

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

The political event of the week is the financial statement of Ontario by the Provincial Treasurer, the Hon. Mr. Harcourt, who deserves congratulation for the able speech he delivered and the satisfactory surplus he presented.

The most important source of revenue is from Crown lands, which last year gave the largest receipts for any one year, viz: \$2,286,821. The greatest part of this derived its unprecedented proportions from the sale of timber lands last October. The mileage sold was 668, the total price realized, \$2,815,000; the average price per mile, \$3,657, and the highest price, \$17,500. "The demand for lumber at the time was unusually brisk; the export duty had been taken off, the import duty was small, and large sums of money at low interest were readily available for any promising investment."

Mr. Harcourt answered the objection to parting with our timber by stating that the sales did not seriously affect them, that the growth of the country required it, and that a single forest fire in a few days would ruin more than our timber camps in a whole season.

The receipts from liquor licenses have, owing to a decrease in the number, fallen somewhat below the estimate. Instead of \$900,000, which was expected, \$294,758 has been actually received. This last year there was a reduction of 99 licenses, there being 121 granted, as against 3,523 the year previous.

The receipts in the Educational Department arising from the fees of teachers' examinations and those of pupils at the Normal, Model and Kindergarten schools of Toronto and Ottawa amount \$48,000.

Other public institutions give a revenue of \$136,406—of which nearly \$77,000 came from the asylums, \$56,000 from the Central Prison and \$8,000 from the two reformatories.

From casual revenue, such as insurance assessment and succession duty, the Province has this year received \$70,257. And this was the first year when any return was derived from a tax upon legacies the amount \$758 from this source, as might be expected, is not large. But the Treasurer, entering into a comparative analysis of the workings of such acts in England and several of the neighbouring States, concluded that we might receive this next year some \$20,000. And he hoped that in a few years enough would return from this source to maintain the grants to hospitals and charities, which, during the last five years, have averaged \$129,998.

"We received as the proceeds of a sale of annuities \$160,000. Altogether we have had six of these sales. This last one re-

sulted more favorably for the province than any previous one, the purchaser realizing less than 4 per cent. on his investment. Hon. members will notice with satisfaction that whereas on each previous occasion we sold annuities to the amount of from \$240,000 to \$270,000, the amount sold last year was only \$160,000. This is due of course to the fact that our railway aid certificates, which mature from year to year, are rapidly decreasing in amount. The annuities I am speaking of replace these maturing railway aid certificates, so that in selling annuities we do not add one dollar to our liabilities, nor do we decrease our surplus to the extent of a dollar. We postpone the payment of the railway aid certificates, and replace them with these annuities."

Speaking of expenditure Mr. Harcourt showed that in the department of Civil Government, the Provincial Board of Health, the Publishing Department, and the Administration of Justice, efficiency as well as economy was secured. The Administration of Justice took \$891,689, while Education received \$658,161:

"For public institutions, maintenance we spent last year \$818,435. Of all our ordinary expenditure for the year, nearly one dollar out of every four dollars went for this purpose. We have, sir, I think, just reason to be proud of our numerous public institutions, meeting, as they do, our every need; of their excellent equipment, of their careful supervision and efficient management. I have on a previous occasion pointed out that this large expenditure is growing from year to year, and that it must continue to increase from time to time, so long as the number of our insane continues to increase."

"Our estimated receipts for the year were \$3,366,572. Our actual receipts were \$4,457,478. We therefore on the one hand received \$1,190,906 more than we expected, and on the other spent \$188,785 less than we voted. Further, our total ordinary and special expenditures for 1892 were less than those of 1891 by \$94,502. When we take into account our abnormally large capital expenditures for public buildings, and our other exceptional expenditures, this statement will, I know, be received with great satisfaction. In the last five years we have spent on public buildings alone \$2,059,237. During the preceding period of five years we spent \$983,772. We spent more than twice as much in this way during the last five years as we did during the preceding period. Nor has anyone said, nor will anyone now say, that a dollar of this vast expenditure was useless or uncalled for. On these new buildings alone we spent last year \$323,203, or more than \$1,000 a day for each working day of the year. Up to the end of 1892 we have spent upon them \$1,107,600. As to their cost, their excellence of design, their structural conveniences, their solidity of finish, their adaptability to our needs generally, we freely invite, nay, we challenge, inspection, criticism and comparison. They are an ornament to this city, a credit to the province and a lasting monument to the ability and integrity of the commissioner of public works. To the commissioner himself, and to this the most important of the several large public buildings erected during his long and honorable term of office, I may apply the words spoken of another on a similar occasion, and say that the whole of the money placed in his hands has been administered with a single eye to the promotion of the objects for which it was given. It has paid no toll on the way, undergone no diminution, but has been wholly applied to public purposes, nor has there been any sign of carelessness in its administration."

The Treasurer closed with a brief remark on the anticipations of the present year:

"As hon. members will notice, our estimated expenditure for the year is \$3,559,185. I can promise that our actual expenditure will, as in former years, be kept well within this estimate. For agriculture, education and hospitals and charities we ask larger grants than heretofore. Increases in those services seem to be automatic and necessary.

We estimate, on the other hand, that we will receive during this year \$4,030,572,

an amount largely in excess of last year's estimate, as well as of the estimate of 1891. I am confident that actual results will prove it to be a careful and moderate estimate. We expect therefore to be able to provide, out of the ordinary receipts of the year, for all our ordinary expenditures, and in addition thereto retire the maturing railway certificates and annuities and still have a comfortable surplus on the year's transactions."

The idea of a representative of the British Government at the Holy See, always a favorite idea at the Vatican, has lately been gaining ground. England appreciates the power of the Papacy, and seeks it from time to time. But this is not sufficient; for, in order to enjoy the full benefit that would follow, the British Empire should enter into a closer relation with Rome and the Church. Every help is needed to assure the proper development of the British cosmopolitan destiny.

That is food for Orangemen. What with the prospect of Home Rule and an Embassy to the Holy Father, the modern Orangeman has fallen upon evil days.

The Pope, in reply to an address from the Roman nobility, amongst other things said: "In difficult times, when the Popes had a greater need of human assistance, the Roman aristocracy never failed to offer for the imitation of the world examples of unalterable devotion and active fidelity, examples which we have seen imitated in fact not twenty-five years ago, when this pacific metropolis of the Christian world was besieged by the violence of arms. Undoubtedly there are amongst your number more than one who in that extremity offered the strength of his arm in defence of the rights of the Holy See. Such are the recollections, dear to our heart, recalled by your presence, and, Sir Prince, the words in which you have addressed us. . . . We recommend to you, above all, charity in its different forms. charity which gives, charity which assists, charity which places one on the right way, charity which illumines, which propagates good by word, by writing, by meetings, sodalities, mutual help. If this sovereign virtue were practised according to the rules of the Gospel, it would be so much the better for civil society. This terrible hatred would cease; the multitude would be more gentle, and it would be easier to solve this difficult social question which wearies people and renders governments anxious."

The feast of St. Patrick was duly celebrated by the Irish Franciscans at Rome in their Church of St. Isidor, where pontifical high Mass was sung by Mgr. Passerini, titular Archbishop of Ptolemais. The interest in the celebration for us centres in the fact that his Lordship Bishop Dowling of

Hamilton delivered the panegyric upon the Apostle of Ireland.

Amongst the principal speakers on the second reading of the Home Bill during the past week was Mr. Chamberlain, who thought the people of England would accept the Bill if it would really rid them of the Irish question. This it would not do, because the most influential element in Ireland, viz; the property holders, were opposed to it, and furthermore the Bill itself was not a finality. The Irish leaders would not accept the veto of the Crown on the advice of the British ministry; and the financial clauses dealing with taxation for war and other purposes were so objectionable that they would not be received as final. The so-called safeguards were worth nothing; and the only really safeguard the Government had was the good feeling and generosity of the Irish leaders and people. True, Mr. Gladstone professed boundless faith in them now; but it was of too recent growth for the House to be asked "to stake the honour and dignity and the life of the nation on the assurance that a miracle would be wrought changing the hearts of men and altering the springs of human action."

Mr. Justin McCarthy, who followed, ridiculed Mr. Chamberlain as a prophet of evil. He could not say that the Irish party were quite satisfied with the financial clauses; nevertheless, they accepted the Bill generally as an honest settlement of the question, and if it were carried the Prime Minister would win the undying gratitude of millions.

The following day the Secretary for Scotland, Sir George Trevelyan, taunted Mr. Chamberlain, with frankness for admitting the necessity for a settlement of the question, and with inconsistency in one time demanding the retention of the Irish members at Westminster, and at another time condemning such provision. He strongly denounced the Ulster programme and accused the Conservative leaders of indulging a prospective justification of civil war in Ireland. It had been said that the present majority of forty was too small to pass such a bill, but it might well be asked how large a majority would be required to induce Ireland's acquiescence in its refusal. Every year that passed before the settlement of this question would be a year lost in a vain attempt to avert a measure which would surely be passed by one government or another.

Archbishop Elder, the venerable metropolitan of Cincinnati, completed his 74th year last week, but is still hale, hearty and active, and attends to all the calls of his extensive archdiocese. Dr. Elder has had a varied experience since he was first invested with the purple, and at one time it was thought he would fall a victim to yellow fever, which disease he caught in the discharge of his duties down in Mississippi, where he was Bishop of Natchez up to the time of his transfer to Cincinnati thirteen years ago.