

SIR A. T. GALT'S MISSION.

The mission of Sir A. T. GALT to Europe appears to have excited interest, and our contemporaries do not feel quite sure as to what will be the scope of his mission. It is certain that he goes to try to make some commercial treaties; and if Canada, under the National Policy, is to develop her manufactures, it is better that she should have as many outlets for trade as possible. Perhaps no better man could have been selected to negotiate for their opening. Sir ALEXANDER was not altogether successful as a party politician, but he is a man of acute mind; he is well up on commercial subjects; and has the gift of great and persuasive clearness of expression. We notice, too, it has been whispered that it is within the range of possibilities that he may remain as the representative of this Dominion in London. We should not be surprised at this; although we do not pretend to make any announcement. But we are certain that Canada has not hitherto been very fortunate in her agency in London. Her financial agency has at least been very expensive. It may, *per contra*, have been moderately successful; but there was enough of reason for that in the great and, despite some recent clamours, lightly taxed resources of the country. Mr. MACKENZIE tried to establish an Agency General; but he dropped it rather suddenly after not quite two years' trial, for the reason apparently that, although Mr. EDWARD JENKINS, M.P., is a man of undoubted ability, he did not, while in office, exhibit quite sufficient of that "practical sagacity" and "moderation" which Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH told the Australians was necessary for success. Mr. MACKENZIE, therefore, adopted the device of abolishing the Agency-General and establishing a simple Emigration Agency, from which Mr. JENKINS, in disgust, retired. The Hon. WILLIAM ANNAND, the late Premier of Nova Scotia during the late anti-Confederation agitation, accepted the new and more modest office created. We have not heard any complaints of him except that he is not very active or demonstrative. We doubt if there is any reason for his removal simply; but if the Government of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD were to decide that it is advisable to abolish the office in the form in which it now exists, and to establish an agency on an altogether wider and more extended scale, Mr. ANNAND would probably have less reason to complain if he were not selected to fill that larger office, than Mr. JENKINS had, at that alteration of policy, of Mr. MACKENZIE, by which he (Mr. ANNAND) was placed in office. We must not forget either in this little recital, that after the resignation of Mr. JENKINS, Sir JOHN ROSE, as appeared from several Parliamentary returns, has acted as a sort of Superior Agent under the Governments of both Mr. MACKENZIE and Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We have not seen that he has been paid any regular salary for his services; but he appears to have had incidental advantages, and this *per se* is not a sound principle. Sir ALEXANDER GALT is a man who, in addition to the gift of speech and considerable political attainments, is also versed in financial and commercial matters, and has had experience as a director of the leading banking institution in the Dominion, which has also an office in London. It may be remarked, too, that his services in the Fisheries' Arbitration would help to make him known in London. We should not, therefore, be surprised, and we judge simply from the facts as they lie on the surface of the situation, if Sir ALEX. GALT were made Agent-General of the Dominion in London, the scope of his office extending to financial matters. We do not know of any man likely to fill such an office better. But it is one of great difficulty; and he might not after all be successful. It is in a measure Ministerial, without having Ministerial responsibility.

Mrs. NIELSON is paid 200 guineas, gold, at the end of each performance during her engagement at Her Majesty's, London.

LEGISLATIVE WASTE.

It is becoming a serious matter. Six weeks have elapsed since the opening of the present session of the Quebec Legislature, and yet, with the doubtful exception of the debate on the Budget, nothing of actual legislative importance has been enacted. The time, instead, has been occupied in personal explanations and recriminations, with several intervals of adjournment extending, in two cases, over three or four days. Surely this is an abuse, and we are certain that a large proportion of the honourable members themselves will agree with us that it ought to be peremptorily abolished.

We are not of those who would lower the Provincial legislatures to the level of municipal assemblies, but we do insist that their local attributions limit them to a sphere whose circumference should not be widened without extreme necessity. And this is not a matter of mere sentiment. If it were, it might be conveniently passed over, in consideration of our French Canadian population. It is a harsh matter of dollars and cents which may not any longer be overlooked. There is no use blinding our eyes to the fact that our Provincial Governments have become very expensive machines whose operations must be curtailed if we would stop short of direct taxation in the near future, with the grim prospect of a dilemma between bankruptcy and repudiation within this very generation. It may be admissible enough for our friends at Quebec to amuse themselves with almost any question, but the finances are a stern reality which must be treated in a high spirit of patriotism far above the behests of party. The time has come when a Provincial Treasurer may not present a budget, so fancifully and fantastically manipulated, as to leave an impression of false security for the benefit of the Government, and the chief of his opponents must criticize that budget purely on its merits, not with a view of exonerating those of his party who previously held the exchequer. For all practical purposes, a Government is a bank with the Premier as President, the Treasurer as Cashier, and the other Ministers as Directors. In giving their annual report they must put forth a clear and intelligible balance sheet, which shall not confuse, much less deceive the public. If they pursue another course, we shall have repeated the experience of banks in this very Province, and within only the past few weeks, which have been obliged to succumb with a crash, after paying their shareholders with false hopes and promises for several years previous. Parliament may trifle away its time on other topics, but not on the public monies, at the risk of a crisis. We almost fear that this crisis has been reached in the Province of Quebec, and hence we adjure our legislators of all shades of opinion not to adjourn before insisting on a thoroughly reliable statement of the finances, and a most rigorous overhauling of the estimates, no matter what the result may be so far as party lines are concerned.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE YACHT DISASTER AT POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.—This is a view of the terrible yacht disaster which, by capsizing in a squall, caused the death of seven prominent persons of Pointe-aux-Trembles, near Quebec, a fortnight ago.

THE FRENCH FRIGATE AT QUEBEC.—The French frigate *La Galissoniere* arrived at Quebec on Saturday morning, August 1, from Halifax, and anchored off the Queen's wharf. The *Galissoniere* is the flagship of the French West India squadron, and is commanded by Rear Admiral A. Peyron. She is an ironclad of 2,900 tons, and of very powerful armour; constructed in 1868 at Brest, carrying twelve guns; her dimensions are 240 feet in length and 45 feet in width, and she has 23 feet draught. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the frigate and replied to from the Citadel. The Admiral went ashore about one o'clock, a salute being fired as he landed. He visited the Citadel in the afternoon, and was received by a guard of honour, and a salute was fired.

STRANDING OF THE "CITY OF TORONTO."—The steamer *City of Toronto*, which left her dock, foot of Yonge street, Toronto, at two o'clock on the afternoon of July 25, for Niagara,

with about two hundred passengers, unfortunately went ashore upon entering the mouth of the Niagara river. Nothing unusual occurred till the steamer was within about four miles of the Niagara shore, when she encountered a dense fog which swept across her track from east to west. The whistle was blown, and very soon responded to by a locomotive of the Canada Southern Railway, which was on the track beside the dock at Niagara. The vessel at this time was moving very slowly. The whistle was frequently blown, and as frequently replied to by the locomotive, and also by a cannon at the American fort, which was fired twice. After the lapse of some time the order to reverse was given, and at the same moment the vessel struck broadside on the beach, about one hundred yards from the shore on a shoal known as Mississauga point. When the steamer struck, the passengers, most of whom had suffered from sea-sickness, became very much alarmed for their safety, as the vessel began to spring up in the middle from stem to stern, and many feared she would go to pieces. Their fears, however, were soon allayed by the assurances of the officers that they would be taken ashore in safety. Captain Milloy at once ordered that two of the boats should be lowered and taken to the after-gangway on the lee side; and by means of these all the passengers were taken through the surf and landed near the old fort, and about half a mile to the westward of the Queen's Royal Hotel.

FROM THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

THE LETELLIER DISMISSAL—THE NEW INCUMBENT—PERSONAL—THE GOWAN CASE—FRENCH HANSARD.

August 1st, 1870.

"*Le roi est mort, vive le roi*" was never better exemplified than on the occasion of the dismissal of M. Letellier. No sooner had the fact gone forth and the new Lieutenant-Governor been sworn in than all excitement ceased. Members of the press here can testify as to the number of messages received from all parts of Canada asking for news to allay the excitement which existed everywhere but in Quebec. Everybody expected that the dismissal of M. Letellier would be the signal for an uprising of indignant citizens in defence of him whom they styled the liberator of the Province of Quebec; then, too, it was expected Mr. Joly would make the announcement in the House, but to the surprise of all nothing was done, nothing was said, everything went on just the same as though nothing had happened.

Of course M. Letellier found plenty of people to condole with him. For two or three days following the dismissal the ex-Lieut.-Governor held a regular levee at Spencer Wood, hundreds of people drove out there on the Sunday especially, but on the Monday they went to the Government House and paid their respects to the new Lieutenant-Governor. So it was with an immense deputation from St. Hyacinthe, Chambly and Rouville who came down here on a pilgrimage to La Bonne Ste. Anne, but on reaching Quebec they made a pilgrimage to Spencer Wood instead. It was an imposing procession of 57 carriages led by the Solicitor-General; but no sooner had they left Spencer Wood than they went to Government House and presented their respects to Lieut.-Governor Robitaille.

During the past week we have had another breeze in the House and once more Mr. Tarte is the hero. This time it was the Provincial Treasurer who was attacked for the manner in which, while he was Commissioner of Crown Lands, he dealt with the transfer of a certain lot of asbestos land in the County of Megantic. In the course of his remarks he insinuated that the Hon. Mr. Irvine had been interested in getting the settlement of the lot in favor of his constituents, because Mr. Irvine afterwards became proprietor of part of the lot. This was said in the absence of Mr. Irvine, but later in the evening that gentleman happened to enter the House and having heard what Mr. Tarte had said, he waited a little while during which Mr. Tarte went home. As soon as possible he rose and declaring first of all that Mr. Tarte's statement was false, then stated if Mr. Tarte would put the same statement in his paper *Le Canadien*, he (Mr. Irvine) would immediately give him an opportunity of proving it. In the absence of Mr. Tarte, Mr. Chapleau made a few remarks in explanation of what had taken place in the absence of Mr. Irvine, and in the course of his remarks an altercation arose between Hon. Mr. Marchand and himself, which brought out a full explanation of what is known as the Lachine Canal job. The discussion was a very hot one while it lasted, and was a pitiable exhibition of waste of time. It is a pity to see so much of this sort of personal discussion going on in the House, especially after there has been more than enough of it during the first five weeks of the session. We are now concluding our sixth week and yet not a week has passed without a personal altercation. We are told by constitutionalists that we have no right to bring politics into the Provincial Legislatures, but I venture to state political feeling runs higher and fiercer in this Quebec Legislature than in any other in the Dominion. While on this question I venture to quote from a newspaper published in Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land, which is very pertinent to our own position in Canada.

The quotation which was written in 1875 is as follows:—

"Tasmania, like most of the other colonies, enjoys responsible government, with its parliamentary institutions in imitation of Queen, Lords, and Commons, which we sometimes seek to follow so closely as to verge on caricature. Of course it is impossible but, in such circumstances, we should have two parties; and as Whiggism and Toryism, Liberalism and Conservatism would be too palpably out of place here, we are content with the more vague, but sufficiently special designations of Ministerialists and Opposition; the Ministerialists being those who are paid for their services; the Opposition, generally those who would like to be paid, and who look to being sooner or later Ministerialists. Such is Party in the Colonies; and as "principles" do not often offer a tempting cause of war where Parliament more resembles a parish vestry, or town council, than its prototype, party is not frequently hard pressed for a cry; and, following up the simile we have used we shall not be considered as using very derogatory language in saying that Parliament's most important duties are to raise money to meet a certain expenditure, and so to distribute that expenditure as not to offend supporters in the selection of works to be done, and their *locale*. Yet occasionally a discussion on matters of principle does crop up; but, as a rule, the question involved simply affects the integrity with which the public business is carried on."

It is not likely Mr. Tarte will attack Mr. Irvine in *Le Canadien*, because that hon. gentleman is known to take legal proceedings against any and every paper which publishes any accusation against him.

The House has proceeded with its routine work during the past week by passing Bills, discussing and throwing out others, discussing the estimates in Committee of Supply and by working hard in the different standing and special committees. In the Gowan Scandal Committee all the evidence has been taken, but the scandal exists not. The informants of Mr. Tarte talked with more freedom in giving him information than they did when examined on oath. The result is that the evidence shows the whole transaction to be a perfectly honest and fair one, and that every precaution had been taken to prevent even a suspicion of nepotism.

A new departure in the way of a private speculation has been undertaken by Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, one of the assistant editors of *Le Canadien*, in the way of a French Hansard. The first few numbers have been printed and make an excellent appearance. The *Hansard* is after the pattern of that published at Ottawa, and all the speeches are revised by the members making them before they appear. He expects to recoup himself for the venture by means of private subscriptions to the work, which must be of great value to future Legislatures. Mr. Desjardins reports the speeches himself from the Press Gallery of the House, of which he has been an active, hard-working member for many years.

The important Government measures have commenced to appear. Of course it was necessary the Budget speech should be made before they were brought down as they affected the revenue of the Province and were foreshadowed by the Treasurer in his financial *exposé*. Since that event we have the Treasurer's License Resolutions which create a new rate for licenses, they being put at 50 per cent. of the rental in Quebec and Montreal. Yesterday Mr. Joly brought down his resolutions approving of the arrangements made by the Government with the various municipalities, and also ratifying the administrative acts of the past twelve months. On this latter measure the debate has but commenced, while the latter have not yet been discussed.

Those License Resolutions led to a little scene the other day when the Treasurer moved the House into Committee of the Whole. The Speaker left the chair and the House was in Committee, when Mr. Robertson asked for the message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. Langelier.—I have not one. I have only the verbal assent.

Hon. Mr. Robertson.—Of the new Lieutenant-Governor

Hon. Mr. Langelier.—No! of the late.

Hon. Mr. Robertson.—Then we cannot go on without a written message signed by the new Lieutenant-Governor.

And the Committee did adjourn and the resolutions have not since been called for.

It is pretty well understood now that the Government will not bring down their measure to lease the railway because they know they will be defeated on it; they will not try and pass the Lake St. John Railway Resolutions because Mr. Joly does not approve of them, and their Public Instruction Bill, which we were told was to work such miracles, will also be dropped because the House will not agree to abolish School Inspectors.

What the Government will pass remains to be seen; but it is safe to say that one-half of the measures foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne will either not come before the House, and even if they do will be withdrawn.

The session will last about a fortnight or three weeks longer and will sit on Saturdays. One Saturday, however, is to be devoted to a Parliamentary picnic on the Government road to Three Rivers and then by steamer up the St. Maurice River. Your correspondent will be there—if it ever takes place—it has been postponed twice, once to allow the Opposition to bid farewell to Sir John A. Macdonald, and now again to allow the Government members to bid farewell to the ex-Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Mr. Letellier.