

## BILLS BEFORE THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.

A few very important Bills have been introduced into the House of Commons and each of them is calculated to affect to a considerable degree the general public—provided they become law. The first of these was introduced on the 8th of April, last, by Hon. Mr. Fielding, and is entitled "An Act to further amend the Insurance Act." Now any law tending to amend or affect the rapidly increasing insurance business of the country must be of paramount importance to the public in general, and particularly to all fraternal associations of the benefit category. While this Act is intended to deal with Canadian insurance companies in a special manner, it, nevertheless, has a much wider range, and its provisions naturally affect the various benefit associations and fraternal societies that carry on a species of Life, or Accident Insurance in accordance with the provisions of their charters. While we are not prepared, nor is it in any way necessary, to enter into the complex mathematical calculations that the Bill suggests and demands, we, however, might not inopportunistly quote some remarks of the Toronto Globe, on one phase of the question. The Globe says:—

"The law regarding fraternal benefit societies gives them the privilege of Dominion registration, provided they put their reserves on the same basis as those of the regular insurance companies. The Ancient Order of Foresters received a Dominion charter on that basis, and the Bill introduced by Mr. Fielding is to make provision for the registration of other friendly or benefit societies. It will obviate the necessity of special legislation, the only obligation being the payment of fees and the establishment of a reserve equal to that required in old-line companies. The Act is not compulsory, as that might involve the question of Federal jurisdiction, and compliance with the law does not affect existing contracts. A great many friendly societies have been tempted in various ways to disregard the natural laws which fix the price of insurance. Early periods of rapid growth have induced some to make an allowance for expansion in estimating the rate of premium, regardless of the fact that growth means an increase in liabilities as well as in receipts. An allowance has also been made for lapses policies, although the lapses are the most desirable risks, and leave a class of insured with a high death rate. The result of such errors has been seen in the high rate of mortality among the societies which have attempted to give cheap insurance. They have lived the allotted span of the average insurance risk, their death being as inevitable as that of their members. The earlier demands have been met with but light burdens on members, but the time of retribution has been certain. The methods of such organizations have shown an infinite variety, but none has devised a means of circumventing the laws of finance. The existing volume of insurance carried by any society, will not be affected when it comes under the provisions of the proposed Dominion Act. That must continue on the existing basis until all claims are disposed of. All risks accepted subsequent to registration must be carried in accordance with the provisions designed to secure absolute safety, and success will be purely a question of management and direction. A society uncertain as to its standing would have a chance to renew its life on a more substantial basis, as a partial failure to meet existing obligations would not imperil new business secured subsequent to registration on the basis prescribed. Life insurance is a most important contract, and too much care cannot be exercised in guarding against failure in the fulfilment of its obligations.

Another Bill, introduced on the same day, by Mr. Richardson, M.P., is entitled "An Act respecting the attachment of Salaries of Public Officers and Employees of the Government."

It has long been a standing grievance on the part of trades-people, merchants and others, that the sal-

aries of Government employees could not be seized for debts, or upon judgments taken against them. A couple of the provisions of this new Bill may be of considerable interest to all those who so complained in the past. Section two of the proposed Act reads thus:—

"2. In future, all moneys and salaries due, or accruing due, by the Government of Canada, to any public officer, or other person in the employ of the said Government, shall be liable to be seized by way of attachment in each and every of the provinces of the Dominion of Canada, in such proportion as may be determined by the laws in force in such provinces."

And section eight renders more effective the foregoing in these terms:—

"8. An attachment made under the provisions of this Act shall hold good until the amount mentioned in the judgment upon the attachment, in capital, interests and costs, has been paid and satisfied from and out of the salary of the public officer or employee as provided in this Act."

The other sections of the Act have merely regard to questions of legal procedure and add nothing to the spirit and intention of the law.

The third Bill, also introduced on the 6th of April, by Mr. Bostock, M.P., is entitled "An Act to provide for the issuing of Railway Passes to members of the Senate and House of Commons."

Heretofore, as a rule members of the Senate and House of Commons received certain mileage allowances for travelling expenses to and from their parliamentary duties; at the same time the railway companies generally accorded them free passes over their lines. There was no obligation, strictly speaking, on the part of the companies to do so; but possibly on the whole, they found it was not a losing transaction. Although nothing is said in the proposed enactment about doing away with the mileage allowances, still it is to be expected that when transportation is made free by compulsion of law, the extra amounts for travelling expenses will be cancelled. Be that as it may, the act states:—

"1. Members of the Senate and House of Commons shall while holding office be entitled at all times to travel free of charge within Canada, in the first class cars of any railway company as to which it is in the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada to so enact, and of any railway under the control of the Government of Canada."

Another and more universally applicable Bill has been introduced by Mr. Beattie, M.P., and is entitled "An Act to determine the length of the working day for workmen and laborers." The provisions of this Act are only two in number but they suffice—if they become law—to settle one of the most vexed questions and important issues between capital and labor. These provisions read:—

"1. Eight hours shall be the length of the working day for all workmen and laborers employed, either permanently or temporarily, by any persons, or by any contractor or sub-contractor under him.

"2. Every person, contractor or sub-contractor, who has under him, or who employs workmen or laborers, and who willfully violates the provisions of this Act, is guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both penalty and imprisonment, in the discretion of the Court."

It seems to us that if the above were to become law it would go a long way in regulating very many difficulties that have of late given rise to discontent on one side, and to a state of perpetual annoyance on the other. The working or laboring classes would be satisfied to a great extent in one of their most important claims, while the employers of labor would know exactly where they stand in relation to their employees, and would be enabled to calculate in accordance as far as their business is concerned.

she will show by a calm and pleasing countenance, her interior joy at being able to impart to others a knowledge of the sciences which will enable them to admire and enjoy the wisdom and works of God. A constant vigilance is absolutely necessary on the part of the teacher, as it is the only means to insure order without which there is no progress for the pupils.

If the preparations have been well and carefully made, the teacher has simple and practical examples at hand to illustrate the different points of each subject and, in this manner, command the attention of her listeners; these examples should be of a nature to instruct and interest, while they should also be adapted to the weaker rather than to the stronger intellects. It is very beneficial to make, as often as possible, the corrections of the different tasks in the class, and in such a manner as to call the attention of each pupil to his own mistakes and also to those of his companions.

However, when want of time, prevents this being done, care should be taken that the pupils point out their own mistakes and correct them.

Rewards and punishments are very essential points in the good government of an educational institution. In this regard it is necessary for the teacher to exercise a great tact, for their appreciation draws out the sensibility of both pupils and parents, giving rise to the most absurd jealousies, and thus creating discord among those who were once firm friends.

Recompenses should be given with a view to encourage diligence and application, and at the same time to excite a laudable emulation, free from envy or any bitter feeling. Punishments tend to insure the amendment of the guilty and prevent the violation of the rules regarding general discipline.

The duties after class are not of minor importance; the restraint under which the youthful and buoyant spirits of the children have been held, being relaxed, the vigilance of the devoted teacher must be redoubled. She must at this time be the good angel of all, and by her words of encouragement and good counsel, inspire in their young hearts the love of knowledge and virtue. During those moments of recreation the pupils should always find in their teacher, a friend and guide; fortunate is the teacher who has the gift of being such to her pupils. Her charge becomes lighter, she can do a thousand times more good, and she will not fail to obtain their love and respect, and in other years when she has passed to her eternal home, her memory will be treasured as precious beyond price; her everlasting wreath will be formed of the roses of charity whose petals are crimsoned by the numerous acts of renouncement—of abnegation, which she has been obliged to practice in the discharge of her duties as a teacher.

## EXPERIMENTS IN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Our Catholic institutions, despite the ignorant prejudice to the contrary, have ever been foremost amongst the first in every advance of science—experimental or otherwise. An example of this we find in the efforts—very successful—now being made by Prof. Green of the University of Notre Dame in the art of telegraphing without wires. Referring to this wonderful invention the Chicago "Herald" says editorially:—

"If there was any doubt as to the practicability of wireless telegraphy for short distances, which has been engaging the thought of many electricians ever since Tesla announced the remarkable results of his experiments in this direction, it seems to have been removed by Professor Jerome J. Green of the University of Notre Dame."

The theory of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, with which successful experiments have been conducted at the University of Notre Dame, is that a message carried over the wire, by the Morse system, to such a point in mid-air as is necessary to deliver a message which will produce without fail sound waves that will not meet with interruption will be taken up by a receiver or sounder at any distance, providing the receiver is tuned to the same point of synchronism as the machine which sends the message. By having the sender and the receiver tuned to the same synchronism messages are kept from being intercepted. The sound waves, which are essential to the transmission of messages, are produced by oscillations of the dischargers, which take the current from the switchboard, the oscillations being at the rate of 300,000 per second.

"Whether wireless telegraphy can ever be utilized upon a scale large enough to give it practical value in commerce and business is a question yet open to controversy. But that messages may be transmitted in this way for several miles, under certain conditions, has been very satisfactorily demonstrated by Prof. Green with apparatus of his own design and construction."

After making some experiments in Chicago, where, on account of the network of electric wires all over the city, the operation was rendered more difficult, Professor Green, himself, said:—

"The tests in Chicago must be regarded as purely experimental. New conditions in the way of local disturbances from steel buildings and electric wires will be encountered and I will not hazard a guess as to the success of the trial. The preliminary

trials in Notre Dame to-day were satisfactory."

The "Times-Herald," of Saturday last, in commenting upon this wonderful event says:—

"Although Prof. Green has been experimenting for little more than a week he has met with remarkable success, having sent a message in his last test for a distance of a mile and a half, from the Notre Dame station across St. Joseph's Lake to St. Mary's Academy. The instruments which were employed in these tests were made by himself and his students in the physical laboratory of the university. There has been no outlay of money for apparatus, and the success achieved is more noteworthy in consequence."

"At the sending station an eight-inch induction coil was placed. This transformed the low tension electricity from the storage battery to a high tension, rapidly oscillating discharge, which produced the Hertzian waves. These were propagated from the vertical wire at the top of a 135-foot flagstaff. When the circuit is closed they produce a disturbance in the ether and travel with the velocity of light waves in all directions. At the receiving station these waves affect the vertical wire and the duplicate metallic sphere and pass down in the coherer. The coherer consists of a glass tube with brass plugs fitting into the ends. The empty space between the two plugs is filled with nickel and silver filings. When the impulses reach the coherer the action of the filings is such as to close the circuit of relay, which causes the sounder to respond and the message is received. At first Professor Green found difficulty in securing fine graduations and nice differentiation with his improvised appliances. But with each test he has improved them, so that, in the final experiment, the signals came sharply and distinctly."

Although not yet 30 years old, Professor Green has had a wide and varied experience in the electrical field. He came to Notre Dame in 1895. Graduating from the Ohio State University as an electrical engineer, he served as an expert with the bureau of awards during the World's Fair, and later spent a year with Edison Electric Company in Chicago. He was identified with the electrical department at the Atlanta exposition. He came to Notre Dame from an instructorship in the National School of Electricity. Although Professor Green doubts the practicability of employing the Marconi system of telegraphy except for marine and navy uses because of the enormous expense entailed he will continue his experiments for the benefit of the students of his class.

### LUKEWARM CATHOLICS.

We recently heard a sermon in which the preacher portrayed the lukewarm Catholic as a man who has not even the natural qualities of manliness and courage. He keeps his belief to himself; his Protestant friends never find out that he is a Catholic from anything he may say or do; he drops in of a Sunday, to be bodily present at a Low Mass, and very often is just in time for the Gospel. He makes a sort of jerky motion for a genuflection, is very careful to place his handkerchief on the kneeling

bench, scarcely ever has a prayer-book, is always first to sit down when the proper time comes; in a word, is a mere listless being during Mass. Such Catholics are generally frauds, no matter how you take them.—The Sunday Democrat.

### A SURE CURE FOR CONSUMPTION

There is no such thing. Scott's Emulsion comes the nearest to it, but even that will not cure advanced cases, but taken in time it will cure this disease.

## FLOWERS IN OUR MORTUARY CHAMBERS.

By a Regular Contributor.

The "Washington Times" has a very timely article, on the subject of flowers at funerals. It is from a non-Catholic standpoint; but none the less is it very well deserving of serious reflection. The article thus states the difficulty which often amounts to a dilemma:—

"We often see in the announcement of deaths. It is requested that no flowers be sent. Yet friends long so to do something, to show some tangible evidence of thought for those in sorrow and then they are at a standstill."

"Here is a hint of a way out of the difficulty. Would it not be a pleasant thing to many—to give, to receive—to the friends we wish to honor in death—that when asked not to send flowers, to send them; but to some poor, or ill, or in trouble, in the name of and in remembrance of the dear friend gone?"

"Few people except those who are often with the very poor, and sick, at all realize what flowers mean to them—in their rooms and in their sight—their very own."

"In the hospitals for the very poor—there is care, indeed, such as it is—but there is little that is bright and cheerful. But a blossom, just one—placed in a feeble hand, or even if the hand is too feeble to hold it—and there are many such—within sight of the tired eyes, on the bedclothes, does more than anyone can dream who has not seen the effect."

And, in closing, the advice given is as follows:—

"If the giver desires to let the friends know of the gift there are many ways in which the knowledge could be delicately given. A card enclosed in an envelope saying 'With love and sympathy I send . . . flowers to-day in the name of . . .'"

"It would not be a parade or a good deed done far from it, if done as it should be—for it would let the sorrowing know that their friend was at that time thought of—lovingly and gratefully—in lonely places."

"And tender thought is the one and only thing that money cannot buy."

While the custom of sending flowers to decorate the mortuary chamber, or the bier of a deceased friend, may

have its laudable side, and certainly was commenced in a spirit that is both creditable to the living and the dead, still that custom is at times carried too far. It becomes a fashion; and fashion is a tyrant before which poverty must shiver and to which wealth—willing, or not—must contribute. Heaps of crosses, pillows, anchors, broken columns, gates ajar, and varied-formed bouquets, piled upon the remains of a poor departed fellow-creature, too often speak a story of sacrifices made that the donors could ill-afford, and of extravagances that in many cases are unjust, if not criminal. While we admire the suggestion of our Washington contemporary, we feel that the Catholic Church affords a much more useful and practical solution of the problem.

Why not, instead of spending ten, or twenty, or a hundred dollars in flowers, that must fade and disappear almost as soon as will the one in whose memory they are given, donate that money for Masses for the soul of the departed? It would be a beautiful custom, "a holy and a wholesome thought," to inform the relatives and friends of the deceased that you have contributed so many Masses, or other prayers, as your mark of affection, sympathy and regret. There would be something very consoling in such a course, but, above all, would it be of benefit to the one whose memory is dear and whom we would gladly serve.

In life, when we make plans, we generally consult—if not directly, at least in an indirect manner—the needs, the pleasure, the wishes of the one we intend favoring. And were we to ask a departed co-religionist which he would prefer—ten dollars worth of flowers to be strewn on his grave, or ten dollars worth of prayers, or Masses for the repose of his soul—not one in a million would say send the flowers. Judged by that standard it might not be an opportune to change our general system of honoring dead; we can honor them in no more telling manner than by serving them. Would a starving man thank you for a rose, when he begged for a loaf of bread? Would a suffering soul feel grateful for a flower, when he needs a prayer?

## CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

Two weeks ago the annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society, of London, Eng., took place in the Archbishop's House, Westminster. Father Vaughan delivered some very timely remarks, and, in view of the intimate connection between our Catholic Truth Society here and the one in England, we might not inopportunistly reproduce some of the more general of his statements. After expressing his satisfaction at fruitful results of the year's progress, and having commented upon much of the work done, His Eminence said that:—

"They had something far more than a negative duty—the negative work of destroying the errors which were circulated against the Catholic truth—they had the positive duty of spreading Catholic truth more and more. A new opportunity was about to offer itself to the members of that society in connection with a project for spending the last year of this century and the beginning of the first year of the next century in solemn, international, or world-wide homage to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It was a project which had taken its rise at the centre of truth and unity in Rome, and it had been blessed by the Holy See. The Bishops had the subject before them at their meeting in Low week, and they had determined to draw the attention of the English people and of the Catholic people of England to this international act of homage. It was time, at all events, that the Catholic Truth Society should set to work to produce the literature that would be required. The general project was somewhat large, but they would see at once where the place of the society came in. There were to be common prayers, pilgrimages to Loretto, Jerusalem, and Rome; religious solemnities, special meetings for the purpose of transmitting to future ages the solemn profession of the Catholic Faith, the erection of crosses, and in country places, and especially on lofty eminences, bonfires would be lighted to attest gratitude and adoration to the Divine Redeemer. On the first day of the new century the faithful throughout the world would unite in spirit at the first Mass of the Supreme Pontiff, at which His Holiness would use a golden chalice presented by the Catholics of the world. It was not intended to bring before themselves

### PAPER COLLARS AGAIN.

"Industries which depend for success on fad or fashion experience many vicissitudes," mused the veteran haberdasher, as he ran a feather duster over the necktie boxes. "There is the paper collar manufacture. For decades it has lain dormant. A paper-collarless generation has grown up almost in total ignorance of the fact that there was a time when the necks of many men were encircled by paper, and the manufacture of paper collars was an industry that gave employment to thousands, numbered many valuable plants of machinery, and sold its annual output for millions of dollars. But now paper collars are coming in again—not into fashion, alas! that day will never come, perhaps, but into more general use."

"Are they a fad?" asked the reporter.

"No, hardly that," replied the haberdasher; "but the manufacturers have at last discovered a process by which paper may be made to resemble linen so closely that only the closest examination reveals the deceit, if you can speak of it as such. And then too, they have found out how to make standing collars of paper and can supply any of the leading styles. One of the principal causes of the paper collar's decline many years ago was the fact that only rolled or turned-down patterns could be made. But since this obstacle has been overcome and the linen knish is so perfect as to deceive an eye not looking for imitations, there is no reason why the paper collar should not become once more popular article of masculine apparel. Another thing in favor of this re-established popularity, is that it costs no more than the price of laundering a linen article."

## GOOD ADVICE TO TEACHER AND PUPIL.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

Brome, May 8th.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Teachers of Brome, P. Q., Miss L. A. Dunn, the popular and talented secretary of the Association, read a very interesting paper, dealing with the duties of a teacher, from which we take the following extracts:—

"The duties of a teacher are varied and numerous. They may be divided into three different classes, viz.:—duties before, during, and after the

hours devoted to class. The first consists in arranging the work of the day with a view to save labor on the part of both pupils and teacher. To do this, all lessons should be prepared in advance and a definite time allotted to each subject.

Secondly, in introducing system in her own work, and that of her pupils before receiving the lessons of the day. Being thoroughly penetrated with the sublimity of her mission