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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 1875.

PARTIES IN QUEBEC.

While strictly adhering to our rule not to mix in any strifes of parties, we may yet give the facts of the political situation in Quebec, upon an occasion so interesting at the first meeting of the new Legislature. There was debate as to what the majority of the Ministry would be,—whether the recent appeal to the country had strengthened or weakened them. And now many prophets may safely conclude that there is, after all, nothing so certain as a division list. The first test vote of the House was on an amendment to the address by Mr. JOLY, the Opposition leader; and it gave for the amendment 15, against it 45;—that is a vote of 3 to 1 in favour of the Government. Of course a majority so crushing puts an end to many speculations. It settles all questions arising out of the Tanneries' Land affair, they being really covered by the vote, Mr. ANGERS, the new leader of the House, having declared that the judgment of Mr. Justice JOHNSON was in exact accordance with the facts. There will, therefore, be no appeal; and it is amusing to see how some parties, who previously thought differently, are now endeavouring to find reasons why there should not be any.

On the personal point, we may say that it is admitted on all hands that Mr. ANGERS, the new leader of the House, is much more powerful than the former one; and in fact he seems to be the rising hope of the Conservative party in the Province. He is still very young, and since the death of Sir GEORGE CARTIER, it must be said there is room for some strong man to make his mark on our politics. That would not be alone a gain for the party possessing him, but for all parties.

We shall probably now soon hear of the filling of the vacant French seat in the Dominion Cabinet, caused by the elevation of Mr. FOURNIER to the Supreme Court. The filling of this place has very much dragged; and, it has been rumoured, from a desire to see the turn which things took in Quebec.

Of course, with such a decisive majority and so decided a tone, the new Ministry will go straight on with their railway and other policy. We may generally add as respects the debates in the Quebec House so far, that they not only show spirit, but even brilliancy.

MR. DISRAELI'S SPEECH.

The Atlantic cable has furnished a summary report of an important speech delivered by Mr. DISRAELI, at the Mansion House. The banquet of the Lord Mayor of London, by long usage, affords occasion for out of session official utterances; and the Prime Minister of the Empire, a few days ago, at the last given, made some remarks on the European situation. After alluding in complimentary terms to the settlement of difficulties in China, by Mr. WADE, Mr. DISRAELI, referring to the question of Turkey, said that he could not announce the situation in Europe as so satisfactory.

But yet he refused to believe that the existing peace would be broken. He said he would not contemplate such an event. He added, however, that if it did occur the subjects of the Queen were never in a better position to meet it. Our readers will remember that we furnished, some time ago, an account of a correspondence which appeared in the semi-official organ at St. Petersburg, between the Governments of Russia and Germany, on the position of the "Sick Man," looking to a very large aggression by the Czar; and, in fact, to more than the complete undoing of all that has been accomplished by the Anglo-French war in the Crimea. That correspondence showed the fact of an understanding between those two powerful Governments against the interests of Great Britain. Mr. DISRAELI stated that the interests of the Queen's Government are more indirect, but not less important than those of some of the Continental Powers in the question at issue; and he intimated that they would properly be maintained. He took, in fact, what is termed, a firm tone; and that, in our belief, will make for peace. It is certain that the reverse, a few years ago, on the part of Lord ABERDEEN, led to the breaking out of the Crimean war. There is another circumstance which remains to be noticed, namely, that great anger has prevailed in Great Britain for the last few weeks against the Turkish Government for not paying the half yearly interest on its loan. And for this it has been very loudly charged with repudiation. But it has not repudiated. It has simply exhibited inability which may be temporary. It appears that this feeling in England has revived activity on the question on the Continent; and, with what seriousness, may be judged from the remarks of Mr. DISRAELI. The recent Christian rebellion in the Turkish Provinces has also been sympathized with in England; and that has undoubtedly tended to the same political action on the Continent. We shall watch for the further development with the greatest interest. The result will not alone affect the political situation in Europe, but modern civilization as well.

THE SUPREME COURT.

At a state dinner given by his Excellency, the Governor General, to the Judges of the Supreme Bench, LORD DUFFERIN uttered some hearty truths which are worthy of being treasured up. According to him the establishment of that Court marks another epoch in the progressive history of the Dominion; it exhibits another proof and pledge of the stability of our confederation, and of the solidifying process which has knit into a homogeneous and patriotic community the inhabitants of what a few years ago were the scattered districts of Great Britain's North American possessions. But the constitution of such a Court is not merely an evidence of so complete a unification of the Dominion as to permit the rays of Justice being thus focused to a point.—it is also an exemplification of the confidence reposed by the people of Canada in the learning and attainments of the Legal Profession in this country. Had not the Parliament of Canada been convinced that the Bar of the Dominion was and would continue to be capable of producing persons of such commanding authority and reputation that their judgments would be universally acquiesced in, it would not have ventured upon so bold an experiment as the creation of a Court superior in its jurisdiction to all the other Provincial Courts in the Dominion. His Lordship himself has no misgiving that Parliament will be disappointed in these expectations. He has no doubt but that those eminent personages will succeed in establishing for their Court a reputation and an authority equal to the anticipations of their countrymen. The authority of a Court of Justice is founded on the soundness of its decisions. Under the free Constitution of the British Empire, no earthly peril can check the growth or diminish the weight of an authority established on such a basis. A great Court thus becomes the author of its

own supremacy—may, it can extend its ascendancy beyond the limits of natural jurisdiction, and impress foreign Codes of Jurisprudence with its own interpretation of Equity and Justice. Witness the respect and deference with which the chief Court of the United States is quoted by British and European Jurists. Such a Court is the parent of peace, order and good government; it is the guardian of civil, political and religious liberty; it is like the sun at noonday—it shines with its own light; and happily human passion and prejudice and executive tyranny and popular phrenzy are as impotent to intercept the beneficial influence of the one as to shear the beams from the other. His Lordship concluded by this advice that inasmuch as the pure, efficient and authoritative Courts of Justice are the most precious possession a people can enjoy—the very fruits and sources of a healthy national existence—there is no duty more incumbent on a great and generous community than to take care that all and every one of those who administer Justice in the land are accorded a social, moral and material recognition proportionate to their arduous labours, weighty responsibility and august position.

SHIP'S BOATS AND HOW TO STUDY THEM.

Since our last reference to maritime affairs and their unhappy aspect through many accruing influences, we have to record the total loss of the steamship *Normanton* by collision—crew saved—and of the *Culeutta*, timber ship, with a loss of twenty-three lives.

That ships will be converted into efficient life-boats, as science shall advance, we do not doubt, and can only trust, in regard to the immense interests involved—social, commercial and protective—that the day will be an early one. In the meantime, we cannot be doing very wrong to give some attention to the structure and launching of those ship's boats that, in emergencies, are more than almost all else, the occasion of the loss of lives.

Our social system works in general with fair efficiency, and it is the more painful to think that it should be subjected, as often as it has of late been, to such violent strains and shocks to all that is good and human and Christian in it.

Our plan of society is found to fulfil its conditions fairly, when unusual incidents do not disturb it, and a young country may still be expected to become practical and provide guarantees for the welfare of its subjects in the early future. We are in the habit of thinking a great deal more of the comforts of life and the power of money in obtaining them than of the sometimes arduous steps by which legitimate comforts and securities are to be realized. Social adjustments should nevertheless have the first place in our thought—we believe. Money of itself provides none of this knowledge or means, however essential to their attainment. To understand the principles of things we must study them, and we do not always find a royal road to the acquisition.

But even a sober pursuit of means and reputation and the encouragement of the State could be enlisted in the noble enterprise of saving life in labour and travel. What is useful has always its personal value, and that the idea has been hitherto so little availed of in this Dominion has greatly arisen from the unpractical and untechnical character of the education we give our youth. We are indeed, in this country, beginning to provide in schools some of the first principles of natural philosophy in heat, chemistry, electricity, mechanics, &c., with the grand themes of astronomy and the discipline of pure mathematics. Abstract knowledge, however, is not always essential, though almost always beneficial, and we must go a step further to apply these principles practically, in fact introduce the youthful student into the actual practice of the workshop. There should be a real sympathy of his ideas—the familiar ones of his daily life—with things as well as books,

and with the workshops of the land and their artificers. We might even call it the material want of the time. Our student should be made to judge in such visits, by the help of the principles inculcated in the class-room, of the methods he looks upon and their results, and learn to appraise not only the supposed successes of the constructor, but even, without obtrusiveness, to satisfy his mind at what points improvements might be introduced. Tradition rules in all fields of industry and construction, and it is sometimes hard to replace it. It might not be the student's chief business to do this, but rather for his own improvement and the welfare of the generation he hopes to influence, to speculate upon what might be done for practical usefulness and advantage to social life. Now if in our great schools and colleges we had a "boat class" which should be instructed in all pertaining to flotation and equilibrium on the water, stable and unstable, we seem to think we should have begun at the true beginning, for the ship and steamer grew out of the simple coracle, and from the elementary form we shall get the principles that govern success. Dropping for the moment the equipment of the vessel and mastering the details of the hull, we should come to think that the small boats in common use for oars or sails are generally only fit to be navigated by swimmers. Inside such mussel-shells we have to recognize the possibility of being seen outside, and in the exercise of our amphibian capacities, as now built and ballasted, small boats are unsafe and deceptive. Boys are fond of boating, and always hard to be kept from the water, and we should thus have laid a foundation for the pursuit of an important exercise. It would go to form the right boats and lead to instruction in swimming in addition. If our readers have accompanied us as far as this, they may perhaps believe that as the class advances in its primitive studies of vessels, it might soon take opportunity to enquire why ship's boats intended for escape of passengers and crew could not be launched in the hour of danger on some plan superior to the present methods, and for one week's theme—and for humanity's sake we hope an early one—we might propose the question, why there might not be constructed stout iron "ways" to be rapidly thrown over the ship's sides, supported by stays from the rigging, along which a decked boat could be gently slid down with its living freight down into the sea? And as to the best form of boat, whether it might not be a steam-launch, and thoroughly found in stores, compasses and fuel, although a comparatively shallow decked vessel, with openings for the sifter similar to that for the single occupant of a "canvas-covered canoe," would be, one might say, infinitely preferable to the present insane system of open and unlaunchable boats. If boats are to fail, there is the wide raft question to speculate upon. Till we make our ships in themselves fit to encounter emergencies, we can hardly give too much attention to the launching of the boats. A boatswain's party of a few men would be able, if familiar with the drill prepared for such occasions, to insist upon the right arrangements in seating the passengers. We hope our landsmen will not be afraid of such questions. There is plenty of professional ingenuity for all such topics, but the difficulty of the hour is to get it applied to a work demanded by every consideration that can stir the hearts of men.

There is much feeling in England over an act passed by the Parliament of Prince Edward's Island, compelling absentee proprietors of large estates to surrender their property for seven shillings sterling an acre. The act is said to be nothing more nor less than confiscation, and the proprietors talk of appealing to the Privy Council of the empire. There is alleged to be no precedent in England or in any European country outside of the Russian dominions for such a course. It is not alleged that the proprietors have committed any crime that would just