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TEMPERATURE.

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

THE WEEK ENDING

December 12th, 1880.			Corresponding week, 1879.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.. 33°	27°	30°	Mon.. 39°	19°	29° 5
Tues.. 32°	17°	24° 5	Tues.. 48°	35°	41° 0
Wed.. 18°	6°	12°	Wed.. 35°	28°	31° 5
Thur.. 22°	8°	15°	Thur.. 38°	12°	25° 5
Fri.. 19°	-3°	8°	Fri.. 40°	23°	31° 0
Sat.. 16°	zero	8°	Sat.. 40°	36°	38° 0
Sun.. 26°	14°	20°	Sun.. 37°	30°	33° 5

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, December 18, 1880.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Our readers are aware that our terms are cash, and that we have the right to exact from each subscriber \$4.50, when his subscription is not paid in advance. The end of the year is approaching and a large number have not yet fulfilled their obligations toward us. But we are willing to afford them another opportunity, and if they will pay up without further delay and save us the expense of sending out a collector, we will accept the \$4.00. We make this proposition with the view of avoiding any further inconvenience, and subscribers will give us credit for this timely notice.

We have done everything in our power to make the paper worthy of public patronage, but it must be remembered that our expenses are three times those of any other paper. The News is an illustrated journal—the only one of its class in the Dominion, and our subscribers cannot fail to understand that we must necessarily depend on them for adequate support in the shape of prompt and regular payment.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The ceremonies attending the opening of Parliament last Thursday were the same as have before been described in our columns, the old forms which time has honoured, being observed. But this time the Royal Standard did not float from the tower of the Parliament building, and the absence of the Princess necessarily made a great blank, as compared with the *éclat* of former occasions. The weather too was very cold, the cold wave, which had been sweeping from the Rocky Mountains, having that day struck. This was a little severe on the volunteer soldiers, but the Governor-General's Foot Guards and the Princess Louise Dragoons, did their several duties well. There was a large concourse of people, and the royal salute was fired at a quarter to three, the Governor-General, accompanied by Col. DYDE, Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, and Capt. CHATER, being a quarter of an hour in advance of time. People said the clocks must not have agreed. His Excellency was met by Sir A. CAMPBELL and Mr. ATKINS, Sir JOHN MACDONALD, who has not been well, not leaving his seat in the House. On former occasions, he has gone, hat off, to the carriage, but he manifestly could not do this now. There were many brilliant ladies' dresses, and these with the scarlet robes of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and the brilliant uniforms of the officers, made a very fine effect; but there was no crowd on the floor—a relief under recent arrangements having been obtained by a

reserved gallery. Lord LORNE read the Speech from the Throne in the English and French languages, with great distinctness and purity of accent in both.

The Speech explained why Parliament had been called so early; it plunged at once into the reasons, in words which had evidently been very carefully considered. In fact, the opening words made rather a difficult position for the Opposition, if they have any intention of opposing the principle of the arrangement of Ministers with a company to build the Pacific Railway. His Excellency said that the occasion of the journey of the Ministers to England to make the arrangement, was moved by an attempt to carry out the already declared intention of Parliament. That intention was first declared when Sir JOHN MACDONALD was previously First Minister, and again with great distinctness while Mr. MACKENZIE was Premier. The policy of endeavouring to obtain the services of an incorporated company for this great work of construction may, therefore, be said to be a settled one, and we do not see how any question can come, except with respect to details. But there may be a very wide open door in these, and in fact, the gossips are busily saying that some ten or twelve of the ordinary Ministerial supporters will bolt, while some five or six of the Opposition will support the resolutions. The magnitude of the pecuniary interest will probably give rise to very lively discussion.

The Speech further stated that, subject to the approval of Parliament, the Ministers had entered into a contract with capitalists, in Canada, Europe and the United States, of high financial standing, for the speedy construction and permanent working of this great national enterprise. The papers and contract were promised to be submitted without delay. And in point of fact the contract was published, at length, in the morning papers. But it is a document of such importance that we will take a little time before writing any notice of it.

The announcement next in importance in the Speech was the allegation that the new tariff had not only promoted manufacturing industry, but that it had produced a revenue in excess of the expenditure. The positive vaticinations of last session that such would not be the case have, therefore not been verified; and this is another instance which shows how foolish it is for men when they become piqued and excited to venture upon prophecy.

Another measure of importance relating to the immigration of Germans is promised, viz., the placing of their naturalization on a more satisfactory footing. We are afraid that some difficulties will be found in connection with this. But, perhaps, it will be best to wait for the production of the promised measure before entering upon discussion of the question, although there are several important points plainly on the surface.

The remainder of the Speech is taken up in recital. We are told the harvest is good, and that progress is being made with the portions of the Pacific Railway already under contract, two additional sections having been opened up for traffic, one from Winnipeg to Portage La Prairie, and the other from Cross Lake to Keewatin, making 264 miles in operation. The expenses of working the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island R.R. are stated to have been so far reduced, that the revenue from them will this year equal the expenditure, a result which will be very satisfactory, if the railways themselves have been kept up. We are told that Her Majesty's Government have generously presented the steam corvette "Charybdis," which has just returned from the Chinese seas, to the Canadian Government, for a training ship. Further that a report of the Civil Service Commissioners will be laid before Parliament. That a measure will be submitted for enlarging the boundaries of Manitoba and that a failure of the food supply of Indians has made it necessary to furnish them with provisions. This is the Speech. There is no parade

of measures; and it would really have been idle to have attempted any. The one great thing for Parliament to consider, and also the reason for which it has been thus early called, is that question of paramount, overwhelming importance, the construction of the Pacific Railway. If any Ministry could undertake this, with the same assurance of continuity of life and freedom from change arising from political considerations, and with also the same application of business principles, based on commercial instincts, and freedom from political influences, as an incorporated company, then the argument would be very simple. The country should have the advantage. As, however, these conditions are impossible, under our system, then the highest public interests are those which would make the success of the railway and the settlement of the country, the commercial considerations of a rich and powerful company. It is in the public interest, moreover, that such company should be offered a good bargain and good inducements. The presence of these means success. The absence of them means failure, and the fact of failure would not promote the success of settlement, which means wealth to the country; or afford any guarantee that the work would be ultimately constructed without much greater expense to the country. In a word, success means prosperity; failure, disaster.

In the House, Mr. BLAKE asked when the contracts and papers would be laid before members. Sir JOHN answered, "Immediately after the Address has been carried." No papers are ever laid before the House, or any business done before the Address is carried. Mr. MACKENZIE has given notice that he will move for papers and correspondence respecting the visit to England. The Speech from the Throne promises papers on this subject.

Six members were elected during the recess, viz., Mr. JAMES BEATTY, West Toronto; Mr. D. A. MANSON, Brome; Hon. J. A. MOUSSEAU, Bagot; Hon. A. P. CARON, Quebec County; Mr. F. SCOTT, Selkirk and Mr. GEORGE WHEELER, North Ontario. All these are Ministerial, except Mr. WHEELER, and all were introduced to the House except Mr. SCOTT, who had not then arrived. This is certainly a favourable exhibit for the Ministers. The tendency at this stage of a Parliament is generally the other way.

There was a little fault finding on the part of the Opposition, at the Superannuation of Mr. PATRICK, the Clerk of the House, to which the Speaker answered that that step had become expedient in view of Mr. PATRICK's growing infirmities. We believe that he has been a Civil Service officer for half a century.

Business then promptly commenced. On Friday the Address in reply to the Speech was moved and carried the same day. The motion was made by Mr. BEATTY, the newly elected member for Toronto. He made a creditable *debut*. Mr. VANASSE, of Yamaska, seconded the Address. Mr. BLAKE, the new leader, opened the ball on the side of the Opposition. He spoke with eloquence, but diffusiveness. He took a very wide scope in his attack on the Government, and opened himself to the retort of the First Minister that it was not well at that stage to deal in generalities. He demanded that there should be full time allowed for the consideration of the Pacific contract, contending that, in view of the great importance of that measure, for all time, it would be proper to submit it to the people at the polls. This is a view which has been urged by a Toronto magazine, and there is a rumour in the lobbies at Ottawa that it is favoured by Lord LORNE, in the hope that there may come a result unfavourable to the protection policy. But we cannot believe this. Sir JOHN replied that no true parliamentarian could take a position of that sort, and that he was sure Mr. BLAKE's late leader, Mr. MACKENZIE, could not. Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. POPE and some other members spoke, the subject of immigration being particularly discussed; but there were no facts or figures before

the House, so this was merely bootless talk. The Address was put clause by clause, without division.

The Opposition held a caucus on Friday, and the Ministerialists on Saturday. This shows a sign of unsettled feeling, and is a very natural result of the situation, especially in view of the rumours with which the air is filled.

MADAME SARAH BERNHARDT.

Our readers will doubtless be pleased to read the following charming appreciation of the great artist who is to visit this city professionally next week. The review is from the gifted pen of George Augustus Sala.

Mr. John Hollingshead, manager of the Gaiety Theatre, has happily not come to the doleful complexion of the Good Man struggling with adversity. Still, it would be unjust to withhold from this experienced and energetic dramatic director a certain meed of sympathy, for the temporary, and it is to be hoped trifling, mischance which has befallen him, and the consequent disappointment of the subscribers to the series of French performances at the Gaiety, through the churlish refusal of the committee of the Comédie Française to allow M. Coquelin to fulfil his engagement with Mr. Hollingshead, and collaborate with the wonderful talent of Madame Sarah Bernhardt in parts which he has made essentially his own. Subscribers are difficult people to deal with. They are apt to think that they have not had enough for their money, to stand upon their rights, and, on occasions, to demand the return of their subscription; and a portion of Mr. Hollingshead's *damns* may be dissatisfied because *la force majeure* has hitherto precluded Madame Bernhardt from appearing in more than three characters—Frou-Frou, Adrienne Lecouvreur, and Phèdre.

But to the general art-loving public—the public which goes night after night, season after season, to see such consummate artists as Mr. Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry in the same parts—the three *rôles* up to this time so magnificently interpreted by Madame Bernhardt should be amply sufficient *pabulum*. In the touching play of MM. Meilhac and Halévy, in the admirably constructed and nobly written drama of MM. Scribe and Legouvé, and in Racine's grand tragedy, Madame Bernhardt exhibits and portrays to intense admiration three distinct phases of human passion, and calls up three distinct kinds of emotion from those who study her extraordinary impersonations. In Phèdre she carries out precisely that which Racine thought was his master Euripides' conception of the character of the wretched wife of Theseus. She possesses the qualities which Aristotle demanded in the heroines of deep tragedy: the properties of exciting, in an equal degree, compassion and terror. She is not altogether guilty, not altogether innocent. We shudder at her frenzied confession of crime; yet we cannot withhold commiseration from the unhappy creature whom merciless fate has condemned to cherish an unholy passion. She, above all others, is appalled by the enormity of her sin. She exhausts every effort to beat down the demon under foot: she would sooner die than reveal the secret which is rending her bosom; and, when she is forced to disclose the awful truth, her shame, her confession, her remorse claim for her some degree of pity as one whose erring is due rather to the anger of the gods than to any act of her own volition. On the poor creature's white forehead there might well be stamped the terrible word ANAKH—necessity, constraint, destiny—the word on which Victor Hugo declared that he based the entire fabric of Notre Dame de Paris.

In "Frou-Frou" another order of sympathies is awakened by the most eminently sympathetic actress of the age. Phèdre, for all her monstrous sin, is every inch a Queen. But for her miserable aberration her woes would be majestic as those of Dido. But it is impossible to feel any veneration, or, indeed, any very great amount of respect, for the poor lady in the rustling silk dress. She is, at the best, a frivolous, giddy, volatile, and inconsequential personage. At the outset she is a decided coquette. Wounded vanity and feminine petulance seem to have had quite as much to do with her disregard for her matrimonial obligations as any sentiments of affection for her bygone and peculiarly worthless lover could have had. Her conduct in abandoning her husband and child seems to English judges utterly indefensible; and, if East Lynne had not been written, English compassion might have been but charily extended to this very peccant lady, whose tardily awakened conscience impels her to return to the home which she has deserted and made desolate—to ask forgiveness, and to die.

An ordinary "Frou-Frou" might fail to move us very deeply—even by the tearfullest of voices and the most skillful simulation of the symptoms of advanced pulmonary disease. But Madame Sarah Bernhardt is not an ordinary "Frou-Frou." As the thoughtless and capricious coquette she may not entirely satisfy those who look in the earlier aspects of the character for exuberant vivacity and *entrain*. But the repentant and dying "Frou-Frou" at once compels our pity and our love. In expiring accents she herself murmurs, *Pour vous, toujours la même. Mon fils... sous me pardonnez, n'est-ce pas! Frou-frou! Frou-frou! Pauvre Frou-frou!* The murmured plaint finds an echo