charlton said this was not a sufficient amount to trouble the Finance Minister, and he earnestly hoped the Government would see its way to pass such an act as it would be acceptable and popular with the entire population of the country.

The charge against Sir Leonard Tilley of having misappropriated public funds in advancing large sums of money to the Exchange Bank of Montreal, came up before Parliament last evening. Sir Richard Cartwright, who introduced this resolution condemning the course of the Government in the transaction, showed that Sir Leonard was fully aware at the time of making the advance that the bank was embarrassed, and that it was a grave abuse of power to entrust the public money to a concern that was on the verge of bankruptcy through a reckless and irregular administration of its affairs by the chief official of the bank. Sir Leonard also admitted that it was at least an improper thing, if not unlawful, to loan public money on the strength

of a guarantee from a member of Parliament to indemnify the government to the extent of the loan in case any loss might arise from the advance made. By following such a course the Minister of Finance had set the independence of Parliament at defiance. As the resolution amounted to a vote of want of confidence in the Government no one expected that it would be carried. The vote that was taken, was not cast to settle the merits or demerits of the question, but to save the Government from a defeat. The resolution was rejected accordingly.

It may be interesting to compare the parliamentary representation of the United Kingdom as it stands at present in England, Ireland and Scotland. According to the census of 1881 the total population of the three countries is nearly 35,000,000, and the number of members of the House of Commons 652. By countries, the population in England is 25,989,386, with a representation of 489 members; Ireland has a population of 5,159,838 and 103 members; Scotland counts 3,735,673 inhabitants and 60 members. These figures show that in proportion to the population of the country, Ireland has, at present, a slightly larger representation in Parliament than either England or Scotland. Some politicians, in consequence, want to have the Irish representation curtailed, but these men never demanded an increase in the representation when the population of Ireland was over eight millions, and when in proportion to numbers the Irish had a much smaller representation in the House of Commons than either English or Scotch.

Mr. OMMER introduced in the House of Commons a bill that prohibits what is called dual representation. That Act was passed because it was found that a number of persons who contrived to be elected to seats both in the Federal and Provincial Legislatures made politics a profession, and becoming wholly dependent on their seasonal indemnities and on such pickings as a Government could favor them with, became an unscrupulous and dangerous element in our political life. To such men party was everything. It soon became evident that it was neither desirable nor wholesome to foster the growth of such a class, devoted entirely to the worst political tendencies. Mr. Ommet's bill aimed at remedying this state of things, especially for the benefit of the Quebec politicians. The House, however, had decided objections to the project and it promptly sat upon the bill, throwing it out on its second reading by a vote of 102 to 59. The bill met the fate it deserved.

No grander or more beautiful spectacle was ever witnessed in any part of the civilized world than that which greeted the eyes of a hundred thousand people that had gathered Wednesday evening on Dominion square and on the spacious thoroughfares leading there. The scene was unique, and was the crowning glory of Montreal's Winter Carnival. The massive ice palace, illuminated by the electric light, sparkled like a huge diamond, as the thousands of snowshoers in their picturesque costumes attempted its capture with the aid of rockets, Roman shells, and other brilliant missiles. The volunteers, who defended the palace, kept up an equally hot cross-fire of pyrotechnics and repelled the attacks of the torch-lighted snowshoers amid the frantic cheering of the delighted masses of spectators. The enchantment of the scene was next transferred to the snow-covered slopes of Mount Royal. The snowshoers, with flaming torches in hand, had ascended the steep and serpentine paths of the mountain, and in a few minutes a golden circle of over two miles in length was formed around the lofty and sombre summit. The beauty, brilliancy, and grandeur of the whole scene have never been equalled or surpassed, for the very simple reason that nothing has ever existed to compare with it. Such is the general verdict, and such is the fact.

THE POWER OF VETO.

The repeated disallowance of the Ontario Streams Act by the Dominion Government has forced into prominence the question of the "veto power" exercised by the Federal authorities at Ottawa over Provincial enactments. The right of "veto" is a dangerous instrument to place in the hands of parliament. The question has been discussed in the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Mowat stated that in his opinion the veto power is calculated to do more harm than good, and that he had been forced into the conviction that it should be abolished. Mr. Mowat is right, for we consider that if the legislation of any one of the provinces is within its competence under the British North America Act, it should, no matter what its character, be allowed to go into operation, and should not be interfered with by a Federal Government, whose opposition to such legislation might be suspected of being prompted by adverse political motives or by partisanship.

If mistakes are made or wrong perpetrated by a local legislature, the people of the Province have the remedy in their own hands, and they should have the right to use it. It is absurd that an appeal should be made to either a friendly or an inimical body at Ottawa. The power of veto should be placed in the hands of a judicial tribunal. If laws were passed by a Provincial Legislature which would not be within its competence or which would limit the rights of the Courts could then interfere and declare them ultra vires. This would supply a constitutional check of a more satisfactory character on bad legislation than any interference on the part of the Federal authorities.

THE MINISTERIAL ELECTIONS.

As we announced in our local columns on Saturday, Mr. L. O. Taillon, Attorney-General, was elected by acclamation for the Eastern Division of Montreal, the gentlemen whose names were freely mentioned as possible opponents being conspicuous by their absence. It is also gratifying to know that the Hon. J. G. Robertson, Provincial Treasurer, was likewise returned without opposition in Sherbrooke. Both events are very significant, and argue well for the success of the Ministry of which they form so important a part. The portfolios held by the above-named gentlemen are the most important in the gift of the Crown, and the people did well in ratifying both. The speeches of the Ministers were statesmanlike and practical to a high degree, dealing exhaustively with the all-important subject of the finances, the remarks of the Provincial Treasurer being especially worthy of close and careful perusal. Saturday's elections consequently augur well for the new Government which is determined to enter upon its duties taking for its motto the word "retranchement." Of the abilities of both Messrs. Taillon and Robertson, no one need even their bitterest opponents, can gainsay, and we are confident that the results of Saturday will have the tendency to increase the popularity of the Government and inspire public confidence.

The greatest interest is felt at the present time in the financial position of the Province, and the views of the new Ministers ought and will undoubtedly be appreciated by the people at large.

OUR LITTLE ARMY.

The report of the Minister of Militia, which has been laid before Parliament, shows that \$360,100 was expended on our little army last year. Next year this expenditure will reach into the millions, as \$140,000 more has been asked for. The people of Canada will soon begin to discover that they are paying pretty heavily for ornamental soldiers. The Minister of Militia complains that on two occasions last year, when he called out his little army for service—on one occasion to quiet a dispute among the miners at Cape Breton, and on the other to charge the rebellious Northwesters at Rat Portage—the municipal authorities of these localities failed to reimburse him for the outlay he was at in bringing his army into the field. Major-General Liard appears in the report as advising that a staff of engineers should be enrolled to supervise and construct fortifications. Now, what on earth does Canada want with fortifications? Whom have we to fortify ourselves against? General Liard must be a trifle silly or somewhat of a visionary. We have already enough of fortifications on hand without going to the expense of building more for no earthly use. The General also states that if Canadian soldiers were armed with as powerful weapons as their opponents, he feels confident that they would hold their own. Of course they could, and they could whip the whole Yankee nation, only the General does not want to say it. The best thing the Government can do when Mr. Liard leaves these shores for England, is to admit no more foreign succor to his position. Let it be filled by a native, who will inculcate our volunteers less during the time of parade, and who will talk less in his official reports of fortifications and of how our little army could hold its own against the enemy.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Yesterday the opening of the British Parliament took place, and, what promises to be a memorable and eventful session, was inaugurated with curtailed ceremonies, and with none of the enthusiasm attending such occasions. The manifesto of Gladstone's Cabinet, dignified by the name of the "Queen's Speech," was communicated to the assembled wisdom of the United Kingdom. The general outlines and the principal details of the Ministerial projects do not differ from what several members of the Government have been foretelling during the past six weeks. The business of Parliament, judging by the governmental programme, promises to be exciting if not effective. A Reform bill is always certain to arouse the English people to an enthusiasm in home matters that overshadows for the time all considerations, good or bad, of foreign policy; and this year, a proposed extension of the franchise, amounting almost to manhood suffrage, with a promise of a better form of local government, is doubtless calculated on by Mr. Gladstone, if not designed for the purpose, to turn popular thought and attention from the gravity of governmental mistakes in Egypt and South Africa and the deliberative executive misdoings in Ireland. But the Tories will not thus be silenced; and they will make a desperate effort to bank the Ministerial designs. Egypt will be heard of in the indictment that is being prepared by the Opposition against the Government. The opponents of the Franchise Bill will insist upon the postponement to the Egyptian difficulty of all remedial and reform legislation. Then, on the other hand, there is the Irish party to confront, whose strength will be greater in this session than it has ever been before.

Mr. Gladstone's administration of Irish affairs deserves to be severely impeached, and there is every probability that the Irish members will do their duty in that respect. The party will, no doubt, denounce in unequivocal terms the administration of the Ormeau Act on the score of gross partiality to the Orange societies of Ulster. Mr. Parnell will maintain that meetings of Orangemen, called for the purpose of rekindling their traditional

hostility to their Catholic fellow countrymen, have been connived at by the Dublin authorities, and that the northern counties have witnessed scenes of violence and riot, which had they taken place in other parts of Ireland, would have caused the disordered districts to be instantly proclaimed under the coercive provisions of the law now in force. It is plain that the Gladstone Ministry have been placed in an awkward dilemma by the demonstrations of the Orange Association and by the consequent demand of the Nationalists that measures of suppression, to which they have so often been subjected, shall be applied with equal vigor to their enemies. Furthermore, the Irish party will strenuously oppose the passage of the Reform bill unless Ireland is fully guaranteed the extended suffrage as well as England and Scotland. It is generally admitted that without the Irish vote and aid the bill is doomed to defeat. It will, therefore, be necessary for Mr. Gladstone not only to include Ireland, but to guarantee her an ultimate participation in the benefits of the bill if he desires to remain in power. There is every indication that Mr. Gladstone's control of Parliament will be subjected to ruler tests during this session than it has hitherto experienced; and there are many who predict that the Premier will be compelled, before the close of the session, to appeal to the country for support.

BRITISH COLUMBIA WANTS NO MORE CHINESE.

The Legislature of British Columbia has forwarded an address to the authorities at Ottawa, asking that the Dominion Parliament pass a bill to restrict Chinese immigration in that Province. The Columbia and the Georgia do not pull well together, the latter being found to be a burden to the Province. The number of Chinese in British Columbia is estimated at 18,000, the majority of whom were imported in a state of comparative destitution, and owing to a scarcity of work in the winter months a large number of them become objects of charity.

The address directs the attention of the Government to the evil of such immigration and declares that restrictive legislation is an absolute necessity. It says that the Chinese are a source of continual expense, especially in connection with the administration of justice. It further states that they evade taxation, neglect their sick and effect injuriously the influx of the white population; that their habits and associations are degrading, and that they are beyond sanitary control and defeat justice by their secret organizations. The United States and Australia are instances as having dealt effectively with the question, and the Columbians can't see why Canada should not take action to abate a nuisance which has become intolerable to a section of the Dominion. As far as the province itself is concerned, it has taken every means to discourage the Chinese from planting themselves in British Columbia. The principal government and municipal councils have, for instance, prohibited the employment of Chinese on the public works within their jurisdiction, and they ask the Dominion Government to do likewise in all contracts let by them in the province. And again, the Columbia government have introduced a Chinese Restriction bill, which provides that every Chinese person in British Columbia above fourteen years of age shall pay into the treasury \$100 per annum for which a license to live in the province shall be granted; every Chinaman found without such license in his possession will be subject to a fine of \$40. It would appear from all this that the inhabitants of British Columbia are determined to make every effort to root out the evil and suppress the annoyance as much as possible.

DOES SCOTLAND WANT HOME RULE?

The "Home Rule" idea is taking root in Scotland. The indications are many that our Caledonian friends are not altogether content to have their affairs too much under the control of heads of departments in London. The Scotch people of course do so like the words "Home Rule" because of their identification with the national agitation in Ireland; but the principle of self-government has a greater charm for them than is generally supposed. In fact there are many of the opinion that, had it not been for the Irish movement, Scotland would have been long since heard crying out against over centralization. The Scotch people certainly have abundant reason to demand a little more home rule than they are permitted to enjoy under the Imperial system. The Scotch have no Lord Lieutenant, Chief Secretary or Secretary of State to give special attention to public matters affecting their country. With the exception of the Lord Advocate, who does not hold Cabinet rank and whose position is little beyond that of Chief Public Prosecutor, there is no one to take official care of Scotland, either at home or in the Imperial Parliament. This the Scotch are beginning to regard as a grievance, and one to be remedied without delay. They are consequently strongly agitating for a Scotch Minister with a seat in Parliament. This, as a prominent Scotchman has said, is the first step in the direction of real Home Rule. A large and thorough representative national meeting, under the auspices of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs, was held a few weeks ago in Edinburgh when the matter was discussed by several peers, M.P.s, Lord Provosts and other representative men. At this meeting resolutions embodying Scotch ideas on the question were passed, with enthusiasm and unanimity. Lord Aberdeen said that hitherto the Scotch people had been "too easy with their lot." The Lord Provost of Edinburgh remarked that it would be good

for Scotland if much of the business now centered in London "were separated and left for Scotchmen alone to manage." This sentiment, which is of Irish origin, was hailed with loud applause, as was also the declaration by another speaker that "no government could resist the expression of opinion given that day in Edinburgh." One of the resolutions unanimously passed demanded that "the Government should create a separate and independent department for the conduct of distinctively Scottish affairs," and it justified the claim by pointing to the "marked national characteristics and institutions," rendering it "impossible to govern Scotland satisfactorily through the London Home Office."

The Irish people are watching this new departure of Scotland with the deepest interest, as they think they can discern in it signs of a coming Scotch difficulty for the English Government to grapple with; and as they believe it will assist them in gaining national self-government for their own country.

THE O.P.R. GRAB.

The two points which the O. P. R. Syndicate and its organs are straining every nerve to impress upon the people and parliament of Canada, in connection with their latest raid upon the treasury, are, first, that the country will go to the dogs if the railroad is not finished in 1885 instead of in 1891. They assert that nothing but ruin stares us in the face, and that a heavy gloom will come over the land if the last O.P.R. spike is not driven before the dawn of 1886, consequently they argue, no matter how many millions the Syndicate may demand, it should and must have them at any cost. The second point that is urged by C. P. B. people is, that the Dominion will have adequate security for any sum that may be granted to the company. The "security" is to be in the shape of a mortgage on the road. Everybody knows that such security is a mockery and a delusion, as all the securities which the company have hitherto given the Government for past favors have amounted to nothing but a farce. Thus, when the contract was entered into, a million dollars was deposited in the hands of the Government as security for the completion of the road; that million dollars is now to be given up! When the remarkable transaction of the guarantee of the Company's stock was made known a short time ago, the Syndicate organs said the Dominion was really assuming no obligations, inasmuch as the Company were paying in cash for the annuity which was to protect the guarantee. It now turns out that the company had not paid the cash value of their annuity, that they have not since paid it, that they have no means of paying it, and that they are to have five years' credit for nearly three million dollars, which they were bound to pay on the first of the present month!

And so on to the end of the chapter. The company can both make and unmake any and all conditions and terms with the present Government. In order to give the reader a clear idea of the present condition of the Pacific Railway Company, we produce the following figures taken from official sources. The total distance from Montreal to Port Moody on the Pacific Coast, by this line, will be 2,889 miles, the different sections into which the work is divided being as follows:—

Miles.	
120	Montreal to Ottawa.....
125	Ottawa to Pembroke.....
120	Pembroke to Collingwood.....
650	Collingwood to Port Arthur.....
429	Port Arthur to Red River.....
1,250	Red River to Savona's Ferry.....
215	Savona's Ferry to Port Moody.....

Of the whole length of main line there has now been completed and placed in operation the following sections:—

Miles.	
345	Montreal to Collingwood.....
100	Collingwood to Sudbury Junction.....
67	River Nepton to Port Arthur.....
1,389	Port Arthur to Summit.....
122	Savona's Ferry to Port Moody.....
2,023	Total.....

Of this the Government will over 700 miles in the most difficult sections and handed them over gratis to the Company. There remain to be completed, therefore, of the main line 866 miles, of which 483 miles are north of Lake Superior, 290 miles are through the Rocky mountains, to Savona's Ferry, and 93 miles are in British Columbia. This is the portion of the road that the Syndicate now wants to build out of the pockets of the people. Within the next two years it will receive from the Government something like forty million dollars, including the balance due on account of the purchase of the annuities and the amount of the original cash subsidy still unearned. And the reason for imposing this burden upon the people and enriching a few sharp speculators is, that the O. P. R. Bill may be finished for a junketing tour across the continent via Canadian territory in the spring of 1886. What will it profit the people of the older Provinces of Quebec and Ontario and those down by the Gulf to have a railroad round Lake Superior, or a railroad through the Rocky Mountains at the end of two years. These Provinces will have to bear the burden, while they need not expect the slightest substantial return or benefit, except of hearing our Canadian orators growling eloquent over the iron link between the Atlantic and the Pacific after dinner speeches. We cordially agree with the Chronicle of Halifax, which says that "there can no longer be a doubt in the minds of prudent men as to the course that should be pursued by Parliament. This monstrous waste of public money should stop." If the company are unable to carry out their contract they should be got rid of with the least possible delay. The Government should take the enterprise

in hand, and, coming the folly of flinging millions into the sea of mountains in British Columbia, and into the wilderness north of Lake Superior, proceed at a moderate rate of speed to complete such parts of the road as are really needed for the development of the country."

"NO CANADIAN NEED APPLY" TO THE O. P. R.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is supposed to be a Canadian concern, got up for the special benefit of Canada and Canadians; but from all appearances such does not seem to be the case. In fact, the O. P. R. in many respects, wears a decidedly foreign complexion. The only thing Canadian about it is that it gobbles up Canadian money and runs across Canadian territory. A correspondent, writing to a Toronto contemporary, complains that Canadians are almost entirely ignored by the company, and that the services of foreigners are secured in preference to those of our own people. The Syndicate would seem to have adopted, except when it could not help it, a "no Canadian need apply" policy in filling the responsible positions in the management of the road. We are told that out of the fourteen principal offices on the Western Division only four are held by Canadians, the ten others by American citizens. The general superintendent, two out of the four assistant superintendents, the auditor, the superintendent of bridges and buildings, etc., and his four assistants and the general storekeeper are all Americans, whilst the positions of assistant traffic manager, the two remaining assistant superintendents, and that of the fuel agent are held by Canadians.

The correspondent justly remarks that no blame could be attached to the Syndicate if there was a scarcity of Canadians competent to fill the positions, but he maintains that "such is not the case, hundreds of Canadians being at present out of employment, many of them perfectly capable of fulfilling the duties of any position on the road, whilst in nearly every instance where Americans are the heads of departments, they are merely nominally so, the duties of the positions having to be performed by some one of the few Canadians under them, and who receive small salaries therefor, their more fortunate American cousins, from the mere fact of their nationality, having, no matter how incompetent, to be well remunerated for holding the office, if only in name."

He also points out that the positions on the other divisions of the road are equally closed to Canadians, and further states that if a Canadian does happen to hold an office, he is unceremoniously dismissed if a countryman of the General Manager requires the place. And it is this concern that thus openly boycotts the Canadian people, that wants another lot of some twenty odd millions at the hands of the Canadian Government. Some people have "cheek," and considerable of it.

MARRIAGE—A FARCE.

The machinery of the diverse divorce courts in England does not seem to have gone far enough in the way of making the dissolution of the marriage tie as free and easy as the people of that country would like it to be. A despatch from London tells us that "the Marquis of Queensbury has sent a pamphlet to the House of Lords and Commons advocating a reform in the marriage service. To meet the views of secularists, he proposes to meet divorce cases and leave out, in the marriage ceremony, the words 'whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder,' substituting therefor 'whom the Government or nature may put asunder, let no man attempt to keep together.' This noble and progressive marquis is the representative of a large and influential class who think as he does on this subject, and who believe that the Son of God made a great mistake when he proclaimed the doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage during the lifetime of the contracting parties. The Saviour said:—'Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her; and if the wife shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.' What 'therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.'"

"Oh, yes," reply the Marquis and his followers, "that is all very well for those remote times and for the unsophisticated people to whom it was addressed, but it is not in keeping with the requirements of modern progress, and the scientific enlightenment of nineteenth century civilization. We want to promote the happiness of the people by removing every obstacle to the full and unrestricted gratification of the passions with which they have been endowed." This impious and debasing doctrine has already produced its baneful results in England, for we find by statistics that, of all the countries contributing to the abomination called Mormonism, England furnishes the largest number. And this will continue to be the case so long as the inspired word of God is perverted and corrupted by such prominent men as the Marquis of Queensbury, in order to pander to the lowest passions of the people.

Christ branded as adulterers those who put away their wives "to marry another," and St. Paul enumerates adulterers among those who shall not possess the kingdom of God. It is needless to say that this unequivocal condemnation applies not merely to the divorced people of England, but to the divorced people of the United States, of Canada, and of every other country. Neither marquis, dukes nor parliament has the least power to alter one iota of the unchangeable Word of God. Marriage is no farce, and there is no royal or parliamentary road to heaven—none