

H. SUGDEN EVANS & CO.

(Late EVANS, MERCER & CO.)

WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS

MANUFACTURING

Pharmaceutical Chemists,

41 to 43 ST. JEAN BAPTISTE ST.,

MONTREAL.

EVANS, SONS & CO., LIVERPOOL, ENG. EVANS, LESCHER & EVANS, LONDON, ENG.

WILLIAM DARLING & CO.,

IMPORTERS OF

*Metals, Hardware, Glass, Mirror Plates**Hair Seating, Carriage**Makers' Trimmings and Curled Hair.*

Agents for Messrs. Chas. Ebbingshaus & Sons, Manufacturers of Window Cornices.

No. 30 St. Sulpice, & No. 379 St. Paul Streets, MONTREAL.

1878.

1878.

SPRING STOCK

COMPLETE

IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

We shall keep OUR STOCK WELL ASSORTED this season, and invite those looking for a desirable Stock to make a visit to our establishment.

ST. JOSEPH STREET, MONTREAL,
T. JAMES CLAXTON & CO.

The Journal of Commerce
FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, MAY 17, 1878.

RESULTS OF THE SESSION.

The last session of a parliament is almost proverbially barren of results, and the one which has just closed so unfortunately at Ottawa is certainly no exception to the rule. The rival statesmen were chiefly employed in preparing for the forthcoming election. Still the session has not been without results. The temperance party seem, on the whole, well satisfied with the Act respecting the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and it must be admitted that it is an improvement on the law known as the Dunkin Act. The Act for the better auditing of the public accounts is a valuable one, and we hope that the Amended Stamp Act will be an improvement. The Act which is chiefly interesting to the citizens of Montreal is that "for the better prevention of crimes of violence in certain parts of Canada," and which is specially designed to restrain our over-excited population. The Act in question was first proposed by Mr. Blake, but was subsequently taken charge of by the Government, and carried without

serious opposition. The corporation has had the subject under consideration, and has agreed with tolerable unanimity to an increase of the police force. We should have been glad if the punishment for carrying firearms had been a smart fine, one-half to go to the informer, by which means a detective police force would have been at once created, and parties would have been so apprehensive of detection that they would probably have ceased to violate the law. We confess that we have but little confidence in the efficacy of a local police in dealing with party quarrels. We have no intention whatever of disparaging the Montreal police force beyond that in other cities. Experience has proved that in the country, from which we have inherited our party feuds, the local police is not to be relied on for the effectual suppression of party conflicts. We have on more than one occasion pointed out the expediency of organizing a Dominion Police Force, and rather more than a year ago we observed with satisfaction that Chief Justice Harrison, in a charge to the grand jury at Ottawa, expressed a decided opinion in favor of such a measure. Mr. Blake, we were sorry to notice, adverted in his speech to the subject of a Government police, which he was of opinion was not a practicable measure. We shall copy his remarks on that subject:

The second question was that which had attracted attention some time previous to this. It was that of possible interference by this Parliament, by the formation of a police force by Canada. To that to-day as in times past, he would decidedly object. The preservation of the peace rested under the one reading and practice of the Constitution with the local authorities. It would be utterly impossible for Canada to undertake to organize a police force such as would be required in the considerable cities and in the rural places. There was no doubt that any city which, owing to exceptional circumstances, had to charge itself with the establishment of an exceptionally large police force would be glad to see a local burden discharged even by the Dominion of Canada. His opinion was that it devolved on the Local Governments and Legislatures to provide an adequate local force for the maintenance of the peace. (Hear, hear.)

One of the principal objections raised by Mr. Blake may be easily disposed of. The advocates of a Dominion police never contemplated that a "local burden should be discharged by the Dominion of Canada." Neither do they think that it should be defrayed by the Local Legislatures, unless when required for strictly provincial objects. In the counties, cities and towns of the Dominion, a very large aggregate force of police is required and maintained out of local funds. It would be most desirable, if it were possible, that

this force should be composed of men subjected to a common discipline, and wholly free from local feelings and prejudices. There is a force in existence which may be conveniently referred to as a model, viz., the Irish Constabulary. It is true that this force is independent of the local police, but there seems to be no good reason why it should not be enlarged up to the requirements of the various localities, and distributed among them. Already there is a system under which localities are compelled to bear the expense of military when required on occasions of emergency, and in Ireland instances have occurred where it has been found necessary to substitute the Constabulary for the local police at the cost of course of the community requiring its services. The scheme could only be successfully worked out in concert with the Provincial Legislatures and the Municipal Corporations, but there is no reason to doubt their co operation, and it would not be necessary for any province or municipality to be included, unless with its own consent. We have no doubt whatever that the advantages resulting from an efficient police force, free from local association, would be found so great that in a comparatively short time all the provinces and municipalities would give in their adhesion to the system. While in our opinion such a force would be superior at all times to a mere local police, the great advantage would be, that in periods of emergency, such, for instance, as the railroad strikes, a very large force could be detailed for service elsewhere. For this purpose, the reserve would be available, or in case a considerable body of men was needed, they could be withdrawn, and their places temporarily supplied by special constables. We are unable to concur in Mr. Blake's opinion that "it would be utterly impossible to undertake to organize a police force, such as would be required in the considerable cities and in the rural places." "Where there's a will, there's a way," and we fear it is the will that is wanting. We have adverted to the local ties of the police, but we may further observe that our volunteers are all subject to similar influences. The day may not be far distant when we may have to lament most bitterly that our sole reliance for the preservation of the peace, in a city so much under the control of the dangerous classes, as to have rendered the sudden intervention of Parliament absolutely necessary, is upon local forces imbued with the same prejudices as those very classes. It is most satisfactory to find that the bill introduced by Mr. Blake, and accepted by the