



# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada.

VOL. X.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1876.

No. 32

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A CABLE despatch from London, England, says—"The Province of Quebec loan was issued today at 98½. The Times says, the London Joint Stock Bank, acting as agents of the Merchants Bank of Canada, invite subscriptions to a loan of £860,000. This is the railway loan of which so much was heard last year but which could not then be floated on its merits, and that being so we cannot but regret that an institution like the Joint Stock Bank has had anything to do with it or with anything that savors of loan financing. Apart altogether from any question of rivalry and in railway property it is not in the interest of Canada that the money should be borrowed here by her Provincial Governments. Quebec at present is the only Province that has a foreign loan. The existing one of £800,000 is quite as much as it can carry. There was a deficit in the local budget last year, we believe, although the Provincial Treasurer in his memorandum does not state it, he giving the income only. If another £40,000 or £45,000 be added to the yearly burdens that deficit cannot fail to increase for the Province is extremely poor and sources of revenue are very few. Besides the contribution from the general taxation of the Dominion the chief source of revenue is the sale of lands but that is likely to decrease rather than increase. Nothing can take its place but direct taxation, which can hardly we believe, be imposed. If the Province is determined to make more railways, which, like those it already has, cannot pay, why does it not use the available assets which its treasurer claims to have? He says there is a balance of saved money now in the treasury in cash of \$1,017,371; further, that \$3,000,000 is expected from the Dominion Government as the Province of Quebec share of certain assets. Let the Province use that money and whatever savings it can scrape up, rather than impose a burden on its population of disastrous severity. Several of our colonies are threatening to get into serious difficulties by their over eager borrowing, and this Quebec Province threatens to head the list. We should be doing it a great injury to give it money. All the other papers merely notice the issue of the loan without comment, but the old Quebec loan which yesterday was 101 has fallen to 97, owing to the comments of the Times."

A cable despatch from London dated Aug. 14th says:—"In the House of Commons, this afternoon, in consequence of Mr. Disraeli not having fixed a day, Sir Wm. George Granville Vernon Harcourt reluctantly postponed the discussion on the Ex-

tradition question to next session of Parliament, unless the question should be settled in the meanwhile."

The Router Telegram Company announces that the great Northern Telegraph line to China and Japan, which was interrupted July 21st, is now working and communication is also complete with Australia and New Zealand, which broke six months ago, that having been repaired.

The members of the Irish rifle team for America were chosen on the 8th as follows:—J. Rigby, Fenton, Johnson, Milner, Cooper, Joynt, Goff, Greenhill, Thynne, Dyas, and Pallock. The gentlemen who won places in the competition, Messrs. Smythe and Ward, are unable to leave home on account of private affairs. The team will sail for New York on the 25th inst.

The following are the three resolutions to be moved at the meeting on the Eastern Question, at which Lord Shaftesbury is to preside, at Willis's Rooms:—"1. That this meeting, recognizing the importance of the declaration of her Majesty's Government of a policy of strict neutrality in Turkey under existing circumstances, desires to express its emphatic opinion that no moral or material support should be afforded by Great Britain to the Turkish Government as against the insurgent Provinces. 2. That this meeting expresses its deep abhorrence of the cruelties committed by the Turkish irregular troops upon the women and children and unarmed inhabitants of Bulgaria, and hereby calls upon her Majesty's Government to use its utmost influence, whether alone or in co operation with the other great Powers having treaty engagements with the Porte, to require the Turkish Government to put a stop to practices revolting to all civilized nations. 3. That the notorious abuses of Turkish rule in Europe, and the repeated failure of the sultanic Porte to fulfil its solemn obligations, render it hopeless to expect that any settlement of the Eastern question will prove permanent, which does not confer upon the inhabitants of the insurgent Provinces the full rights of self-government."

On the 8th inst. despatches were received at the War Department, Washington, from General Sheridan stating that many of the Indians now coming into the reservations carry arms captured from the 7th Cavalry in the late Custer massacre.

The Porte has diplomatically hinted abroad that he is willing to make peace, if Serbia and Montenegro jointly ask for it, and will allow the Turks garrisons in certain places in Servia. It is reported that in consequence of the defeat at Gurguzovitz, Prince Milan, has asked for the mediation of European Powers.

The Times consider the capture of Gurguzovitz as a severe if not fatal blow to the Servians, and says the Turkish Ministers must be solemnly warned that they will not be allowed to make wanton use of the victory. If they think that on the soil of Servia their troops may safely commit one hundredth part of the atrocities perpetrated in Bulgaria they are the victims of infatuation. Servia is not hid away in a corner. What is done there one day is known the next morning in all the capitals of Europe and if the Bashi Bazouks are let loose on the defenseless peasantry prudential motives of statesmen would form but a sorry barrier against the popular indignation of the countries on whose forbearance the Turks have too long relied. Even repudiation of the Turkish debt did less to give a more just idea of the Ottoman rule than the butcheries in Bulgaria, and a repetition of those horrors in Servia would make a picture of that rule fatally complete. Nor will Turkey be allowed to make such use of her victory as to cancel Servian freedom. Servia is under the protection of the Great Powers, and with them will be the duty of imposing any needful restraints on the impetuous spirit of her people. Whatever may be their faults, they are advancing in civilization as fast as the Ottoman part of Turkey is decaying. Other States than Russia would not be disposed to let them again fall under the rule of Turkish Pashas, or even allow Belgrade to be again occupied by a Turkish garrison.

There is one point in which the Turks and Servians seem to be agreed, and that is that there will be no action on either side to bring about peace, until the Turks are under the walls of Belgrade. It may not be necessary to wait very long for this, for the Turks have been so reinforced in Herzegovina, that although the Montenegrins are stated to have won another victory, they are retiring to their own frontiers. General Tchernayeff will need all his forces to deal with the army in front of him and so the already victorious army, which has taken the positions on the Timok, will be at liberty to attack the fortified defiles between them and the Morava valley, which unless met stronger naturally, can hardly be so difficult to carry as the better prepared positions on the Timok.

The Turkish forces attempted on Tuesday last to break through the Servian lines at Javar, but were completely repulsed. Nearly all of them were killed. General Ranco Ognjenovic maintains his defensive position on the Drina Banja which has been strongly fortified, is held by Leicheroff, while Colonel Bekers army occupies the mountainous on the Timok and Moravia lines.