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THE ONLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS WEST OF PORT ARTHUR.

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Calendar For Week Ending February 4th.

29 Sun Septuagesima. 30 Mon St. Martina, V. M. (200). 31 Tue Prayer and Agony of Our Lord. 1 Wed St. Ignatius, Bp. M. (107)—St. Brigid, I. 2 Thu Purification, B. V. M. 3 Fri 1st Friday—St. Francis de Sales, 4 Sat St. Andrew Corsini, Bp. (O. C. 1873)—St. Jane Valois.

Ecclesiastical Province of St. Boniface.

I. HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION. 1. All Sundays in the year. 2. Jan. 1st. The Circumcision. 3. Jan. 6th. The Epiphany. 4. The Ascension. 5. Nov. 1st. All Saints. 6. Dec. 8th. The Immaculate Conception. 7. Dec. 25th Christmas. II. DAYS OF FAST. 1. The forty days of Lent. 2. The Wednesday and Fridays in Advent. 3. The Ember days, at the four seasons being the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays of a. The first week in Lent. b. The second week in Lent. c. The third week in September. d. The third week in Advent. 4. The Vigils. a. Whitsunday. b. The Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul. c. The Solemnity of the Assumption. d. Christmas. III. DAYS OF ABSTINENCE. All Fridays in the year. Wednesdays in Advent. Wednesdays in Holy week. Saturdays in Holy week. Ash Wednesday. The Ember Days. The Vigils above mentioned.

CHURCH NOTICES.

CATHEDRAL ST. BONIFACE. Sundays—Masses at 7.30 and 10.30 a. m. Vespers at 8 p. m. Week Days—Masses at 8.30 and 7.30. ST. MARY'S CHURCH. Situated on the corner of St. Mary and Margrave Streets served by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Rev. Father Fox, Rector; Rev. Fathers McCarthy and O'Dwyer, assistants. Catechism for Boys in the church at 8 p. m. Catechism for girls in St. Mary's Convent, Notre Dame Street at 4 p. m. Sundays—Masses at 8 and 10.30 a. m. Vespers at 7 p. m. Week Days—Masses at 8.30 and 7.30 a. m. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Situated on Austin St. in Point Douglas, Rev. A. A. Cherrier, Rector. Catechism for boys, who have made their first Communion, at St. Joseph school McWilliam St. west, cor. Ellen St. for younger boys and girls learning the short Catechism, and for those studying the Catechism for Entrance, at the Immaculate Conception church, by the Rev. Father Cherrier. Sundays—Masses at 8.30 a. m. with short instruction and at 10.30 a. m. with sermon. Vespers at 7.15 p. m. Week Days—Mass at 7.30 a. m.

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PRO PARVULIS.

The deserts of life are dreary, Its prairies are vast and wild; The only heaven on earth Is the heart of a little child. 'Tis only the children that gather Joy blossoms in fields of light; For their father hath sent them shepherds to keep them where flowers are bright; To lead them by way of that learning The alien distorts in vain; To teach them a beautiful science, The only true solace to pain. How the science the saints have bequeathed us— How to suffer and act through love; To thus we should train the dear children To look to their Father above. They belong not to us, but truly Are lent to our watch and ward; It is easy to turn them to Heaven, They but lately came from the Lord. They still can remember the pathway So dim to our older eyes; By their ears are still heard the angels Who rejoice while the priests baptize. Their eyes have a glory of gladness They caught from their Maker's breath. Dim not those celestial visions With shades of eternal death. Shall we teach them when they grow older And their feet forget the way That leads from the Home of the Angels To the paths we tread to-day? Ah! no; 'tis the gleam of the morning That shines on the Pearly Gate. And methinks they will hardly see it Who travel the road to late. ST. LAURENT.

OUR SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. Prendergast's Celebrated Speech.

(Continued from last issue.) Having produced what I believe to be conclusive evidence of the good work of the Catholic section, I am now free to admit that, owing to diverse circumstances, there are in the province certain Catholic schools that are weak. I say that this must necessarily have been, and must necessarily be for some time to come. In a young province like this, and with our limited resources and sparse settlements, it cannot possibly be expected from the administration of a system so extensive and the success of which is dependant upon so many contingencies, that something or other shall not prove to be somewhat loose somewhere. I can point out, Sir, to many instances of the kind in the Protestant schools, although the hon. gentlemen say nothing of that side of the question. Are we to conclude from this that Protestant schools are a failure? Decidedly not, and I hope that the stand which I now take shall not be misunderstood. I do not intend for a moment to reflect disparagingly upon Protestant schools. I believe that they are a credit to our young province, as well as to the section of the board which has managed them.

On the other hand, I wish to show that if the general results have been most satisfactory, they have not been so however without certain exceptions. Taking the Protestant Superintendent's report for the year ending January 31st, 1885, I find that the inspectors appreciated in the following manner some of the schools.

Speaking of the school at Sturgeon Creek, Rev. Mr. Cowley says: "I am sorry to report unfavorably of the school. At my last inspection, I found it extremely dirty and untidy. The few children present were cowering round the stove. There was nothing of the tidiness and cheerfulness and discipline that mark a well managed school; only one slate pencil was to be found amongst all the scholars, and the examination showed that very little, if any, progress had been made."

Mr. Campbell's report contains the following: "Greenwood shows poor results this year. Dundas. The trustees have failed to keep their school open since the summer holidays. Balmoral must have a new school-house at once. The school has not yet recovered from the disorganization caused by the occupancy for two weeks of an utterly incompetent man. Its record is a poor one in consequence."

Mr. Inspector D. A. Stewart says: "Cypress. Found ten names on the roll and three pupils in attendance on the day of my visit. Heron. Twenty-one on the roll; seven in attendance. Mackenzie. Number of names on roll eighteen; number present at date of visit, five. Snowflake. On the roll were thirty-four names. Seven pupils were present. Silver Springs. Found a comfortable school-room, but no pupils were present. Oak Creek. Number of pupils present, four. Littleton. Dec. 11th, I found the school closed for the winter. Dawson. Closed. Louise. Closed. Treherne. Closed. Londaboro. I visited Oct. 28th. No pupils in attendance. On January 10th,

I found five pupils in attendance and forty names on the roll."

In the report for the year ending January 31st 1886, I read the following from Rev. Mr. Jackson: "Balmoral is very backward. Windsor is very poorly attended and not highly efficient. Greenwood is very backward." From Rev. Mr. Fortin: "St. Paul's.—The standing of the pupil is low. Mapleton. The standing is low."

The reports for the two years ending respectively January 31st 1887 and January 31st 1888, are in a very condensed form, and do not allow for that reason of the same critical examination; but they also indicate numerous and serious shortages. Of the Mennonite schools amongst others (and they are surely not Catholic schools) the first of the two reports says that "they are sufficiently discouraging" to the true friends of the Mennonite people! that "the teachers are illiterate," and that "the work in the school-room is useless or 'nearly so.'"

The same report also contains the following remarks of a rather sarcastic nature, in connection with teacher's examinations. Respecting dictation for second class, Mr. Somerset writes: "Eighteen words were given for spelling, not as words are ordinarily pronounced in our exercises of this kind, but in sentences for the pupils to write. The words sugar, pleasant, truly, Wednesday, February, accommodation, interesting, ninety, extremely, committee, preceding and grammatically, occurred casually in these sentences, and the number of misspelled words found in the pupils papers was professedly unaccountable to the teacher but extremely suggestive to the examiner."

Now, Sir, I will repeat it. This is no evidence that our Protestant schools are a failure. Yet, it is evidence that, like our Catholic schools, they have been somewhat hampered by the exceptional difficulties under which this young province is struggling, and that the insufficiency of our pecuniary resources, the sparsely settled nature of our districts, together with the fact that this is not yet a self-supporting province in matter of teachers, have proven to be as many obstacles in the way of their attaining a more satisfactory result throughout. Before closing my remarks upon this point, as I have happened to speak of teachers' examinations, I am sure this house will hear with pleasure of a rather amusing incident which occurred no longer ago than last year in the Northwest Territories. While perhaps not directly connected with the question at issue, it has nevertheless some bearing upon it, at least by analogy.

It was found in the Territories last year, that the standard of the teachers' examinations was altogether too low, and that it should be brought to a much higher level. I may say, by the way, that I was informed at the time that the real object of this contemplated change was to shut out certain Catholic teachers who happened to belong to some religious order. Be that as it may, the change was effected. Shakespeare, for one, was introduced amongst the new examination subjects, and the standard undoubtedly reached a high, a very high level throughout.

Now, what was the result? It was this, Sir: that at the following examinations, in the whole Northwest Territories, six teachers only could graduate in class one, and the six teachers were six nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Charity. As might have been expected, it was soon found out that the new programme did not work, and it was shortly afterwards reduced to its former standard. —I judged as I have shown them to have been in so many other respects, it would seem that the members of the Catholic section of the Board of education could have expected to be spared at least in their honesty and their honor. But such was not to be the case.

As I have had occasion to say already, the Catholic section counts among its members gentlemen whose names must appear foremost in the history of this province,—gentlemen who have signalled themselves by their untiring efforts not only in connection with our public schools but also with our University work, not only with our elementary schools as we now understand them, but also with those schools of Christian truth dating as far back as the forties and fifties, and the establishment of which was effected under circumstances surely very different from the luxury and comfort with which we are now environed. These men, I repeat it, have been charged with being nothing less than vulgar embezzlers.

I regret that in the course of his speech

of several hours, the Hon. Minister of Public Works\* has not chosen fit yesterday to explode in our presence that bombshell: the Catholic Reserve Fund.

The hon. gentleman who, the other day, has repudiated the Brandon Sun as his organ, cannot deny however that it usually well reflects his own views, and here is what we find in an issue of that weekly published last summer. It his headed

A STARTLING DISCOVERY

and proceeds thus:—"Our readers will remember that a short time since, we called attention to the grievances of the Catholic Section of the Board of Education. Since then a startling discovery has been made. The government satisfied themselves that the Catholic Section had in their hands a considerable sum of money that had not been applied to the purposes for which it was voted and intended. As might have been expected, there was considerable reluctance before a decision was arrived at to disgorge. This decision was doubtless hastened by the stand taken by the government. The latter declined to recognize any demand made by the Catholic Section until the matter was adjusted. When they became aware beyond a doubt that the source of supply would be cut off till a satisfactory adjustment was had, they decided to comply with the demands of the government. The result was that the government received nearly \$14,000.00 in cash from the Catholic Section of the Board. The knowledge that our provincial finances have thus been improved will be a very agreeable surprise to all our citizens."

To make this still plainer, I will also quote in the last issue of the same newspaper, from a pretty long article having my name as a heading, and which I must credit with this at least, that if it is a sound rule for a writer to confine himself closely to his subject, never was the rule better observed than in this case.

It is there said amongst other things: "Despite Mr. Prendergast's exhibition of valor and his profuse demonstration, the public will, in the absence of evidence to the opposite, continue to believe that the Catholic section received public moneys for a particular purpose, that there was a failure to apply them as they should have done, that these moneys were retained to be applied as might be thought proper, and that the government required and procured a return of something like \$13,000 under the unusual circumstances recited. Some will doubtless be inclined to place these facts alongside the contention of the supporters of Separate Schools, that the maintenance of the latter is a matter of conscience."

Leaving aside the sneer contained in the last three lines, I wish to call the attention of the House to those three allegations: that the Catholic Section received moneys for a particular purpose, that they failed to apply them as they should have done, and that they retained them to apply them as they might think proper.

To begin with, is not this a straight charge of embezzlement? But I will try and show:

1. For what purposes these moneys were voted and received;

2. What use was made, and was intended to be made, of those moneys;

3. In what sense, and for whom, the discovery alluded to must indeed have been startling.

Now the facts are simply these: In the course of last summer, the Catholic Section had accumulated out of yearly savings dating from as far back as 1880, a Reserve Fund of \$11,000, which, with interest, amounted to something like \$13,000. That amount was lying in the Imperial Bank. The government ordered the Catholic Section to pay this over to the Provincial Treasurer, which was done. So that, at all events, if we only take the practical results, the case may be summed up by saying: that in 1880 the Catholic Section began to economize on its yearly revenue, that in 1889 the sum total of this economy was lying in a chartered Bank, and that it was paid over to the government at their request. A most lamentable state of affairs indeed!

But for what purposes are such moneys voted yearly by the House? I say for the purposes mentioned in the statute.

Section 5 of our School Act of 1872—and the law in this respect has stood the same as late as last year—says:

5. Out of the sums so apportioned to each Section . . . . . Provided, however, that each Section of the Board may reserve for unforeseen expenses, or general school purposes a sum not exceeding ten per cent of its share of the grant.

(Continued on page 4.)