

# THE CASKET.

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## THE CASKET.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Following the example of Cambridge, Oxford University has conferred on the distinguished English Catholic composer, Sir Edward Elgar, the honorary degree of Doctor of Music.

Sir Thomas Barclay, the great international lawyer who visited the United States last year and the year before to stir up an agitation for an Anglo-American treaty of arbitration and conciliation, says the recent action of the American Senate is the worst blow the peace movement has received in years. We have long thought that Uncle Sam had not such a love for the ways of peace as some of his admiring family would have us believe.

The Ottawa Journal, commenting on Premier Haultain's letter, says: "A peculiarly lively and persistent source of irritation would be avoided if the new provinces were allowed to decide the matter of education themselves." Would it, though? A good many years have elapsed since the majority of the people of Manitoba decided this question for themselves, yet the minority are just as keenly sensitive to-day to the great injustice which was done them at that time, as when they appealed to the Privy Council and were told that, owing to a technical defect in the wording of the law on which they rested their case, there was no redress for them unless the Dominion Government chose to enact remedial legislation. Manitoba Protestants have now no source of irritation in educational matters; the Catholics have, and the irritation is lively and persistent. Does the Journal think this an ideal condition of affairs?

The open letter addressed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by the Premier of the North-West Territories is a remarkable document in one respect at least. To read it, one would never suspect that there was special provision made in the British North America Act for the continuance of those separate schools which "by law or practice" exist in a Territory previous to its becoming a Province. Mr. Haultain admits that such schools do exist in the North-West by law, the law of 1875. Yet he coolly, — we are tempted to say impudently, — demands that the Federal Government should now abrogate this law and let the new Provinces start with a clean sheet in educational matters, as though he were totally ignorant of the fact that the B. N. A. Act does not permit the Federal Government to do any such thing. Ignorance and prejudice sufficiently explain the attitude of so many pulpit agitators in this matter; if equal ignorance and prejudice are to be found in a man holding the responsible position which the Hon. F. W. Haultain now holds, there is an evil prospect before the Catholics of Alberta and Saskatchewan unless the Dominion Parliament protects them in their constitutional rights.

We are glad to see French-Canadians laying their case before gatherings of Protestants in Ontario. Mr. Tarte began it; he was followed by Mr. Bourassa; and now Mr. Paul Martineau has spoken plainly to the Canadian Club of Toronto on the question of separate schools. "Some people ask," he said, "why the public treasury should be drawn upon to support

schools established with the avowed purpose of teaching therein sectarian dogmas." And he gave the answer: "Public moneys are not drawn upon because separate schools teach religious dogmas, but because the secular teaching therein given is imposed by law and is up to the standard required by law, because it is given by teachers qualified by law, because on secular grounds these dissentient schools are exactly like those of the majority and should therefore be absolutely on an equal footing." He also asked them what difference it made to them what religious dogmas his child learned at school, so long as he learned what was necessary to make him a good Canadian citizen, and challenged them to show that those who had been trained in separate schools were any less patriotic and law-abiding than their fellow-countrymen educated in the public schools.

The Messenger gives some interesting facts concerning the coal-miners of Westphalia who were on strike last month. Of the 200,000 men who went out, only 100,000 were union men, and half of these were organized in a Christian Miners' Union. They had a long bit of grievances, among which were: The sudden closing of certain mines by the owners for selfish reasons, quite regardless of the welfare of thousands of miners thrown out of work; the low wages, while dividends were steadily rising; the lengthening of shift hours from eight hours and a half to nine, while the workmen were asking for a reduction to an eight-hour shift; the refusal of certain owners to grant coal at cost price to the families of the miners; the absolute refusal of the owners to recognize or enter into negotiations with the miners' unions; the practice of refusing to pay the workmen anything for carloads of coal mixed with dross. The Cardinal-Archbishop of Cologne sent the Christian Union a letter of encouragement and a thousand marks (\$200); Cardinal Kopp, Bishop of Breslan, sent two thousand marks. The strike was finally settled, as already stated in these columns, by the intervention of the Emperor.

Apropos of the question of the change from individual control to corporation control of the property of a country, we notice that there is a movement on foot to take the control of one of the leading American life insurance companies from the shareholders, and to give it to the policy-holders. An opinion could not be given on such a bald outline of the scheme; but if it is to be effective as a step towards restoring individual proprietorship or individual influence, great care would seem to be required in planning it. Corporations are supposed to be subject to the individual influence of the shareholders; but in most cases the supposition is about all there is to be said about it. Organization practically destroys their influence; and lack of organized method of management would seem to be a probable obstacle to effective and beneficial control of an insurance company by the policy-holders. One would suppose that they ought to be given some voice or vote in the company's affairs; and, in the nature of things, they would seem to be in a position to be less easily manipulated or misled by designing men than are the ordinary shareholders in a company.

A despatch from London to the Montreal Star recently stated that a letter gilder named Naylor had written a series of beautiful letters to the Princess Victoria, daughter of the King, and that the Princess had answered them. It is further stated that Naylor has been placed in an asylum for the insane; yet nothing is said of his being insane. Neither is any complaint made as to the letters being in any respect bad; and if they were, we should not suppose an insane asylum would be the correct place of punishment for the writer. It is to be feared that the man has met the same fate as Kipling's American who flagged the famous English mail-train, the "Indiana," and who with difficulty

escaped imprisonment in an asylum. The English mind could not, we suppose, imagine any common man to be sane if he dared to write love letters to the King's daughter; but surely the days of summary packing off to prison of persons who offend the royal family have been bygone for many years. We hope this hideous injustice has not been done in this case.

Thomas W. Lawson is not alone in stating that the industries of the United States are coming into the control of a few men. Judge Grosscup of Chicago writes of the striking change that has come about in the last twenty-five years, from individual ownership of property to ownership or control by companies. Superficial observers may often be heard talking of the increase in the amounts of money deposited in banks. Very often this means that people who owned property, mills, workshops, or something else that was of benefit to those around them, have sold out and have nothing useful to do with the money. In other words, large deposits in the banks sometimes indicate that the people are withdrawing their money from individual enterprises; and the banks, in which they have placed it, lend the same money to companies to carry on business, in many cases. The same tendencies are shown in all countries, to a greater or less extent. Corporations are driving private and individual effort out of the field; but they are doing more; they are driving private ownership to the wall. Anyone who looks can see this fact. And they only need to continue long enough in crushing out private ownership, to produce the result which Lawson predicts, namely the concentration of commercial and business proprietorship and power in the hands of a few. If any man thinks that this is being too apprehensive, let him consider how much of the world's wealth and how much of the property of the people have passed under the control of a small number of companies during the past twenty years, — yes, during the last ten years. And a small number of corporations, — even a large number of corporations, — means nowadays a small number of men; for two or three men usually dominate a company of considerable size.

Of old time your covenanted Presbyterian counted it his chiefest glory to be "true-blue." Now "white" is the word, if "Ralph Connor," in his latest story, "The Prospector," interprets aright the present-day spirit of his sect. "The Prospector," now running as a serial in the Montreal Daily Star, will add not a little to the writer's reputation as a story-teller. There is a breezy freshness about the tale that suits well the Western environment in which its principal scenes are cast, while its graces of style bespeak the author's close contact with the more polished East. The only fault one can find with it — and it isn't a venial fault — is that all the "white" characters in it are Presbyterians, and all those whom Presbyterianism does not avow are, if not positively black at least "no great shakes," if one may be permitted to revive for the occasion a bit of moribund slang.

"Shock" Macgregor, "The Prospector," that is to say, the hero of the story, is certainly a noble soul. But he has the limitations of his sect, and can hardly be taken as a type of the true missionary. For one thing, he gets far too much of his inspiration from the owner of a pair of lustrous dark eyes in Toronto. Fancy a St. Paul, a Francis Xavier, or any of the White Fathers on the Nile in our own day, haunted by visions such as came to poor "Shock," night after night, on his wide and lone mission field in the far West. We quote:

And yet he knew that it would be a joy almost too great to endure to catch a glimpse of the face that still came to him night by night in his dreams, to hear her voice, and to be near her.

For weeks past the public have been served every day with columns upon

columns of confused statements, out of which at every turn stared one bold, startling prediction, — Russia is on the verge of a revolution; the rule of the autocracy is over. Millions of people throughout the world have read the alleged news eagerly. Hardly a public speech, from the after-dinner utterances in a New York club to a police-court oration, from a debate on trade conditions in our own House of Commons to a county councillor's maiden effort, has been thought complete without some reference, based on a greater or lesser degree of misinformation, to Russia's supposedly imminent impending struggle for liberty. Now that the cable correspondents, — paid by the word no doubt, most of them, — have wearied themselves in the mad rush to tell the world the things that are not, the careful reader may find here and there in the press a hint of the real situation. Dr. Emile Joseph Dillon, half Irish and half English by birth, German and Russian by education, who has lived in Russia, edited newspapers there, and is married to a Russian lady, writes in the Contemporary Review that we might as well expect a strike riot in an English city to disrupt the Empire, as expect to see a general or widespread Russian revolt follow upon the disturbances of which the newspapers have made so much. He does not believe that the great mass of the Russian people have at present a desire for change of any sort. This may be owing to lack of spirit and lack of education; Dr. Dillon thinks it is. The disturbing elements doubtless have a good deal of logic and justice on their side; but their efforts are rather directed to changing the face of things by arousing the nation, than to putting forward any plans or schemes of which the people at large do presently approve. A writer in the Fortnightly goes farther, and says that Russia will never have a revolution unless it is created from without.

Three weeks ago we feared that the educational clauses of the Autonomy bill were to be amended so as to render them of little value. Even a week ago relying upon reports in newspapers which seemed to be in the confidence of the Government we referred to its policy as niggardly and precarious. We are happy to say that our fears have not been justified. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has stood to his guns in the face of assaults which might have made him doubt whether it would not be wiser to retreat. The only difference between the bill as it first read and the bill as amended is that the latter makes it clear in order to draw public moneys, the separate schools must in all respects conform to the requirements of the law. Whatever others may have thought we have always believed in certificated teachers and Government inspection wherever State aid was sought and we welcome these provisions for the schools of the New Provinces, because we believe they will raise and uphold the standard of efficiency. As to Mr. Borden's speech, we scarcely know what to say of it. It is an elaborate constitutional argument better suited to the law courts than to the House of Commons. If it proved its case it would destroy all guarantee for the rights of religious minorities outside of Quebec and Ontario and make them what the Ottawa Citizen calls them in the North West "Squatters on other people's land." It is true they are told that they have the protection of remedial legislation, but when the country refused to grant them that protection in a case where the highest court in the Empire declared they had an undoubted grievance, it was plain that they need never more look for redress to the Federal Parliament once their rights had been wrested from them. Their only hope in the future was to forestall any attempt to deprive them of their rights. This is exactly what the courageous statesmanship of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has now done for them. The Act of Parliament which has made Manitoba a province proved open to misconception on the question of separate schools. The Privy Council told the minority that they had misconstrued

it in supposing that it guaranteed the continued existence of their schools. We, on our part, believe yet as we believed then, that it was the Privy Council which was guilty of misconstruction. At all events we do not wish such a dispute to occur again and the only way to prevent it with absolute certainty was that adopted by the Government, in drawing up the Autonomy Bill for Alberta and Saskatchewan.

It is well known that Sir Anthony MacDonnell, Liberal and Home-Ruler, refused the Governorship of Bombay and accepted the position of Under-Secretary for Ireland in Conservative, anti-Home Rule administration at the special request of King Edward, who desired to see the Land Act put through and believed Sir Anthony the man to do it. His presence in Dublin Castle has been deeply resented by the Ulster Orangemen, and they lately made a desperate effort to oust him. The Cabinet, always deferential to the Orangemen, declared Sir Anthony's conduct "indefensible" in holding negotiations with Lord Dunraven's Irish Reform Association with a view to working out a scheme for a larger measure of local government for Ireland. Nevertheless, it was Chief Secretary Wyndham, and not Sir Anthony, who had to resign. Lord Lansdowne stood by the man who had served so well under him in India, and declared they would have to find a new Foreign Secretary if Sir Anthony was put out. The whole outcry is really directed against the King, but as, under the Constitution, he can never be attacked, Mr. Wyndham has been made the scape goat, though the Ulster men would have preferred the Under-Secretary.

Apropos of this affair, T. P. O'Connor's sketch of Sir Anthony, in M. A. P., is interesting. Referring to their schooldays at Athlone, he says:

"Other people are able, of course, to see a great change in him in the forty-six years which have passed since that time; but to me he remains almost the same in appearance as he was when first I saw him. He is a little grey; there are deep lines in the face; the resolution, which is its most dominating expression, has been intensified by years of tremendous power and almost awful responsibilities; but I can see underneath all these things the same face as I beheld when, a shivering and shy schoolboy, I wandered into the playground of the school to which we then both belonged. Already people had begun to forecast a future of distinction for him. He was easily the head of all his classes; seemed to be equally good with his mathematics and his classics; and if I mistake not, got the prize for general excellence, the prize which was the blue riband of the school. . . . Sir Anthony MacDonnell has another great disadvantage — he is lacking in that suavity and pleasantness of manner which is one of the charms and one of the causes of success of many of his countrymen. Even the late Lord Russell was not more outspoken, more careless of corns that he trod on, more less ready to suffer fools gladly. Sir Anthony MacDonnell, though socially he is quite agreeable, and, indeed, delightful, is as an official strong, resolute, stern, even a merciless man. His frankness of condemnation reached something like Bismark in plainness of speech. And the result was that while no man has warmer or stouter friends, no man has more bitter enemies. Like the elephant, he has crushed his way onward; straight, strong, unyielding, crushing down everything weak or foolish, mean or dishonest that he met in his way."

On the 24th inst. all business was suspended at Brockton, Mass., traffic ceased, schools were closed and the people united in one great tribute of sorrow and sympathy on account of the explosion and fire of Monday, in which, it is believed, 58 persons perished. Thirty-nine bodies, so charred and disfigured as to make identification impossible, were borne away to Melrose cemetery, on Brockton Heights, escorted by a great throng of mourners, city officials, representatives of labor organizations and fraternal societies.

A man who walked across the ice from Bryon Island to Grosse Isle reports five thousand young and old seals taken on Bryon so far by about sixty Magdalen Islanders, who went there early this month, and are still picking up scattered seals. They report the ice very heavy and the calm weather prevailing will cause a late spring.













