

found in the conduct of the new Government of Ontario: And indeed to give a certain person his due, that party though factious and unscrupulous in political warfare is not destitute of Canadian patriotism.

That the *Montreal Witness*, and Mr. McDougall should oppose the railway is not surprising. Montreal is the headquarters of the annexation clique, a party happily contemptible both in influence and numbers, and Mr. McDougall, one of the most unpopular men in Canada, is ripe for anything since his Manitoba failure. In Ontario no annexationist would dare give public utterance to his sentiments.

Of course American gold and American influence will be unsparringly used to counteract the great Canadian national project, a fact which of itself should suffice to alarm and to intensify Canadian patriotism. The idea of being dependent for communication on a foreign power, being one utterly degrading and revolting. That the Dominion government is fully alive to the importance of this principle, and has the enterprise and the energy to apply the remedy, is evidenced by the rapid construction in spite of the great difficulties of the country, of a route to Fort Garry within our own territory, not only practicable during the Summer months but actually comfortable, along the chain of lakes, traversed by the outward and return expeditions of 1870-71.

With the railway constructed, the ports of British Columbia should become great and flourishing, and be the direct media through which the products of the East will penetrate direct to central and eastern Canada, and Canadians are not blind to this and the many other national advantages of the line.

In fact there is no reason to doubt that the great national will set so strongly in favor of the undertaking that no government would venture to neglect it.

But I fear that I have been led to trespass far too largely on your indulgence. Permit me, in concluding to congratulate the Province of British Columbia on the possession of a press, which appears to me so far as my short experience goes, to be singularly free from the local pettiness so often discernable in the newspapers of comparatively small and isolated places, and to deal with public questions with remarkable breadth and soundness of views.

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#### FRENCH CAPITULATIONS.

The following summary of the conclusions reached by the French Commission on Capitulation is taken from the *Army and Navy Gazette*. The Council of Inquiry is engaged in publishing its decisions on the various capitulations. It commenced with the fort Lichenberg, and declares that that rock was gallantly defended by sub-Lieutenant Archer. According to the Code, a place should not be surrendered until a practicable breach has been made, but the committee says that this was impossible. Marshal, the committee finds, was not well defended. It is admitted that the garrison was insignificant—that there was not a gunner in the place, and that the means of defence were wanting, still the Commandant Captain Leroy is found guilty of great weakness and incapacity; no breach was effected, and he neglected to destroy his guns and ammunition, which were afterwards used by the Prussians, before surrendering. The Committee acknowledges that Vitry-le-Francaise was not in a position to stand a siege; its garrison composed of Mobiles,

were raw recruits—these were reinforced by thirty-five artillerymen, commanded by an officer. The commandant intended to perform his duty, but the civil authorities declared they would not aid in the defence. Major Torquem was then ordered to evacuate the place. However he is reprimanded for not having destroyed his guns and ammunition himself, instead of trusting to the promise of the unpatriotic civil authorities.

As regards Toul, the committee finds that the garrison was ineffective, that the Maire, the Municipal Council, and principal inhabitants behaved badly in constantly wishing the commandant to capitulate. Major Duck is complimented for resisting the enemy, the Maire, etc., but reprimanded for not having destroyed his guns and ammunition. With respect to Laon the committee declines to pass judgment on the commandant who was blown up with the citadel when the Duke of Mecklenburg appeared before the place, but finds that Laon was garrisoned by men more inclined to desert than to resist. The population too objecting to a bombardment, wished to arrest General Theremin d'Hame, and hand him over to the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel de Noue, who defended Soissons, is found guilty of utter incapacity and great weakness. He maintained no discipline, allowed officers to go on leave when the place was about to be invested, capitulated before a breach was made, and grievously sinned against a variety of other regulations. The defence of Schelestadt, according to the Committee, was well conducted, looking at the composition of the garrison; the commandant, however, was blamed for having slackened his fire to allow the peasants in the vicinity to get in their harvest, for having surrendered before a breach was made, and for not having destroyed his material.

In the case of Verdun, General Guerin de Waldersback is praised for having shown great activity and courage at the commencement of the siege making frequent sorties, cutting off convoys, etc. Afterwards, however, the General opened negotiations with the enemy, and surrendered the place, when it might have been defended. For this he is blamed.

As regards Sedan, the decision of the court has already been published; it is decidedly unfavourable to General de Wimpffen, for taking the command from General Ducrot, and stopping the retreat on Metziers, which that officer had ordered. Phalsbourg had the advantage of being in a position to stand a siege; the ramparts were in a good condition, the garrison a fair one, ammunition abundant, with provisions for four months. Commandant Taillant held out to the last, and then threw open his gates and surrendered at discretion. The Prussians, in recognition of the conduct of the garrison, allowed the officers to keep swords and baggage, and to choose their own place of imprisonment. The commandant and several of his officers have been decorated. Neufbrisach had a garrison of 5,000 men, but on 4,000 of these so little reliance could be placed that the commandant was afraid to admit them into the body of the place. Acts of cowardice and insubordination were frequent, and the courts-martial established to try the culprits acquitted them. The commandant then disarmed the sedentary guard and the Franc-tireurs, and, fearing a mutiny, destroyed a large portion of his ammunition, guns, and rifles. Under these circumstances Lieut. Colonel de Kerhor is excused for having surrendered the place. Montmedy appears to have been pretty well defended, though the first commandant, Captain Ro-

boul, who commenced the defence was suddenly removed by the orders of Dr. Testlin, a Radical Commissioner of National Defence, at Lille. That gentleman, on the denunciation of three officers who left Montmedy—how or why the report does not say—appointed another commandant, who had to be replaced almost immediately by a third, who saw the siege through, and only capitulated when *in extremis*. The fort of La Fere was gallantly defended by a naval officer, and the committee has given absolution to the officer who surrendered the citadel of Amiens, who was placed in difficult circumstances, as the garrison objected to fire on the town for fear of injuring the inhabitants. As far as these reports have been published, they show that the forts were almost without exception ill prepared to stand a siege, whilst the towns were exposed to the fire of the new long range guns, and entirely at the mercy of the enemy. If some places surrendered before a breach was made, it was because the walls were not fired at. One French commandant, severely blamed, politely asked the Prussians to breach his walls before requiring to capitulate, and a small hole, which does not appear to have satisfied the Committee, was made.

In the Report of the Adjutant-General of Militia for last year, it is stated that but one corps put in the last annual drill every company being up to the regulation strength, and the 23rd Battalion is spoken of in language of praise as this particular corps. Now this is a matter of no consequence in one sense; but it is no small slight to the Battalion and Company Officers of the 22nd to find themselves ignored in a matter of fact; for as the details of the Report have it, every company of the Oxford Rifles was full, and as a matter of course the 22nd had no right to be overlooked under circumstances so peculiar. So far as the Report goes, the mistake perhaps might have passed unchallenged; but when worse particular stress placed on the matter of a full quota by the 23rd, it is just as well to correct the "Volunteer Review" in its mistake. More than this; no corps can show a higher general average than the 22nd, none a higher figure for the last six years—a feature that might have attracted attention.—*Woodstock Times*.

**GUNBOATS.**—The last of the iron mortar boats built during the Crimean war, and which have been lying high and dry at the lower end of Chatham Yard since that time, was launched on Tuesday. Those not required for harbour service are to be floated into the large basin at the extensive works. Two 10 inch 18-ton 400 pounder guns were landed at the Gun Wharf, Chatham, from the Royal Arsenal, on Monday. They are intended for the *Badger* and the *Fidget*, the two iron gunboats recently launched. The authorities have decided that a large building is to be erected at the Gun Wharf in which to store the massive iron-carriages and slides upon which the heavy guns are now mounted. At the present time there is not sufficient room for any quantity of these carriages to be stored here. It is also intended to lay down a tramway on the wharf, in order that the heavier ordnance occasionally being shipped or unshipped may be more easily moved about.—*Broad Arrow*.

**EARTHQUAKE.**—The seaport of Hioada, in the Japanese Island, Cebishon, was visited by an earthquake, and 500 persons lost their lives.