

The Catholic Register
Published every Thursday by
THE CATHOLIC REGISTER PUBLISHING CO.
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Editor and Manager.

Telephone, Main 489

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1902

A VILLANOUS CRUSADE

The veracious journalist is still roaming loose over Ireland according to the cable despatches of this week the country is to be placed under martial law and flooded with English and Scotch militia to suppress the rebellious and violent United Irish League.

Mr. Wyndham has been compelled to go on record by an alarmed subject of the King named George Walker, who, writing from County Down on closed copies of The Belfast News-Letter with many sensational "exposures" of the tyranny of the League, and demanded prompt inquiry and action.

The first article deals entirely with the case of a farmer in Dromard, who for having served on the jury which convicted two men named Mullen and McGuire of intimidation in 1899 was denounced by name in a resolution published in a local newspaper, The Sligo Champion being apparently intimidated by this publication, he joined the United Irish League.

"Now, in point of fact this man was never boycotted. No servant left his employment; no shopkeeper refused to supply him; no blacksmith or carpenter refused to work for him, one of his neighbors refused to speak to him, and several avoided saluting him in public, but his business at fairs and markets was in no way interfered with."

"The article proceeds 'His friends approached the Government and begged their assistance.' Letter followed letter in quick succession, but the Castle remained silent, and it soon became evident that victory would rest with the United Irish League. The end came at last. Hopeless of assistance from the Government," etc.

"No communication whatever was received by the Government from or on behalf of this man until after the date on which he joined the League."

"The substance of eight other articles is dissolved by like proof of their falsehood. One article declared that the League was singling out the Protestant farmers for its boycott. This is what Mr. Wyndham says. 'The fact is that one laborer only left the service of a Protestant farmer in the manner described. After a few days he applied to be taken back, but was refused.'"

"The article proceeds to describe the sufferings entailed on the Protestant farmers by this general description. The passage ends as follows: 'Their turf lay on the bogs, their potatoes were still in the ground, while in one case (that of M—, of Y—), the hay lay rotting in the field. There is no foundation for these allegations of fact.'"

from Mr. Wyndham's honest admissions.

TAKING THE POOR MAN'S FOOD

To the average newspaper reader the average convey but a very vague impression. Whether they say that the National Debt of Britain has been increased by the war to three-quarters of a billion of pounds sterling and over, or that the deficit of the current year will not be less than fifty millions sterling is all high finance. Few have, or can have, any sort of idea about it. Had the same newspaper reader would probably be keenly excited by tidings of disaster to some hallowed phrase, learnt as a boy in the old school reader. Such a phrase, for instance as 'the abolition of the Corn Laws' it sounds so much like the abolition of slavery and makes us think ourselves a free happy and prosperous people. In reality these phrases carry less true meaning than the billions and millions of high finance. They govern us, and like most governments, deceive us. We know that black slavery is a hundred times a more profitable industry in the Rand mines to-day than ever it was in the Southern States. But we have the phrase and that is enough. A heavy tax on corn has again been imposed on the consumers of cheap food in Great Britain and Ireland to meet the heavy strain of the war. But Sir Michael Hicks-Beach prefers to call it a registration duty, a tariff for revenue only, and the public considers the phrase alone good value for their money.

Canada and the other colonies that have been talking so much of a mutual preference with the dear old Mother Country will be affected even more than the United States by the new corn duties. The imposition of ten cents a cwt on flour and six cents on wheat will certainly be made the excuse for increasing the price of bread, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer hopes not. In Ireland this would have the effect of throwing the poor back again upon American corn meal, as the staff of life. That is the food of the Kaffirs in the Rand mines. To a lesser extent the same thing would happen in England and Scotland. The benefit of this enforced change of diet by the poor would probably be divided between the American supplier and the old country miller.

Canada gets nothing in return for her preference to British manufactured goods. Her flour trade with Britain will undoubtedly be checked. The dreamers of Canada, who have been long looking for a trade preference in favor of the colonies, are now directed to turn their eyes to the Coronation B., they will look in vain to this coalition and the next Britain will never give her colonies a preference until she and they become independent of the United States, Russia and the other great food supplying countries. The Boer war will put her back for generations from the realization of any such hope. The burdens of taxation have increased enormously of late, and it must have been as a last desperate means of providing money that free trade was abandoned this week by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach.

There were evidences in the budget speech that the tide of prosperity is now beginning to recede, and when depression comes again, as it inevitably must come, Britain may be called upon to face distress so keen that no economist would dare, by meddling anew with the food duties, to take the risk of making the bread of the poor still harder to obtain.

SELF GOVERNMENT THREATENED

Mr. R. L. Borden, Conservative leader in the House of Commons at Ottawa, during the debate on Tuesday, substantially supported the position taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier when the Premier declined the invitation of Mr. Chamberlain to consider at the Coronation conference of colonial statesmen the subject of Imperial military defence.

"I for one," said Mr. Borden, "shall always maintain, so far as Canada is concerned, Canada herself must deal with the subject of Canadian contributions to Imperial defence. The Parliament is the proper tribunal to deal with that."

But Mr. Borden, although agreeing with Sir Wilfrid on the point of national and constitutional rights, was rather inclined to think that the matter was still one for discussion at the conference. The subject is hardly one that can be trifled with. The New York Tribune cable despatch from London of Tuesday, which is supposed to be inspired directly or indirectly by Mr. Chamberlain, contained the following significant paragraph: "Mr. Chamberlain has not obtained as much leverage as he desired, but he has secured ground for discussing commercial and tariff questions at the conference of the colonial Premiers and Ministers after the coronation. . . . While the colonies will be reluctant to surrender their self-governing rights, it is probable that some basis for financial contribution to Imperial defence may be reached if some form of preferential tariff be adopted by the home Government."

The real object is to deprive the colonies of their self-governing rights on the promise or chance of receiving a little mess of preferential postage. And the people of Canada are still asleep to the danger. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is right in declining to have anything to do with the military defence problem and he should be supported by public opinion. Besides we will never get a preference, because Britain could not afford to discriminate against the United States.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Peace negotiations must have advanced a step far when all the Boer leaders, including Delarey, have left their commandoes and come into Pretoria to communicate with the Imperial Government. The reported forecasts of the terms under consideration are confusing. According to one authority the Boers are to receive back at once, their flag and their government, with a British resident representative. This would mean their independence veiled under new terms. But on the other hand a London paper says the Cape rebels are not to receive freedom, that the banishment proclamation is not to be recalled and that there must be a general surrender of the burghers, which would mean disarmament. Between the two sets of reported terms there is such a vast difference that years of negotiation could not bridge. The truth probably is that the Imperial Government is guarding strictly the secrecy of the negotiations and that the rumors flying around so thickly are mere conjectures.

At all events there is a better spirit shown on both sides than was evinced on any of the occasions of past negotiation. The first offer to treat for peace came from the Boers after the surrender of Cronje at Paardeburg, when Messrs Kruger and Steyn cabled Lord Salisbury: "We are ready to restore peace on securing the incontestable independence of both republics as sovereign international states." The British reply was a point blank refusal. The next negotiations were suggested between Generals Buller and Botha. Lord Roberts nipped that attempt in the bud by telegraphing to Buller: "No peace except after unconditional surrender." Botha and Kitchener actually entered into a conference at Middleburg a year ago. Lord Kitchener then proposed representative government after the surrender and disarmament of the Boers. That was rejected. The recent intervention of the Dutch Premier can hardly be called a negotiation.

It will be seen that the Boers have held out for independence and the British for disarmament. We will be a great peacemaker who bridges the gulf between them.

RHODES' MAD DREAM.

When we wrote last week of the strong confidence well known to have existed between Mr. Stead and the late Cecil Rhodes was had, of course, no idea that a record of its aims and objects was bequeathed to the former in the handwriting of the millionaire. Mr. Stead has now made this document public and it shows Cecil Rhodes, perhaps, in his true character, a man of wild dreams but of amazing determination to realize them. In his political will he outlined how the world could be ruled by the wealthy men of England and the United States. They would pool their possessions, and as each one died his money was to be held in trust by the others, banded together as a secret society, which Mr. Rhodes had the audacity to compare with the Jesuits. Mammon was to be the God of this new oligarchy. Spain, Portugal and the other decaying and little nations, as Lord Salisbury once called them, were to be wiped off the map, and strength and might alone treated with respect. Germany was accordingly to be courted. Then, some fine day, when the process of "benevolent assimilation" had gone so far that the mighty sons of Mammon would have everything their own way, they were to establish the reign of peace "for

all eternity." What fools these mortals be with their fat bank accounts and swelled heads. It is very unlikely now that the process of assimilating little nations by painting them red on the map will be pursued as enthusiastically in the future, after what has happened in South Africa.

The world will not miss such "empire builders" as Cecil Rhodes. One fact, however, must be pretty generally apparent. Rhodes' ideas were not his own exclusively. There is a "pool" of influence if not of actual cash, already in existence between the multi-millionaires of New York and London. Its grip is felt upon Government and upon the press. Some day the revolt may occur, but in the meantime an oligarchy of wealth working in the huge industrial trusts and on the stock market carries itself with a high hand.

A FAST TRAVELING TALE

It is sometimes highly amusing the way in which the credulity of a certain class of Protestants feeds their indignation against the "machinations of the Church of Rome." An instance of this appears from a letter in The Irish Times over the signature of Dr. O'Dwyer, Catholic Bishop ofimerick.

To get at an end of the tangled string which Dr. O'Dwyer has been at pains to unwind, we have the fact in the first place of one Rev. John Dixon getting hold of the "Missionaries Catholicae" for 1901. Rev. John Dixon is a resident of Balmain West, in Australia. The "Missionaries" professed to give the Catholic population of Australia, and Rev. John Dixon thought the publication put the figures at 4,507,980. His discovery appears to have excited him, and he wrote to The Sydney Herald nailing the audacious fiction of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda. The Sydney Herald, in due course got into the office of The English Church Record, and the hawk-eyed editor of that responsible journal at once marked the "Romish lie." The Church Record brought the exposure of the vain trick of Rome to the office of The Church of Ireland Gazette, which passed it on in turn to the columns of The Irish Times. It worked all the way down from Australia to the opposite point of the world like one of those chain letters invented some years ago for collecting money. An farther it traveled, the fiercer grew the accumulation of angry contempt for the Pope and his satellites.

The Bishop of Limerick read The Irish Times, and for the first time it occurred to him to look at the "Missionaries" for himself. He found that Rev. John Dixon, being no doubt a typical Anglo-Saxon, had stumbled in his translation or else falsified the record. The actual number of the Catholic population of Australia is given in the Missiones Catholicae as 805,800, and the total population of the Australian islands 4,507,980.

The Bishop of Limerick points out that the figures claimed by the "Missionaries" come below the mark of the actual Catholic population by 111,000, and he proceeds to say that the evident object of the chain lie was "to exhibit the Congregation of Propaganda, which is one of the most important organizations in the Catholic Church, and is composed of men of the very highest eminence, as recklessly and grossly misrepresenting the number of Catholics in the particular part of its jurisdiction to which this paragraph refers."

"Whether," he adds, "you will think that any reparation is due to Propaganda or to us Irish Catholics for so insulting a suggestion I do not know, but I trust you will allow me to inform your readers that the charge in question is, in plain language, a deliberate falsehood."

The Register is prepared to foretell that "Flanear" in The Mail will catch this "horrible tale" of the Propaganda in about two weeks and print it as a clever discovery of his own.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. J. J. Foy, K. C. has again been nominated by the Conservatives of South Toronto for the Local Legislature and Mr. W. B. Rogers, his former opponent, has also been re-nominated by the Liberals of the riding.

Rev. Dr. Talmage is dead. He was type of the preacher who is called successful in the United States, because of the financial success of the business he follows. But Talmage could not have carried the business methods which distinguished him as a preacher and newspaper writer into

ordinary lines of commerce or industry. The case which will decide whether Justice resident in Britain can be proceeded against under the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 is now in the High Court of England. The Protestant Alliance, it may be remembered, applied to Mr. Kennedy at Marlborough Street Police Court, London, for summonses against three well-known Fathers, calling on them to show cause why they should not be expelled from the country. On the ground that the provisions of the act in respect to the orders were obsolete, the magistrate refused to issue the writs. Now the Alliance is calling upon Mr. Kennedy to make good his contention at law.

Insurance men in Toronto and probably in other cities as well, are telling a strange story, which, if true in all its particulars, would involve some companies in charges of compounding felony by the barrel or in larger lots. Names, places and details are spoken of, and the amazing thing is that no newspaper has as yet published the startling revelations, though a few journals have thrown out broad hints. Some time ago the death of a prominent citizen of Montreal, whose name was known from end to end of the country for the worthy objects which he was constantly pursuing, was announced as the central fact of a very tragic occurrence. It was impossible to recognize the body, but the insurance companies were satisfied that all was right. The story now is that all was wrong, and that the beneficiaries have been called upon to settle with the company for the profits of a conspiracy. It is said the supposed dead man is alive and well in another country. It is further said that one company has already been remembered

I observe, writes the London correspondent of The Dublin Freeman's Journal, that Mr. Chamberlain has issued what purports to be a disclaimer of a statement made in this column some days ago respecting a communication he made to Sir Wilfrid Laurier following the appearance of the Canadian Premier at Mr. John Redmond's reception at the great meeting held at Ottawa. Mr. Chamberlain's disclaimer is, however, in such a guarded form that anyone can see at a glance that it is a mere equivocation. He says "There is no truth in the statement that he asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier for an explanation." It was not stated that he "asked for an explanation." What my informant said, and what I repeated, was that "Mr. Chamberlain cabled to Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressing surprise at his action," which is a somewhat different matter. No doubt Mr. Chamberlain does very extraordinary and pushful things on occasions, but no sensible person could have imagined that even he would have the impertinence to "ask for an explanation" from the Premier of a self-governing colony as to the exercise by him of his constitutional rights to attend a legal public meeting. My authority for the original statement is so high that I have no hesitation in again affirming that Mr. Chamberlain cabled to Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressing surprise at his action," and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier declined to recognize Mr. Chamberlain's authority to interfere in the matter. The incident at the time, I am informed, caused very natural resentment in high Ministerial circles in the Dominion. If Mr. Chamberlain asserts that he made no communication to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on this subject, it will be interesting to see whether that statement is confirmed by the Premier.

Obituary

FATHER SCANLAN, C. S. S. R., DEAD. Montreal, April 14.—Rev. Father Scanlan, C. S. S. R., died shortly after midnight at the Hotel Dieu, at the age of thirty-four years. This announcement was received with surprise and regret to-day in this city, for the dead priest was considered likely to live for many years to come. He was well known throughout the city, and particularly in St. Ann's parish, where his services in the cause of temperance were highly appreciated.

He had been ill for some time at St. Anne de Beaupre, where he was sent after he left Montreal. He came to this city a few days ago, and underwent a painful operation at the hands of one of the most skillful surgeons in this city. The operation itself was successful, but the patient never rallied entirely, and he gradually sank until he died.

The deceased was born in this city, where his father, Mr. M. Scanlan, is well known, through his connection with the Dominion and Franco-Canadian steamship lines. His brothers, Dr. H. Scanlan, J. T. Scanlan, of the firm of J. T. Marchand & Co., lumber merchants, and Fred Scanlan, the old Shamrock hockey player, are also well known. He has three sisters, one of whom is the wife of Dr. W. J. Prendergast, while the other two are unmarried.

It was an advocate of temperance that Father Scanlan specially distinguished himself during his term of service in St. Ann's parish. He was spiritual director of St. Ann's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society, and as such he undertook to suppress the illicit sale of liquor to do, this it was necessary for him at times to undertake police work himself, and to denounce before the courts those who

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rendered themselves guilty of offences against the temperance law. Less than two years ago he was removed to Ste. Anne de Beaupre, much to the regret of the pastor and parishioners of St. Ann's. He was in apparently good health, and remarkably strong and athletic until a few days ago a week ago yesterday. He was able to celebrate High Mass. His sudden death at such an early age and with such bright prospects for a useful life before him, is a cause of deep sorrow among all who knew him and his family are the object of general sympathy of all classes.

DEATH OF A REMARKABLE CENTENARIAN

A despatch from Castlere, Ireland, records the death at Carbane, four miles from the town named, of a woman named Mrs. Ellen Egan, who had attained the remarkable old age of 113 years. The deceased, who belonged to an ancient and respected family in the parish of Ballintubber, was of a strong and robust constitution, and was able to perform household work, even milk a cow, up to a few weeks previous to her death. Except that her eyesight slightly failed about two years ago she retained her faculties to the last, and could relate many stirring events of the part of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth century. She could repeat with a rather vivid recollection many incidents of that stirring period, and the excitement created in the country by the landing of the French at Killala. She took a pleasurable interest in telling how herself and two other girls stole away about seven miles distant to see the French soldiers passing from Frenchpark to Elphin on their way to the battle of Ballinacuck. The venerable lady used to converse freely on later events—the repeal movement and the memorable election of O'Connell for Clare, and would relate many harrowing tales of the sad scenes witnessed during the famine years of '46 and '47. All these events she could remember as distinctly as if they only occurred yesterday. The deceased passed peacefully away in the presence of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. During her life she was never known to be seriously ill. She was a faithful and devoted member of the Catholic Church, and in her latter days her spiritual wants were assiduously attended to by the Rev. James Martin, P. P., Ballintubber.

LATE EDWARD CREAN.

A Montreal despatch says. Few people of any prominence, in Canada or the United States, or Great Britain, for that matter, who ever went to Quebec, did not know the late Mr. "Ned" Crean, and were not obliged to him for additional comforts and a cheerful journey.

He was born in Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland, and came to Quebec in August, 1856. On the 24th of March, 1857, he entered the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway, and remained with that company until the first of May, 1899, when he resigned. During all that time he never met with an accident.

When he first started work for the company the Victoria bridge was not yet built, and trains used to run into Longueuil.

His principal run during all the years that he was connected with the Grand Trunk, was from Lewis to Richmond.

DEATH OF MRS. B. B. HUGHES

The death was announced on Tuesday of Mrs. B. B. Hughes, who passed away at her residence, 543 Jarvis street, after an illness extending over two years. The deceased, who was very well known in charitable circles in this city, was the daughter of the late John Sheridan of Rochester, N. Y., and the widow of the late B. B. Hughes. She was a sister of Mrs. Patrick Hughes of this city. The late Mr. Hughes had resided in Toronto

for thirty years past, and left a family of five daughters and one son—Madame Hughes, religious of the Order of the Sacred Heart; Mrs. Harry O'Reilly, St. Catharines; Mrs. T. P. Coffey, the Misses Clementina and Florence Hughes, and Mr. Vincent J. Hughes, of this city. The funeral took place to-day at 9 o'clock in the morning from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes to the new Catholic cemetery.

ELEVATION OF MGR. BEGIN.

New York, April 15.—Advices from well-informed Vatican circles, says The Herald, state that the Pope, at the co-sistory in May to fill the vacancies among the Cardinals, will elevate Monsignor Begin, Archbishop of Quebec.

CATHOLIC LORDS CONFERENCE.

London, April 12.—A meeting of Catholic peers was held at Westminster Palace Hotel yesterday to consider what future action if any should be taken in regard to the royal declaration as to the Catholic Church. It was decided that during Coronation year it would not be fitting to take any action, as it might provoke bitter controversy and as the declaration was not included in the coronation ceremonial it would be better to postpone action until the next session of Parliament.

KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

The first annual inspection and muster of the first military district of Ontario took place on Tuesday, April 15th, in St. Lawrence Hall, when Leo Commandery No. 2, Captain Heffling commanding, was inspected by Colonel Keltz. After a rigid inspection and a sharp drill lasting an hour, the company adjourned to the Nealon House, where Host O'Connor had dinner all in readiness. The chair was then taken by Captain Heffling and the vice-guest, Grand President McCarthy, Grand Secretary Dillon, Grand Treasurer McGuinn, Colonel Keltz and Lieut. Neville were also present. After the cloth was removed, songs, toasts and merry reminiscences of former jovial meetings kept the company together to a late hour.

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