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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Aug. 21th, 1875.

FLOATING COFFINS.

This is a subject to which we, in this journal, have devoted a great deal of attention; but not more than its exceptional importance deserves. The late discussions in the British Parliament have invested the topic with additional interest affording us an occasion, if we needed it, of again referring to it in the present issue. Forced by the voice of public opinion, the government of Mr. DISRAELI have taken up the Merchants Shipping Bill which they had intended to postpone till next session, and have passed it, under the guidance of its proper patron, Sir CHARLES ADDERLEY. The Bill is not regarded as perfect by the English press, but it will serve its purpose till a better one is devised. Its principal provisions are briefly these. In the first place it provides for the appointment of surveyors empowered to detain for survey ships which they may suspect to be unseaworthy. The Board of Trade may appoint any number of agents in any port it pleases, and every one of these agents may in his own discretion stop any ship from sailing, for any cause which he thinks likely to endanger the lives of those on board. It is not merely because the ship is old or rotten or is not classed in a particular way that he can stop her sailing. If he thinks that she is overloaded, or that her loading is not proper, he can detain her. In the next place, it proposes that one-fourth of the crew may compel a survey, without deserting and without giving security for costs. At present the crew can ensure a survey only by refusing to proceed to sea and pleading the unseaworthiness of the vessel as their justification. By the Government proposal one-fourth of them will at any time be able to set the law in motion by simply lodging a complaint with the officer of the Board of Trade at the port. Lastly, the Bill takes precautions that the shipowners shall be not subjected to merely vexatious interference. In proposing the Bill, Sir CHARLES ADDERLEY pointed out that the Merchant Shipping Acts of 1871 and 1873 had done important service, and this Bill simply extended their operation. Under the powers conferred by the Act of 1873 the Board of Trade had detained five hundred and fifty-eight ships, of which five hundred and fifteen had been proved by survey unseaworthy; but it was admitted that the powers of the department were not adequate on every occasion, and therefore their extension was proposed. As to Mr. PLIMSOLL'S proposals for compulsory classification and a regulated loadline, he objected to them as throwing on the Government the responsibility which ought to fall on the shipowners. It was also suggested during the debate, and with much show of reason, that they would, if carried, drive the shipping trade of England into the hands of the foreign owner, and ruin the greatest commercial interest in the country.

In connection with this subject, it may be useful to refer to the Statistics furnished by the Board of Trade, and quoted by

Mr. THOMAS GRAY, one of the chief officials of that department, in a letter to the *Times*, in regard to the yearly loss of life at sea. Dr. KENEALY had set down the figures at 5,000. Mr. PLIMSOLL calculated them at 6,927. The Board of Trade affirms that the average number of all persons lost annually on board British ships for the five years ending December, 1872, was 2,425, inclusive of passengers and missing crews. Again the number of all lives lost by casualties to British ships in the twelve months ending June, 1874, was 4,416, also inclusive of passengers and missing crews. This was 1,991 above the annual average, but of the excess 1,241 were lost in two Coolie emigrant ships abroad. Moreover, out of the 4,416 casualties in the year 1873, 2,381 are missing men—the crews and passengers of 150 missing ships, of which no less than 69 were known to be classed. To sum up, the Department states that the total loss of seamen's lives was 2,958—not 6,927—a discrepancy of nearly 4,000, or about 60 per cent.

MENNONITES IN MANITOBA.

Our correspondent from Winnipeg informs us that the devastations of the grasshoppers this year have been particularly severe in the settlements of the Mennonites,—that is those who put in crop this spring and arrived last year. The question has in fact arisen, whether they will not require aid of some kind, either from their brethren in Ontario or from the Government. The Minister of Agriculture, we understand, among other reasons, has gone to Manitoba to investigate this matter personally. It is of great importance as affecting a large and valuable immigration from South Russia, in the immediate future, and also as relating to the responsibility of the Government towards those who have already been brought out, at a very considerable expenditure.

The Mennonites, we are assured, are above all things a self-reliant community; and they would be the best to seek or even to accept eleemosynary aid. But it might be advisable to see that there are ample stores of provisions in the country for the approaching winter; which might be sold out on credit, if necessary, at reasonable rates, on the security of the Mennonites loan.

It may, however, happen that even this much will not be required, and that the large sums of money which have been brought into the country by this community may be sufficient for all needs. That point, we understand, it will be the duty of Mr. LETELLIER to determine. We have a telegram informing us that he has arrived at Fort Garry.

Our Winnipeg correspondent further informs us that the Mennonites who have arrived this spring are very much pleased with the treatment they have received; and that they do not feel afraid of the grasshoppers, which they have seen before. Eighteen new townships not very far from the United States frontier have been allotted to the new comers of this year; and they have already commenced the active work of settlement. They have made, from the ready money they brought with them, considerable purchases of necessary supplies, principally at the points of Toronto and St. Paul's, Min.

The members who have so far come out this season are between three and four thousand souls. Five thousand were expected this season, but the Russian officials have placed all possible obstructions in the way of their removal. Altogether between sixty and eighty thousand souls contemplate emigrating from Berdiansk, and it is hoped that Canada will secure the larger portion of them.

TROUBLE IN THE EAST.

The situation in Herzegovina is becoming grave. Bands of insurgents have descended into the plain before Trebigno and attacked that place, burning and pillaging in all directions. A force of about three thousand men, chiefly Dalmatians

and Montenegrins, are endeavoring to destroy communication between Mostar and Henecine. Fifteen hundred Dalmatians and Herzegovinians are marching on Poschitel. Montenegrins and Dalmatians are also preparing. The presence of a Servian corps on the Turkish frontier seems to furnish the insurgents encouragement. All the Turkish regiments in garrison in Roumilia and Bulgaria have been ordered to march to Herzegovina. The insurgents have burned some villages and massacred whole Mohammedan families. The Porte has received formal assurances from the Princes of Servia and Montenegro that they will maintain a neutral attitude in the Herzegovinian difficulty. Further advices from Herzegovina indicate that the insurrection there threatens to assume the character of a religious war. Herzegovina is a part of Bosnia—a district of the ancient Lower Pannonia and the most westerly province of Turkey in Europe. It lies to the north of Montenegro. Bosnia, which also comprises Bosnia proper and Turkish Croatia, is situated between lat. 42° 30' and 45° 15' N., and long. 15° 40' and 21° 2' E. having N. W. and N. the Austrian provinces of Croatia and Slavonia, E. Servia, and S. and W. Albania and Austrian Dalmatia, the latter separating it from the Adriatic. The area is estimated at 20,000 square miles. There are about one million of inhabitants, of whom half are Mohammedans by religion. According to race they are chiefly divided into Turks (about a quarter of a million); Bosnians, 350,000 (of whom a majority belong to the Greek Church); Servians, 120,000; and Croats (40,000) and Morlachians (who are Roman Catholics), 75,000. The country abounds in fruit, game, fine cattle, and horses. The manufactures are chiefly limited to iron articles of common use, leather, saltpetre, gunpowder, &c. The imports are linens, woollens, paper, salt, and oil. The country is supposed to be rich in minerals, and is very mountainous. The climate is cold but not unhealthy. The only plain of any size is that of Livno, in the Herzegovina. The chief towns in Bosnia are Bosna-Serai, Novibazar, Zvornik, Bagna Louka, Mostar, and Gradiska. The Nerenta river runs through the Herzegovina.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The British Parliament was prorogued on the 13th inst. In the Speech from the Throne, Her Majesty declared that the relations between herself and all foreign powers continue to be cordial, and she looks forward with hope and confidence to the uninterrupted maintenance of European peace. The visit paid to Britain, on the invitation of her Government, by the ruler of Zanzibar, has led to the conclusion of a supplementary convention, which may be efficacious for the more complete suppression of the East African slave trade. Deep regret is expressed that the expedition dispatched by the Indian Government from Burmah, with the view to open communication with the western provinces of China, has been treacherously attacked by an armed force while on Chinese territory. This outrage, unhappily involving the death of a young and promising member of the consular service, is the subject of careful enquiry, and no effort shall be spared to secure the punishment of those by whom it was instigated and committed. The condition of the colonial empire is pronounced generally prosperous. The Queen is gratified to find that lengthened consideration has been given various statutes, which have from time to time been passed for the preservation of the peace in Ireland, resulting in a measure which, while relaxing the stringency of former enactments, is calculated to maintain tranquility in the country. Her Majesty then refers to the other principal enactments of the session. Her reference to the shipping bills is as follows:—The state of the public business and differences of opinion naturally arising on a varied and incomprehensive scheme have unfortunately prevented you from completing the consideration of the Merchant

Shipping Bill, but I rejoice that you have been able, by a temporary enactment, to diminish considerably the dangers to which my seafaring subjects are exposed. She has every reason to hope the progress in the revenue system, which has marked recent years, will be fully sustained in the present. The arrangements made with respect to the reduction of the National Debt, and those for the better regulation of loans for public works will lead to valuable improvements in the system of imperial and local finance.

NEW BRUNSWICK EXHIBITION.

The New Brunswick Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Exhibition will be held at the city of St. John, opening on the 7th of September. The Rink and Car-Shed, St. John, have been engaged for the purpose of the Exhibition. Arrangements for decorating and laying them out in a suitable and elaborate manner are rapidly progressing. Ample provision has been made for exhibiting machinery in motion, a powerful engine having been engaged for that purpose. A large number of manufacturers from all parts of the Province have already applied for space and power, and all concerned are entering heartily into the project. Substantial aid has been given by the Provincial Government in the shape of a grant of money. The Dominion and Provincial Governments have intimated that it is their intention to make this exhibition the depot for receiving and selecting articles to represent the Province of New Brunswick at the International Exhibition, which is to be held at Philadelphia in 1876. We give in the present number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, an exterior view of the Exhibition Building, and shall continue to keep our readers advised of the progress of the work.

Of course, the Anti-Vaccination riot which took place in this city, on the evening of the 9th inst. is utterly indefensible, but it is a mistake to suppose, as many do, that the French Canadian people are peculiar in their hostility to compulsory vaccination. We read in an exchange that at Banbury, in England, the other night, there was a great demonstration against the Compulsory Vaccination act, the occasion being the release from Northampton prison of a man who suffered fourteen days' imprisonment rather than have his child vaccinated. He was met at the railway station by a great number of persons, some of whom carried banners denouncing the Vaccination act, and bands of music played. Speeches were made by the Rev. Horne Rothery and others connected with the National Anti-Vaccination League. White, the released man, received a purse of gold, and resolutions were passed against the act. It appears from this that even in England there is a National Anti-Vaccination Association.

The Old Catholic Conference has opened at Bonn, under the presidency of Dr. DOLLINGER. Its principal business will be the consideration of the intercommunion among separated Churches. This union is to be based on a mutual recognition of primitive truth, which may enable each Church to admit members of other communions to its privilege in respect of divine worship and Christian sacraments. At the same time, an actual fusion of the national or peculiar form of church constitution is not contemplated. An unambiguous expression of substance of Christian doctrine and practice, as taught by the Bible and the ancient Church, is sought as the real bond of union.

We notice that the speeches of Mr. MACKENZIE and Lord DUFFERIN continue to be generally commented upon by the country press in the United Kingdom. It is an undoubted fact that the utterances both of the Premier and the Governor-General, have rendered the Dominion one