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TEMPERATURE.

as observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

Aug. 28th, 1880.			Corresponding week, 1879.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon... 92°	70°	81°	Mon... 82°	63°	72° 5
Tues... 82°	68°	75°	Tues... 81°	66°	73° 5
Wed... 85°	65°	75°	Wed... 72°	60°	66°
Thur... 68°	57°	63°	Thur... 71°	59°	65°
Fri... 66°	54°	60°	Fri... 75°	53°	64°
Sat... 70°	55°	62°	Sat... 74°	54°	64°
Sun... 80°	63°	71°	Sun... 75°	57°	66°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, September 4, 1880.

THREE SPEECHES.

The election contest in West Toronto, has furnished occasion for three set speeches by three distinguished men, Messrs. MACKENZIE, BLAKE, and Sir LEONARD TILLEY. These speeches were given on separate evenings by these gentlemen in the order we have named; and each was characteristic of its author. Mr. MACKENZIE spoke with the clearness, directness and vigour which he is known to possess. His effort was to damage the National Policy in the minds of the electors and especially those of the workmen. This was the ground selected for the battle, and it was calculated that, if a by-election could be snatched from the Government, on such an issue, in the Conservative stronghold of West Toronto, morally speaking, at least, a vital blow would be inflicted both upon the Government and the new policy. The effort put forth by the Opposition was certainly corresponding to such an anticipated result. Our space will not allow us to follow the arguments in detail; but we may say generally that Mr. MACKENZIE'S contention was that the National Policy made everything used by the workingman much dearer, while it had entirely failed to meet the expectation of its promoters in bringing about prosperity, as it indeed, he held, must necessarily do, in that it was founded on false principles. There was one noticeable omission, however, in Mr. MACKENZIE'S speech. He did not indulge in any declamation about giving the Pacific Railway to a Company to build and paying for it in lands. He was silent on this point. Two or three evenings after Mr. BLAKE followed. He had evidently prepared himself for an effort. His speech was long, and if we may so speak a perfect firework of words. He did not hesitate at tricks of demagoguism; but set himself deliberately to work, to stir up in as far as he was able the passions of the electors. In the same way as Mr. MACKENZIE he made a most elaborate attack on the National Policy, contending that it was vain to suppose that men could be made richer or business better by the simple expedient of making them pay more taxes. He then went into some calculations as to the millions of burden imposed by the new Tariff, saying that the Treasury only got the benefit of about two millions of the seven millions imposed, the remaining five millions simply going to fatten monopolies such as the

Redpath Sugar Refinery. But Mr. BLAKE got completely out of his depth in this kind of calculation and it was perfectly clear that he had neither mastered nor understood his subject. His speech was noticeable on another point, viz.—that he admitted in terms it might be advisable that the Pacific Railway should be constructed by means of a company, provided the terms of payment in lands or partly in money were such as could be approved by Parliament and the country. But he stated that he did not know what the terms were. It does not seem to have occurred to him that he was in a position to have learned the terms. He will probably do so in time, in his place in Parliament. But being ignorant of the facts, it was not wise to make a sweeping attack upon the Ministers, and that in the shape of insinuation, unearthing and re-vamping again at length the bones of the old Pacific Scandal, to fit what he called a supposititious case. In all this Mr. BLAKE made a very great mistake, and the whole of his effort was upset by a voice from the crowd, shouting out "That's played out." His retort to this interpellation "Did you get any of the money?" was pointless and random and entirely unworthy of him; as was, in fact, the whole exhibition. Even the evening Toronto paper, which is his friend, if not his echo, cried out "Shame." For the rest, it was perfectly clear, that the politicians who trade in this sort of stuff for capital, must be poor. Sir LEONARD TILLEY followed Mr. BLAKE two or three evenings later, and it was very clear from the tone which he adopted, that he felt the weight of ministerial responsibility resting on his shoulders. He spoke calmly and with great moderation. He defended at length the National Policy from the attacks of Messrs. MACKENZIE and BLAKE. He denied that it had failed, but asserted, that on the contrary, everywhere in the Dominion there were signs of prosperity. He said that many of the contentions of the opponents of the policy in Parliament, notably those of Mr. MILLS, had been falsified by the facts, especially in the prediction that it would stop the export of American wheat in bond through the port of Montreal; a prediction which was met by the hard fact that such export was greater this year than ever known before. He did not deny that the duty on hard coal might be held to make it a little dearer to the consumer; but not much, as the fact had been that American dealers and American transport companies had brought down their prices to meet the duty, so there was the satisfaction that it was nearly, if not wholly, paid from their pockets. The duty on the other hand had given enormous stimulus to Maritime Province interests, whose people in their turn, purchased breadstuffs from Ontario. He said there was no duty more misunderstood than the sugar duty, and denied that it had made sugar any dearer to the consumer; while it had immensely promoted direct Canadian trade with the West Indies, thereby enhancing the prosperity of the whole country, and making Canada less dependent on the United States. As to the talk about the "Redpath monopoly" he showed that refineries were being built in various parts of the country, and there was a prospect of competition enough. He said that if the National Policy did make any article a little dearer to the consumer there was still the broad fact that it gave them wages wherewith to buy it, which was better for them than having no wages wherewith to buy cheaper articles. He exposed, in a manner which left no room for argument, the terrible blunders Mr. BLAKE had made with respect to calculations of revenue, and he said, that without being tempted to go into any argument at all on the remarks that Mr. BLAKE had made about the Pacific Scandal, it would be enough to say, that it would have been much better for that gentleman's reputation, if that part of his speech had been left out.

Such was the scope of the three speeches, and each we think conveys its

own moral. The Opposition leaders, by their course will naturally array the manufacturing interests against them, as they did at the general election. It is besides a mistake not to allow the experiment of the Government to be quietly developed. It will be quite time enough to bring it to judgment at the close of the five years of their administration. It is further a mistake to make such prodigious efforts at a by-election, which at best or worst, is proof of but very little. There were three Conservative candidates, Messrs. BEATTY, WRIGHT and CAPREOL, against one Liberal, Mr. RYAN. It is true that Mr. BEATTY was the regular Conservative candidate; but any Conservative votes for the other two were so much deducted from his strength. Mr. BEATTY won by a majority of 262.

LA BRABANCONNE.

It is pleasant to record that, while all classes of our population work harmoniously toward the development of a vital Canadian sentiment, they are not unmindful of the traditions attached to their several origins and duly celebrate, as occasion offers, the historical epochs of the Mother Land. On the 24th of last June, our French-Canadian countrymen gathered in thousands at Quebec, for a spectacular display of the most interesting nature. On the 14th of last July, the French Colony of this city commemorated the anniversary of the taking of the Bastille, thus associating themselves with the magnificent demonstration which took place that day, on the broad expanse of Longchamps, under the auspices of the Republican Government. And last Wednesday, the 25th inst., the Belgians of Montreal joined together in a most enjoyable picnic to honour the fiftieth birthday of the independence of their native land. This last event deserves something more than a passing notice, and before the echoes of "La Brabanconne," the national air of Belgium, sung by a chorus of fifty manly voices, has died away among the leafy avenues of Isle Grosbois, it may not be ungracious to recall briefly the circumstances which led to the emancipation of one of the oldest and most interesting nationalities in Europe.

The kingdom of the United Netherlands was established in 1815, by the Congress of Vienna, that remarkable conclave which, ignoring the disintegrating influences of the great French revolution, and the political havoc made by the continuous victories of Napoleon, imagined it would restore the equilibrium of Europe and ensure a lasting peace by patching up States in the condition they occupied before these two cataclysms. A more palpable mistake could not have been made in the case of the Netherlands. The elements to be combined were not only different, but they were essentially antagonistic. Holland was the most decidedly Protestant State in Europe; Belgium, the most exclusively Catholic. The former was Gothic in principle and speech; the latter Latin in language and sentiment. A further, and, as it proved, a diriment objection to the union was that the consent of Belgium was strenuously withheld from it, the bishops and notables entering their protest by a considerable majority. The result was that, almost from the first, acute discontent manifested itself, which the course of the reigning monarch served to increase rather than allay. William I. was obstinate and narrow-minded. He favoured the Dutch, and withdrew his confidence from the Flemings. Trial by jury was abolished; the use of French was discountenanced; the education of the clergy was interfered with; almost all administrative positions were entrusted to Hollanders; the liberty of the press was abolished, and imprisonment and banishment were freely indulged in, through the sentences of removable judges. Fifteen years had not elapsed before the country was ripe for rebellion, awaiting only an opportunity to strike. That opportunity came with the French revolution of July, 1830. No sooner was Charles X., forced

to flee from St. Cloud to the coast of Normandy and thence to England, than, in August of the same year, William I. was driven from the Palais Royal at Brussels. It was a song that gave the signal and became the rallying cry. A dense crowd had been listening with enthusiasm to Auber's *La Muette*, and when the opera was over, there was a mad rush for the street, where ten thousand tenors shouted the grand air wherewith Mascaniello had fired the fishermen of Naples on the white beach of Portici. That night the independence of Belgium was declared and a few days later it was secured by force of arms. What followed has proved a triumph of diplomacy. England and France took up the problem and solved it by guaranteeing the autonomy of Belgium, the former country furnishing a king in the person of Prince Leopold, uncle of Her Majesty, and the latter supplying a queen in the daughter of Louis Philippe. The result has been eminently successful, as the prosperity of the little kingdom for the past fifty years abundantly testifies. Leopold I. approved himself one of the wisest monarchs of this century, and was for long regarded as literally the Nestor of sovereigns. After an extended reign he left to his son, the present king, a bright heritage of peace and plenty.—It was well, therefore, that the semi-secular anniversary of independence should be duly celebrated, and that the sublime strain of "La Brabanconne" as we have often heard it in the Parc Royal, at Brussels, sung by a thousand male voices, should be taken up with enthusiasm on the banks of the St. Lawrence.

BEET-ROOT CULTURE.

The time seems to have come at length when the cultivation of the beet root for the manufacture of sugar will be undertaken in earnest and with reasonable prospects of success. We remember that, some eight years ago, M. Bonnement, a French gentleman of experience in this branch of industry, drew up detailed schedules applicable to the country, and entered into negotiations with some capitalists of Montreal. For one reason or another, chiefly, perhaps, because the occasion was not yet ripe for the venture, the scheme came to naught, but the project was not wholly lost sight of. Now, however, a practical turn has been given to the enterprise, and the Quebec Government have led off with a bounty, securing the establishment of two factories. One of these, at West Farnham, is in a fair way to completion. Following in this wake, we learn with pleasure that a company of French capitalists, residing in Paris, have engaged to subscribe two millions of dollars for four factories that shall be set up respectively at St. John's, Hochelaga, Berthier and Quebec. They bargain for an area of a thousand acres to be cultivated in beets during twelve years. The Company promise to pay for the roots at the rate of \$4 a ton.

From experiments already made in different parts of the Province, it is ascertained that a mean of 16 tons to the acre can be obtained, while on more favoured land 20, 25 and even 30 tons can be raised. At \$4 a ton, an acre can yield the round sum of \$64 at the lowest, which is more than any other species of cultivation can produce.

A further advantage to be considered by the farmer who might not find a market for all his roots, is that the beet is excellent food for milch cows and is unsurpassed for the fattening of stock.

In Europe, the manufacture of sugar is heavily taxed, while in Canada it is exempt from all imposts. The protection granted is equivalent to 40 per cent. as against the importation of foreign sugars. The total of raw sugar importation in 1876, was \$6,000,000, and the refining process, by doubling its value, raised the figure to \$12,000,000. The consumption of sugar throughout the country reaches the enormous sum of \$160,000,000 or \$40 a head, according to statistics just published by a Quebec specialist. If this be