

Messenger and Visitor

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The Indians of Canada.

Speaking a few days ago before the Canadian Club, Toronto, Mr. Frank Podley, Superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs, made some interesting statements in reference to the Indians of Canada. Mr. Podley placed the Indian population in Canada at 108,000, which, contrary to the general notion, is not decreasing. The great Indian domain comprised 1,422 reserves, 159 of which were in Ontario alone, with 4,921,836 acres of land. The right to that land was absolutely safeguarded, and not one foot could be sold except by an order from the Governor in Council, even if consent of the Indians had been given. No railway could lay its steel hand upon Indian land by any ordinary right of expropriation. In addition to the land, the department had in trust over \$4,000,000 for their Indian wards, all of which was safeguarded equally with the land. The outside officers of the department, being in constant touch with the Indians, all policy was largely determined through them. One of the most important questions that have from time to time occupied the various Governments was the question of the disposition of the Indian titles. The redman laid claim to the land he originally held. It was to the credit of the several Governments of Canada that practically no complaints were now made. Indian titles were extinguished over almost all of Canada. The tracts of land originally given to the earliest missionaries by the Indians in Quebec, have since been given to the redmen as reserves. The policy followed in Ontario was expressed in the treaties or compacts made, providing for the extinguishing of the Indian title, the setting aside of tracts of land for reserves, and the granting of perpetual annuities in money. Similar disposition of titles was made in the other Provinces, Territories and districts. The last treaty was made in 1898, covering the land north of Alberta up to Great Slave Lake.

Schools and Boundaries.

Of late there have been persistent reports connecting Manitoba's failure to secure a desired extension of her boundaries with the character of her public school system, and it has been intimated that if Manitoba would satisfy the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in reference to separate schools she might succeed better in her quest for an increase of territory. Finally, on Tuesday of last week Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works in the Manitoba Government, made an official statement on the subject, which has created something of a sensation. According to Mr. Rogers' statement, himself and a colleague, Hon. Colin Campbell, Attorney General of Manitoba, while in Ottawa in February last, and after having had a conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the Government on the boundary question, received a letter from Mgr. Sbarretti, the Papal Alegate at Ottawa, inviting them to a conference. The invitation, it is said, was accepted, and his excellency, the Alegate, then presented certain desired amendments to the school law of the Province, remarking that the placing of these on the statute book would facilitate an early settlement of the mission of Messrs. Rogers and Campbell, the fixing of the Manitoba boundaries, which would be extended to the shores of Hudson Bay. Mr. Rogers further affirms that Mgr. Sbarretti added that Manitoba's failure to act in the past in the separate school matter had prejudiced her claim for extension westward. The memorandum alluded to, provides for the establishment of separate schools in any city or town where there are thirty or more Roman Catholic children and as many non-Roman Catholic children and in any village where there are fifteen or more of each. Clearly Mr. Rogers intended to give the impression that the Alegate, in proposing amendments to the Manitoba School law and saying that their enactment would facilitate the extension of the Provincial boundaries, was acting in collusion with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the Government. In this connection Mr. Rogers says: "It is certainly idle for any person to assume that Mgr. Sbarretti, occupying the position he does, would presume to make the suggestion of the terms and conditions which he did without the full knowledge and consent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. Noticing these statements published by Mr. Rogers, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his place in Parliament on Wednesday

last, denied absolutely and emphatically that himself or members of his Government had been in any way concerned with the proposal said to have been made by Mgr. Sbarretti, connecting the extension of Manitoba's boundaries with a concession in the matter of separate schools for Roman Catholics. Having read Mr. Rogers' statement to the House, Sir Wilfrid said that so far as there was in it any charge that there was an understanding between Mgr. Sbarretti and himself to have the school question considered in connection with the boundaries of Manitoba there was not a shadow nor a tittle of truth in it. The Premier also combated the statement of Mr. Rogers, to the effect that he (Sir Wilfrid) had pursued a policy of delay in reference to the settlement of the boundary extension question. He declared that never at any time, until well on in January of the present year, had the Dominion Government been approached by the Manitoba Government on the subject of the extension of the Provincial boundaries, and he showed that when a memorial was sent by the Manitoba Government and a request for a conference on the subject, arrangements were promptly made to receive Hon. Messrs. Rogers and Campbell, and that when they arrived in Ottawa on February 16, they were the next day invited to a conference with the Premier and other members of the Cabinet, at which the subject of Provincial boundaries was discussed at length. The delegation from Manitoba was told that it would be impracticable to extend the Provincial boundary westward because of the strong opposition of the people to the west of the present boundary, but the proposal for an extension northward was regarded favorably, only it was held that this would have to be arranged after consultation with Ontario. Then also, Sir Wilfrid said, the policy of the Government in respect to the extension of boundaries was quite fully set forth in connection with the introduction of the Autonomy Bills in the House of Commons on February 21.

Not a Renegade.

The Toronto Globe, the leading Liberal newspaper of Ontario, and, one might say, of Canada, has not, as is well known, felt itself able to support the Government policy on the School question as embodied in the Autonomy Bills now before Parliament. On the contrary it has quite distinctly disagreed with that policy, contending that provision for public education should be placed entirely in the control of the new Provinces. On this account Mr. Belcourt, a member of the House of Commons for the City of Ottawa, has seen fit to allude to *The Globe* as "a renegade Liberal." In noticing Mr. Belcourt's slur, *The Globe* prettily plainly hints that his ungracious epithet is much more applicable to many Liberals who are supporting the present provision for separate schools in the Northwest than to those who are opposing it. *The Globe* says: "So far as *The Globe* is concerned, there has been no abandonment of principle, no infidelity to party, no sinister or otherwise unworthy motive. This journal has always been a strenuous advocate of Provincial rights under the British North America Act, and if it finds itself unable now to condone what it believes to be a gratuitous, illegal, and unwise convention of that statute, that is because it is not 'renegade' to its principles or its party. The provision inserted by the Dominion Parliament in the territorial constitution of 1875, requiring the Legislature of the Northwest Territory to make provision for separate schools whenever it made provision for public schools, was opposed by the late Mr. George Brown in Parliament and by *The Globe* outside of it. If the latter were to support the similarly unconstitutional provision inserted in the bills now before Parliament it might justifiably be described as open to the charge which Mr. Belcourt makes, even if the worst possible significance is read into his language."

The Victoriana.

The arrival in Halifax on April 1st, and in St. John a day later, of the new Allan liner *Victoriana* called forth much interest on the part of the public generally and especially on the part of those particularly interested in steamships. The *Victoriana* is a turbine steamer and the pioneer of transatlantic steamers of that kind. She was built at Belfast for the Messrs. Allan. Her trial trip was very satisfactory and the run across the Atlantic appears from all accounts to have been equally so. The run from Merville to Halifax was made by way of the southern route to avoid ice, taking the ship nearly a day's journey out os

her most direct course. Fog also made it necessary to reduce the vessel's speed during a part of the course. The actual time between Merville and Halifax was seven days and a little less than twenty-three hours, and considering the fact that better results will probably be obtained from the machinery after the boilers have been a little time in use, it is expected that under the most favorable conditions the *Victoriana* will be easily able to make the voyage in six days and six hours. The *Victoriana* brought 1470 passengers, and all are said to have been greatly pleased with the ship, especially with the absence of vibrations. With the use of the turbines there is scarcely any jarring of the vessel and the passengers were happy to be free from a feature of ordinary steamboat travel which to most is exceedingly unpleasant. The average run made during the voyage was 13.22 knots an hour. The captain of the *Victoriana* is quoted as saying: "I have no doubt that under average weather conditions she will easily make seventeen knots, in fine weather eighteen knots. She is the finest steering ship I ever was in, and the only doubt I have about her is as to the facility with which she can be stopped and reversed in speed. Her screws made 300 revolutions a minute. But for quick handling of a steamer I should prefer one big screw with two propeller blades instead of three. With seventeen knot speed, which I believe she will make, the *Victoriana* would have arrived at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning. Our route was 334 miles longer than the shortest distance via Cape Race."

The Principle of the Turbine.

The principle of the steam turbine is less generally understood than that of the ordinary reciprocating engine. Briefly explained, a turbine engine is a fixed cylinder upon the inside surface of which are mounted projecting vertically inward, inside this revolves a drum around on its outer surface with similar rings of blades, and arranged so that they are "sandwiched," so to speak, between those of the fixed cylinder. Steam is admitted at one end of the turbine and passes through longitudinally in a zig-zag path, being deflected from the fixed turbine casing against the rows of blades on the drum, causing the latter, which is built on the propeller shafting, to revolve and thus drive the propeller. The "fixed blades" (those in the cylinder) act as guides to deliver the steam with proper direction and velocity against the "moving blades" (those on the drum). Thus the full power of the steam is utilized, and in a direct and continuous way.

What the Monsignor Says.

After some delay and consideration, as would appear, Monsignor Sbarretti has made a statement in reference to a report of a conference between himself and the Manitoba delegates, of which Mr. Rogers has made mention in his recently published statement. Mgr. Sbarretti says that the statement as it has appeared in the press is not altogether exact and that it is given in such a way as to make a false impression on the minds of the people. He then says: "These are the facts: Taking occasion of the presence in Ottawa of the Hon. Mr. Campbell, the Attorney General of Manitoba, whom I had met in a friendly way more than a year ago, I invited him to come and see me. I never met the Hon. Mr. Rogers, nor did I have any communication with him. On the evening before his departure for the west, Feb. 23, Mr. Campbell came. I asked him if something could not be done to improve the conditions of the Catholics of his province with respect to education. I pointed out that in the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon, for instance, the Catholics were paying double taxes. I urged my request on the ground of fairness and justice, and, referring to his mission to Ottawa, I remarked that from the point of view of the Manitoba Government, some action on these lines would be politically expedient, and that to facilitate the accomplishment of his object, inasmuch as Catholics in any territory which might be annexed to Manitoba would naturally object to losing the right they had to separate schools and to be subjected to the educational conditions which existed in Manitoba. Mr. Campbell then asked me what would be my desire in this respect. I then gave him the memorandum which has already appeared in the press. This is the sum and substance of my interview with Mr. Campbell. The Federal Government had absolutely no knowledge of it. It was a private conversation and simply intended to express a suggestion and a desire that the condition of the Catholics in the respect I have mentioned, would be improved. Any other assumption or interpretation is altogether unfounded. I think my right of speaking to Mr. Campbell in a private way and in my own responsibility cannot be disputed."