

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited), Publishers,

GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGER,
73 St. James Street, Montreal.

GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
36 King Street East, Toronto.

J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,
Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,
3 & 4 Boulevard Street, Fleet Street, E.C.
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

9th NOVEMBER, 1889.



The late Hon. Alexander Morris played an important part in bringing about the preliminary negotiations which led up to the passage of the British North America Act. To him was assigned the delicate task of mediating between the two parties at the most critical stage of deadlock into which the union régime had developed. The duty was one for which he was well fitted, both as a man of moderate views and as one of the earliest and most earnest advocates of federation. It was after the resignation of the Macdonald-Dorion and the formation of the Taché-Macdonald ministry in the spring of 1864. The new government had a bare majority, and, like its predecessor, was too weak to carry on the business of the country. A motion of censure on the member of a former Conservative government, for a proceeding with which the actual administration had nothing to do, though it assumed the responsibility of it, transferred the majority of two to the other side, and once more the "ins" were thrust out. It was evident that, if such a see-saw continued, no legislation was possible. On the evening of the day on which the ministry was defeated, Mr. Morris, who had supported it, met Mr. George Brown, in company with the late Hon. J. H. Pope, and proposed that a compromise should be attempted. Mr. Brown, who had just handed in a report as chairman of a committee on the situation, spoke of the feeling in favour of some plan of federation. Mr. Morris, with Mr. Brown's consent, communicated what had been said to Messrs. Macdonald and Galt. The next day the latter had an interview with Mr. Brown at the St. Louis Hotel, Quebec, which resulted in the famous coalition that heralded Confederation.

In a lecture delivered by Mr. Morris before the Mercantile Library Association of this city so long ago as the 13th of March, 1858, he had clearly foreshadowed the confederation of the provinces. The very title is a prophecy: "Nova Britannia, or the Consolidation of the British North American Provinces into the Dominion of Canada." In that lecture, Mr. Morris, after dwelling on the extent and importance of the British North American Provinces, and sketching the plan of union which Haliburton had already foreshadowed, added these assuring words: "And that they will be so united, in firm and indissoluble alliance, I have no manner of doubt. Already the prospect is engaging the attention of thinking men, and Canada and Acadia have begun to stretch out their hands to each other." Before ten years Mr. Morris's forecast had its realization, and it was meet and right that he who had cherished the hope should also be one

of the chief actors in its fulfilment. The lecture, from which we have quoted, a later one on the North-West, read before the same association, and several speeches and addresses delivered on various occasions, all bearing directly or indirectly on the same great question, were reprinted some years ago in a volume, which may be consulted with profit.

If the condemnation of one of our contemporaries to damages of \$500 for applying the term "Orangeman" to a politician in circumstances which made the impression thus conveyed likely to injure him in the estimation of a portion of the public, will have the effect of putting a stop to certain excesses of party journalism, the judge who pronounced the sentence will have conferred a benefit on the press and on the public. The paper, which has been made an example of, was by no means the worst offender in this kind of recrimination, of which, unhappily, few of our *confrères* can claim to be entirely guiltless.

In a series of articles contributed to *La Minerve*, M. Telesphore Bran undertakes to show under what conditions the culture of sugar beet and the manufacture of beet sugar may be conducted successfully in Canada. He thinks a mistake was made at the outset in 1880, when three companies were started instead of a single strong one. As it was, one after the other of those establishments had to close its doors, and the consequence is that to-day the beet industry has to overcome all sorts of prejudices and difficulties before it can make good its footing on our soil. Mr. Bran attributes the failure to inexperience on the part of the organizers, waste of capital, which was insufficient in the first place, and exceptionally unfavourable weather in the opening year, which ruined a large part of the crop and caused considerable loss to investors.

Mr. Arthur Defosses (also in *La Minerve*) suggests that the Laurentides could be turned to economic account by the creation of orchards and the culture of the wild vine on the southern slopes, while that of the north might be used for pasturing goats, of the wool-bearing species common in Russia. In this way, he urges, not a square inch of ground would be lost, and the productive forces of the country would be largely augmented. The experiment is certainly worth a trial.

Monseigneur Bossé, Prefect Apostolic of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has made an earnest and pathetic appeal on behalf of the suffering people of his jurisdiction who have been sorely afflicted through the failure of the fisheries. A certain proportion of the population had been induced by His Lordship to seek less isolated parts of the country where they may have a chance of procuring work. But for those who remain the quantity of provisions on hand is far from being sufficient to tide over the winter. Help is, therefore, urgently needed, and as the season during which Labrador is accessible is almost over, Monseigneur Bossé calls upon the benevolently disposed to send their contributions without delay. The Prefecture of the Gulf comprises the region between Hudson's Bay and the Atlantic and between the St. Lawrence, from Portneuf river, and Hudson's strait, as well as the Island of Anticosti.

It is satisfactory to know, on good authority, that the reports circulated some time ago as to the hostile relations between the Newfoundlanders of the French shore and the French fishermen—and especially as to the outrages which the latter were

alleged to have committed—were without foundation. On this point the address delivered not long since by the Hon. Judge Pinsent to the Grand Jury of Bay St. George leaves no room for doubt. His Lordship does not hesitate to pronounce the whole story a gross fabrication, invented for the purpose of making it appear that the position of the coast inhabitants in the face of French aggression was intolerable. Judge Pinsent does not deny that the subsisting treaty arrangements are a source of perpetual irritation, but he is happy to be able to state that neither of the nationalities concerned has resorted to violence or broken the law.

A VEXED QUESTION.

The separate school question which is once more under discussion, was the occasion of sharp controversy under the régime of the Union. The system, first recognized in the Act of 1841, was a compromise—the only compromise possible under the circumstances. Under French domination, whatever provision had been made for the education of the young was supplied by the clergy. In his excellent historical digest of the legislation on public instruction in Canada, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau informs us that the first steps towards the establishment of schools in New France were due to the Recollet Fathers, and that to Brother Pacifique Duplessis belongs the distinction of being the first teacher of the colony. With him are associated in honour Brother Charles (Pierre Langoissieux) and Father LeCaron. Father Lejeune, Madame la Peltrie and Mother Marie de l'Incarnation, at Quebec, and Sister Bourgeois, under the direction of M. de Maisonneuve, at Montreal, began the instruction both of European and Indian children. M. Laroche-Heron in his interesting work, "Les Servantes de Dieu en Canada," gives, on the authority of the late M. Jacques Viger, the names of the first pupils who attended school in the city. These young people, who head a long and ever enlarging list, were Jeanne Loysel and Jean Desroches. From the middle of the 17th century there was always fair provision for the training of the children of well-to-do parents and for the demands of higher education. The germ of the institution, which was eventually to develop into Laval University, was created in 1637, so that Canada can boast of a seat of learning as old as, if not older than, any on this continent north of the Gulf of Mexico. In 1663 Bishop Laval founded the Grand Séminaire of Quebec, and in 1668 the Petit Séminaire came into being. A sort of art and industrial school was also established by that strong-willed prelate. The Seminary of St. Sulpice in this city dates from 1647, but the College of Montreal is of much later date. Under the old régime there was full provision for the education of young ladies. Twelve years before the conquest the Sisters of the Congregation had schools in twelve different places. Though a long period intervened between the early educational services of the Recollets and their resumption after the interruption caused by Kirk's capture of Quebec, they played a prominent part as teachers in the later generations of the old régime. We must not omit mention of the institute of the Frères Charon, founded in 1688, which looked after the children of the poor and helpless.

Though nothing like the far-reaching modern system was in existence under French rule—de-