

THE PRUSSIAN ADVANCE INTO FRANCE.

The reverses to French arms chronicled by us last week appear to have been fully as serious as then represented; and the Prussians have followed up their succession of victories by pressing boldly forward on the line to Paris. The fatal mistake of the French army, resulting either from General LeBoeuf's incapacity, or Napoleon's wrong-headedness, in the breaking of their lines, had not been repaired up to Tuesday last; so that Gen. McMahon, driven first from Woerth, or, as he calls it, Buschweiler, to Nancy, and next compelled to fall back upon Toul, had not been able to restore communication with French headquarters. Further details report, however, that he and his command fought splendidly. They were only thirty-five thousand against 100,000, or, as some accounts say, 140,000 men, thus proving the immense superiority of Prussian over French tactics. And even many of these 35,000 men were for hours without ammunition, when they made several bayonet charges, but were of course mowed down like grass. For such blundering where everything was thought to have been wisely and securely ordered for a march into Prussian territory, the Emperor has virtually acknowledged that somebody should be blamed, and accordingly he has already sacrificed two scape-goats—Ollivier and LeBoeuf—to appease the demon of popular indignation. If this offering has not met with all the success anticipated, it has at least furnished a measure of diversion to public thought, deserving of the Emperor's grateful appreciation in view of the still more startling events which have since transpired.

The reverses of the French necessitated a retreat of the main army upon Metz, and the Prussians continued to follow up their advances with remarkable celerity. Having isolated Strasbourg and temporarily hemmed in Gen. McMahon at Toul, they pushed forward their lines, and gave battle to the French on Sunday under the very walls of the French headquarters. The engagement was long, fierce, and bloody, and such as may be called a drawn battle, the Prussians having retreated to their lines, and the French to the shelter of their fortifications. Of course both sides claim the victory. On Monday it was reported from Verdun, a fortified town about thirty miles west of Metz, on the line to Paris, that cannonading had been heard all day between Metz and Verdun, that a great battle had been fought and that the Prussians had lost forty thousand men. But the news has not been confirmed at the time we write, both sides being exceedingly reticent towards the public, and newspaper correspondents rigidly excluded from the lines.

It is evident that, since the reverses on the Rhine frontier on the 5th and 6th, the French have been endeavouring to fall back behind Metz—probably to retreat upon Châlons—and there reorganize and strengthen their army for another advance. On the other hand, the Prussians have, with great alacrity, followed them up, until finding them crossing the Moselle at Metz on Saturday night, the second series of engagements has taken place, extending westward of Metz on the road to Paris. In the absence of reliable accounts of Monday's fighting, it would be idle to speculate. But a glance at the map will show that the Prussians are in the heart of their enemies, being almost in the midst of a circle of French fortified positions. However, while they hold Pont à Mousson, their line of retreat is secured, and it seems undoubted, (always assuming that he did not gain an overwhelming victory on Monday) that Marshal Bazaine's design is to pursue his retreat to Châlons, and act on the defensive until France really gets ready for the war on which she so eagerly entered.

The progress of the Prussians, though endangering the Imperial dynasty, has undoubtedly had the effect of uniting all France, and making the war one between the nations rather than between the Governments. The rage and excitement which prevailed last week in Paris, on the war question, have settled down to a firm determination to avenge defeat, though political agitation and republican conspiracy appear to be actively at work. Throughout Germany, it need scarcely be said that the feeling is one of unbounded enthusiasm; troops are pouring in daily, and crossing the French border. Reliable accounts place the Prussian "army of occupation" on French soil at 570,000 men, which, it is said, a few days would swell to a million. Meantime, the aim of the French commander is undoubtedly to secure a retreat at as little cost as possible, to form a junction with the army of 200,000 men at Châlons under Gen. Trochu. This it is the object of the Prussians to prevent, hence their forcing the gauge of battle upon Marshal Bazaine in the neighbourhood of Metz. The rapidity of the Prussian advance, and the frequency with which they compel the retreating foe to engage in battle, reminds one of the famous six weeks' campaign of 1866, during which the Prussians inscribed so many victories on their banners; but the present struggle is likely to prove much longer, and far more costly to whoever may win it.

ACCIDENT AT BARRON'S BUILDINGS, MONTREAL.

A terrible accident, occasioned by carelessness, and terminating fatally for two labourers, occurred last Wednesday fortnight in one of the new stores now in process of construction on St. James street, near to the Bank of British North America. A scaffolding, on which a winch was placed for the purpose of hoisting stones, gave way, and five men were precipitated about 25 feet into the storey below. Two of the unfortunates, named Juteau and Labelle, fell among the stones, which had been used for steadying the winch. Labelle appears to have lived but a short time after his fall, probably not more than twenty minutes. Juteau, who bled profusely from wounds about the face and head, only expired as he was being taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. Of the other three sufferers, a person named Michaud received the severest injuries. He was conscious, however, and was conveyed to his home in a carriage. Robert and Bernier received some contusions, but both were able to walk to their homes. The men Juteau and Labelle were both married and left families. The manner in which the accident occurred appears to have been as follows:—The men attended to a winch which was placed at the back of the building at its eastern end on the cross beams of the second storey. A rope passed from the winch to a pulley suspended in a triangle at the front of the building, and was used for drawing up stones. At the time the accident occurred, the five men were turning the crank of the winch to raise a large stone at the front. No one was nearer than the men at the front, and as they were busy watching the stone which was coming up, their first intimation of the accident was the sound of crashing timber, and the cries of the poor sufferers as they fell. It seems probable that the winch, which was well weighted, slipped, and as it did so, overturned some of the three inch planks, which were set upon edge and braced with cross braces between each two planks. The weight of the winch, and of the stones put upon it to steady it, coming suddenly upon the planks, they broke like pipe stems, and men and all tumbled into the flat beneath. It came out in the evidence given at the inquest that the beams on which the winch was placed had not been bricked in at either end, and were thus unfit to bear the weight of the heavy instrument. After a long deliberation the jury were unable to agree on a verdict, five being of opinion that Juteau and Labelle were killed accidentally, and the remainder holding that the accident was due to carelessness on the part of the contractors, Messrs. Plante and Bourgoin, and bringing in a partial verdict of manslaughter. It is understood that the Coroner has deposited the papers connected with the matter in the hands of the Crown authorities.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual match of the Quebec Provincial Association took place at Point St. Charles during the first week of the present month. The meeting was opened on Tuesday morning, the 2nd, when the Opening Match and the Maiden Stakes were shot for. The third competition, the Snider Championship, was commenced but was postponed until the following day. The first two prizes in each of the first two matches were taken respectively by Sergt. Adams, 51st Batt., and Sergt. Beers, M. G. A., and Private White, G. T. R., and Sergt. Inwood, H. M. 60th Rifles. The meeting was continued on Wednesday. The third match was continued, but not being terminated by twelve o'clock, it was relinquished, and the grand match of the meeting, the Battalion match, was taken up. This match was to be competed for by five officers, non-commissioned officers and men of any Volunteer Regiment in the Province of Quebec, having affiliated. The first prize was the Dominion Provincial Cup, valued at \$800, to be won twice in three years before becoming the property of any one battalion. The following were the regiments competing, in order of scores:—1st prize, 2nd Battalion G. T. R. Rifles; 2nd, 5th Battalion, "Royals"; 3rd, 54th (Richmond) Battalion; 1st Battalion, G. T. R. Rifles; 51st, Hemmingford Rangers; 3rd Battalion, Victoria Rifles; 50th, Huntingdon Borderers; 8th Battalion, Stadacona Rifles; Montreal Garrison Artillery; 52nd, Bedford Battalion; 60th Battalion; 1st, Prince of Wales Rifles; 1st Brigade, G. T. R. Artillery; 21st, Richelieu Light Infantry; Three Rivers Battalion; 64th Battalion. The first prize for the highest individual score was taken by Quarter-Master Thomas, 54th Batt., who made 46 points; the second by Ensign Frihey, 2nd Batt. G. T. R. Rifles, 44 points. The remaining competitions were fired off on the three following days, the meeting terminating on Saturday with the Consolation Match.

The sketch given on another page was taken by our artist during the firing in Competition V., the Battalion match.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WAR.

THE SCENE IN THE SENATE.

When the French Government made known its intention of declaring war against Prussia, the scene in the Senate was of the most exciting nature. The seats in the Chamber on this day (the 15th ult.) were filled, not a senator was wanting in his place, and the strangers' galleries were crowded to their utmost capacity. The whole assembly wore an air of anxious expectation and eager impatience. At a quarter past one the President took the chair, and after routine business had been transacted, M. de Gramont, amid a breathless silence, mounted the rostrum. He recited briefly the events which had led to the present situation, and defended the course pursued by France throughout the whole of the negotiations. During his speech he was frequently interrupted by exclamations of surprise and astonishment, which culminated in a general outburst of indignation when he read a statement of the refusal of King William to give a promise not hereafter, at any time, to sanction the acceptance of the Crown of Spain by Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern. "In such circumstances," said the speaker, "to make further attempts at conciliation would be to evince a want of dignity and an imprudence. We have not neglected anything to avoid war, and we must now prepare to sustain that which is offered us, leaving to each party his own responsibility. Yesterday we called out our reserves, and with your co-operation we will at once adopt such measures as are necessary to protect the interests, the security, and the honour of France." This announcement was received with loud cheering, the Senators rising on their seats with cries of "Vive la France!" "Vive l'Empereur!"

As soon as the excitement had somewhat subsided, M. Rouher, the President of the Senate, rose. "By its noble

enthusiasm," he said, "the Senate has evinced its approbation of the course taken by the Government. Its emotion is for us an earnest of the feeling of the country. We have now but one thing to do, to trust on God and on our courage for the triumph of the cause of France." The session was then adjourned as a mark of sympathy and appreciation of the conduct of the Emperor.

LEAVING FOR THE FRONTIER.

The same evening large detachments of troops were sent off to the frontier. An immense crowd had assembled at the terminus of the Eastern Railway to witness the departure of the soldiers, who, as they marched through the streets, were greeted with loud cries of *Vive l'Empereur*, "to Berlin!" "down with Prussia!" As the troops entered the station the enthusiasm reached its height. The crowd outside sung the Marseillaise, now the national hymn of France, the "Chant du Départ" and "Mourir pour la Patrie." Even after the train bearing the troops had left, the crowd still hung about the station, and until two o'clock that night the streets and boulevards were crowded.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE AT STRASBURG.

The day following the declaration of war, the bridge of boats which has so long connected Strasbourg with Kehl, the Bado fortress on the other side of the Rhine, was dismantled. The work was commenced at mid-day by the Bades, who completely took to pieces their share of the bridge; and as half a bridge could be of no use, the French quickly followed suit, and by sunset nothing was left of the bridge except the ice-schield.

Some curious stories are told of this boat bridge. Half of which was French property, and the other half the property of Baden. A dividing line showed where the two territories meet, and up to this line the sentries on either side would stolidly march, gaze at each other as they met, and without interchanging a syllable, or showing the slightest sign of recognition, resume their beat. One night the two garrisons were aroused by a cry of "to arms;" they turned out in all haste, and on arriving at the bridge found that the French sentinel had mistaken the boundary in the darkness, and incautiously put his foot over the dividing line, whereupon the German had immediately raised the alarm.

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.

In Prussia every individual is bound to serve in the army. To be a Prussian means being a soldier, and from the age of twenty to forty every citizen of the Fatherland must take his place in the ranks. These twenty years of compulsory service are thus divided:—Three years of active service in the regular army, five in the reserve, four in the first class of the Landwehr, and eight in the second. But again, besides the Landwehr, and taking rank after it, is another force, the Landsturm, that may be called into action in case of necessity, and is raised by means of a general levy. The members of this corps are invariably under twenty or over forty. The regular army is composed of the royal guard and of eight provincial corps. The guard consists of two divisions of infantry, of two brigades each, and one division of cavalry of two brigades. The eight provincial corps are each divided into two infantry divisions with two brigades each, and one brigade of cavalry. Thus the Prussian army consists of four brigades of infantry of the guard and thirty-two brigades of the line; two brigades of cavalry of the guard, and sixteen of the line. To each of the eight *corps d'armée* are attached a brigade of artillery and a battalion of chasseurs; and, in the case of the guards, a battalion of carabineers, a battalion of pioneers, and a battalion of the military train. When on a war footing the army therefore includes:—

INFANTRY.	
9 regiments, 27 battalions of guards	27,451
72 regiments, 216 battalions of the line	218,088
10 battalions of chasseurs	10,060
	355,599
CAVALRY.	
48 regiments (guards and line)	30,289
Landwehr cavalry, 12 regiments	37,561
	67,850
ARTILLERY.	
153 batteries, 864 guns	28,091
PIONEERS.	
9 battalions, 36 companies	5,454
MILITARY TRAIN.	
18 battalions, 36 companies	30,200
Making a total of 350,905 men and 864 guns.	

Besides this force, which is liable to be called out at any moment, there are two other branches of the service, the depot force and the garrison force; the latter consisting of 120,716 infantry, 5,700 cavalry, 28,247 artillery, and 4,134 pioneers; and the former of 123,923 men, and 144 guns. The grand total of the different branches of the service thus reaches 643,625, of which 10,000 are officers. The reserve consists of some 320,000 men, making a total of 963,625 men. This computation does not include the forces of the allied German States.

The following is the new French Ministry formed on the downfall of the Ollivier Cabinet:—Count Palikao, Minister of War; De La Tour D'Auvergne, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Henri Chevreau, Minister of the Interior; Grandperret, Minister of Justice; De Genouilly, Minister of Marine; Pierre Magne, Minister of Finance; Jerome David, Minister of Public Works; Jules Brame, Minister of Public Instruction; Ineument Dernois, Minister of Commerce; Busson Billault, President of Council of State.

The *Charivari*, in one of its late numbers, has an amusing cartoon. Two outposts, a Prussian and a Zouave, are indulging in a friendly conversation. The Zouave asks, "Berlin a pretty place?"—"And Paris?" asks the Prussian.—"Hm," returns the other, "is that any of your business, you're not going there."