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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1899.

THE SPEECH.

The speech with which Lord Minto yesterday opened the Canadian parliament is rather remarkable for what it does not contain than for its contents. There is the usual recital of occurrences during the recess, the international negotiations, the plebiscite, the reduction of letter postage, the expansion of trade and revenue, some increase in immigration, and "the almost total cessation of the exodus." The strict accuracy of this reference to the exodus may perhaps be challenged by those who know Eastern Canada well, but no doubt the exodus is less apparent than formerly.

The one measure promised by the government is a bill for the better arrangement of the electoral districts throughout the Dominion. This may turn out to be a very momentous measure, but standing alone as it does in the speech it seems to make up a rather meagre bill of fare.

There is, of course, no hint of a prohibitory liquor bill, and the much talked of measure for Senate reform is also absent from the speech. Nor is there any mention made of further tariff reductions such as Hon. Mr. Fielding led the free traders to hope for and the manufacturers to fear when he warned the latter to set their houses in order. For the moment the session promises a prolonged and vigorous fight upon the redistribution bill. That is just the sort of measure upon which the two parties can never agree.

This is St. Patrick's Day, commonly believed to be the anniversary of the good man's death. The year of his life's close according to one account was 469, according to another account 493. There is a more general agreement that he was born about the year 396. He was probably born in Dumbarton, Scotland, and was captured by the Picts about 411 and sold as a slave in Ireland. After six years of captivity he escaped, and devoting himself to the conversion of Ireland, prepared for the priesthood. He entered upon his mission about the year 425 and was consecrated a bishop in 441.

When will that "rush of live matter" at the Patriot office be so far relieved as to enable our sprightly contemporary to discuss Sir Wilfrid's refusal of prohibition? We had supposed that a question which it was thought worth while to spend a quarter million to get the people's opinion in regard to might be considered a living one. And when the Premier declined to do what the voting majority desired him to do the incident seems quite as urgent a subject for discussion as the insurance returns. But, of course, we have no desire to hurry or embarrass our valued contemporary.

The esteemed Examiner wants to know what the prohibitionists who have heretofore voted Liberal will do at the next general election. It is reasonable to suppose that much will depend upon how far the Conservative leaders will avail themselves of the great opportunity now offered to place themselves at the head of the prohibitionist movement. The Examiner does not counsel them to do this. So far Sir Charles Tupper has not disclosed any intention to take up prohibition.

TUBERCULOSIS.

SIR.—The Examiner of the 7th instant contains another letter from "Farmer" which is so well answered in an editorial in the same issue that anything further from me may seem to be uncalled for, unless it be the reference to a paragraph which reads:—"Let the doctor take a case to court and try what the judge would say to him if he has no stronger evidence to offer than, it is 'generally believed.' When closely examined every one of the accusations against the cow and her milk are mere guesses with no substantial, scientific, well-established evidence."

I would refer "Farmer" to the well-remembered Glasgow diseased meat case, heard before Judge Barry of Glasgow, Scotland, in which the carcasses of a bullock and a cow, apparently only locally affected with tuberculosis, were condemned as unfit for food. Judge Barry in reviewing the evidence said:—"The view that tuberculosis is communicable from one of the lower animals to man must be considered an established scientific fact. Whether ingestion be or be not the commonest way in which the disease is communicated, it must certainly be regarded as one mode of its communication. I take it that there is little dispute on the point. It is admitted by the council for the defence that the disease may be communicated by the drinking of milk and if that be so it is impossible to maintain that it cannot be communicated by the eating of the flesh. Indeed the transmissibility of the disease by ingestion has long been recognized. One mode in which bacilli are propagated is by spores, and in the opinion of scientific men the spores are less easily affected by heat than their parent bacilli. The evidence leads me to the conclusion that it would not be proper to trust to cooking as a sufficient protection. I have been deeply sensible of the responsibility of condemning as unfit for food meat which has hitherto been allowed to pass out for consumption. That practice however, I am led to believe, is attended with grave danger to the public health."

This judgment, which will have very important and wide-spread results, was based upon the conclusion arrived at by the Privy Council inquiry and by the report of the Paris International Congress on tuberculosis which voted by a majority of 300 to 3 that meat and milk of tuberculous cattle was dangerous for food. Also by the result of experimental investigation at the hands of physiologists of such eminence as Klebs, Woodhead, Chauveau, Villemin, Cornal, Tausaint, Nocard and many others.

In my last I "drew Farmer's" attention to the fact that the bacilli may locate in his brain, and urged him to be careful. He now says—"That is an old song," with him, meaning, I suppose, an old complaint. This perhaps may account for a letter which was published more than a year ago in one of our papers "attacking not a doctor but a gentleman holding a high public position in Canada," which letter we judged at the time to be the production of a disordered mind.

SUMMERSIDE READER
March 14th.

THE DEAR LITTLE SHAMROCK.

There's a dear little plant that grows in our isle,
'Twas St. Patrick himself sure that set it;
And the sun on his labour with pleasure did smile,
And with dew from his eye often wet it.
It shines thro' the bog, thro' the brake and the mireland,
And he called it the dear little Shamrock of Ireland,
The dear little Shamrock, the sweet little Shamrock,
The dear little, sweet little Shamrock of Ireland.

That dear little plant still grows in our land,
Fresh and fair as the daughters of Erin,
Whose smiles can bewitch and whose eyes can command,
In each climate they ever appear in.
For they shine through the bog, through the brake and the mireland,
Just like their own dear little Shamrock of Ireland.
The dear little Shamrock, the sweet little Shamrock,
The dear little, sweet little Shamrock of Ireland.

That dear little plant that springs from our soil,
When its three little leaves are extended,
Denotes from the stalk we together should toil
And ourselves by ourselves be befriended.
And still through the bog, through the brake and the mireland,
From one root should branch like the Shamrock of Ireland,
The dear little Shamrock, the sweet little Shamrock,
The dear little, sweet little Shamrock of Ireland.

—J. W. Cherry.

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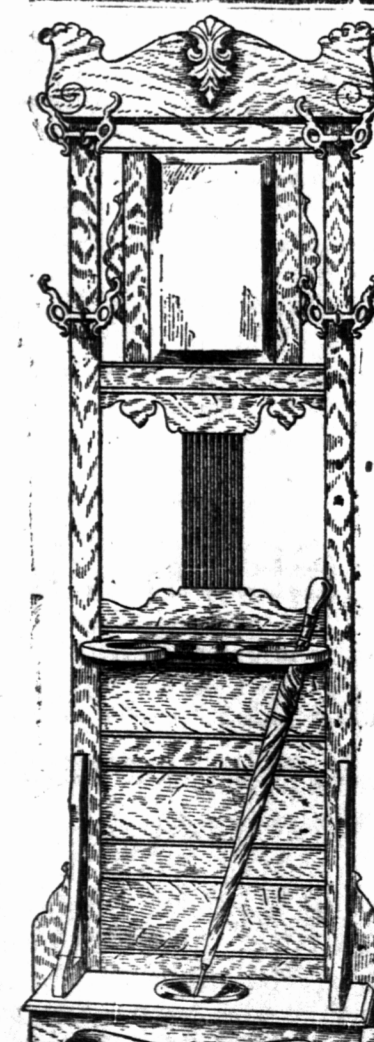
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