

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Senate has taken the precaution of having reported in full and printed the debate on the resolutions for the admission of British Columbia. Probably it would have been well, as the debates in both Houses on the subject of Confederation were fully reported and published, that all the debates on the terms for the admission of the outlying colonies or territories had been preserved in the same way, as in each case the single question of establishing a consolidated British power on this continent was the radical issue involved. Before Confederation there was no common tie but that of allegiance to the Crown, which, being worn at so great a distance, had very little effect in binding the colonies together. Hostile tariffs, a different system of laws, and dissimilar institutions, added much to the natural influence of geographical position, in making the Maritime Provinces the allies of the Eastern, as Ontario was of the Western and British Columbia of the Pacific States of the neighbouring Republic, so that at three distinct points British America was drifting inevitably towards engulfment in the American Union. To avoid this, to preserve the institutions characteristic of the several origins and of the different races of the people inhabiting these colonies, the British American Union was planned, and is now virtually completed. Will it secure the end aimed at? Nothing, we believe, save the folly of the people themselves can prevent it. No outside pressure can with any probability of success be exercised to prevent our cementing the union which the law has formed and making a powerful, as well as an extensive country. At present, though its vast extent is a source of weakness, it is also in some degree a protection, because it involves the presence of a hostile army so utterly disproportioned to any rational ideas of conquest that no enemy would attempt its forcible annexation. Even the Prussian army which conquered France could hardly have made its way from Halifax to Ottawa in less time than it did from Saarbruck to Paris; and when at Ottawa it would have found that its real work was little more than half begun.

But our territorial advantages, however great, would be all in vain without the patriotic spirit of the people, and that spirit, however enthusiastic, must itself succumb unless sustained by numbers. Thus it is that the acquisition of British Columbia rises into importance, for, by involving the construction of the Pacific Railway it guarantees the early settlement of the North-West Territory and a consequent increase of population at an annual percentage which will, in all probability, exceed that of this or any other established community at any former period. Now, it is important at the foundation of what may be said to be a new Empire, or at least at the inception of the consolidation of a great power, that the motives, the hopes and the dreads of its founders should be known and preserved for the instruction of the present and of future generations. In this respect the Senate has practically supplied all that is necessary. Every substantial argument, *pro* and *con*, used in the Lower House was introduced in the Senate; and very much, if not all, of the partizan political trash was left out. The report, carefully taken by Mr. J. G. Bourinot, an accomplished stenographer, is, therefore, not merely of passing but of historic interest, and we are glad that the report has been preserved in a form convenient for reference.

Much of the debate naturally turned upon the railway; but we believe that the people of Canada need no arguments to convince them of its importance, nor have they any dread that its construction on the terms proposed will swamp the credit of the country. As, however, we did, on a former occasion, object to the annual grant in perpetuity of \$100,000 to British Columbia in return for the cession of lands along the line of the proposed railway, we have much pleasure in quoting from the Senate debate the following passage, occurring in the speech of the Hon. D. L. Macpherson, which we think fully explains, not only the necessity for such increased subsidy, but also the wisdom and economic policy of the Government in taking the land grant in lieu thereof:

"Looking into the terms they seem to me fair and reasonable. The Dominion agrees to pay an annual subsidy of \$35,000, as in the case of the other Provinces; also, 80 cents per head, equivalent to \$48,000. These sums amount to only \$83,000, which is evidently altogether inadequate to meet the local wants of the colony. Therefore it was found necessary to supplement that amount by \$100,000—no very extravagant sum certainly. If instead of \$35,000, it had been shown that \$135,000 was required by British Columbia, in order to maintain her provincial services, and make such local improvements as she would require, this country could not have objected to give it, and that too without receiving any equivalent in the shape of land. Instead of that, however, the Government of the Dominion has stipulated that a strip of land, 40 miles wide, should be given along the route of the proposed railway in British Columbia. If the information we have respecting the country is at all correct, that land must become very valuable in the course of time, and I think

the country has every reason to be satisfied with this part of the arrangement."

Our former suggestion was that the Government should have given the necessary subsidy without the pretence of compensating British Columbia for the cession of land; but as that cession is so far in excess of those made on other portions of the line of railway, we cannot but accept Mr. Macpherson's view as a correct appreciation of the ministerial policy.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM'S PROCESSIONS TO ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.

The sketches on the first and eighth pages of the present issue show the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise in procession towards the scene of the nuptial ceremony. The Marquis entered by the South and the Princess by the West Gates; and on leaving the Church the newly-married pair went out by the latter gate, accompanied by the members of the Royal Family, to the Castle, in the Oak room of which, after the formality of signing the marriage register, the royal party partook of luncheon at the same time that the invited guests were entertained in the Waterloo Gallery. The incidents connected with the marriage have already been pretty fully described in our pages, but the following particulars relating especially to the illustrations in this issue may not be without interest:—

The arrival of the bridegroom was the next event. He was dressed in the Argyll and Bute Volunteer Artillery uniform, dark blue trimmed with silver, and was attended by his supporters, Earl Percy and Lord Ronald Leveson-Gower. They entered by the south door, staying a moment in the Bray Chapel, and then proceeded to the *haut-pas*, at the right centre of which they took their places. Attention was again directed to the south entrance by the arrival of the Princess of Wales, and other Princesses, who had formed the first procession from the Castle. She held by the hand Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, who wore their kilts. She wore a blue satin dress, with blue velvet train. Princess Teck, looking remarkably well, wore a dress of sky-blue satin, and Prince Teck wore a dark blue Hungarian hussar uniform. The Duke of Cambridge wore his Field Marshal's uniform, and the Duchess of Cambridge was dressed in a violet satin. Princess Christian wore cerise satin, covered with white Brussels lace. Princess Beatrice wore pink satin. Their Royal Highnesses were received by the Vice-Chamberlain, and conducted to the places set apart for them on the *haut-pas*. Prince Arthur, in his Rifleman's uniform, and Prince Leopold, in Highland kilt, were with their sisters. The music of "the pipes" was heard just before the Duke and Duchess of Argyll arrived, followed by the Dowager Duchess, Lord A. Campbell, Lady A. Campbell, and Lord C. Campbell. The father of the bridegroom wore the Highland dress—the Campbell tartan, green and black, the kilt, and the other essentials of that picturesque costume. His Grace carried a large black walking-stick in one hand. The Duchess of Argyll wore a white satin dress, lace veil, and diamond head-dress; the Dowager Duchess was in a pale lilac dress, with a magnificent lace veil.

As the procession moved up the Chapel a festal march was played on the organ by Dr. Elvey. The bridesmaids were then seen to emerge from their boudoir and to leave the Chapel by the west door, in order to meet the bride, while the National Anthem outside heralded the arrival of Her Majesty and the bride. Then entered the Prince of Wales, in his hussar uniform, with the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, in a white uniform. Both their Royal Highnesses wore the collar of the Garter, and were attended by their respective suites. For a moment or two the doors were closed, in order to be reopened to admit Her Majesty and the bride's procession.

The Queen advanced on the left of the Princess, on which side stood the Prince of Wales, who bent to kiss Her Majesty's hand, and then crossed, with the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, to the other side of the bride.

The Queen wore a black satin dress, trimmed with ermine and jet, and a diadem of diamonds over a long white tulle veil. Her Majesty wore a ruby and diamond brooch and necklace, with a diamond cross, the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter, the Orders of Victoria and Albert and Louise of Prussia, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family Order.

The wedding dress of Princess Louise was a rich white satin, covered with a deep flounce of Honiton point lace, trimmed with cordons of orange-blossoms, white heather, and myrtle, and a train of white satin, trimmed to correspond with the dress. Her Royal Highness wore a wreath of orange-blossoms and myrtle, with a veil of Honiton lace, held by two diamond pins in the form of daisies, the gift of Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice. The dress was made by Miss Unitt, and the flowers were supplied by Mr. Nestor Sirard. The Princess had on a diamond necklace, to which was attached a large ornament of pearls and diamonds, with a sapphire in the centre, the gift of the Marquis of Lorne. She wore a diamond and emerald bracelet, given by the Prince and Princess of Wales; also a diamond bracelet which had belonged to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and the one given her by the people of Windsor.

THE PROVINCIAL ARMS AND THE DOMINION FLAGS.

There appears to exist among the Canadian public such a very general misapprehension as to the true nature and character of the flags assigned to the Dominion, that we have been induced to produce in our pages illustrations of the principal ensigns set apart for use in this country, accompanied by a short explanation and description of each, founded on information drawn from the highest official sources. This misapprehension appears to be due to incorrect information supplied by a certain portion of the press of this country, for which the powers that be can in no way be held responsible. Thus we notice that a paragraph has for some time past been "going the rounds," in which it is set forth that the Flag of the Dominion Navy is "a blue flag with St. Andrew's cross, and the arms of the Dominion in the centre of the cross." This is entirely incorrect, the navy flag, or Blue Ensign, as it

is usually termed, having no cross of any kind about it, and consisting merely of a blue ground, with the Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner, and the arms of the Dominion in the lower half of the field.

In order to obtain a thorough and correct idea of the various Canadian flags it is first necessary to be acquainted with the arms of the four Provinces which formed the Dominion at the time of the issue of Her Majesty's warrant. These are, as everyone knows, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, to each of which, by the Royal Warrant issued in September, 1868, were assigned, "for the greater honour and distinction of the said Provinces, certain Armorial Ensigns," as follows:—

For the Province of Ontario.—Vert, a sprig of three leaves of maple slipped, Or; on a chief, Argent, the Cross of St. George.

For the Province of Quebec.—Or, on a fess Gules, between two Fleurs de Lis in chief, Azure, and a sprig of three leaves of maple, Vert, in base, a Lion passant-gardant, Or.

For the Province of Nova Scotia.—Or, on a fess wavy, Azure, between three Thistles, Proper, a Salmon naiant, Argent.

For the Province of New Brunswick.—Or, on waves a Lymphiad, or Ancient Galley, with oars in action, Proper; on a chief, Gules, a Lion passant-gardant, Or.

All of these armorial bearings enter, either combined or separately, into the composition of the Canadian flags.

The Dominion Arms consist at present of the shields of the four Provinces, quartered in the order named above, viz.:—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick; but it is only reasonable to expect that they will, before long, be further supplemented with the shields of Manitoba and British Columbia. No provisions having been made for the representation of these two Provinces in the armorial bearings of Canada, the flags set apart for use in this country number at present seven, being, the Red Ensign, the Blue Ensign, the Flag of the Governor-General, and the distinctive flags of the four Lieut.-Governors, to which, no doubt, two will be added, one for the Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, and another for the Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, shortly after the admission of the latter Province into the Confederation.

The first flag that demands our attention—the one which occupies the place of honour on page 281—is the flag of the Governor-General of Canada, which is as follows:—On a white field, a St. George's Cross (red), with the Union Jack in the upper left hand corner, and, on the centre of the cross, the arms of the Dominion, surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves, and surmounted by a crown.

The flags of the Lieut.-Governors resemble that of the Governor-General in every way, except that the Provincial arms take the place of the Dominion arms in the centre of the cross.

The Blue Ensign, or flag of the Dominion Navy, consists of a blue field, with the Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner, and the arms of the Dominion, wreathed and crowned as before, in the lower half of the field, about half way between the edge of the Union Jack and the outward, or right-hand edge of the flag. It should be borne in mind that this flag is intended for the exclusive use of Government vessels or Marine Police—its use by any other than authorized persons being illegal. The reason for the restriction is evident, as were ordinary merchant and fishing vessels to fly this ensign it would be impossible to distinguish them from the cruisers engaged in the protection of the Fisheries.

The Red Ensign, or flag of the Dominion proper, is for general use, and resembles the Blue Ensign in detail, the colour of the field alone being different.

THE MAPLE SUGAR SEASON.

The taste for maple sugar is neither an unnatural nor an acquired one. It is more than that—a purely national one, like that of the Englishman for his beer, that of the Scotchman for oatcake, or that of the German for his national and time-honoured dish of sauer-kraut. Perhaps the taste might extend to the peoples of other countries were the article once introduced among them, but at present it is very little known outside of Canada, and, therefore, appreciated by few other than Canadians. Were a newly-arrived European to take a stroll through the streets of any of our towns during the months of April or May, he could not fail to remark the quantity of sugar in the form of brown oblong bricks offered for sale in the fruiterer's windows, and his surprise would be increased were he to learn that the annual crop, large as it is, scarcely suffices to supply the immense demand during the year.

The sugar season usually commences and ends with the month of April. Sometimes, but in extremely rare cases of late springs, it extends into May. The process of producing the sugar is so extremely simple that the season is looked upon rather as one of festivity than of downright labour, and large parties of amateurs are daily formed to assist the professionals in the production of the article. Those who have had the good fortune to belong to such parties will certainly never forget the bustle and fun attendant upon such festivals. Most of our Canadian readers know what this is. They have passed their apprenticeship in the method and mysteries of sugar-making; have in their time, amateur-like, made a good deal of sugar and spoilt a great deal more, and have distinguished themselves by their laudable efforts to help and their complete success in being of no earthly use whatever except to impede the actions of the professionals. Our artist having occasion recently to be present at one of these sugar-makings in the bush at Ste. Geneviève, took the opportunity of making a few sketches which we reproduce on page 285.

The process by which maple sugar is produced is thus described by Bouchette:—"The rapidity of vegetation, or more properly its cause, the almost sudden transition from cold to heat, appears essential to the production of the article, at least in quantities, inasmuch as the copious exudation of sap from the maple tree is the consequence of its being rapidly dissolved from a congealed state, and converted into a thin saccharine serum, which exudes through a puncture or incision made in the rind of the tree, about three or four feet from the root; in this incision a slender spigot is inserted to convey the liquid into troughs placed beneath for its collection, and thus is obtained the fluid whence the sugar is manufactured. The process of converting the sap into sugar is equally simple, and merely consists in boiling it until a sufficient degree of evaporation has taken place, to convert the liquid into a thick syrup, which, if it be intended to preserve the sugar in solid loaves, as is the most prevalent practice, is transferred to wooden or birch-bark vessels (tin is now generally used) of various sizes,