

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 29, 1864.

OUR CANADA LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

(Date to February 11th.)

CANADA. Wednesday, 27th, 1864.

Doubtless, a few young, romantic, take a warm interest in the affairs of this country—the brightest jewel in Her Majesty's crown.

I therefore purpose from time to time to furnish you with a few items of their delectation.

I may premise that this is a dull season for political news; the House being up, and the M.P.'s rustling on their farms, or preparing for the coming campaign, which is expected to open early in February. Then will come the day of war.

With the exception of a few political dinners there is absolutely nothing stirring. Of this species of meeting, a very imposing opposition affair came off in Toronto last month, a full report of which you have no doubt seen in your exchanges.

ANNUALITY TO THE UNITED STATES.

I would not have mentioned this item, were it not that it has arisen in the discussion that has arisen on its behalf between Mr. Buchanan, the M.P. for Hamilton, and the *Globe*. Mr. Buchanan has made another political somersault; he was a supporter of the Macdonald-Simcoe Government, and when re-elected declared himself a reformer, but without any reason assigned, so far as appears, re-evaluated in the Carter-Macdonald squad. At the Toronto dinner, Mr. Buchanan made the speech of the evening, and was lustily cheered. He asserted that the British Government of 1862 sacrificed the best interests of Canada on the altar of their free-trade policy. In order to secure cheap food for their manufacturers and cheap material for their builders, they completely ignored us poor Canadians, repealed the grain and timber duties, treated us as aliens, in short, cut us adrift and told us to shift for ourselves. What was left for us but to look out other connections. He recommended as a cure for the evils brought on us by this parental despotism, an Amerio-Canadian *Zollverein*, with a high protective tariff at all our ports, a free-trade between the United States and Canada, and further, that Canada shall be declared neutral territory in any war that may occur between Great Britain and the United States, and should Britain refuse to accede to this very reasonable demand, that there was nothing left for us but separation.

The speech was published and highly applauded by the opposition press, and complimented loud and long posted at the feet of the plucky little M.P., and all his colleagues as a man of great ability, a true Canadian "honest," the *Globe*, took up the cudgels, and the general hand-clapping went on.

Mr. Richards, recently appointed Solicitor-general for Canada West, returned to his constituents for re-election; he was opposed by D. F. Jones, Opposition, and has been defeated by that gentleman. This is a most disastrous affair for the present government. Mr. Richards was an excellent member, he had a majority of 135 at the general election in June last, and now he is beaten by the same opponent by 75. Whence this change? The constituency is the same, but a few months have elapsed since the general election, and there is no particular political question agitated now that was not before the country in June. The government have not failed very far short of their programme issued at that time, and here is a change in one county of upwards of 200 votes.

Some countries have scarcely any political status; the electors are made up of three parties—Reformers, Orangeites, and Roman Catholics; the latter two parties do not vote, and the politicians sit by the followers of their respective leaders. In the present instance these leaders were J. A. McDonald, late Attorney General O. W.—orange, and D'Avier Metcalf—green, although usually in bitter hostility to each other these heterogeneous elements colluded on the present occasion and ousted the liberal candidate; this is hailed by the opposition as a great victory, and doubtless it is so; and we should be nothing surprised should the ministry be turned out on the meeting of parliament on the 13th inst., and the corrupt Carter-McDonald party again reinstated in power. I do not mean to infer that the defeat of Mr. Richards is of such importance that the loss of his vote will capsize the State carriage, but the moral effect in Lower Canada will be disastrous. It has been asserted again and again "on the authority of" that quite a number of Lower Canadian M.P.'s were veering round, and that the government would have a good working majority in the ensuing session. Doubtless this defeat will tend greatly to counteract this movement, though the *Kanakis* have, or pretend to have, great fear for what they style the government manufactured by the "Hot George Brown." In the event of the Macdonald-Ottawa government being defeated some predict a dissolution, reconstruction, and general election; others, a coalition; I fancy some members of the present government would hail this latter movement with delight, but it would be ruinous to the best interests of Upper Canada. The best members of the Ministry would be out, viz., Mowat, Howland, Dorion, and Flaherty. Upper Canadians have great reason to fear a coalition. We look back to the days of Mr. Morris, Simcoe, &c., with fear and trembling. It was Hinchey who opened the floodgates of corruption in Canada, and they have been kept pretty wide ever since. With the example of the late coalition before us, we may well pause ere we sanction another such government.

FRIDAY 11TH.

GOVERNOR MONCK GOING HOME.

A rumor has arisen among the political quidnunces of the capital, that His Excellency Lord Monck is about to resign the Governorship of this colony. It appears to be a fact that he is really going home a month or two in private business, but in the best informed circles his speedy return is considered as beyond a doubt.

MINISTERIAL PRESENCE.

As a set off to the Toronto dinner, there has been a ministerial guzzle at Ottawa. This affair went off with great eclat, and had it not been for the silly waddles of the Commissioners of Crown Lands, who appears not to know very well on which side his bread is buttered, may be considered a ministerial triumph.

The hon. gentleman to carry favor with the Lower Canadians, reproduced his absurd speech on the inutility of Representation by Population, and boldly asserted that this great and just principle was abandoned by the reform party of Upper Canada.

This mendacious statement has aroused the ire of reformers, and were it not that they hold J. A. and his party in such abhorrence they would soon show the hon. Commissioner that the great and just principle was abandoned by the opposition of Upper Canada.

THE SICKNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Our present government are making very great sacrifices of principle to the Peace party. Notwithstanding the hostility of the reformers of U.C., to please the priests, the Separate School bill was passed, a measure the Carter-McDonald party, with all its influence, failed to carry; and what has the government gained by it? literally nothing; it is hated and despised, denounced from the Altar, and from Gaspé to Sandwich every Curé is in active hostility, it barely a large majority of the R.C. laity are reformers, and when left to their own free will almost invariably vote for the reform ticket, but they are seldom allowed this freedom. It is stated that upwards of \$30,000 was spent by the opposition on the S.E. Leads election, a very small portion of which you may be sure found its way into the pockets of the poor voters. The leaders pocket the money, say to their followers, elect such a one, and he is elected accordingly.

DANGERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

From what we have said above you will see that our present Government has a most difficult course to steer. It is between Seville and Charybdis—a little too much to farboard or starboard, and the state vessel yaws continually, and is in a total wreck course. The reformers of Upper Canada, although far from satisfied, give the Government a liberal sympathy, while the reformers of Lower Canada are equally matched to accomplish much good. Many who are pro-unionists, holding it to be highly advantageous to both sections to remain united, object to the one-sided union existing for the last decade. Upper Canada is paying seventy per cent. of the whole revenue, and with a population of 300,000 in excess of the lower province, we have the same number of representatives. It is gallant on our pride as Anglo-Saxons to be under the domination of the "inferior race." You may ask—"why do you submit?" Simply because we can't help ourselves. Upper Canada is divided into three parties—Reformers, Orangeites, and Roman Catholic. In a number of counties the two latter united can return the member; that member is invariably a supporter of the old tory party and goes dead against reform, and for the sake of office coalesces with the priest party in Lower Canada. The "Rouge" party, in the lower provinces, are staunch reformers, and are in close alliance with the "grits." But even these are to a certain extent convertible to the tories, if not to the reformers. We have no valley to disturb your peace! Doubtless, however, you care more things to annoy; there is a skeleton in every house.

THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

I am sorry I can give you no definite information on the progress of the route to British Columbia. We had great hopes that the new Hudson Bay Company were to make this route an accomplished fact, but it appears, from late English papers, that the whole affair is a fizzle. There are too many of the old foggy monopolists in the new company. At a meeting of the board held in

London, it was resolved to restrict their operations strictly to the fur trade, to the exclusion of telegraphs, roads, and the settlement of the country. It is reported Mr. Watkins has left the board in disgust. It would have been wonderful indeed if the late Governor-General of Canada—now President of the new Hudson Bay Company—could have been guilty of doing anything so beneficial to this province. If he had it would have been the only benefit he ever conferred on our country, except one, and that was in leaving it.

I observe in today's *Globe* a quotation from a St. Paul paper—a speech of Mr. Rice, stating that arrangements have been made with the Hudson Bay Company, that when the railroad is made to Pembina, which is resolved on, the H. B. C. will continue to Fort Garry. You must however take this cum grano salis.

THE ONLY POLITICAL EVENT ON THE AGENDA.

The only political event on the agenda of any importance is the election in South Leeds.

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but without any reason assigned, so far as appears, re-evaluated in the Carter-Macdonald squad.

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He asserted that the British Government of 1862 sacrificed the best interests of

Canada on the altar of their free-trade policy.

THE PROGRESS OF THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

I have absolutely nothing to communicate of any importance on the Overland Route to your side of the mountains. Professor Hind has been addressing a meeting in London, (England), on the "Lake Winnipeg basin." I send you the address of the Professor and some remarks by Watkins, Newmarket, etc.

There is a slight foreshadowing of something like a road of some kind, but really not enough to hang a hope on. Were it brother Jonathan who had to do it, our hopes would be greatly increased. There is too much red tape about John Bull.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

The freight train going east on the Grand Trunk Railway last Tuesday met with a fearful accident near Georgetown. The three last cars got off the track, and were thrown over the bridge one hundred and thirteen feet high. The conductor and two brakemen were killed on the spot. The accident was caused by a broken rail, which the engine and part of the train passed quite safely.

THE SAN FRANCISCO MARKET.

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FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA.

no railroads, San Fran., March 17th, 1864.

to railroads, San Fran., March 17th, 1864.