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#### NOTICE.

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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal Saturday, 1st April, 1876.

#### THE SESSION.

The decisive division on Sir JOHN MACDONALD'S Protection resolution has effected a manifest change in the aspect and tone of the House of Commons. The Ministers have felt and also shown the strength it has imparted. There have been severe struggles during the week leading sometimes to unseemly scenes, over items of the supplies, but the fighting has been for effect outside, not from any hope to gain a battle.

Unpleasant feeling was caused by the DAoust case brought up on a question of privilege by Mr. TASCHEREAU. The whole record against Mr. DAoust, as possessed by the Court of Queen's Bench, in the proceedings against him for forgery some years ago, was placed upon the journals of the House; and this, of course, must be very disgusting to him. It does appear from it that he wrote a name other than his own on a promissory note; but it also appears that he had the verbal authority of the person whose name he used, so to write it. This fact did not appear at the trial, owing to the absence of a witness; but it was subsequently made so clear to the Judge, before passing sentence, that he did not pass it; and to this day no sentence has been passed. Mr. DAoust has sat in Parliament and held offices of trust since. It is, therefore, held that he cannot be condemned now. His case has been referred for investigation to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Another case of Privilege was brought up on the motion of Mr. LANGEVIN, attacking Mr. CAUCHON for taking the Quebec Water (Government) Police, to the Charlevoix election. This motion led to extremely bitter debate. Mr. LANGEVIN was attacked and charged with all sorts of wrong doing; and Mr. CAUCHON the same. But the charges against Mr. CAUCHON being specific, an inquiry could not be denied; and the case was referred to a Special Committee. There would have been more propriety in referring it to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Among the minor matters in the House, Mr. BLAKE introduced an Insolvency Amendment Bill. It provides that it shall only be necessary to insert an advertisement of Insolvency, once in the *Official Gazette*, and twice in the local papers; which is a reform that will probably be agreeable to the local papers, and at the same time insure more publicity in the neighbourhood of the insolvent.

The Government Bill to give the Province of Manitoba an additional subsidy of \$26,000 a year passed through Committee. This measure is fully justified by the circumstances, although it does involve the principle of improvement or terms to the Provinces, condemned by the Ministers when in Opposition.

A Committee was appointed on motion of Dr. BROUSE for an inquiry into the question of sanitary science, and the es-

tablishment of a Bureau of Sanitary Statistics. The character of Montreal, as regards sanitary condition, was not very flatteringly spoken of in this debate, but the truth is, statistical information of this nature, as at present existing, is so imperfect, as to be altogether unreliable, particularly for the purposes of comparison. The measures necessary to remedy the evil are, we are afraid, rather too extensive to be undertaken this session.

A good deal of feeling has been excited by the publication of a private circular of the Hon. MALCOLM CAMERON—the "veteran reformer," as he is fairly called. It appears from his circular that he advanced \$5,000 to buy the *Times* of Ottawa, at the time the late Ministry fell; of which Mr. ALLAN GILMOUR refunded him \$500, and Messrs. MACKENZIE, CARTWRIGHT, SCOTT, SMITH, BURPEE, LAIRD and COFFIN, \$1,500,—making in all \$2,000. Mr. CAMERON, therefore, asks the Reform members of the House to subscribe and pay him the \$3,000 with interest that he is out of pocket. He also states that he spent \$6,000 in the Russell election and a great deal of money in South Ontario. These sums he states are more than he can afford, and more than he should be called upon to advance for the Reform party. And he adds that unless they recoup him, he will be the victim of misplaced confidence. The developments are not so very startling by the light of the facts of late years. The damage is the Reform party doing things of this sort. And as to Mr. CAMERON, the only comment that can be made on his placing himself in such a position, is that age must have weakened the common sense for which he was once remarkable.

The Committees of the House of Commons were very active during the week, and took a great deal of information. Among other things, Mr. BRYDGES gave his evidence that coal from Nova Scotia could not, with profit, be carried further west than Montreal. The evidence before another Committee went fully to establish the feasibility of winter navigation of the St. Lawrence; and we think there only remains the question of expense of working out such navigation now to be solved. This is quite sufficiently important to be tested by actual experiment. Mr. MILLS' Depression Committee has taken a great deal of evidence which it would fill our paper to report. He has established for one thing that the Americans cannot send agricultural implements to Canada. Another Committee has established that the St. Lawrence navigation would be very much benefitted by telegraphic communication with the Gulf.

#### CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE.

The last report of the Minister of Agriculture which has been presented to Parliament contains some interesting information in reference to the Canadian Patent Office, the operations of which appear to be increasing in importance. In his report, the Minister makes the following gratifying reference to a publication which we hope and believe is destined to be of very great service to the public:—

"The *Illustrated Patent Record*, in connection with the *Mechanics' Magazine*, continues to be published by the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Company to the entire satisfaction of the Department. This publication is really an honour to the country, both for the subject matter treated in it and the creditable manner in which the whole is brought out. The small (for it is comparatively small) encouragement which is derived from the publication of the patents in this illustrated periodical, at greater length than the lists which were formerly inserted in the *Canada Gazette*, has been the means of creating a review which goes very far in educating Canadian mechanics in the scientific part of their callings and improving the taste and knowledge of the people at large."

It appears that 1,418 applications for patents were made during the last year, against 1,376 in 1874; and that out of

these 1,322 were granted. The fees during the year amounted to \$34,555.82. Of the applicants 521 were residents of Canada; 44 of England; 748 of the United States; 3 of France; 2 of Germany; 1 of Russia; and 1 of Turkey.

This shows how largely the Act allowing foreigners to take out patents in Canada has been availed of. The Patents under the Act have to be manufactured in Canada. It is certain, therefore, that Canadian manufacturers have been thereby appreciably stimulated; and it may also be reasonably believed that large additions have been made to the aggregate of inventive skill and genius possessed by the country in its manufacturers. This is not a light consideration, as all such additions go to increase the comforts and wealth of the people.

#### VENTILATION OF DWELLINGS.

It is encouraging to see sanitary questions obtaining a share of discussion at Ottawa, and that a committee has been voted for considering the subject of general health statistics. Amongst other points the question of Ventilation was touched upon. With the bright glimpses of spring we are now enjoying, the anxieties which the subject raises at another season are vanishing. The music of the rills will soon be declaring the praises of their Creator. We are preparing our minds for summer joys and an atmosphere of warmth and hope. At such a time we spare our readers any long discussion of the Ventilation question—hoping nevertheless to recur to it as opportunity serves. Since Dr. Reid inaugurated the new movement at the construction of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, the progress of the question has been tentative rather than rapid. We have at least learned something of the difference between fresh and used air. A few good but expensive arrangements have resulted for the warming of dwellings including their ventilation—but as a general thing we are almost as dependent upon our personal care and watchfulness for our comfort as ever. Whilst we have rejected the nonsense about "night air," we are a little too careless about "drafts," which are as serious a matter for the lungs and skin now as in the days of our grandfathers. The chief danger is always during sleep, and we have come to be afraid of even tent-shaped curtains for our sleeping couches, which certainly helped to reconcile the air with the cuticle and the lungs. We sometimes sleep exactly in the draft between the door and the windows, which is unwise, and we seem hardly to have recognized the grand principle upon which the whole superstructure of ventilation economy should be built, that the human lungs, while they can breathe, if fairly healthy, very great extremes of hot or cold air, cannot breathe a mixture of hot and cold at the same time, unassimilated and untempered, through time given for the blending of the streams into one of equal temperature. In cities, where we are most delicate, we also have the greatest heating and ventilating tact, and are perhaps beginning now to discover that the hall-stove is in itself an excellent ventilator, though not generally a perfect heater. It carries off the foul air, we shall find, in larger quantities than has been always recognized. The question from whence the surface of the stove should be fed with fresh air is always rather a difficult one. Certainly, we might say, not in cold weather, from openings in the upper stories of the building—for this will involve the mixing of temperatures we have already deprecated. During a low temperature outside, the stove has rather a large faculty for finding its own air, but it might by better arrangements be made to warm the portion it does not use for combustion more equally and more effectually.

#### UNIVERSITY REFORM.

That the English Universities are an honor to the country is universally admitted, but that their usefulness is com-

mensurate with their opportunities is unfortunately not the case. Lord SALISBURY has lately submitted a bill before the House of Lords, the object of which is precisely to reduce this disproportion between the money facilities and the teaching capacity of Oxford. The report of the late Universities Commission shows that at Oxford £101,000 a year (nearly one-third of her net income) is spent on fellowships. These fellowships are simply literary prizes, the rewards of past labour, and in a great many instances do not require any service to be given to the University in return for them in the future. Lord SALISBURY estimates the value of these sinecure fellowships at something between £50,000 and £60,000 a year, and he suggests that if these posts were abolished there would be a fund set free which would more than suffice to equip the University thoroughly. It is at reform in this essential particular that the Government Bill aims. Its principal feature is the appointment of a Commission, like the Endowed Schools Commission, empowered to deal with the income of the colleges under the surveillance of the Government and the Parliament. A period of eighteen or twenty months will be given to the colleges, during which they will have the privilege of framing schemes of their own for the reformation of their finances and the application of the funds to wise and proper purposes. These schemes will have to be submitted to the Commissioners, who, if they approve of them, will adopt them, and take the requisite steps to have them confirmed and carried out. But if, during the interval allowed, the Colleges decline to reform themselves, or propose only inadequate or unacceptable schemes, then the Commissioners will step in and take upon themselves the authority of drawing up schemes, with the approval of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and of Parliament.

The duties of the Commissioners will be to arrange the endowments and the tenures for holding them as they may think fit; attach conditions with regard to residence, studies, duties, or any of them; assign revenues and make arrangements in reference to instruction in the University, in art and science, and for the maintenance of any person engaged in any particular study, in making researches in art or science. Non-resident fellowships will be restricted, if not abolished, old trusts will be reviewed, the teaching power of the University will be improved, and better paid professors will be provided. Indeed, the Colleges and Universities are to be remodelled to suit the times. A commencement is to be made at Oxford, and then the turn of Cambridge will come.

#### THE LAW OF EXTRADITION.

So many refugees from American justice have of late been taking up their abode in Canada that the law of extradition has assumed a new phase of curious and complicated interest. Our own Government lately made application for an extension and clearer definition of this law, but the American Cabinet, with its usual indifference, has paid no attention to the request. The same thing seems to have happened with regard to WINSTON, the swindling preacher from Boston, who was lately arrested in London, after taking refuge in Holland. At first, it was thought there would be no difficulty about his extradition, but, of late, complications have arisen between the American Government and that of Great Britain in regard to his return, which may result in the British Government refusing to surrender him under the Extradition Treaty of 1842, and thus preventing his return to the United States. The British Government has made a request that before he is surrendered to the American authorities, the President secure the passage of a law by Congress providing that WINSTON shall not be tried for any crime but for that for which he stands committed. This proposition has been rejected, and the American Government assumes the posi-