

That of Sir A. J. Smith affirmed that the contract should not have been let without advertising for tenders, and that of Sir Richard Cartwright that the Government was giving too much of both land and money. Mr. Burpee moved for the postponement of the British Columbia section, and Mr. Laurier for the substitution of the Sault Ste. Marie route for that north of Lake Superior. Not a man changed his vote on any of these amendments. The Syndicate measure may, therefore, be virtually considered as the law, as it cannot be supposed the measure can have any difficulty in the Senate, and as to the talk about the Governor-General which we have had in some of the newspapers, that is the sheerest nonsense. If His Excellency had desired to negative the measure his time would have been at an altogether previous stage, and in that event the probability is that Sir John would not now have been First Minister. Besides it is the grossest presumption to suppose that the Governor-General is opposed to the measure, if it is not something very much worse. There may come further votes at other stages of the Bill in the House, but the battle has been fought and won, and any further opposition would be simply bootless obstruction.

There is one simple and cardinal fact, which will loom up and challenge the attention of the people in spite of all the wild haranguing and reams of writing we have had, viz., that the total sum of money which this Dominion is called upon to pay for a through Pacific Railway, in addition to what it has already paid, or pledged to pay, which is the same thing, is \$25,000,000. The land which is given would be practically valueless without the railway, and besides the Government would have given it to anybody for nothing on condition of settlement, and have grown rich by that operation. But whatever value attaches to that land, the same will also attach to the vast areas still left in the possession of the Government, and from which, both directly and indirectly, it will, in one decennial, get enough of money to recoup its total outlay. Then as to all the side objections which have been raised they will really all be favourably settled by the simple operation of commercial interest. An exemption from a customs duty may not be *per se*, a desirable thing, but in this case, it is of no practical importance, as steel rails, the principal item to be affected already come free. All the remaining exemptions have simple reference to the supplies for the road bed, countervailing advantages being promised to those persons who, under the operation of the National policy would be entitled to protection, as respects those articles on which duty would otherwise have been paid.

There were some scenes in the House and manifestations of impatience, such as slamming desks, and other noises during these protracted sittings. But nothing more than is usual in all deliberative bodies. One of the most amusing of these incidents was the disguising of himself as a stranger by Mr. Landry, the member for Montmorency; he powdered his hair and moustache, and was actually not known when the vote was called by the Assistant Clerk, the whole scene producing roars of laughter.

Some returns have been brought down during the week, but up to Friday morning the discussion of the Pacific railway measure precluded all other debate.

The Patent Act Amendment Bill was again discussed in the Senate, and many objections raised to it, with some of which Sir Alexander Campbell, who had the Bill in hand, seemed disposed to agree. It was objected that the Bill either went too far or not far enough, and that it was, in fact, in the form in which it stood, an omnibus of private bills, under the title of a Patent Amendment Act. The question is, whether a patent, which intended to be renewed, and might be, under the provisions of the existing law, should be allowed to expire, if either, by inadvertence, ignorance, failure of the post, or any other cause the application for renewal should be a day too late. Or having expired should there be any means provided to bring it to life again. If so, it would seem fair to allow this in all cases under the operation of a general bill, instead of simply to the 10 or 12 persons who would be benefitted by the bill before the Senate. This is a point, which it seems is to be considered by a special committee of the Senate. The practice of the department of agriculture at the present time, is to treat as absolutely dead, any patent which might in the forms prescribed, be renewed for a further term, if the application for any reason whatever, should happen to arrive the day after the term limited by the patent itself. This practice is, undoubtedly, in conformity to the law as it exists, and it is a question if a door can be opened which will not admit of a great many irregularities.

The House of Commons met again at the usual hour on Friday afternoon. But the members were too tired to do any serious business, and there was an early adjournment.

Many expressions of regret were manifested to-day at the news of the death of the Hon. L. Letellier de St. Just, the late Governor of Quebec, at his residence at Rivière Ouelle. Mr. Letellier was undoubtedly the ablest man of his party in the Province; and it is probable that his removal from the Government had a great deal to do with the illness which has resulted fatally. I find that the whole of these proceedings are matter for regret—I mean his own act in dismissing his Ministers as well as his removal, as, however much one might condemn his act, it was still one which came within his

function as governor. I think also that the fact of his act not having been cordially accepted by his party in Ontario was a special bitterness. But all that is past now; and his death causes general regret. I should add that Mr. Letellier was a man of infinite resource, who always watched his chance, and it was the knowledge of this fact that made the opposition to him so relentless. Men are grateful or the reverse in expectation of favours to come.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

On the front page this week we reproduce some clever sketches of Mr. Samuel Frizzels, of the smelt fishery in Boston Harbour, an important branch of the national industries of the United States.

The designs for kettledrum cards are from the Art Amateur, and will be found of assistance to those of our readers who are in search of artistic designs to copy. We shall try from time to time to re-produce similar plates for the benefit of those of our subscribers who do not take the various art papers.

OUR British Columbia sketches of last week were so well received that we offer a second series culled as before from various sources. We shall be most happy to receive similar sketches of all parts of the country from any of our friends who may possess a little taste for drawing. It is only in this way that we can expect to furnish new and interesting matter to our readers.

The state of affairs in Ireland still continues to occupy a large share of public opinion and we present our readers with a page of sketches in various parts of the country. The title of these illustrations speak for themselves and the artist has read us a deep lesson in his representation of puppets and wire-pullers; the misled peasant skulking behind a hedge to carry out the bloody purposes of the gang of selfish and unprincipled leaders who plot assassinations wholesale without daring to move a finger themselves. From such men as these may Ireland soon be delivered.

NEXT week we shall have for our readers some Toronto items, amongst them a drawing by our special artist of the Yacht Club Ball. We have arranged also for a series of illustrated sketches of life in the North-West among the Mounted Police.

TOBOGGANING AND SKATING PARTY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

During the Christmas holidays a number of guests were entertained by His Excellency at Government House, and the festivities were closed with a tobogganing and skating party.

For the benefit of those of our readers who have never been at Ottawa we will describe the arrangements at Government House, for the enjoyment of these sports. In the grounds to the north of the Hall, there is a natural depression which is taken advantage of, and on the summit of the highest hill is erected a large wooden slide, known as a "Mountain House," having flights of steps leading to the top which is somewhere near 100 feet from the ground. The "floor" of this trough is kept well covered with snow and sometimes is iced. The tobogganists having climbed to the top and having been arranged securely on the toboggan by an attendant, are let off, shooting first over the glare ice, then down, down until flying with the speed of the wind—at any rate swiftly enough to take away one's breath—the toboggan stops near the rising ground opposite, which is reached by a short stair, and another slide brings the sliders to the foot of the large "Mountain House," thus making a circuit and preventing accidents. There are two skating rinks, both uncovered, but kept in the best possible order. The new one has been laid among the tall trees, thus giving a much-to-be-desired shelter on a windy day. It is irregular in form, having a little inlet which makes it appear like a small natural lake. His Excellency has had a small log hut erected for convenience of the skaters, affording a comfortable place to put on and take off skates, &c. It is this hut that forms part of the background in the group which we reproduce in this number, which was taken by Mr. Topley on the morning of the day appointed for the tobogganing and skating party. As usual, every means was taken to make the scene that evening a charming picture. Some hundreds of Chinese lanterns were arranged in lines down each side of each slide, around each rink, and connecting the rinks, while at the new rink a number were arranged so as to spell the words "Happy New Year."

In the open space between the rinks and midway between the slides a large bonfire was erected which threw a lurid glare for a great distance, making dancing shadows on the snow. These vari-coloured lights, the ring of the skates, the swift returning sound of the toboggans, the shouts of the merry party all combined to make a scene never to be forgotten. Refreshments were served to the hundreds of guests in a style befitting the Vice Regal host.

GENTLEMEN, do you want nice-fitting, well-made garments at reasonable prices? Go to L. Robinson, practical tailor, late of London, England, 34 Beaver Hall Terrace.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

There is an open space before the miserable front which Guildhall presents to the world, and this, as I approached it, was swarming with flocks of pigeons, which alternately swept down upon the ground and rose into the air. It was strange and pretty to see this multitude of gentle, winged creatures in the very heart of London. They are not always visible, I was told; but like Gog and Magog they were an "institution." They brought at once to mind the flocks that Hilda watches from her tower window, in Hawthorne's Roman romance. But not only the pigeons favored me. There was a little crowd before the hall, and some commotion; the reason of which proved to be that on that day the Lord Mayor visited the hall in state. He was just coming out, and I saw him ascend his great, yellow, gilded coach, in which was a man wearing an enormous fur cap, which made him look like that domestic instrument whilom used for washing windows, called a pope's head. A huge straight sword was thrust out of one of the windows of the carriage. The coach started, and a tall footman in a gorgeous light blue livery sprang after it, and mounted it as it moved took his place beside another of like splendor, and his "lordship" was driven off. It seemed to me that a man of any sense must be very glad to get out of such a vehicular gimcrack as that, and to rid himself of such a preposterous companion as the man with the pope's-head. I wondered how they could sit in the coach and look at each other without laughing. Nothing could be more out of place, more incongruous, than this childish masquerading seemed to be with English common sense, and with the sobriety and true dignity befitting such an official person as the mayor of the city of London. But I was told that the people of London rather insist upon this puerile pageantry; and that the attempt of some previous Lord Mayors to mitigate the monstrosity of the "Lord Mayor's show" (although it is of very modern origin) was received with disfavor, and had sensibly diminished their popularity.—Richard Grant in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC.

The annual meeting was held in the society's hall, Place d'Armes, on Monday the 24th current, at 8 p.m., pursuant to notice, when there was a fair attendance of the officers and members of the society. The chair was occupied by the President, Dr. H. H. Miles, who, the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting having been dispensed with, as these were given in the recently issued "Transactions," No. 1, Vol. 1, 1880, presented a brief report of the society's affairs and of what had occurred in the Geographical World, since the month of May, 1880.

The Society, it was stated, had now convenient quarters of its own in Place d'Armes, and hoped to elicit the sympathy and support of its members, and of the public generally, by means of the more ample provision which had been made in the way of accommodation, and by the increased opportunities afforded for consulting its collection of charts and standard Geographical works, forming the nucleus of its library. The motto of the Society, embodied in the words: "To know our territorial habitation; the Soil is to the nation which inhabits it what the body is to the soul by which it is animated," was cited, as well as the main objects of the Society.

The President stated, that, had such a Society been founded 25 or 30 years ago, in Canada, and fostered, like other Associations by moderate grants of money from the public chest, there would not now exist the dearth of reliable information concerning the regions between the Northern parts of old Canada and the Western Coasts of North America, which really did exist, as shown in the recent debates in the Canadian House of Commons, and which had been the occasion of the expenditure of millions of the public money without, as alleged, equivalent benefit.

The following are the officers of the Society for 1881:

- President—Dr. H. H. Miles, re-elected.
- Vice-Presidents—T. Ledrait, E. T. Fletcher, S. Lesage, Esqs.
- Corresponding-Secretaries, English—W. C. Seaton, Esq.; French, M. Chouinard.
- Assistant-Secretaries, English—Col. Colfer; French, M. Le Vasseur.
- Recording-Secretary—Crawford Lindsay, re-elected.
- Assistant Do.—M. Fremont.
- Treasurer—L. P. Siris, Esq., N. P., re-elected.
- Librarian—M. P. de Cazes.
- Additional members of the Council:—Hon. P. Fortin, M.P., re-elected; Hon. G. Ouimet, Hon. H. G. Joly, M.P.P.; F. Sims, Esq., Treasurer Department; Dr. Dionne, Assistant Do.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

AMBROISE THOMAS is reported to be engaged in the composition of an opera, written expressly for Mlle. Van Zandt, the libretto of which is taken from "Le Mariage de Loti."

MR. EDWIN BOOTH appeared as Iago at the Princess' Theatre recently to a house of exactly nineteen persons. The terrible storm without was, however, responsible for the meagreness of the audience.

MISS EMMA NEVADA, a young American girl from California, obtained a signal success in Florence, where, at a recent performance, "the audience rose in a mass and saluted the wonderful singer with screams and shouts of approbation. Miss Nevada is with sixteen years old. Her voice is a light soprano, reaching without difficulty the *ut* and *fa* in alt.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

DISASTROUS rains and floods continue in the south of Spain.

THE Siemens electric railway in Berlin is to be opened on the 1st prox.

THE Russians have carried the Turcoman positions at Gooktepe after a desperate encounter.

GERMAN agriculturists are crying out about the importation of American productions.

MR. GLADSTONE says the rumour as to his being about to accept a peerage is groundless.

THE jury in the trial of the Irish traversers have been discharged, being unable to agree.

HANLAN is obliged to migrate to Southampton for practice, on account of the quantity of ice in the Thames.

GREAT anxiety is felt in St. Petersburg concerning General Skobeloff's forces at Gooktepe.

THE troop ship *Euphrates* with reinforcements to the number of 1,300 on board, has reached Durban.

THE cotton trade in Russia is in such a depressed condition that the mills are working on short time or closing down altogether.

ON account of apprehended Fenian trouble, the War Office has ordered the armory at the Tower of London to be closed to the public.

SIR ALEXANDER GALT read an interesting paper on the "Future of Canada," in the Royal Colonial Institute rooms recently.

ALL the Powers have accepted the Sultan's proposal to re-open negotiations on the Greek question at the Turkish capital.

NEWS of alarming preparations in Chinese Manchuria towards the Siberian frontier, has been received at St. Petersburg.

THE colliers' strike in the North of England is spreading so rapidly that a coal famine is feared unless the masters and colliers come to terms.

THE Russians on the 24th inst., captured Gooktepe and Dengiltepe after a desperate engagement, and enormous loss to the Turcomans.

TRAVEL is seriously impeded in England by the heavy snow, and several wrecks of trains are reported. The snowfall in France has also been very heavy, while in Spain great damage has been done.

THE Cape mail steamer "Dunrobin Castle," while proceeding to sea, was so disabled by floating ice near Gravesend that she was compelled to put back and transfer her mails and passengers to another vessel.

THE Home Rulers kept up the debate on Mr. Forster's Bill in the Imperial Parliament till 2 p.m. the next day, when Mr. Gladstone's motion to give precedence to the bill was carried by 251 to 83.

A FORT BUFORD despatch says Sitting Bull has formally surrendered himself to the Canadian authorities, requesting to be sent under an escort of the North-West Mounted Police to Buford, where he is prepared to surrender to Major Brotherton.

LARGEST BOOK PUBLISHED.—The new edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary just issued, is believed to be, in the quantity of matter it contains, by far the largest volume published. It now contains about 118,000 words defined, and nearly 15,000 words and meanings not found in any other one dictionary. The Biographical Dictionary, just added, supplies a want long felt by the reader and student, in giving the desired information so briefly. Never was any one volume so complete an aid in getting an education.

THE COLOUR OF CLOTHES.—The colour of clothes is not a matter of indifference. White and light-coloured clothes reflects the heat, whilst black and dark-coloured materials absorb the heat; hence it is that in summer we wear light-coloured dresses. But, after all, light colours are really best at all seasons; for though black and dark substances absorb heat best, they also radiate or give it off soonest. There is no doubt that white clothing retains the heat of the body longer than dark clothing. The coachman will tell you that his white duffel coat is warmer in winter and cooler in summer than any other kind of coat, and the brewer's drayman will wear his white stocks all the year round. The true reason for our preference of dark-coloured clothing in winter and during bad weather is economy. It is a question of soap and washing, not of comfort, which decides us to choose these colours in materials which do not bear constant washing, such as wool and silk, which show the dirt least, and retain their colour longest. In the summer, when ladies wear linen and cotton fabrics which do not suffer in the wash tub, they can indulge in their love of white and delicate tints of colour.

BENEFACTORS.

When a board of eminent physicians and chemists announced the discovery that by combining some well known valuable remedies, the most wonderful medicine was produced, which would cure such a wide range of diseases that most all other remedies could be dispensed with, many were sceptical, but proof of its merits by actual trial has dispelled all doubts and to-day the discoverers of that great medicine, HOP BITTERS, are honoured and blessed by all as benefactors.