

We learn of the production of the "Passion Play" at San Francisco. It may be new to most of our readers that the same was attempted in Quebec, of all places, some thirty odd years ago. It was looked upon by the entire community as sacrilegious; but, nevertheless, the theatre was crowded to repletion. In the crucifixion scene, wherein the Saviour was nailed to the cross, the stage appliances and curtains caught fire, and a general stampede occurred. Upward of fifty persons were burned or trampled to death. No "Passion Play" has been attempted in this country since that time.

We lately had occasion to lay before our readers the full scope of the designs and aspirations of the Italia Irredenta, or party of Unredeemed Italy. It claims to be essentially devoted to the restoration of the Trent and other limitrophic countries which were once the possession of the Italians; but it is easy to see that this foreign policy may lead to very grave domestic complications. It does not at all improve the aspect of things to be told that GARIBOLDI has opened a subscription for the purchase of a million rifles to arm the nation, and sent an address to the inhabitants of Istria, Trieste and the Trentino.

It is intimated that, since January last, no less than eight hundred persons have gone to Manitoba from the Ottawa district alone. Indeed, the emigration from different parts of Canada, Ontario more especially, to the Prairie Province, is a phenomenal event which we cannot exactly explain, but over which we have every reason to rejoice. We shall be mistaken if, at the next census, little Manitoba does not make the best show of all in respect to increase of population.

The United States Post Office Department have approved the design for a new International Two-Cent Postal Card, which will doubtless soon be put into circulation. Although this new card was provided for by the Universal Postal Union, we do not hear of any other nation having taken a similar step. Until England moves, we shall, of course, expect nothing from Canada, although our geographical position gives us a special interest in this new card.

A PETITION, largely signed by Senators and Members of Parliament, is being circulated in Ottawa, praying Government to assist Madame Von KORBER in bringing out fifty maid-servants to Canada from Germany. As a beginning, nothing could be better than this, as from the experience of the United States and the Province of Ontario, there is no more thrifty, honest, laborious, and self-reliant a class of immigrants than the German.

FOLLOWING up our article of last week on the necessity of collating and preserving our invaluable Canadian archives, we are glad to learn from the Parliamentary reports that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, in whose department our treasures lie, has expressed the hope that he will be this year allotted the sum of \$3,000 in collecting interesting records of the early history of Canada.

SENATOR PENDLETON, of Ohio, lately introduced in the United States Senate a bill providing for the admission of members of the Cabinet to seats in Congress. They are not to be allowed to vote on propositions, and not required to be in their seats, but are limited to the privilege of taking part in the debates. This is a direct move toward the British system.

We beg to call the particular attention of our military authorities at Ottawa, and our militia officers all over the country, to the illustrations, on our last page, of the "Oliver Accoutrements." A full letterpress description will be found in a separate column. We are indebted for both the illustration and description to an officer of high rank at Halifax.

WE have received from Mr. PAUL DENYS, of the Brockville Institution, another paper on Primitive Conscience among Deaf-Mutes. The subject is a most painfully interesting one, which has attracted much attention since we broached it in our columns, and hence we shall have pleasure in publishing Mr. DENYS' paper next week.

WHAT British Columbia expects to gain by agitating the wild scheme of secession from the Confederacy we are at a loss to understand. Its representatives in the Federal Parliament should rise and explain. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, as member for Victoria, ought to see about it.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OPENING OF NAVIGATION.—This event, which is always a welcome event in Canada, is illustrated by two sketches, one from Montreal, the other from Toronto. In the former the ice-shove is represented with distant views of prominent buildings visible from the river, such as Notre Dame Church, the City Hall and Bonsecour Market. The other shows the river already open and the boats ready to start.

ZULU'S CROSSING A RIVER.—This sketch may find a suitable commentary in the following extract from the pamphlet which was lately compiled by order of Lord Chelmsford and published in Natal, giving an account of the enemy's military system:—"When a Zulu army on the line of march comes to a river in flood, and the breadth of the stream which is out of their depth does not exceed from ten to fifteen yards, they plunge in in a dense mass, holding on to one another, those behind forcing them forward, and thus succeed in crossing with the loss of few of their number."

THE CARTOON.—On our front page will be found a timely illustration of the present diverse condition of public feeling in regard to the Insolvency Law. A broken down race horse is represented laden with the different Insolvency Laws since 1868. The driver of the screw is a well-known advocate of this city, who has framed several bills on the subject, and than whom there is no one more conversant with every kind of litigation arising out of insolvency cases. Mr. Galey, the esteemed and energetic Inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of Montreal, is put forth with pistol in hand as ready to do the deed of mercy toward the poor brute. He typifies that class of business men who want to get rid of the Insolvency Laws altogether. They are opposed by a prominent merchant of this city, who is well-known for his efforts at ameliorating and trying to keep up the same laws.

THE ST. LOUIS GATE, QUEBEC.—This gate is to be erected on the site of the old historic gate of the same name. The style of architecture is adapted to harmonise as much as possible with the existing fortifications. It has a central roadway passage under a segmental arch for general traffic, and a semi-circular archway on either side for foot passengers. These roadways and footways form with the fortifications a continuous promenade, which is to be known as the Duflin Terrace, and the inauguration of which by His Excellency and the Princess Louise we shall have occasion to sketch toward the end of May. On the front and rear walls are embattled stone parapets corbelled outward from the face of the walls, and on either end are stone steps leading to the city streets. The stone tower, with pyramidal domed wooden roof, projects nearly two-thirds outward from the general face of the wall. Opening on the platforms are two corbelled stone turrets of horse-shoe plan, one of them being covered with a slate and lead roof.

THE LAAGER DEFENCE.—This is a square formed of waggons and branches of trees. The tents of the artillery and infantry are engaged as close as possible outside the laager. In front of the centre are the guns of the artillery, a line of shelter trenches covering the front of the infantry tents. In case of alarm or a night attack the tents are immediately struck, the infantry occupying the shelter-trenches, the gunners standing to their guns, all mounted men to their horses. Should it be found necessary to retreat within the laager, every man at once repairs to that wagon to which he has already been detailed, the guns being run back through a temporary opening in the outer circle of waggons. The strength of such a position is obvious. By distributing the men so that half of them lie under, the remainder in, the waggons, a double line of fire is brought to bear upon the enemy. We have already learnt by bitter experience what the Zulus can do. We know how on Jan. 22 they hurled themselves in masses against the defenders of Isanhlwana, heedless of the murderous fire of our Martinis or the shrapnel which ploughed lanes through the columns. Yet we doubt, nay, more, we believe

it to be absolutely impossible for the same enemy in equal numbers to force a position of such strength as we have endeavoured to describe. It is from the Boers that the English have adopted the system of laagers.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, April 25th.—The long and weary debates in Committee of the Whole on the Tariff resolutions were finally brought to a close on Thursday evening. All the resolutions were passed and the Tariff Bill introduced by Mr. Filley. This of course will go rapidly through its stages. The fight has been fought in the Committee and won by the Ministers; and the country is now sure to have the Protective Tariff. One of the last struggles was on the resolution protecting free stone. Mr. Mackenzie declared that this would seriously hamper the building trade, for the reason that there was no stone in Canada equal to the Ohio stone, except perhaps at Pembroke, on the Ottawa, whence it could not be conveniently carried to Western Ontario, where builders would be obliged to pay this practically prohibitory duty. I think he must have been rather surprised at the facts which the debate elicited, as member after member from the East to the West of the Dominion, rose and pointed out that their localities could produce free stone equal, and in many cases superior, to that brought from Cleveland, as proved by actual preference, price for price. Here is a case in which the protective tariff will do marked and decided good. It is astonishing how far a little facility and confidence in the beginning will sometimes go in the development of a great industry. Mr. Cartwright during the week made a bitter fight on the sugar duties. He went so far as to forget his usual decorum, and described the effect of such legislation as legalised robbery and swindling, declaring it was simply a device to add riches to the previous accumulations of already rich men, at the expense of consuming interests, and to the injury of large trade interests in Ontario—particularly the peninsula of Ontario in its relations to the port of New York. I find that many members felt that adding riches to the rich in the case of one very large firm was a prejudice; but it was impossible to conceal that the policy in itself is a national one in that it will tend to bring trade by the St. Lawrence and make the country independent instead of making it dependent on New York. The tea duties were passed with very little show of fight, perhaps arising from the fatigue of the combatants. The effect of these also will be to cut off trade from New York and bring it by the St. Lawrence; and this remark will apply to the whole grocery trade, for it is well known that where traders buy these two leading articles they assort their stocks. This is a Montreal interest, and it is a pity that it should be considered a prejudice.

On the flour and wheat duties there was also a struggle; and it was a tough thing for many of the members of the Province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces to vote for these. They only consented to do so as a part of a national policy, and in view of the fact that the Tariff favoured them in other particulars in which they had very great interest. But as respects the duty on wheat the vote in favour of this was only obtained upon an understanding that the Government would, in times of great scarcity, admit wheat duty free. There was a further attempt made by Ontario members to have wheat, coal, pig iron and corn meal admitted free; but all these motions were defeated by large majorities. The closest vote was on Dr. Fiset's motion to have wheat admitted free, the division being 109 to 61. This motion made a special pull on the milling interests and the Province of Quebec members; that Province being a consumer to a great extent in excess of its production. The Lower Canadians are notable wheat consumers.

These struggles and divisions of course show the difficulty that lies at the very bottom of the project to establish a protective tariff. For it is inevitable that when all industries come to be touched, one man's product is another's raw material in his manufacture, the enhancement of the price of which takes a great deal of the gilt edge off the protection afforded to himself. Stated simply as a question of principle it would be impossible to escape the conclusion that this state of things would imply a general enhancement of price; and this is the essence of the fierce and bitter contention which has been waged by Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Cartwright and others. But as against this principle we see in the case of the United States that competition among the several manufacturers does bring cheapness, and it is contended by the protectionists with a point which I have not heard fairly answered in this debate, that this making of things among ourselves implies an increase of population; and it is on the surface of the argument that this implies an increase of wealth. There is certainly enough, therefore, even in the case of men who are not protectionists, to enlist their co-operation in the working of the policy adopted, or at least to watch with patience the results.

It is stated that the Pacific Railway policy will be announced when the Tariff Bill is through its readings. We have here room for another most serious contention. I do not speak so much with respect to the divergence of the line from the Narrows to the south of Lake Mani-

toba, as that can be straightened at any future time at small expense, and the loop now made be worth all it has cost and more as a Colonization Railway. I do not know what the policy of the Government is, but I have heard it whispered that there is an intention to take the longer line from the Tête Jaune in the Rocky Mountains to Bute Inlet, instead of that which was decided by Mr. Mackenzie's Government on the recommendation of Mr. Fleming, to the Burrard Inlet. Please do not take this as an announcement. I only give it to you as a rumour on which there is a great deal of talk. It is presumed the Government will have reasons to show for the course which they determine, and men who have no object in deceiving themselves will wait for the announcement of these. I have a strong feeling on this question and there is much that I might say, but I will forbear as matters stand. I should not be at all surprised if the policy of the Government will not be to postpone the final decision until there has been a much more thorough examination of a more northern route than either of those referred to.

A curious incident came out before a Subcommittee of the Public Accounts respecting a change in Mr. Whitehead's Pacific Railroad contract, involving, it is said in the evidence, a quarter of a million dollars; but I have heard it whispered it may be a million. It appears that after trestle work was specified and authorised, that this was changed to embankments, without the knowledge of the Minister, Mr. Mackenzie, the Deputy-Minister, Mr. Trud-an, or the Secretary, Mr. Braun, or Mr. Marcus Smith, who was, in Mr. Fleming's absence, Chief-Engineer. It is not yet known who made this alteration, but Mr. Rowan, the District-Engineer, has not yet been examined. He has, however, been sent for. It is certainly a most alarming fact that an important alteration of this kind could be made in a public work without the knowledge of the responsible Minister or the chief officers of the Department. We shall probably hear further of this.

Mr. Girouard's bill is making a little sensation among the brokers, and they are up here fighting it. There is undoubtedly a good deal of feeling against the class of brokers arising out of the manipulations which have caused many persons frightful losses by the fluctuations in stocks. Very rigorous and severe provisions of law to restrain the operations of brokers, are at least new in our legislation; but they are based upon precisely the same principles as the laws to restrain gambling and lotteries. Certainly all transactions arising out of speculations in "longs" and "shorts" are of the very essence of gambling. And I think most men will concur that it ought to be made a penal offence for any man, under any pretence whatever, to sell a stock which he has not actually in bona fide possession. A man may be permitted to make ducks and drakes with property in his actual possession; but possession implies responsibility, and responsibility implies carefulness, while the absence of either is a premium for wildness which runs to criminal excess.

We have had dreary column upon column of committee reports upon the Coteau Bridge question. The Ottawa men are making a desperate struggle to obtain it, and are bringing up relays of forces all the time to strengthen their position; but, to my mind, the situation is not changed from the description I have already given you. There is no decision as I write.

People are beginning to ask how long the session will last, and there is yet much to do. The estimates are not passed, but they will go very rapidly through, now that the tariff has passed, especially as they have been framed with great moderation. The voting on them commenced last night, and good progress was made. You must remember, also, that the members are now staying at their own expense. They will not get one copper more, however long they stay; and human nature is human nature. They will be in haste to get off.

The Insolvent Bill has been reported by the Special Committee, and I take it that this will become a law. I gave you the principles on which the report was based in a previous letter.

Mr. Paul DeCazes was examined before the Immigration Committee. He had been Government Agent in France for five years. He testified that French artisans and agriculturists of the better class could not be induced to emigrate. There was an emigration from France to Canada after the upsetting of industries by the war of 1870, and Mr. DeCazes showed that large increase of trade followed that emigration.

The theatrical entertainments at Rideau Hall, which were postponed in consequence of the death of Prince Waldemar, of Prussia, took place on Saturday and Wednesday nights, and were the fashionable event of the political capital.

ARTISTIC.

MR. RICHARD REDGRAVE, R.A., who has long held a distinguished place amongst English landscape painters, will have to relinquish the brush on account of failing eyesight.

THE son of the illustrious poet, Mr. Robert Browning, who made his first appearance last year as an exhibiting painter at the Royal Academy, has again sent over from Antwerp some works for exhibition.

It is proposed to establish in Rome an Institute for German artists, where they would have lodging and the use of ateliers at a moderate rate. At present artistic life in Rome has become very expensive, and private studios are difficult to procure. The German Government, therefore, have come to the aid of artists, by purchasing the so-called Casa Bartholdy, on Monte Pincio, and fitting it up as a large artistic establishment, with seventeen ateliers and a number of dwelling rooms.