

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province could all their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Witness" one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

WEDNESDAY.....OCTOBER 27 1897

WHY CHURCH PROPERTY SHOULD NOT BE TAXED.

It would be well if those of our Catholic aldermen who are faithful to the teachings of their Church, and loyal to its principles, kept a close watch on the proceedings of the Charter Revision Committee, which in a few weeks will meet to consider the draft of our new city charter.

There is too much reason to fear that when the draft comes before the Council for final adoption it will contain a clause, similar to that which the aldermen passed last year, framed for the purpose of including in the taxable property of the city "every piece of land now exempt from taxation, the buildings constructed thereon being excepted."

It is to be regretted that the majority of our Catholic aldermen seem to favor the adoption of a clause embodying this principle; for it is a principle which no Catholic can consistently defend. To authorize the tax gatherer to lay his secular hands upon property hitherto sacred to the Church, and devoted to religious, educational and charitable purposes, would be little short of an impious sacrilege.

The Catholic aldermen who are in favor of taxing the property of the Church have one argument, and only one, to bring forward in support of the stand they take in regard to this question.

On the face of it, there is much plausibility in this argument. But is it well-founded? Do the institutions threatened with taxation render the city no return at present for the police and fire protection which they receive?

There is considerable speculation as to who will be appointed Chief Engineer of the Montreal Fire Brigade in the place of the late Captain Nolan. We understand that there are several applicants for the vacant position, from people of different nationalities and

cognizes the truth that the State, whether in its national or its urban expression, is in duty bound to see that no man, woman or child within its boundaries shall suffer for lack of food or shelter.

LONGEVITY IN RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

The article on Rev. Sister Sainte Ursule, published in another column of this issue, naturally brings to mind the charge often made that it is almost a suicidal act on the part of young men and women to shut themselves up in monasteries and cloisters, there to lead a life of penance and abnegation which must necessarily result in premature death.

It was only a few months ago that the venerable Father Point died in this city. He belonged to the Jesuit Order and had been ordained priest as far back as the year 1816.

Our readers will also remember the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the saintly Fathers Dowd and Toupin, of the Order of St. Sulpice, as another very striking evidence.

When, some twenty-five years ago, the regretted Bishop Bourget celebrated his golden wedding, at a reception tendered him by the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, addresses were presented by not less than four of the nuns who had themselves been over fifty years in the Order.

Even the most rigid form of monastic life seems to be conducive to longevity, and when, a few weeks ago, the doors of the Trappist Monastery at Oka were thrown open to the public for several days, the thousands of visitors noted the many grey-bearded monks who passed through the vast corridors as shadows.

Teaching is generally considered one of the professions most injurious to health, still a visit to any of our male or female orders of teachers will reveal the fact that every one of them has a goodly number of very aged members placed on the superannuation list.

The New York Credit Men's Association has issued a circular to members of the organization, which says that the investigating committee has adopted plans to have any fraud on our members investigated and the evidence worked up into proper shape and then presented to the District Attorney, if the case warrants prosecution.

ords. It is but proper to remark that the office belongs to the Irish Catholics. The late Captain Nolan was of that faith and nationality, and it is but our right that his successor should be the same.

We can hardly say that the Montreal Street Railway Company has ever in recent years been suspected of being a non-paying institution, but the immense, increased profits, as shown by their last published statement, are certainly surprising and suggestive.

REPORTS from all the States of the Republic as well as from all the Provinces of Canada show that the Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for 1898 promises to be an epoch in the history of this great Society, which will place it in a position second to none in the ranks of national fraternal associations.

SOME two weeks ago there was a meeting of Orangemen at Ballygawley, Ulster. It was a regular fraternal symposium. There were the usual speeches, but one brother went so far as to advise the other lodge relatives to carry a revolver, a good rifle and lots of ammunition.

VICTOR EMMANUEL, the robber-king, and his horde of Free Masons and infidels, rode into power on the shoulders of a deluded and mistaken populace. The sons of this same populace now propose to drive the sons of these land pirates from the high positions they have usurped.

MR. JAMES COCHRANE, the newly elected president of the Liberal Association of Montreal, proposes the erection of a Club-house for the use of the "Rouge" organization. In Mr. Cochrane the local liberals have a good chief officer, and if the idea of a permanent home for the adherents of that party will ever be carried out, the prospects of its consummation are brightest while the present occupant of the presidential chair, with his progressive ideas and well known enterprise, is at their head.

RICHARD CROKER, the great Boss of Tammany, has been denounced by the Irish citizens of New York. It is charged that while on his memorable trip to Europe he was hand and glove with the Prince of Wales.

mans, taking advantage of the break in the British trade, are pushing their own rapidly to the front. In other words, they are saying nothing but sawing wood. In their sleeves they are quietly laughing at the assinine stupidity of John Bull.

It would seem to be beyond doubt that the recent disastrous conflagration which almost swept Windsor, N.S., out of existence was the work of incendiaries. It would be difficult to devise a punishment severe enough to inflict upon the men—if we may call them such—whose fiendish act has brought misery into thousands of hearts.

THE Scottish harvest appears to be as good as the one in Ireland is bad. They have good potatoes, good hay, and a good grain crop. Everything assists to make it a good year for the Scottish farmer, and what with the Agricultural Rating Act still running, the farmer and the laird will have half their rates paid for them by Act of Parliament.

It has been a street rumor for a few days back that Sir Francis Smith, of Toronto, is to be a director on the board of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company. If this be a fact, as we have every reason to believe, the R. & O. N. has been fortunate in thus securing one of the brightest commercial minds in the Dominion as one of its advisers.

THE Toronto Globe is raising quite a rumpus because Archbishop Cleary, of Kingston, has declared that Catholics should not attend services in Protestant churches. Our Queen City contemporary should not get excited. This advice has been promulgated years ago, and the worthy Archbishop's utterance is merely a reiteration of what has often been said before.

RAILWAY disasters have been quite frequent recently, and lives have been lost in great numbers. They prove beyond a doubt that, despite all the ingenuity of man, accidents will happen, and we should be prepared for them. They also emphasize the fact that the rear cars of a train are the safest to travel in.

WE would more particularly call the attention of our readers to the letter from our Irish correspondent this week. Its review of the present state of wealth and taxation in the grand old land is a terrible arraignment of England's policy. It may be dry reading to some, but to the true lover of his country it will afford abundant food for reflection.

IT seems there is no necessity for excitement just yet over the proposed changes in the Civic Charter. The lawyers will not be in a position to lay the draft before the Council in time for the meeting of the Legislature. On the whole, a little sober second thought on the part of these learned gentlemen will do no harm.

THE opening up of the Drummond County Railway was quite an event, and from all accounts, gave our esteemed friend the Daily Witness a chance for a graphic article on the temperance question, which, strangely, it failed to grasp. We sincerely hope there was nothing internally wrong with its representative.

A STORY comes from Havana that an Englishman, and a newspaper correspondent at that, named Hughes, has been persecuted and virtually allowed to starve to death on the streets of that city. This may make another knot in the already complicated Cuban trouble.

THE pilgrimage of Irish Americans to Ireland, to assist at the commemoration services in connection with the celebration of the '98 centennial, will sail on July 4. The executive committee, at a recent meeting held at New York, unanimously decided upon this date.

MISS WILLARD'S Toronto address contained some salient points, but it was largely sensational and unwomanly. Woman's mission is to do good, and she can do it most effectively in a quiet way.

THE reigning fashion at present among prospective Benedictines seems to be the plug hat. Last Sunday was apparently selected as an opportune time for these aspirants to inaugurate the custom.

THE population of the British Empire is placed at 208,000,000. Canada does not form one-fortieth of this, and yet she is an important member of the Empire. There are not very many of us, but we are made of good material.

RANDOM NOTES.

"Municipal Ownership" is one of the burning topics of the to-day political economist. It would seem that there is a general idea that in this particular branch of social science England is far in advance of the United States, but this is not a fact. So far as can be ascertained both are on a par in this respect.

TREATMENT OF TRAMPS. The tramp family is a peculiar one, and, to my mind, one which is not treated with that consideration its position in our social conditions deserve. Now, there are various kinds of tramps, but all the same they are men, human beings, with instincts like our own.

Mr. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, whose death was reported last week, delivered an address some time ago before the students of the Cornell University, and in speaking of journalism, said: "There is one point more, with which I will close. The value of the free press is not now sufficiently appreciated in this country.

IF Catholic readers would substitute the word "Catholic" for that of "free" wherever it occurs in the above extract from the late Mr. Dana's remarks, they would then perhaps be fully alive to the necessity of maintaining at any cost the Catholic press.

An English law paper is indignant that Cardinal Vaughan should act as arbitrator in the dispute between employed and employers in connection with the Engineers strike. It talks of a Jesuitical plot and all that kind of rubbish. The silly critic is being overwhelmed with ridicule, and thus has furnished the weapon with which he is being punished.

Step by step, to use a Plimmerized expression, the Anglican Church of Great Britain is being gradually Romanized. The latest adaptation is in London: For years the Catholic judges and Catholic members of the Bar have attended Mass on the first day of the legal year at the Sardinian Chapel in Lincoln Inn Fields, just behind the Law Courts.

It is worthy of note that not less than one hundred and twenty Cardinals, have died during the Pontificate of Leo XIII. Queen Victoria, it would appear from letters written to the late Lord Tennyson and afterwards published in his memoirs by his son, has always been a strong opponent of Home Rule for Ireland.

are to attend Westminster Abbey in state on that day also, and it is added that members or Bar officers of the Courts, and other persons connected with the law, are expected to be present in their official costumes.

Queen Victoria, it would appear from letters written to the late Lord Tennyson and afterwards published in his memoirs by his son, has always been a strong opponent of Home Rule for Ireland. Her Majesty has never cared for Ireland apart from the fact that it was the best recruiting ground for the army, and in point of fact it is probable that her feelings were simply the outcome of the political idea that by making the Irish unhappy at home was the best method to drive them to fight under her banners.

President Thomas L. James, of the Lincoln National Bank in New York, speaking of priests and other ministers in regard to their ability to transact business, says: "We have among our depositors a large number of clergymen, and I am free to say that they are about the best business men that I have ever known. You ordinarily call a man who is intelligent, methodical and prompt, a good business man. Our ministerial depositors are more than methodical and prompt. They are clever and sharp, especially in the keeping of accounts.

T. V. Powderly, the whilom leader of the Knights of Labor, and now Commissioner General of Immigration, has declared that he draws the line at Anarchists. "It shall be my aim," he writes to a friend, "to keep out every unworthy person and to cause Europe to take charge of her own Anarchists."

It is said that the Scotch are great travellers, but here is a little eight-year-old Irish girl, May Hasty, of Irishtown, Co. Mayo, who has made a trip all alone from her home to Sheephead Bay without chaperon or guardian.

YOUNG IRISHMEN'S L. & B. ASSOCIATION.

The musical and dramatic sections of the Young Irishmen's Literary and Benevolent Association, assisted by some of Montreal's favorite amateur talent, intend giving an entertainment on Monday (Hallow'en), Nov. 1st, in their hall, on Dupre street. The dramatic section will produce Pilgrim's one-act comedy, "The Limerick Boy," with the following members in the cast: Paddy Miles, Mr. J. J. McLean; Dr. Coates, Mr. M. J. Power; Reuben, Mr. E. Slattery; Job, Mr. G. Morgan; Mrs. Fidget, Mr. T. J. Grant; Jane Fidget, Mr. J. Foley.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH.

On Sunday next, Oct. 31st, Mr. William Sullivan, the well-known violinist, will play Beethoven's "Romanzo," Opus 40, at Grand Mass, with organ accompaniment by Mr. F. J. Shea, organist of the church.

The attention of our readers is called to the generous and bona fide offer, made by the Co-operative Funeral Expense Society, to the readers of the True Witness, whose advertisement appears in our columns. The financial standing of the company, as well as the gentleman identified with the enterprise, is a guarantee that every engagement entered into will be carried out in a most satisfactory manner.