

PROTEST OF ST. PATRICK'S LEAGUE

In the Matter of the Dismissals
of Sharkey and O'Brien
Answered.

The Harbor Commissioners' Lame
Excuse for Their Action.

President Mackay's Peculiar Declara-
tion for the Establishment of a
Canadian National Sentiment
in the Administration of
Public Affairs.

Tamson's Bains are Snugly Provided
for and Irish Catholics Must
Remain Out in the Cold.

Full Text of The Reply to the
League.

As announced in our last issue, the Harbor Commissioners took up the question of the dismissals of Messrs. Sharkey and O'Brien, and in reference to which a deputation representing St. Patrick's League, waited upon them some five weeks ago. At this meeting, which was held on Tuesday last, Mr. Robert Mackay, president, occupied the chair, and the members of the Board present were:—His Worship Mayor Prefontaine, Messrs. Andrew Allan, D. G. Thomson, William Farrell, E. H. Lemay, John Torrance, Robert Bickerdike, A. Racine, Joseph Contant and Jonathan H. Nelson. The Secretary read the letter from the chairman of the committee of St. Patrick's League, which appeared in our last issue.

The President remarked: Well, gentlemen, I don't know that I have anything more to say than I said at the interview that took place in this room. You, on that occasion, as you generally do, gave me the opportunity to do all the talking. Probably if there is anyone else who would like to say anything different from what was stated by myself on that occasion, now is the opportunity. My recollection of it was that there was no injustice intended to be done to anyone, and certainly the matter of race or creed was not taken up—not to my knowledge. I certainly, for one, dislike either the question of religion or nationality to form any part of our deliberations here. This is Canada, and we are all Canadians; and why should we have this distinction, whether Catholic or Protestant, whether French or Irish? I don't for myself see that there is any necessity why those matters should be brought up in this way, because it only serves to keep up friction which should not exist in this Canada of ours (hear, hear).

Mr. LEMAY—The few remarks you have made would make a fit reply to that letter.

Mr. THOMSON—It is what the chairman told them when they were here.

Mr. LEMAY—Still, you have got to answer that letter.

Mr. BICKERDIKE—Why not leave it to the chairman and Mr. Farrell to draw up a reply.

Mr. FARRELL—Did not Mr. Sharkey write a letter?

The President—I don't think he wrote a letter in this sense, that it was an injustice to English-speaking Catholics.

Mr. FARRELL—It is apparently intended to apply to Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Sharkey.

Mr. LEMAY—This letter?

Mr. FARRELL—Yes.

Mr. BICKERDIKE—I was rather troubled about the question myself, but I am told since that Mr. O'Brien replaced a French Canadian. Do you remember, Mr. Kennedy, if that is right?

Mr. KENNEDY (chief harbor engineer)—Yes; we had Louzon, then Scott (a French Canadian), and then O'Brien.

Mr. LEMAY—Didn't O'Brien once leave because he suited him?

Mr. KENNEDY—Yes.

Mr. LEMAY—And then he came back?

Mr. KENNEDY—Yes.

Mr. LEMAY—As far as Mr. O'Brien is concerned, he cannot find any fault.

Mr. FARRELL—Was any reason given for discharging him?

The President—The reason, I think, was that probably we could get the service done for a less price than Mr. O'Brien was receiving.

Mr. FARRELL—This asks for reasons why Mr. O'Brien—

The President—It is for you to say; we have no reason in the sense that the question asks at all. Mr. O'Brien has been replaced by somebody else. As Mr. Lemay said, Mr. O'Brien left the service here because he thought he could get something that would probably pay him better, and failing in that, he came back again. I don't see there can be any great hardship in his case. If he could get a better position, he would leave it to-morrow; anybody else would. It is natural. Why the commissioners should be forced to keep Mr. O'Brien or anybody else, I don't see.

Mr. FARRELL—Still there must have been a reason for discharging him.

The President—I think we have discussed this matter sufficiently already.

We have got somebody who is doing the work for a good deal less than Mr. O'Brien, and I understand he is doing it very satisfactorily. I think the commission ought to be satisfied with that; and if the commission is satisfied, I don't see why we should be different from Mr. Farrell or anybody else who gets a clerk or other employe, and if we want to change, why we should be compelled to keep anyone if we don't want to.

Mr. LEMAY—Is it your intention to give Mr. Sharkey a position in case of a vacancy?

The President—If we want to conduct our affairs as we would like to, on business principles, I think we should consider who will do the work the best and cheapest.

Mr. LEMAY—You won't take into consideration his long and faithful services?

Mr. CONTANT—When work will be forthcoming it will be time enough to see.

Mr. LEMAY—We don't want to leave the impression that it was persecution against Sharkey.

The Mayor—We should answer the first question, "Has the matter been taken into consideration by the Board?" Yes. The second question, "If so, what conclusion has been reached?" We should answer that, I think, by saying that "We have reached the conclusion that the Board has acted in the best interests of all concerned."

Mr. BICKERDIKE—Would you not also draw their attention to the fact that the position was not exclusively an Irish Catholic position?

The Mayor—Why should we?

Mr. BICKERDIKE—Except for the satisfaction of Mr. Ryan.

The Mayor—You might, at your suggestion, say the Board has no intention of doing injustice to any nationality or religion. Let it be plainly known by the public we don't intend anything of that.

Mr. BICKERDIKE—I think we could go further and say neither nationality, creed or politics, but the best man.

The President—There have been two other dredges at work, and their engineers, occupying the same position as Sharkey, had their engagements cancelled, because the dredges were laid off; we have heard nothing about them.

Mr. RACINE—They are Frenchmen, were they not?

The President (smiling)—They were Frenchmen.

The Mayor—You might go into these details and say we have no ill-feeling.

The President—"We're all Mr. Tamson's bairns."

Mr. THOMSON—There are few of "Mr. Tamson's bairns" in the employ of the Commissioners.

It was then decided to reply to the questions contained in Mr. Ryan's letter to the following effect:

1. Yes.

2. The Board has acted towards everyone in the best interests of the trust imposed upon it, having no intention of doing any injustice towards any nationality or religion, and it being their intention to employ the best men available for every position, quite apart from such considerations. Further, there were three dredges that went out of commission, and their engineers were dispensed with. Two of the latter were of French origin.

The following, dated May 17th, is the full text of the reply sent by the Harbor Commissioners to Mr. Ryan's letter:—
JOHN J. RYAN, Esq., Chairman Committee of St. Patrick's League, 142 Inspector street, City:

DEAR SIR,—At day's meeting of the Commissioners, your letter of the 10th inst., acknowledged by me on that date, was fully considered, and I was requested to reply that the Board, in the interests committed to their charge, have acted to the best of their judgment in regard to the selection of their employees, irrespective of the question of nationality or religion.

The Commissioners have endeavored in all cases to select their officers solely with due regard to their ability and remuneration for the particular services for which they were engaged. As a proof of this, I am to mention the recent case of three dredge engineers whose services had to be dispensed with on account of their dredges being put out of commission, and of whom two were of French origin and one of Irish; so that the Commissioners are at a loss to see where any injustice has been done.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ALEX. ROBERTSON, Secretary.

THE SAILORS' CLUB.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR.

Sailors' Club in this great City of Montreal, and wished them Godspeed in their noble work.

Sir William Hingston, in a short address, explained to the large audience, in a lucid manner, the object of the Catholic Sailors' Club, and pointed out some of the brave and courageous deeds performed by sailors for the human race.

Rev. Father J. Kavanagh, S.J., spoke next, and invited his hearers and all the English speaking Catholics of the city to encourage the good work and to go to the concerts given in the Catholic Sailors' Club Hall on every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, during the summer months.

Mr. F. B. McNamee, one of the most zealous promoters of the good work, made an appeal to all the Catholics of the city to contribute their mite in aid of the good work and to become members of the Catholic Sailors' Club.

The seventh edition of "Murray's Illustrated Guide to Montreal and Vicinity," recently issued, contains some very interesting reading. The work contains the chronology of Montreal, a review of the churches, hotels, parks and squares, educational and benevolent institutions. The historical tablets and their locations is well worth perusing, as well as the origin of the names of some of the streets. The illustrations are numerous and very well executed, the book itself being neatly printed. It is on sale at all newsdealers, price 25c., or can be had by addressing the publisher, Norman Murray, Montreal.

REV. FATHER SHEEHY

To Lecture at the Monument National
on Thursday Next.

An Interesting Interview—Notes
on the Condition of Affairs
in the Old Land.

REV. EUGENE SHEEHY, of Burren, County Limerick, is one of the men who knows what the inside of a prison is like. He is an Irishman and a patriot, and of course he took an active part in the agitation which preceded the passage of the Land Act in 1881. He had the strength of his convictions; he was ready to suffer for conscience sake, and under the mild and paternal British



REV. EUGENE SHEEHY.

Government he served nine months in Naas and Kilmainham prisons. Father Sheehy is at present in Montreal. He is a splendid looking specimen of the ideal Irish priest, for though his hair appears the silvery sheen of age, his cheeks are ruddy with the glow of health, his eyes sparkle with merriment and flashes of wit follow each other in rapid succession when the revered Father tells a story. He is a brilliant and most entertaining conversationalist, and when he is heard on the lecture platform in Montreal, it is safe to say that a great treat will be in store for those who have the good fortune to hear him. Rev. Father Sheehy is only 52 years of age, yet twenty-six years ago he lectured in Montreal in the old St. Patrick's Hall. More than a quarter of a century ago there was a fitting edifice for the worship of God needed at Rathkeale. Father Sheehy raised the necessary funds by means of a lecturing tour, in the progress of which he visited Montreal.

The reverend gentleman's mission here now is identical with the cause of his former visit. He is pastor at Burren, County Limerick, and his flock is sadly in need of a new church. There is no doubt in the world that the energy Father Sheehy displays in all good works will be crowned with success. On the 26th instant he will deliver a lecture in the Monument National, his subject being the ever prolific and most interesting one—Ireland. How dear to our hearts is the mere sound of the word Ireland, the land of saints and scholars, the land of martyrs, of soldiers and statesmen, the land of our fathers birth, the land we love.

There is certainly no scantiness of material in the subject chosen, and the lecture will be made doubly interesting by the stereopticon views which will be used to illustrate the text, of which 250 will be shown. It is not the intention to treat the subject with the severity of a lecture proper. It will rather take the form of a talk about Ireland in a familiar way, with the added advantage that the speaker will be a man thoroughly at fault with his subject, whether discussing the mystic origin of the round towers, describing the frightful carnage of Clontarf, dwelling on the beauties of Killarney, or the legendary lore that attaches to the Giant's Causeway, or Fingh Maccool's cave. Legend, history, architecture, art, poetry and modern political developments will all be touched on briefly. The occasion will be one which Irishmen should take advantage of.

A representative of the TRUE WITNESS had an interview with Father Sheehy. The reverend gentleman was as enthusiastic in his method of picturing the present state of things in Ireland as he was when he took part in the Land Act agitation. He had very vivid recollections of Mr. Gladstone's speech, and the suspension of the habeas corpus seemed now a memory of the past, especially when it was remembered that the great agitation had secured the abolition of many grinding abuses in Ireland. The passage of the Land Act was one of the great moral victories of modern times, and it could only have been brought about by unselfish sacrifice and perseverant agitation. It relieved the condition of the people in a marked way, even if it did not go the length which was not only desirable but necessary in Ireland. A partial balancing of rent and the productive powers of the land was arrived at, and what is known as the "Three F's"—

fair rents, fixity of tenure and free sale—resulted in securing the tenant's interest in his holding.

Speaking of evictions, Father Sheehy was emphatic. "The capricious eviction that worked such hardship years ago," said he, "is practically abolished, and the man who pays his rent cannot be disturbed. There has been a great social revolution, and unquestioning subservience is no longer looked for in the tenant farmer."

"As an example, Father?"

"Take for instance, fox hunting. It may seem far fetched as an illustration, but will serve perhaps to show the improvement in the spirit of independence. From the hard stone walls of Connemara to the easier going county in the East and South, the master of the local fox hounds was practically monarch of all he surveyed. Such a thing as trespass for a mere peasant or farmer to object to would be, so to speak, laughed out of court. Now, however, whether

"Bright Chanticleer proclaims the morn
And spangles deck the thorn,"

great part of the population of the great republic on earth is made up of Irish and German citizens, who would have something to say on the subject at the proper time.

BRANCH 26, C. M. B. A., OF CANADA.

Branch 26 of the C.M.B.A., has the reputation of being a progressive Branch, and its record fully justifies its claim to the title. One of the special features employed by the Branch towards progress is the encouragement of social intercourse between the members, their families and friends; as a consequence the entertainments held by the Branch always prove successes and are thoroughly enjoyable and looked forward to.

During the past winter the Branch has held a series of open social meetings and progressive euchre parties. One of the latter was held at the Hall of the Branch, St. Alexander street, last Wednesday evening, and was as fully successful and enjoyable as its predecessors.

The attendance of members, their ladies and friends, was very large. President Martin Egan, Vice President D. J. McGillis, Deputy Jas. J. Costigan, Chancellors P. Reynolds, J. H. Feeley, A. D. McGillis, M. Sharkey, Brothers B. Tansey, F. J. Curran, P. J. Darcey, P. J. Nagle, J. A. Hurtubise, John Walsh, T. L. Delaney, J. E. Scortall, T. Gorman, Owen Tansey, J. Kennedy, P. J. McDonagh and other members performed the duties of receiving the guests of the Branch and succeeded in making all present feel at home.

At half past eight the game was started. There were thirty tables in the contest, with two ladies and two gentlemen at each table. All went to work with a will, each one determined to win. Playing was kept up with vigour until 10.30, when refreshments were served.

Whilst the company were disposing of the good things which were in abundance the result of the contest was announced. For the position of King, three gentlemen equal, and for that of Queen eight ladies had equal points to their credit. The tie was played off and resulted in Mr. W. P. McCaffrey being proclaimed King and Mrs. C. O'Brien Queen. The other prize winners were Mr. C. O'Brien and Mrs. T. P. Tansey.

President Egan presented the prizes, which were in each case handsome ones, to the victors, who were each heartily applauded on coming forward to receive their awards.

The gathering shortly after broke up and all wended their way home thoroughly satisfied with having spent a most pleasant evening. Happy to have met, sorry to part and happy to meet again.

The Branch has every reason to feel pleased with the success which attended

its latest Euchre party, and the committee who had charge of the affair are most deserving of praise.

The refreshments were served by Mr. C. McCaffrey, of Richmond Square, and the manner in which they were served, as also the quality, was in keeping with the gentleman's well earned reputation of doing things thoroughly.

The People's Faith

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They Know Hood's Sarsaparilla
Absolutely and Permanently
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Hood's Sarsaparilla is not merely a simple preparation of Sarsaparilla, Dock, Stillington and a little Iodide of Potassium. Besides these excellent alternatives, it also contains those great anti-bilious and liver remedies, Mandrake and Dandelion. It also contains those great kidney remedies, Uva Ursi, Juniper Berries, and Pipsissewa.

Nor are these all. Other very valuable curative agents are harmoniously combined in Hood's Sarsaparilla and it is carefully prepared under the personal supervision of a regularly educated pharmacist.

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Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion. 25c.

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H. TRIDEL, Hon.-Sec.

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Boston Baked Beans, picnic size, only 10 cents each.
Boston Baked Beans, large 3-lb. cans, only 15 cents each, \$1.50 per dozen.
Condensed Coffee and Condensed Milk in cans.
The Choice Fruits in season. Fresh Biscuits and Crackers in nice handy little tins.
Sandwich Meats of all kinds. Cooked Meats and Cooked Poultry.
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Boned Chicken, Baked Game, Baked Turkey, Roast Chicken, and Roast Turkey, all in 1-lb. cans.
Cooked Corned Beef, Ox Tongues, Luncheon Pies, Luncheon Beef, Canned Dried Beef, Sardines and Sausage Paste.

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