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THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the London Times, May 5.)

Earl Russell, who was heard but very indistinctly, rose to move for copies of any correspondence relating to the maintenance of the peace of Europe with the governments of the Emperor of Germany, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of Russia and the French Republic, which can be communicated, without injury to the public service. The noble Earl was understood to say that his inquiries had reference to the state of Europe and to the intentions of the Government on certain eventualities. The state of Europe five years ago was one of great apparent tranquillity, and there seemed, according to a statement of the then existing Government, to be no danger of a rupture of that peace; yet people who were well informed knew that there was a determination on the part of the States of Germany to have a confederation of Germany, and, on the other hand a determination on the part of the French to obtain what they wanted on the left banks of the Rhine. France determined to have revenge. They were aware of the events which had since occurred, and what he now wished to know was whether the systems of agitation and hostility which at present were perceived were the scattering waves of a past storm or the omens of coming tempest. They had it from a great man, Field Marshal Moltke, in a statement made recently by him to the German Parliament, that what Germany had obtained in five months would require fifty years to consolidate. So much for Germany. He had been told by people well informed that the whole of the French army, from the highest marshal down to the lowest ensign, were determined to have their revenge. He did not regard as a spoliation of the territory of France and the rapture of her integrity by the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. The question, then, was whether the symptoms now perceived were those of a gathering storm, or whether, notwithstanding those symptoms, we might remain for some years in peace and tranquillity. If they were the signs of storms, and if the peace of Europe was likely to be disturbed, it would be desirable to know whether her Majesty's Government would be in that case prepared to take measures to preserve the peace of Europe. He had

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preserve the general peace. He did not think any Power would venture to disturb it if there was a strong alliance between England and the other Powers to preserve the peace of Europe. He imagined, in the first place, that they might rely on her Majesty's Government to adhere to all the engagements and all the treaties by which the Crown of Great Britain is bound to her allies. But on the other hand he thought it would be no attempt to evade or shirk those positive engagements which the Crown of this country had entered into. He trusted that if there was any danger to the peace of Europe the whole influence of Great Britain would be exercised for the purpose of preserving that peace. There could be no disturbance of the peace of Europe without the infliction of great evils on this country. It was not only that trade would suffer, but dearer social happiness, the progress of liberty, and the advance of arts and civilization would be endangered. A great man, who had great influence, and ought to have great influence, in the Council of Germany, had declared that it was necessary for the Germans to have a standing army of 400,000. He did not require the noble Earl to give him any information which would be injurious to the public service, but he thought the subject was one of such interest to Parliament and the country, that any information the noble Earl could give, and which would enable the country to form an opinion, so as to prepare for coming events, would be very valuable at the present time. The noble Earl then moved for the papers.

The Earl of Derby said, briefly and simply—The noble Earl asks me whether we are to regard the agitation which we now see in Europe as only a result of past wars, as only the swell left by storms that have passed, or whether we are to regard it as an indication of new storms that are about to rage. My faith is, that it is a question of question, however generally, I can only do so by distinguishing between the more immediate and the more remote. If I look to the more remote events—and events pass quickly in these days—I do not think it would be fair, or that it would be right or honest for me, or any one in my position, to deny that the general impression prevails there may be grounds for misapprehension and anxiety. I do not say that we are, as a peculiar or a special duty, bound to give it as a conclusion founded on information common to the whole world. We must bear in our recollections the events that happened and results which followed four years ago. We must bear in mind they have left in the minds of two great populations, and of which, as those populations are human beings, it was impossible but they should have left. ("Hear, hear.") We know, again, that among the population of France there is a very general and widespread desire to regain that territory which they have lost by the fortune of war; and, on the other, there is an equally strong determination to retain that which has been acquired. Now, that is a condition of things which, I repeat, we all, and in referring to it I am merely reminding your lordships of circumstances of which you are aware. The question is, to which most occupy the attention of those who have care of foreign affairs. It may be said there is no use in trying to prevent it, so do what we may, war will come sooner or later. I think it was Mr. Canning who, in reply to a person who made a similar remark to him, said, "Well, if it is to come sooner or later, I should prefer that it should be rather later than sooner." (A laugh and "Hear.") No danger of immediate war. Obviously there is the chance that with time feelings of agitation will subside in most minds, and that, therefore, there will be a greater chance of the prevention of peace. I think, however, your lordships will be of opinion that I would be doing a very rash thing if I ventured to predict what may happen in some years to come. But with all that feeling of uncertainty I must say that if I may judge from all the information I receive—from the general tone and spirit of the communications which reach me from all parts of Europe—so far as immediate appearances go there is no serious cause for apprehension of any disturbance of the peace of Europe. ("Hear, hear.") I now come to the other question, which is, whether there is any prospect of the dangers of war becoming more imminent, what should we do to preserve the peace? Now, my lords, that is an inquiry which cannot be answered in any very definite terms; but I think there cannot be any doubt that without embroiling ourselves in a quarrel to which we were not a party we should leave no reasonable endeavor untried to preserve peace. The noble Earl asks whether we shall adhere to our international Treaty engagements. I do not think there will be much doubt in the minds of your lordships as to the answer which I shall feel it my duty to give to that question. If for any reason an international Treaty or engagement becomes inapplicable to the time, it is certainly the duty of the Government to state that to the other parties to the treaty; but if you accept the obligations of a treaty and give the other parties reason to believe that you consider them binding, you are bound in honour and good faith to maintain them. ("Hear, hear.") It is also a fact that England has even of late entered into treaties, and I do not hesitate to say that we regard them as binding in honour and good faith. ("Hear, hear.") As regards the papers for which the noble Earl has asked, I have looked through them, but I do not find in the correspondence anything of such a character as to prevent their being laid on the table at the present time, so far as the Government of this country is concerned. We have no reason for withholding them, but there are the interests of other governments to be regarded, and we are bound to respect the confidence which they repose in us. If there are any papers of a later date which the noble Earl may require, and if they can be laid on the table without inconvenience to the public service, I shall be happy to produce them. ("Hear, hear.")

"THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS."—A writer in the Hartford *Times* discourses very sensibly on the early spring birds thus: "Those who have watched the times and seasons of our migrating birds have found occasion to feel kindly regarded for such cheap but wholesome food. Not that the birds need it, or would be fair, or that it would be right or honest for me, or any one in my position, to deny that the grower appropriates much, there may be grounds for misapprehension and anxiety. I do not say that we are peculiar or official information, but I come to it as a conclusion founded on information common to the whole world. We must bear in our recollections the events that happened and results which followed four years ago. We must bear in mind they have left in the minds of two great populations, and of which, as those populations are human beings, it was impossible but they should have left. ("Hear, hear.") We know, again, that among the population of France there is a very general and widespread desire to regain that territory which they have lost by the fortune of war; and, on the other, there is an equally strong determination to retain that which has been acquired. Now, that is a condition of things which, I repeat, we all, and in referring to it I am merely reminding your lordships of circumstances of which you are aware. The question is, to which most occupy the attention of those who have care of foreign affairs. It may be said there is no use in trying to prevent it, so do what we may, war will come sooner or later. I think it was Mr. Canning who, in reply to a person who made a similar remark to him, said, "Well, if it is to come sooner or later, I should prefer that it should be rather later than sooner." (A laugh and "Hear.") No danger of immediate war. Obviously there is the chance that with time feelings of agitation will subside in most minds, and that, therefore, there will be a greater chance of the prevention of peace. I think, however, your lordships will be of opinion that I would be doing a very rash thing if I ventured to predict what may happen in some years to come. But with all that feeling of uncertainty I must say that if I may judge from all the information I receive—from the general tone and spirit of the communications which reach me from all parts of Europe—so far as immediate appearances go there is no serious cause for apprehension of any disturbance of the peace of Europe. ("Hear, hear.") I now come to the other question, which is, whether there is any prospect of the dangers of war becoming more imminent, what should we do to preserve the peace? Now, my lords, that is an inquiry which cannot be answered in any very definite terms; but I think there cannot be any doubt that without embroiling ourselves in a quarrel to which we were not a party we should leave no reasonable endeavor untried to preserve peace. The noble Earl asks whether we shall adhere to our international Treaty engagements. I do not think there will be much doubt in the minds of your lordships as to the answer which I shall feel it my duty to give to that question. If for any reason an international Treaty or engagement becomes inapplicable to the time, it is certainly the duty of the Government to state that to the other parties to the treaty; but if you accept the obligations of a treaty and give the other parties reason to believe that you consider them binding, you are bound in honour and good faith to maintain them. ("Hear, hear.") It is also a fact that England has even of late entered into treaties, and I do not hesitate to say that we regard them as binding in honour and good faith. ("Hear, hear.") As regards the papers for which the noble Earl has asked, I have looked through them, but I do not find in the correspondence anything of such a character as to prevent their being laid on the table at the present time, so far as the Government of this country is concerned. We have no reason for withholding them, but there are the interests of other governments to be regarded, and we are bound to respect the confidence which they repose in us. If there are any papers of a later date which the noble Earl may require, and if they can be laid on the table without inconvenience to the public service, I shall be happy to produce them. ("Hear, hear.")

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CANADIAN.

Truro, N. S., has decided to erect a $10,000 school house to contain eight departments.

A singular accident, says the Newmarket Courier, occurred at Whitchall during the prevalence of a high wind on Sunday. A little boy was blown from the front steps of his father's residence on to the picket fence of the front yard, and hung there suspended by the chin on a sharp picket until his cries brought assistance.

A fire was discovered in a bedroom of Policeman Gray's house in Portland, N.S. A step had been heard by Mrs. Gray, who supposing it was her husband's paid no attention to it. When the fire was discovered the incendiary had made good his escape. The fire was not extinguished until it had consumed several suits of clothes and the bed and bedding.

A few days since the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of Cascades presented their pastor, the Rev. Father Twomey, with an address, together with a purse of nearly four hundred dollars, on the eve of his departure for Rome. In his reply he gave the congregation great praise for the kind treatment and success he has had since he had been their priest.

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Mr. Mitchell suggested to his friend, from Frontenac to drop his amendment, leaving the Government either the merits or demerits of the scheme over which they had so much power.

Col. Kirkpatrick said the remarks of the hon. member for Frontenac at this late time had spoken of, had taken a course directly antagonistic to that he was now following. He thought it very strange that the Ministry had excepted the Nipissing from the operation of this Act. It was directly antagonistic to that he was now following. He thought it very strange that the Ministry had excepted the Nipissing from the operation of this Act. It was the intention of the Government to have the Act of Confederation extended to the Nipissing. Under the circumstances he thought it was due to himself and friends that the letter should now be placed on the table of the House, so that he might satisfy his friends that he had not penned the letter. The moment he saw the letter in print he knew he had not written it, because he was not in the habit of subscribing himself "Minister of Militia," except officially, and he never signed himself "William Rose" from one end of the year to the other. He took it for granted that the letter was genuine, so far as the member for Cape Breton was concerned.

Mr. McDonald (Cape Breton) said that when they heard the charge a few evenings ago, the gentleman did not give the statement a denial, and therefore he could not be stood convicted of the charge. He might say in reference to the letter, that he obtained possession of it the second day after the election. He knew the handwriting of the hon. Minister of Militia, and was satisfied that it was written by him. He had since shown the letter to several gentlemen, who also said it was written by the Minister of Militia. He handed the letter to the right hon. member for Kingston and had not seen it since.

Mr. Mackenzie—Who gave it to the newspapers?

Mr. McDonald said he could not tell that before leaving Ottawa. The hon. Minister of Militia had referred to the influence he had used in the county of Victoria. With regard to that he went into the country to refute a statement made in the newspapers that as then was to be put in the estimates for the erection of a wharf in the County of Victoria, and that an engineer was then at work to make the necessary survey. He (Mr. McDonald) knew it was impossible to build a wharf or breakwater in the place, and this had turned out to be correct.

Mr. Holton rose to the point of order, contending that the question of the letter only was before the House.

Sir John Macdonald said they should not have heard the Minister of Militia on this point. His hon. friend was only explaining the matter.

Mr. Holton rose to make some further remarks.

Sir John Macdonald—The hon. gentleman

[illegible]

Mr. Holton then proceeded to say

Mr. McDonald (Cape Breton), continuing his statement, said that he had the letter for five or six weeks in his possession, and he told friends of the hon. gentleman that he had the letter. He presumed therefore that the hon gentleman knew he had the letter, and, if he had been asked to show it, he would have done so. When the hon. gentleman had written to him a letter a few days ago he had it not in his possession. He, however, promised him the letter so soon as he received it. He had given the letter to the right hon. member for Kingston.

Sir John Macdonald—Yes, the hon. member gave the letter, which he had read, and he recognized the handwriting as one at that of the hon. Minister of Militia. He knew the hon. gentleman's handwriting as well as he knew his own. He then handed the letter to his friend, Dr. Tupper, to be returned to the hon. gentleman. The letter had not been returned, and the hon. gentleman had left for home in the morning. He (Sir John) had telegraphed Dr. Tupper to send the letter at once.

Mr. Mackenzie—It was not the right hon. gentleman, then, who gave the letter to the papers?

Sir John Macdonald—Yes, it was. I gave the letter to the newspapers.

Mr. Rose said he had read the letter, but did not know the handwriting of the hon. Minister of Militia.

Mr. Bowell said that he had not written the letter, and said if the hon. gentleman wanted to have a regular prosecution. It seemed from this that the late Government had never any intention of extending the Act to Manitoba, and it was simply a bait to induce British Columbia to come into the Union. He was told that the late Minister of Marine that probably before long a Pacific Railway would be started from the lake of the Woods, and that whatever the Left Centre which he represented. He would ask how the hon. gentleman treated British Columbia had received from Canada. While preferring the old flag, they had taken the Government of the United States. This treatment was in fact the result of the hon. Minister of Militia. He would ask that the bill be referred back to Committee of the Whole to provide that the work should be completed within a reasonable time, and that a sum of not less than a million should be expended in the current year upon it in British Columbia, until the work is completed.

Explanations from Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Wright (Pontiac) advocated the Nipissing branch of the road, and proceeded to show that it was a most important one. It would be derived from a Pacific Railway.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex) said the First Minister would state when he would commence the work. He also commended the action of the said Board of Harbour Commissioners of the said harbour.

The resolutions were adopted and referred to a committee of the whole, to amend the Act respecting the Trinity House and Harbour Commissioners of Montreal.

Mr. Mackenzie moved that the bill to amend the Act respecting the Trinity House be referred back to Committee of the Whole, and that a resolution respecting the Harbour Board be referred back to same Committee.

The bill, as amended, was then read a third time and passed.

After recess.

On the order being called for the second reading of the bill to make further provision for the transfer of the Ontario Building Societies of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Moss moved that the bill be not now read a third time, but be referred again to the Committee of Whole in order to be amended so as to allow all societies having a paid up capital of between $40,000 and $200,000 to make deposits to the extent of their paid up capital.

After debate.

On the motion of Mr. Moss, it was then resolved that the bill should be read a third time this day.

Several bills were sent down from the Senate, some with amendments and others without.

The amendments were adopted.

Amendments to the bill to amend the Controverted Elections Bill, with slight amendments, were also adopted.

Mr. Mackenzie (Montreal) moved the second reading of the bill to amend Act 29 Victoria, chap. 76, of the Statutes of the late Province of Canada. He stated that the object of the bill was to empower the Corporation of the city of Quebec by abolishing the ice bridge. The bill was based upon a petition from the leading commercial men of Montreal and Quebec.

The bill was then read a second time and referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Dorion, Cauchon, Prechett, Smith (Westmorland) and the mover.

Mr. Mackenzie (Montreal) then moved the second reading of the bill to amend Act 36 Victoria, Chap. 47, respecting weights and measures. The object of the bill, he said, was to make it lawful for the sale by grain dealers voluntary, and not compulsory as at present.

After some consideration, the bill was read a second time and referred to the Committee on agriculture.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex) moved concurrence in the sixth report of the Printing Committee recommending that the contracts for printing be awarded to Messrs. McLean, Roger & Co., for blanks; to Hunter, Rose, Prechette & Co., and for paper to Mr. Barber of Georgetown.

The report was concurred in.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex) then moved concurrence in the seventh report of the Joint Committee on Printing relating to the distribution in the number of copies published of Votes and Proceedings.

Mr. Burpee (Sunbury) moved that concurrence in the report be deferred for six months, believing that it would be false economy on the part of the House.

The House divided, and a division took place with the following result: Yeas, 56; nays, 9.

YEAS—Messrs. Abbott, Aylwin, Baby, Barnes, Barnard, Bessil, Brooks, Bull, Bunster, Burkes, Burpee (Sunbury), Burpee (St. John), Cameron (Hastings), Carter, Church, Cleveland, Cochrane, Coffin (Victoria), Cornwall, Cowan, Crawford, Crosby, Cuthbert, Dalton, Dawson, Dickey, Dodd, Dodge, Dorion (L'Assomption), Dorion (Montmorency), Fairbank, Farrow, Fleming, Fortier, Gaudet, Gendron, Gibbs, Gillmor, Gordon, Gunn, Harper, Harvey, Hazard, Hurteau, Jetté, Kirkpatrick, Lacerte, Lajoie, Landerkin, Lantier, Lesieur, Letellier de St. Just, Macdonald (Cornwall), MacDougall (Renfrew), Macdonald (Sir John), McCallum, McDougall, McGee (Colchester), McLeod, McMillan (Victoria), McMillan (Bruce), McMillan (Huron), McMillan (Middlesex), Metcalfe, Mitchell, Morris, Morrison, Munro, Ouimet, Pelletier, Pinsonneault, Pinsonneault (Jacques Cartier), Pinsonneault (Laprairie), Pinsonneault (Terrebonne), Pinsonneault (Vaudreuil), Pinsonneault (Vercheres), Platt, Pope, Powell, Prevost, Ross (Middlesex), Ross (Prince Edward), Ross (Victoria), Rouleau, Rymal, Scott, Shaw, Shibley, Simard, Simard (Montmorency), Simard (Quebec), Simard (Saint Jean), Simard (Saint Maurice), Simard (Terrebonne), Simard (Vercheres), Simard (Yamaska), Simard (Yamaska), Simard (Yamaska