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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 26th. Feb. 1876.

REMOVAL.

The present is the last number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS which will be issued from our old stand, on St. Antoine street. The next will be dated from the splendid buildings erected by G. B. BURLAND, Esq., for the Burland-Desbarats Company, on Bleury, near the corner of Craig St. The removal has been going on for some weeks, and we have contrived to prevent any interruption in the regular publication of the NEWS. We shall endeavor to do the same for the next number, and have made every arrangement in that sense, but should any unforeseen accident occur in the machinery, or from the unfavorable weather, we beg to remind our readers that the delay will not extend beyond a few days. While making this announcement we have still every reason to hope that no such interruption will take place. In a subsequent number we shall have more to say in regard to the commodity and advantages of our new premises. It will suffice for the present to promise that, with the additional facilities which our central location will afford, we shall leave nothing undone still further to improve the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and raise it to the very highest standard of its class.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION

We have on several previous occasions called attention to Lord CARNARVON's project for the Confederation of the South African Colonies, on account of its many points of resemblance with our own. New light is thrown upon the scheme by a paper read before the Royal Colonial Institute lately, by General BISSETT who, some years ago, was Governor of Natal.

It appears that though the Cape has been an English possession ever since 1806, no English settlers arrived until 1820. It was a possession and settlement of the Dutch so far back as 1652. When it first passed into the hands of England in 1796, it was by no means the great country it now is, containing about 200,000 square miles, and even now the English element in the white population is insignificant. Still it is to all intents and purposes a second England, and the residents, whether Dutch, German, or French, are all but English in their manners and customs. Since 1868, Basutoland has been part and parcel of Cape Colony. The incorporation of the land, with the consequent protection of the natives of the Cape authorities, took place at the critical moment when the Dutch were on the point of subjugating the savages, and annexing their land to one of their Republics. The natural disappointment and chagrin are still rankling in the minds of the Dutch, and indispose them to take a favourable view of the federation scheme, or indeed of anything which tends to strengthen the English colonies in their vicinity; and amongst the perils to which the scattered English interests are exposed must be named this uneasy feeling among the Dutch, for it would only need their leadership to organise a formidable rising on the part of

the savages who swarm in all parts of the land. General BISSETT, and other experienced colonists who took part in the conversation that ensued on the reading of the paper, bear testimony to the extraordinary wealth of Natal, the Vaal district, the Orange district, and Cape Colony. The possibilities of the future are incalculably great. It is less than ten years since the diamond discoveries were announced, and yet the money value of the stones found is computed at twelve millions sterling. In Natal, coal-fields exist under about three hundred square miles. Gen. BISSETT relates also that he had himself discovered a deposit of marble many hundred feet thick, and thirty square miles in area. Then there are the gold-diggings, but these have not proved quite so attractive, or so productive as the diamond mines. Nevertheless, there is in all this latent wealth an irresistible attraction for the overplus of Europe's crowded labour marts, and as the years roll on the tide of immigration will increase in volume. That England will contribute more largely than hitherto to this increase there is every reason to believe. At all events, even now, the English predominate in the country, and if their influence should be hereafter overtopped, it will be a singular exception to the ordinary course of events in which England has any concern.

There has been high handedness in English policy, and something very like injustice, towards the Boers again and again, but England was irritated out of all patience and reason by a succession of Kaffir wars, and could, if pressed, produce a heavy account of losses and insults as a set-off to the grievances of which the Dutch Republics complain. It would be no loss to any one, but ultimately a great gain all round, to cry "quits" and supersede the policy of suspicion and defiance by one of amity and concord. Two fertile sources of trouble may be named as likely to vanish upon federation taking effect. One colony, we are told, prohibits the sale of firearms to natives except on certain conditions; but this wise regulation is rendered null by a neighbouring colony proclaiming free trade in arms and gunpowder. Guns are thus finding their way into the hands of savages at the rate of a hundred thousand a year. This is sowing the dragon's teeth with a vengeance, and would assuredly be looked to if there were both a political and a customs union of the colonies. Another source of irritation has arisen from a misinterpretation of the term "free trade" in the convention with the Dutch Republic, in 1852. The Dutch understood it to include exemption from import dues at English ports, and are so dissatisfied at not having their view of the matter accepted that they are now actually negotiating with the Portuguese for a trade route from Delagoa Bay. A political unification would do away with all rancour on such a point as this, even if it did not secure precisely what the Dutch desire. As matters now stand it would not be a very great surprise if there should occur a tremendous irruption of barbarous hordes, sweeping away or swallowing up these disjointed members of the civilised community, one by one, till all were gone. Possibly they might so far forget their rivalries in the presence of a great danger as to organise a league for mutual assistance, but it is much more business-like to sink comparatively unimportant differences and band themselves together in good time to disarrange the very conception of such a rising in the minds of the savages.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT

The Postmaster General's Report for 1875 contains some interesting figures. There were in Ontario in Quebec for 1875, 3,054 post offices, and 23,545 miles of postal route: In New Brunswick, 651 post offices, and 3,963 miles of route: In Nova Scotia, 901 post offices, and 6,708 miles of route: Manitoba, 40 post offices, and 350 miles of route: in British Columbia, 19 post offices, and 2,818 miles of route:

in Prince Edward Island, 197 post offices, and 1,046 miles of route. Total number of miles of route 38,450.

The revenue and expenditure up to 30th June, 1875, was as follows: Ontario and Quebec Revenue, 1,285,196 dollars 71 cents. Expenditure 1,368,108.63; New Brunswick revenue, 86,208.89. Expenditure 164,114.81; Nova Scotia, 119,202.44. Expenditure 205,940.04; Manitoba revenue 10,886.60. Expenditure 22,430.08; British Columbia revenue 16,678.72. Expenditure 75,226.38; Prince Edward Island revenue 18,336.14. Expenditure 38,421.49. Total: revenue 1,536,509.50. Expenditure 1,873,241.41

The money order department has been in a flourishing condition, the following showing the number of offices and amounts of orders issued: from Ontario and Quebec money order offices 30th Jun, 1875, Ontario and Quebec 518; New Brunswick 68; Nova Scotia 91; Manitoba 1; British Columbia 6; Prince Edward Island 3, total 687. Ontario and Quebec money orders issued, 4,101,581 dollars 45 cents; New Brunswick, 971, 276.79; Nova Scotia, 1,489,567.85; Manitoba, 26,452.85; British Columbia, 50,669.72; Prince Edward Island, 81,890.62, total 6,721,439 dollars 28 cents. The expense which the introduction of the free delivery of letters and papers has involved in the aggregate additional outlay in the seven provinces, amounts to a little over 39,000 dollars per annum. When concluding with the United States the postal convention of 1875, an understanding was arrived at that an arrangement would, as soon as practicable, be made for an inter-change of money orders, between Canada and the United States, and this intention was carried into effect on the 1st August last, under the regulations expressed in an arrangement appended to this report. The arrangements have worked as satisfactorily for the public convenience as could reasonably be expected under the difficulties unavoidably created by the varying relations of the currencies of the two countries during the five months from August to December, 1875, inclusive.

The transactions amounted to 153,906 dollars. At first the issues by the United States of orders payable in Canada, were one third larger in amount than those of Canada on the United States, but the current has since changed, and now sets the other way. From 1st September, 1874 however all dead letters originating in Canada have been returned to the writers, except those of which the writers cannot be found. During the ten months ended 30th June, 1875, the number of such letters sent from the dead letter office to be returned to the writers was 1,118,501; of this number the writers of 17,447 could not be found, so that the number actually returned to the writers during the period, from 1st September, 1874, to 30th June, 1875, was 1,010,054. The postage accruing to the department on the return of these letters was 203,925; the cost of advertising unclaimed letters during the year ended 30 June, 1874, was upwards of 7,500 dollars, and as this sum will now be saved to the department, there will be this amount in addition to the sum received for postage on returned letters to be placed against the cost of the change. The sum paid for the additional clerical force required to carry into effect the change in treatment has not exceeded 4,000 dollars for the year, so that, while on the one hand, it may be fairly claimed that a great improvement has been effected in the treatment of a large proportion of the dead letters, on the other hand, it is highly satisfactory to be able to state that the improvement has been effected not only without additional cost, but a considerable reduction of expense, at compared with the previous system.

The scheme of Alderman McLAREN for the ventilation of houses, which we presented to our readers last week, continues to attract attention. It has been in use successfully for several years; when properly constructed it never has proved a

failure. First—either as a sure prevention of gases entering our dwellings. Secondly—as the most economical mode of conducting the rain-fall, also the melted snow direct to our sewers. As an instance, we may mention one building only, that built and occupied by the London, Liverpool, and Globe Assurance Company, corner Place d'Armes and St. James Street. The reviving of the present discussion caused the contractor, Mr. MAXWELL, to remember that he had built the house on this same plan, and thereupon he decided to call and ascertain for himself how it had suited. Waiting on the janitor, after making general enquiries about the building he questioned him as to the roof. "Does it leak?" The answer was "no." "Do the spouts ever freeze, and how do they seem to work?" "Spouts?" answered the janitor, "I have never seen a spout on the building." The contractor, feigning surprise, enquired how the water from rain and snow came down from the roof? The answer was "I don't know; I never saw snow or rainwater coming down." In fact, he was not troubled either by rain or snowfall. No repairs were required to the roof or spouts, and the house was free from offensive gases, &c., from sewers. If any better reason than this can be urged in favor of the change and general adoption of the scheme entire, it should be published at once.

We may add that in answer to a circular, on the subject, Alderman MACLAREN received very favorable replies from every one, most of them from practical builders and the most celebrated architects of this city, some of whom have been carrying out this principle in buildings for some years past and found it a success.

The subject of the financial depression was brought up by Mr. MILLS, in Parliament last week, who moved for a committee to enquire into the causes. He believed to a great extent we were suffering from the commercial depression in the adjoining Republic. He declined at that stage to discuss whether a higher tariff would modify the evil, but he noticed that elsewhere high duties on imported articles had not always the desired effect. Though the balance of trade had been against this country for many years, he did not attach the importance to that fact that some people did, still it was of importance. English trade returns showed a balance against the mother country, but then she had the carrying trade, and the profit on that must exceed the difference between the value of her imports and exports. The balance of trade too had been for years against the United States, and it was remarkable that while in England the balance of trade was apparently against a free trade policy in the United States, it was against a protective policy. They might conclude that the exports of the country were a much safer basis upon which to estimate the prosperity of a country than the increase of imports. He cited the fact that in the United States after 1862, when the duties were raised from an average of about 13 per cent. to over 40 per cent. importations were not checked, but rather increased, which showed that a high tariff was not always protective. He pointed out also that where the currency in circulation was increased, the importations also increased. It would be for the committee to enquire how far this rule held good in this country, so that they might know how far the commercial and financial depression was within the control of the Legislature.

At a meeting of the National Rifle Association, held on the 21st ult., to consider the letter of invitation from the National Rifle Association of New York to take part in the competition for the championship of the world, in America, it was resolved—"That the National Rifle Association do accept the invitation of the National Rifle Association of New York to organise a team to represent the United Kingdom at the match to take place this year in America, for the championship of