

MONTREAL THE METROPOLIS

daily papers in Montreal. The keynote of the political policy which was struck by the new proprietors, and which led to the largest consequences, was total abandonment of all the old exciting cries as things dead and buried, and relating to an utterly impossible position after the answer of the Imperial Government to the Rebellion Losses petition to the Queen. It further happened at that time that Mr. George Etienne Cartier, a young man who had become a figure at political meetings although he had not then obtained Ministerial rank, had sympathy with the views then expressed by THE GAZETTE. The natural consequence was the forming of a warm and lasting friendship between him and the new conductors. It was understood that the cry of both should be railroads and progress, and the extending and opening up of all possible channels of intercourse, giving responsible Government full swing, with systematic cultivation of feelings of amity among all classes of the population. It may be mentioned as a fact in this connection that Mr. George Brown, then leader of the Ontario grits, earnestly urged the new conductors of THE GAZETTE, at a meeting in their office, to be consistent with its past, and join in his crusade of Protestant domination, but they answered in substance: "The French and the English had to live together side by side, and that peace, progress, and railroads were better than strife which, however goodly it might seem to be in the eyes of a partisan, would prove to be like the apples of the Dead Sea—sand in the mouth."

The Confederation of the British North American provinces, which grew out of the political deadlock in the old provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, was warmly advocated by THE GAZETTE, the late Col. Chamberlain, when co-editor of the paper, making the subject a special study and promoting the idea with tongue and pen. It may be stated, also, that THE GAZETTE was the first paper in Canada to start the agitation for the acquisition of the Hudson Bay Company's territory in the Northwest. That commenced in this way: Mr. A. R. Roche, then an officer of the Crown Lands Department, wrote for its columns a series of long and very elaborate communications setting forth the suitabilities and the capabilities of the Northwest for European settlement. He described the climatology and physical features of those vast areas, and produced evidence for every important statement made from the published writings of the Hudson's Bay authorities. THE GAZETTE strenuously maintained that these statements had an importance and promise for Canada not to be overlooked by Government and Parliament. At the commencement of the publication of these letters the influence of the Hudson's Bay Co. was strongly exerted to stop them. It was declared to the conductors of the paper that the whole story was a myth, and that the country was not fit for European settlement, but without avail; and it is worthy of note that in later years one of the most active and influential men in pro-

moting the settlement of the Northwest, and in opening up communication with it by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was Mr. Donald A. Smith, Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company, now Lord Strathcona, chairman of that Company. While THE GAZETTE was under the direction of Messrs. Lowe & Chamberlain, it had among its contributors some of the best writers of the day, such as Mr. T. K. Ramsay, after Judge, Judge Badgley, Canon Gilson, Thos. D'Arcy McGee, T. S. Brown, Alex. Morris, Joel C. Baker, William Little, W. C. Mack, Mr. Benjamin, M. P., and others. The late Mr. Alfred Perry made his first mark in his letters to THE GAZETTE on the Paris Exhibition, and Mr. Thos. White for a period was its parliamentary correspondent. Other correspondents before and after 1870 were Hon. John Young, Mr. William Workman, and Mr. Henry Lyman. In 1867 the Montreal Printing and Publishing Company was formed to acquire the property of THE GAZETTE, Mr. John Lowe becoming managing director. In 1870 he retired to become secretary, and afterwards deputy minister, of the Department of Agriculture, and the Company in that year transferred the paper and plant to the firm of T. & R. White, who in January, 1871, removed THE GAZETTE to the premises on the corner of St. Francois Xavier and Craig Streets, at which, for upwards of thirty-six years, it continued to be published. The new proprietors, who had come from Hamilton, where they owned "The Spectator," were born and educated at Montreal, so that they were no strangers to the city. They brought to their task a ripe experience in journalism. It was no small advantage to them that they both knew and were known in Ontario and Quebec, and their politics were those of the paper they had acquired. Mr. Thomas White assumed the editorial chair, while his brother, Mr. Richard White, took the business management. The period was a critical time for Montreal, and Mr. Thomas White found ample scope for his energies. The railway policy that preceded the inception of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the business depression which reached its culmination in 1879, not only furnished him with problems to solve but opened out fresh avenues of public service. His share in the work of the Montreal and Dominion Boards of Trade is on record in its due place. He also took a prominent part in local works of sanitation, medical charity, education, religion (in connection with the Church of England Synods), and in fact in every movement that tended to benefit the country or the city, and his character as a public benefactor reacted on the paper he directed. He was passionately fond of politics and possessed exceptional aptitude for public life. In his day there was no better platform speaker in Canada, and his services as a speaker on all sorts of occasions and at all kinds of gatherings were in constant demand. Although a candidate for the Ontario Legislature in 1867, when thirty-seven years of age, and subsequently a candidate for the House of Commons in Prescott county and twice in Montreal, it was not until 1878 that he succeeded in entering