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March 4th, 1887.

Commercial Union.

The Hamilton Spectator has the following on the subject:—

Commercial union between the two countries, in the shape it has assumed, is impossible; it is out of the question, and is not more likely to be adopted by the United States than Canada. The manufacturers of the United States were not in favor of the treaty negotiated by Mr. Brown, and their influence may have killed it. But in its present guise it could never be consummated. If the products of the countries could also pass the barriers it might be managed, but such a commercial union would entail all sorts of deception. In spite of the understanding that English goods were to be excluded from the privileges enjoyed by Canadian products...

"The tariff of Canada cannot be so adjusted as to admit of free trade between her and the United States while England is shut out from our market. This is what commercial union with the United States would mean, and that will never occur while Canada is a part of England. We are liberty to become a part of the United States. If we were un-animously in favor of annexation I do not think England would attempt to restrain us, but we would not be un-announced; there would be two parties, one loyal to England and one in favor of annexation. The usual result would follow. If the country were of one mind there would be no interference, but if there were loyalists who objected to annexation England would do as she always has done, come to their rescue and undertake their quarrel. If the United States saw fit to dis-annexate, like Canada, in favor of England, then commercial union might be possible; but that will not be. I do not think, either that Congress will adopt the measure introduced by Mr. Batorworth, that it will be seriously considered, or cut any considerable figure. Next year the two great political parties of the United States will nominate their candidates for the Presidency. I am certain that the platform of neither party will contain a commercial union plank. Neither party will appeal to the voters on that issue. There may be many people in the United States who favor commercial union just as there are people in Canada who favor annexation, but they are widely scattered, and upon such a platform could not reach office. There may be annexationists in the House of Commons, but they could never be elected to Parliament as annexationists; they have never attempted it, and annexation will not come to pass in my time, no, not in fifty years. Many changes may occur in such a period. It is impossible to forecast the course of the United States fifty years hence, but the signs of the times are such as do not nourish the desire in Canada for annexation. There is a feeling here that a conflict is impending there between the elements of order and disorder, the law and the have-nots. The foreign element of ignorance and disorder is obtaining great strength there, and yearly becoming more aggressive. Canada is not troubled in this way; her institutions or existence is not menaced; her life is peaceful and contented prosperous."

"Under her national policy of protection her manufacturers have been nurtured. The example was taken from the policy of the United States. The latter's people believe in the virtues of a protective tariff, and neither of her political parties will advocate free trade with the United States. They may be able to do so some day, but the dawn of that day is not visible. It is well for the two countries to be on friendly terms, but until conditions have changed, Canada will not be able to compete on equal terms with the United States, and the latter, powerful as she is, is not willing to try conclusions on equal terms, from a commercial standpoint, with England. Then return to the question of annexation, there is room on this continent for both countries. The severance of territory, like that of political parties, is for the benefit of peoples and parties; it brings the brightest minds to the front and is productive of mental and physical energy. Such has been the experience of Rome declined after becoming mistress of the world; to struggle for. The brightest period in the history of Greece was when she was divided into small States. When Alexander of Macedon conquered all Greece the country sank into lethargy. No one will argue that it would have been for the benefit of Europe if Napoleon had succeeded in his scheme of conquest; the last of excellence would have become a French priest. Why should the result be different if the United States were to adopt a policy of conquest or widespread annexation? If Canada were annexed, the next step would be to conquer or acquire Mexico, and the country would in time become an English-speaking China, unwieldy in extent, and without the incentive that at present exists to compete with her neighbors."

"Canada's policy is not restrictive. We want reciprocity with the United States on terms that will injure neither. We are anxious to extend our commercial relations with other countries. We expect by treaty to increase our trade intercourse with Cuba and with Spain, and England is willing that Canada should admit some of Spain's products at a lower rate than she like those of the United States, but not in favor of commercial union when it has been thoroughly explained and understood. I understand that the farmers of Ontario seem to favor it, but they see in it only a market for their products. They do not understand that such a market could only be obtained at the expense of the market furnished by our manufacturers. The question is only a couple of months old yet; it has not been sufficiently discussed and the farmers have heard but one side when all the consequences of commercial union are explained to them. Some parts of the Dominion will undoubtedly be more in favor of it than others, and doubtless a strong sentiment in its favor might be engendered in some of the Maritime provinces, but there is not possibility of its consummation. To reciprocity such as I have stated Canada would not object, would gladly agree upon, and fuller intercourse might become agreeable when the conditions of the two countries had become more equalized, but at present commercial union is not a possibility. I think it is better for all concerned that there should be two nations on this continent with different systems, and to an extent different interests, each tending to the other, and with such ground for an occasional squabble between us as the fisheries offer."

STANLEY STEELE was arraigned at Antigonish, on three indictments and pleaded guilty to two, namely breach of prison and assault with intent to rob the Merchant's Bank of Halifax. He pleaded not guilty to the indictment for wounding with intent to murder.

THE WEEK'S DOINGS.

Friday, June 17, 1887.

TO THE READERS OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS.

FRIENDS,—At the present crisis it becomes necessary that I address a few words to you. Since the establishment of this paper there has never been a period of such deep depression in trade as that through which we have recently passed. The result of such hard times is felt in every branch of trade, and by every individual. It is useless to shut our eyes to the fact that our business has been very seriously affected by it. During the years in which THE WEEK'S DOINGS has been issued we have always done our best to advance the welfare of everything that would benefit our beloved country. We yield to no one in the matter of patriotism; and we have strongly advocated the adoption of such measures as should be advantageous to all. The Dominion has just passed through a struggle which will to all time be looked upon as a most important one. It was a struggle, we may say, for commercial liberty; a contest in which the Liberal Conservative party contended that Canada should be for Canadians, that we should develop our own industries first. In pursuance of this policy we have given special attention to its application to the Iron Industry. We have repeatedly shown that the only way to develop this very important resource of our country would be to follow the example set by the United States, and build around it a high protection wall, so as to keep at home our men and money to manufacture the iron that we need, and which our country can produce in very large quantities.

We rejoice in seeing the fulfillment of our hopes. We are glad to have been permitted to take a part in this agitation which has reached such a successful culmination, and to know that the WEEK'S DOINGS has taken a share in producing such a result. If we are not mistaken, this country—and in a special way this country—is now entering upon an era of prosperity in which the farmer, the Mechanic, the laborer, the Merchant, and the manufacturer will be able to declare annual dividends—share and share alike. Upon such an era we are now entering, and its advent should be hailed with devout gratitude—under a kind Providence—to those who rule over the destinies of this Dominion, and to those who have assisted them in their statesmanship-like policy.

Our voice has ever been on the side of sound morality—not advocating that mendacious sentimentality which so often hinders the cause it seeks to build up, but that sturdy determined adherence to those principles which are founded upon something higher, viz., the Divine teachings. We have always considered it a high privilege to be associated with those who are endeavoring to elevate the moral tone of the community. Whether or not this paper shall be continued will depend on circumstances. We will regret to be compelled to suspend operations. We need not go into details as to the cause, if it continues under other management, we wish it every success. We hope it will follow in lines which we have from time to time indicated, and we shall look forward to the time when we shall again resume the quill, and advocate our country's interests.

The Guardian is constantly rolling up a large score of inconsistencies. A few days ago the editor was interviewed in Boston relative to Wm. O'Brien's visit to Canada. The substance of that interview was that Canada cared nothing whatever about Lord Lansdowne. The impression given the representative of the Boston Press in Canada was that we in Canada were in no way loyal or devoted to England, her Queen or the representative of "gracious majesty." This week's issue of the above named journal appears to take a great interest in the manufacture of iron in England. It seems to manifest a much deeper interest in the iron industry of England, than that of Canada. The tariff that places a duty on English iron is denounced. The tears are about to flow for the poor, down-trodden and much injured iron-manufacturer of the old country.

Mr. Blake Retires.

In our issue of March 11th we ventured the opinion that Mr. Blake would soon retire from the leadership of the Grit Party of Canada. We based our conjecture on two points (1) from Mr. Blake's own previous utterances and (2) from the fact that as soon as the elections were over his physical constitution was so badly exhausted as to require rest, and change of climate. The opposition papers denied the statement, but it now seems that we were not far astray in our prediction. We incline to the opinion that had he consulted his own feelings, he would have retired at the opening of the session, but his friends pressed him into service. He has, however, been unable to occupy the position until the close of the session, and has actually resigned and left Ottawa. His flowery speeches will be much missed in the House of Commons during the remainder of the session. Doubtless the Gov't regret that he has been compelled to withdraw from the house for a time, as he has wonderfully assisted in keeping the present administration in power. The moves he has made on the political chess-board have all, of late, had that tendency. The people of Canada are to be congratulated that they did not return Mr. Blake and his followers to power at the late contest, as if Mr. Blake is physically unable to discharge the duties of leader of the opposition, how much less could he be expected to take charge of a department and lead a government. And a Grit government at Ottawa with Mr. Blake as leader would be a serious calamity for Canada, but without him it would be ten-fold more serious. Fortunately Canada has been saved from such a humiliating position as that of having her affairs committed to a party without a leader.

The Guardian in referring to our editorial makes use of a few expressions that seem hardly in keeping with the general tone of the utterances of the legal or fighting editor of that journal. Here is an example: "While we believe it would have been in the interests of justice and in the best interests of pure journalism had the jury found Mr. Biggby guilty, we are not inclined to find fault with the result." When the Guardian, a sheet the principal object of whose existence seems to be to slander and malign the character of Hon. A. W. McLELLAN and other honorable gentlemen; a sheet that continually resorts to the lowest kinds of abuse, talks about the interests of pure journalism the readers are given another example of the glaring inconsistencies of that paper. The managing ring knows not the import of the words "pure journalism." They are not contained in their vocabulary.

The Guardian also thinks that Mr. McLellan has come through the trial with an unimpaired reputation. It is just questionable if he has added very much lustre to his temporary record by the trial. One thing is pretty evident and that is he failed to convince nine of the twelve men on the jury of his immaculate purity.

Methodist Conference.

The Rev. C. Jost opened the conference this morning at nine o'clock. Devotional exercises and the Lord's Supper occupied the first hour. Rev. J. Gags of Yarmouth was then elected president, with Rev. A. D. Morton Secretary. Retiring president addressing the Conference said our ministerial ranks have remained unbroken during the year and substantial prosperity has attended our labors, with devout thanksgiving to God we report an increase of 800 in our membership. Routine business occupied the remainder of the day. In the evening a grand Missionary Meeting was held when earnest, eloquent addresses were delivered by Rev. Hickey, Hookin and Coffin.

Rev. J. A. Mosher assumes Supremacy relation this year. The following changes take place in this District. Truro—Rev. E. B. Moore. Onslow—Rev. J. W. Howie. Middle Musquodoboit—Rev. D. Hickey. Musquodoboit Harbor—Rev. H. Duane. Maitland—Rev. J. H. Davis.

THE "INNOCENTS ABROAD."

Press Excursion to Boston via Yarmouth! (CONTINUED.)

Grand Pro of to-day is one of the most charming villages of this Province. Its situation is most picturesque. Fine houses, surrounded by beautiful orchards, and sometimes almost concealed from sight by foliage, are seen on every side. The comfortable looking houses together with the "vast marshes stretching to the eastward" give the traveler the idea that this is a wealthy section of the country and so it is. But our conductor shouts "all on board," and the beauties of Grand Pro are soon exchanged for the no less attractive ones of WOLFVILLE.

This town is of especial interest to our party as it is the seat of Acadia Seminary, Academy and College. As well as that of the leading County Paper of Kings—the Acadia. These institutions of learning are situated on a lofty eminence overlooking the other portions of the town and viewed from the train present a very stately appearance. We were in hopes that at this point we would be joined by one of the editors of the Acadia but were disappointed. We have since learned that the pressure of important business prevented a representative of this enterprising weekly being present. A fine new building is in course of construction on the college grounds. On enquiry we learned that it was a boarding hall for the Academy students. Messrs. Rhodes, Carry & Co., of Amherst, have the contract to build it. When this is completed it will make the fourth valuable building belonging to these institutions. Leaving the classic grounds of Wolfville behind seven miles are soon passed over and

KENTVILLE is reached. This is also a pretty little town. It is the headquarters of the W. & A. Ry. Co. Their workshops are also here. Had this Railway Co. selected some other place for their offices, workshops, etc., it is very certain that Kentville would not be as important a place as it is, although the shire-town of one of the most fruitful and richest counties in this Province. A short stop is here made for refreshments and then on again. Coldbrook, Cambridge and Waterville are quickly left behind. Benwick—a neat little village—disinclined for its beautiful company. Aylesford with its sandy plains and Kingston are passed before we come to Wilmot—a point that has also been poetically described. The famous Spa Springs whose waters are supposed to be a remedy for all the ills to which flesh is heir, are only a few miles from here. We pass on to Middleton the point of departure for the "Nicotax and Atlantic Railway," which exists to day in the imagination of some of our political men. The rich deposits of iron ore, of which we have heard, lie only a short distance from Middleton. It is quite possible that those mines may be yet worked. The great drawback to the enterprise is the want of fuel, but doubtless that obstacle will be overcome. Traces of gold have also been discovered in this locality. Some nine miles farther on than Middleton, we hear our conductor call out "Psalms, Nova Scotia." We presume he does this in order that the stanger may make no mistake. It is quite a pretty place, yet we think that it did not receive its name on account of possessing any greater charms than many other villages which lie along this line of railway. Bridgetown and about half past two P. M. we enter the old and interesting town of Annapolis. There are several points of interest in this town, which we are very anxious to see, but are informed that we will not be able to inspect them, until we return to the steamer is waiting for us. How ever on our return trip we made a flying visit to the old fort and to the oldest cemetery in Nova Scotia. Had Annapolis been the terminus of our excursion we should have felt amply rewarded. Thus far our trip had been a most pleasant one. We had made the distance from Halifax to Annapolis in the handsomest parlor car owned by this line, which is superior in many respects to any of the same kind on the I. C. R.

Gem No. 2.

The Editor of that organ of advanced thought and pig iron, the WEEK'S DOINGS, has just returned from Boston, and after basking in the blaze of intellectual fervor three days he feels constrained to say the Guardian is a weak and ill-informed journal. We feel that the italics are ours and must express a peculiar sensation on the part of the writer.) Had the Sun said this thing we might have stood it, but our cultured contemporary at the Mines is such a prodigy of literary merit and intellectual power—and its Editor has just come from Boston! Alas! poor Guardian, thy race is nearly run. Thou art weak and ill-informed and thou dost not please him of the organ of scrap iron. Wherefore dost thou exist? Doubtless to please ourselves, and speak the truth. The above is the latest effusion of the Truro Guardian, and its production must have taxed, to its utmost capacity, all the latent energy of the editor. Just how many more of these rare curiosities he can produce and still live we are not prepared to say, yet we trust that he is possessed of sufficient vitality to give the world a few more, as such exquisite gems are highly appreciated. Now, please, Guardian, do some amusement. The Truro Guardian has decided that Lansdowne must go. Pack your grip, old man, orders from such authority as the Guardian must be obliged.—Annapolis Spectator.

DARING ROBBERY.

One of the most daring cases of store-breaking that was ever committed in this place occurred on last Tuesday night. The store of Messrs. G. W. Cox & Co. was broken into, the safe blown open and robbed of its contents. The entrance was made by the front door. Tools had been procured from the carpenter shop of Mr. B. P. Fletcher. The burglars obtained these by removing a pane of glass and going in. The tools used in forcing open the door were two large chisels. A hole was drilled in the safe and powder put in, which when set off did the work most effectually. The inner door of the safe was all blown to pieces, and three large brass bolts in the lock were broken short off. The safe which weighed about 1500 lbs. was moved up its position by the force of the explosion some two inches. The cash box containing about one hundred and fifty dollars besides several documents was taken, another lock containing quite a considerable amount of money was broken open and the contents were also taken. One of which—emptied of the cash—has since been found in the Salt Spring Brook. The whole amount of money thus stolen is somewhere in the vicinity of two hundred dollars. The safe is badly broken up and is of no further value as a safe. The whole loss thus sustained will be somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred dollars.

The work is evidently that of experts as Mr. Cox was in the office till very late and when the coke-oven men passed to their work at about 3 o'clock all was quiet as usual. The hole drilled was some seven inches, which must have required a considerable time. Efforts have been put forth to discover the guilty parties but there seems to be very little hope of accomplishing anything.

Suspicion points very strongly to three characters of some notoriety, who were around town on Monday and Tuesday, but who never have been seen or heard of since the robbery. One of these fellows already carries a scar received at a similar burglary expedition. It will be too bad if these fellows escape justice this time, as it is thus reasonable to think that this is but the opening of a campaign of such work. If they escape now it is more than probable that others will be victimized. We think extra efforts should be put forth to discover the guilty parties. While the loss sustained in this instance only effects one firm yet every business man in this county should be interested as no one knows when his turn may come. It is now very certain that professional burglars will be equipped for such daring deeds, are abroad, and a business man knows when he leaves his office at night whether he will find everything all right on his return in the morning. It is true precautions may be taken to remove all money from safe, yet the safes may be destroyed and other property suitably injured. Last Tuesday night's burglary was never designed by the villains to be confined to one store as they also attempted to enter the store of G. R. Smith and probably were about as they are in more public place. On Wednesday the whole topic of conversation turned upon the robbery and universal sympathy was expressed for Mr. Cox in his heavy loss.

TORONTO, May 31.—The Mail says:—

Commenting the session with an actual majority of about 32, the Government, a few days ago, obtained a majority of forty-eight on the disallowance question, and yesterday afternoon, on a motion regarding the Queen's election case, they secured a majority of over seventy. The Opposition is now to be suffering from paralysis. So far Mr. Blake, although quite as eloquent, forcible and diligent as of old, has accomplished nothing, and the hopelessness that he felt settled down upon his followers is evidently making them inert and careless. A beaten leader is always inclined to let the victors stew in their own juice, though, to tell the truth, it is rather a weak sort of revenge. Mr. Blake is suffering from the demoralization of his followers, for which he himself is largely responsible. The change in leadership by which Mr. Blake arranged that each of the several sections should have a subaltern of its own, has practically a confession regarding the Queen's election case, and the Liberal party had ceased to exist as a united and homogeneous body, and since then matters have been going from bad to worse.

A LIBEL CASE.—The case of J. E. Digney, editor of the WEEK'S DOINGS, Acadia Mines, who was, on the application of Messrs. Russell & Congdon, committed to trial for criminal libel at the preliminary investigation held some time ago before Justice Crowe, at Truro, was on Tuesday taken up by the grand jury. A true bill was found against Digney, whose trial was going on at Truro yesterday. He is charged with printing and publishing in his own, his practically a confession regarding the Queen's election case, and the Liberal party had ceased to exist as a united and homogeneous body, and since then matters have been going from bad to worse.

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