

The Dominion Illustrated.

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11th JULY, 1891.



The Behring Sea Commission.

The action already taken towards carrying out the provisions of the *modus vivendi*, indicates celerity on the part of Her Majesty's government. The dispatch of additional naval vessels and the appointment of SIR GEORGE BADEN-POWELL and DR. DAWSON are measures which commend themselves to all who wish to see the question satisfactorily settled. Two more capable men to represent our interests could not have been chosen. The former is thoroughly *au fait* with British Columbia, its ways and wants, having resided continuously in the province for three years, from 1877 to 1880, and having recently made the sealing question his unremitting study, in prosecution of which he recently made a special visit to the Pacific coast. DR. GEORGE M. DAWSON, his colleague, is a man of unusual fitness for the position, on account of his thorough knowledge of our North-West coast and his high standing in the scientific world. His explorations in the North-West commenced in 1873, and he has since then been almost continuously employed in British Columbia and the adjoining islands and territories; it is probable that no man in America possesses an equal knowledge of the district to which his new official duties call him. At present their commission is evidently to visit the sealing grounds on behalf of the British Government and note everything likely to affect the case. It is, however, probable that they will also be members of the joint commission on international arrangements for the preservation of the fur seal race, the formation of which was one of the conditions insisted on by Lord Salisbury before agreeing to the *modus vivendi*.

Dominion Day.

The enthusiastic celebration of the last Dominion Day in almost every part of Canada is a marked feature of the times. In spite of the bad example set by our legislators at Ottawa, the day was honoured to an extent unknown in previous years, Quebec being, perhaps, the only city where the anniversary received comparatively little attention; this, however, was not unexpected, the citizens of that place being well known to be adverse to joining the rest of Canada in the observance of national holidays. Why this should be it is hard to say; but it is undeniable that Her Majesty's birthday and Dominion Day receive no honour or attention whatever from the great majority of the inhabitants of the Fortress city—a city which owes

to Imperial militaryism much of its greatness, much of the wealth now held by its citizens, and many if not all of the buildings and associations which make it the Mecca for so many visitors from all parts of America. It is probable that so much attention is devoted to purely sectional anniversaries that their holiday-making energies are absorbed therein, leaving nothing for the broader and more patriotic days of the nation. Confederation was a happy event for the Province of Quebec; the provincial finances are not to-day in the most flourishing condition, but to what pitch of utter hopelessness they would have fallen had not the annual subsidies, and grants to provincial railways, been coming in from the strong box of the Dominion Government. It would seem a peculiarly fit proceeding that the capital of the Province of Quebec should heartily celebrate the anniversary of confederation. The action of Parliament in holding session on Dominion Day is, we are glad to see, meeting general condemnation. No excuse is sufficient to cover an attempt to transact business on the Canadian national holiday; had the affairs of the nation been so desperately pressing, sessions might have been held on the Monday and Saturday, and if any discrimination took place it should surely have been in favour of Dominion Day.

Post-Mortem Criticism.

Since the lamented death of SIR JOHN MACDONALD, mention of him and his career has been frequent, as was only to have been expected. Among the many references in the Press, two features have been especially prominent—one of which is the extraordinary eulogy and attention that has been devoted to him by the great journals that sway public opinion, such as the *London Times*, *Standard*, *Daily News*, *St. James Gazette* and others. While their references have been free from anything like undue flattery, they have evidently recognized his worth as a statesman in the development of Canadian nationality and, concurrent with that development, the strengthening of the bands which connect us to Great Britain. The days of English jealousy of colonial enterprise, and of the imposition of checks to colonial trade, are past; the tendency of the press of to-day and of Lord Salisbury's administration, is to aid the colonies in every way consistent with Great Britain's treaty obligations to foreign powers, and to show genuine pleasure at their success in whatever they undertake—all this in spite of that narrow spirit of selfishness which places the Mother Country on no more favoured footing in trade than the foreigner who, jealous of our success, does his utmost to harass our business and make himself as generally disagreeable as possible. As we have already stated, the statesmanship and political skill of our late Premier has been almost universally acknowledged by the best of the English press; and even the lower and more Radical sheets have said little or nothing of an offensive nature. In marked contrast to this is the tone adopted by several Canadian journals, which have allowed their political spleen to get the better of good manners and truth. We do not deny that such papers have always been noted for their disposition to let no measures of common sense, ordinary courtesy, or simple justice stand in the way of emphasizing their party predilection; but one would have thought that such would cease with the death of the object of their hatred. Such, however, has not been the case; and it stands to the lasting discredit of Canadian journalism.

Note Extension of Time in PRIZE COMPETITION.

Literary Competition.

The Publishers of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED offer the sum of \$130 in four prizes for short stories from Canadian writers—

1st prize.....	\$60
2nd ".....	40
3rd ".....	20
4th ".....	10

On the following conditions:

1st—All stories must be delivered at the office of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED not later than 1st August next
 2nd—Each story to contain not less than 5,000 words, and not to exceed 8,000 words.

3rd—All MS. sent in for this competition to become the property of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

4th—Each story must contain a motto on top of first page, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope, inside of which is stated the name and address of the writer. The outside of envelope to bear motto used on story.

5th—MS. to be written in ink, and on one side of paper only.

6th—Stories on Canadian subjects are preferred.

THE SABISTON LITHO. & PUB. CO.,
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 Montréal.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

SIXTH SERIES.

- 31.—What artist is mentioned who studied portrait painting in Spain?
- 32.—Quote a criticism on American State Secretaries.
- 33.—Where is mention made of insects with strong jaws and healthy appetites?
- 34.—On what page is mentioned a lecture by Rev. Dean Carmichael, of Montreal?
- 35.—Who commanded a regiment raised in Canada in 1796?
- 36.—Quote a reference to the Lord Bishop of Niagara.

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 156 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February, March, April, May and June.