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## OUR NEW STORY.

In this number we continue the publication of our original serial story, entitled:—

### MY CREOLES:

A MEMOIR OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY,

BY JOHN LESTERANCE,

Author of "Rosalia," "The Bastonnais," &c.

This story will run through several months, and we bespeak for it the favour which was accorded to "The Bastonnais," originally published in these columns two years ago. The subject is new and interesting. The book will deal, *inter alia*, with the mysteries of Voodooism, and touch delicately upon several of those social questions which have so thoroughly agitated the North and South since the war. Begin your subscriptions with the opening of this story.

## NOTICES.

To prevent all confusion in the delivery of papers, our readers and subscribers are requested to give notice at this office, by post-card or otherwise, of their change of residence, giving the new number along with the old number of their houses.

Subscribers removing to the country or the sea-side during the summer months, are respectfully requested to send their new addresses to our offices, 5 and 7 Bleury Street, and the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will be duly sent to them.

### TEMPERATURE,

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

| THE WEEK ENDING    |      |      |       | Corresponding week, 1878 |      |      |       |
|--------------------|------|------|-------|--------------------------|------|------|-------|
| August 31st, 1879. |      |      |       |                          |      |      |       |
| Mon.               | Max. | Min. | Mean. | Mon.                     | Max. | Min. | Mean. |
| 71°                | 59°  | 65°  | 61°   | 75°                      | 67°  | 71°  | 71°   |
| Tues.              | 75°  | 53°  | 64°   | Tues.                    | 73°  | 61°  | 67°   |
| Wed.               | 74°  | 54°  | 64°   | Wed.                     | 76°  | 64°  | 70°   |
| Thur.              | 75°  | 57°  | 66°   | Thur.                    | 76°  | 64°  | 70°   |
| Frid.              | 75°  | 62°  | 68°   | Frid.                    | 79°  | 65°  | 72°   |
| Sat.               | 71°  | 56°  | 65°   | Sat.                     | 78°  | 67°  | 72°   |
| Sun.               | 80°  | 60°  | 70°   | Sun.                     | 83°  | 69°  | 76°   |

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, Sept. 6, 1879.

### LORD BEACONSFIELD'S SPEECH.

The English mails have brought us a full report of the speech of Lord BEACONSFIELD, at the Mansion House, of which we had summaries by cable message some ten or twelve days before. This utterance of the Prime Minister of the Empire to the citizens of London, has significance in these times, and calls for more than a passing thought. The speech was not long and it was not brilliant. It was not so much so in either sense as is common in speeches on this occasion. But the issues as respects the Treaty of Berlin were put too squarely to be evaded. Lord BEACONSFIELD said there were three points; first, that the Czar had honourably fulfilled his engagements and withdrawn his troops from Turkish territory; second, that the Sultan had not yet carried out all the reforms he has promised, and that it was absurd to suppose he could so long as foreign troops remained on his territory; and third, and perhaps most important, that if any future complications or difficulties should arise, the terms of the treaty itself provided a means of adjustment by the great powers without the necessity of again going to war. These three facts may be set up against whole reams of mere verbal criticism.

There was a further point on which Lord BEACONSFIELD spoke with unwonted earnestness, and a shade of bitterness toward the Opposition leader who is himself a great landowner. One of the cries

arising out of the agricultural distress is that the land cannot support so many interests, viz., that of the proprietor who receives the rent; that of the tenant farmer who pays it; and that of the agricultural labourer who has his living to get from his work. The First Minister met this argument by saying that even if the land were cultivated by small proprietors as in France, there would still be really the same sort of claims on it; for instance if the small proprietor purchased his land the interest on that purchase money would be the representative of a rent, and it might represent a fairly high rent; and next, if he cultivated the land himself by the aid of his sons and daughters, the provision which he would have to make for their education and keep would fairly represent the wages the tenant farmer now pays for getting this work done for him. He concluded that the arrangements between landlords, tenants and labourers was not the root of the evil, and he evidently lives in hopes of happier times arriving from better harvests and better commercial conditions. From our standpoint, however, the whole of this kind of speculation seems futile. The real question is: Can old cropped land in England which requires very expensive manures to keep it up, or at all to make the earth yield her increase, compete in the two great staples of meat and wheat with the supplies which can be furnished from the vast areas of this continent which are virgin and need no manure, and which only require the minimum of labour, with no barrier between them but a very cheap and well systematised means of transport by both rail and steamship? That is the real question to be solved, and the two Commissioners, Messrs. READ and PELL, who are now about to arrive at New York, will, if they are equal to their mission, carry home the facts.

It is impossible not to perceive that the very terms of the argument used by Lord BEACONSFIELD indicate the existence of a most unhappy state of things in the Mother Country and the commencement of a class contest in the face of dire distress and depression. We should be happy if we could see any signs of the lifting of the cloud. On the contrary, all is black and heavy, and the prospects, so far as we see them, are of progressive aggravation from the yearly increasing quantity of the American competition in the two main items for the agriculturist of wheat and meat. There is not, so far, even a breath from any influential voice about raising any barriers against the influx; and we doubt exceedingly now whether, if this were desired in the landed interest, it would be endured by the manufacturing, even at the cost of a revolution. What the end will be we venture not to predict; but we see cause for great anxiety.

### THE TRUE NATIONAL SPIRIT.

The conduct of some of our Canadian papers is inexplicable. Whenever they see a spiteful or ignorant reflection on the country in an American or other foreign journal, they pounce upon it with savage glances and republish it with sensational headlines. If they do this through party prejudice, they are very unwise; if they do it in an anti-patriotic spirit, they act despicably and show themselves unworthy of their high mission as public teachers. The proper course that we should all pursue is to resent any and every attack against our credit, our prospects or our national institutions. No matter what may be our intestine divisions, we should unite in defending our country when its policy, based upon the will of the people for the time being, is made the subject of foreign animadversion. It makes little matter what party or what set of men are in power at Ottawa, so long as they carry out, or try to carry out, the principles supported by the vast majority of the electorate at the polls. It is the duty of every honourable publicist to see that they are not thwarted by the ignorance or malevolence of outsiders. Our great aim

to-day is to foster a National Spirit, and display an energy commensurate with our immense national resources. Our large public works must necessarily be prosecuted, and in order to aid in their prosecution we must have both capital and men. Immigration becomes, therefore, a subject of vital importance at the present time, and no attacks on our institutions must be allowed to check the tide which is about to set in upon our shores. The Agricultural Department, under its able and energetic head, deputy and secretary, is wide awake to the opportunity which the condition of Great Britain at present affords us, and the Canadian press ought to take pride in seconding their efforts. We regard the movement to enter into immediate relations with the tenant farmers of England as a masterly one, and, for our part, in the past three or four weeks, we have published statistical articles showing the wisdom of looking toward that field of immigration. The steel rails for the first hundred miles of the Canada Pacific, directly west from Winnipeg, have been purchased and are already being shipped. There is no calculating the results of this opening up of such a tract of prairie, right in the heart of the Fertile Belt. The immigration that it will induce will be very large. The times are critical in Great Britain, and such men as Lord DERBY are open in their advice favourable to emigration. As we have lately shown in these columns, it is impossible for the British farmer to compete any longer with our rates of food supply on this continent, or with our low schedule of railway and steamship transportation. Not only will Canada this year largely assist in feeding Englishmen, Frenchmen and other European nations, but she is bound to find homes for thousands of these people who cannot subsist at all on the other side. And she can do this so bountifully that, whereas they are paupers, at home, they will have competence and independence of rents here. Immigration is an unmixed blessing. It has Shakespeare's double quality of mercy in that it benefits both the land that sends forth the emigrant and the country that receives him. We repeat that it is our clear duty to support this statesmanlike and patriotic movement, and sink all petty political differences in an united endeavour to promote the enlargement and advancement of our common country.

EVEN at the moment we write these lines we find influential papers publishing jeremiads at the falling off of the revenue and the consequent failure of the National Policy. It was surely very unwise to venture remarks of this nature in the face of the figures, so far as they were published or the first six months of the year, which did show that there was an increase of \$667,408, although there was a considerable decline in the months of April, May and June, following the excessive amount of duties paid in the previous months in anticipation of tariff action. We ventured to predict that July might follow the three previous months and show some decline; but in this we find ourselves favourably disappointed. July shows an increase over the corresponding months of 1878, the figures being for 1878, \$1,075,062.97, and for July of the present year, \$1,096,052.23, giving a total for the seven months of 1878, of \$6,981,109.51, and for 1879, of \$7,669,596.83.

The Inland Revenue returns show the same state of facts. After the enormous amounts paid in February and March there was a decline, as was natural, in the months following, but the returns have shown steady increase since, month by month, until the July figures of this year begin to approach those of the corresponding month of the last year, the actual figures being that the collections of July this year were \$319,730.03, while those of last year were \$428,369.42, the figures of the seven months being for 1879, \$3,466,278.74, while the corres-

ponding period of 1878 shows \$3,017,285.34. We have thus nearly half a million increase in the Inland Revenue returns of seven months; or over a million in the Customs and Inland Revenue combined. This plain and decisive fact is very satisfactory. The whole progress of the figures since March last shows elasticity and increase, and there is now no longer any doubt that the days of deficits are passed. The next five months of the year with the existing prospect of good harvest, will probably show an altogether improved condition, and there are many reasons to believe that we are at the beginning of a new era of prosperity. There are already everywhere signs of a beginning of confidence.

WE certainly do not desire to go into a discussion of Quebec party politics; but we cannot refrain from saying that the stoppage of the supplies by the Legislative Council is at least a very doubtful act, by whomsoever it may have been advised. The question of dealing with the supplies is one which so decidedly belongs to the elected branch, and does not belong to that which has not the responsibility to the people which is implied by election, is so elementary as to be beyond the pale of discussion. All the precedents, moreover, which can be pointed out in support of the action of the Council, as well in Canada as in Australia, are, at least, very dubious; and as respects the House of Lords there is really nothing which applies. There is a further point—the very existence of nominated Legislative Councils is not of undoubted security. Mr. MACKENZIE, the Dominion Opposition leader, in his speech at Galt, struck the key note of an agitation to do away altogether with the principle on which they rest; and it is doubtful wisdom on their part to act in such way as to give force to this movement. A man who cannot be called to account for his act, should be more careful than others what he does; or he will be sure to find out what the ultimate cost is. We do not wish to say one word as to this contention between the parties; or even as to the question as to whether it is desirable to force a general election in the Province of Quebec. But if we admit that it is, the Legislative Council may, in the course of events, come to find out it ought not to have been the instrument of forcing it by the dubious device of stopping the supplies.

### THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

THE CRISIS—SCENE IN THE COUNCIL—ON BOARD THE FRENCH FRIGATE—AT THE CITADEL.

The crisis has arrived, and as this is being written the galleries of the House are crowded with people who, though they know they will have to wait one hour and a half, yet insist on waiting to hear what steps the Government will take.

The work of the week in the Assembly has been trifling, amounting to only one motion of want of confidence, which shared the fate of many previous ones—lost by a majority of three. Since then the House of Assembly has done nothing—now it remains to be seen what they will do. The course the Government will pursue will show the Province whether they are fit for their positions or not. They have but few precedents to follow, and those not to their liking, so they must make one—let us see if they have sufficient administrative ability to create one that will reflect credit on them.

Thanks to the rumours published in the Montreal papers, no sooner had the Supply Bill been sent to the Legislative Council than all interest was centred on the doings of that honourable body. They had persistently killed or amended out of existence all Government measures which had reached them save one, and that one, the Colonization Society's Bill, they passed because of the labour riots here, and had shown throughout the session that, although people talked of them as "harmless old fossils," they were not so harmless as was supposed. In fact, never since Confederation have so many bills been amended by the Council in one session as during this one; therefore, although the Government refused to believe they would go so far as to refuse the Supplies, yet it was expected they would add to them a protest that would have some effect.

It was not till after 10 o'clock on Wednesday evening that the second reading of the Supply Bill was moved in the Council by the Hon. Mr.