

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All parties subscribing to this paper may be supplied with the whole of the numbers from the commencement, including the Eight Years in Canada.

THE
WEEKLY EXPOSITOR

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1846.

THE MINISTRY.

A recent number of the *Times* comes out with an article that is evidently intended to show that there are no less than six different parties in Canada, and that therefore it will be for the benefit of the country that those in power should remain where they are. This is not absolutely stated, but no one can misunderstand the inference it is obviously meant should be drawn. But we can assure the *Times* that, were there sixteen parties in the country instead of six, any attempt on the part of Lord Elgin to conduct a Government—that is to say, to command a majority in the House—with Mr. Draper in his councils, will prove abortive. The cloven foot has long since been revealed, notwithstanding all his political hypocrisy and cunning, and honest and conscientious men necessarily fear to founder, if continuing in the same bark which is weighed down by his corrupt weight. No public man was ever more universally execrated as a selfish, heartless, unscrupulous schemer, sacrificing everything to his self-love and to his pique; and although he may, with his usual plausibility and seeming indifference to office, for a brief season impose upon the new ruler of Canada, His Excellency will soon be made aware of the actual consideration he enjoys. We tell Lord Elgin, therefore, honestly yet firmly, that unless some such sort of Administration be formed as we adverted to in our last number, the same difficulties will surround him that have beset every Governor General of Canada.

In naming Mr. Lafontaine to the important office of Provincial Secretary, we believe we are borne out by the wishes of every reasonable man in the Province.—It is highly desirable that there should be a fusion of the interests of the monarchists of Canada, both French and English, and although Mr. Lafontaine might fear to be actuated by personal considerations, in the event of his accepting the Attorney Generalship of Lower Canada—such an imputation could never attach to him, while occupying a position which would enable him to give to his own countrymen, the NATIVE CANADIANS, a fair proportion of those public offices which are now lavished, in a manner the most insulting to the children of the soil, upon strangers from the Mother Country. This is an opportunity which may never again occur, and we trust that, should overtures of the kind be made to Mr. Lafontaine—if indeed they have not been made already—that gentleman will weigh well the great advantages to his countrymen which must result from his acceptance of the office in question.

THE WELLAND CANAL.

It is well known that damage of a serious nature some time since occurred on the Welland Canal, near St. Catharines; serious, not only from the very great expense—upwards of £1,000—which it will entail upon the public in making the repairs—but also from the inconvenience to which the trade of the country has been subjected, by the total suspension of all navigation between Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the detention in the canal of upwards of forty vessels laden with provisions of various kinds.

While giving to the present Chief Commissioner of Public Works all the merit that is due to him for the promptness and energy with which he met so serious a difficulty, in immediately assuming the responsibility of ordering the injury to be repaired forthwith, we deem it a duty to enter upon the immediate cause of an accident which has occasioned so much inconvenience and pecuniary loss to the public at large.

Knowing, as we do, the locality, and being in some degree acquainted with the opinions of parties long resident in the neighborhood in regard to the effect of freshets, we confess it was with no great surprise that we heard of the disaster which had occurred on this Welland Canal. With a cotemporary journal who has written some observations on the subject, we perfectly coincide in opinion that great blame attached to Mr. Killaly's late factotum—Mr. Power, who had again and again been warned of the utter incapacity of the waste weir to discharge any increase of water, caused by the freshets in the twelve-mile creek, or by the possible breaking of the mill-dams, to which causes, we believe the accident is wholly to be attributed. If then the conduct of the late Engineer of the Board of Works at St. Catharines is reprehensible, what is to be thought of that of the late honorable Chairman, who originally planned the work,—who has personally inspected it—who had full knowledge of the size of the waste weir, and who, therefore, should have been competent to judge whether or not it was sufficiently capacious to carry off the surplus water,—the sole purpose for which it was constructed.

But what can be expected of Mr. Killaly as an Engineer (to which character it seems to be a great object of his ambition to aspire), when we recollect that it was upon his estimate the original grant was made in 1841. According to the calculation then, the cost of completion of the Welland Canal amounted to £450,000; but so far from this proving sufficient, not less than £780,000 (nearly double the amount) have been appropriated by the Legislature for that which was, according to the estimate of an engineer professing a knowledge of these matters, only to have amounted to the sum first named. And yet, notwithstanding all this profuse expenditure—including the cost of waste weir, which are literally waste indeed—we understand that not less than £130,000 more will be necessary to complete this "gigantic Killaly's folly."

We have heard it urged that the reason for the expenditure on the public works, being so far above the amounts estimated for in 1841, was that sufficient time had not been allowed to produce a correct estimate. We have been at some trouble to inform ourselves on this subject, and what is the result of our inquiry? Simply this—that the work on which the greatest expenditure has taken place over the estimate, is the Welland Canal. We moreover find that Mr. Killaly could not have been in ignorance with respect to this work, if indeed he is the same gentleman whose signature is attached to a Report which is to be found at page 339 of the Appendix to the Journals of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, for 1837-38, headed, "Report on the proposed deviations and improvements of the Welland Canal, by Messrs. Baird and Killaly, Civil Engineers."

We should like very much to know if, after all this, the "able" Engineer of whom we have heard so much, is still in the employment of the Government, or whether the present or any future Ministry will have the confidence to go down to Parliament, and ask for any new appropriations, based on the estimates of Mr. Killaly, who has nearly beggared the country by his profusion and his professional ignorance. And we should also like to know whether, while he is engaged in the interests of a private Company, while surveying the neighborhood of the Sault St. Mary for the Government, he is paid by that Government? No man can faithfully or efficiently serve two masters.

The breach in the Canal is by this time wholly repaired. Whether vessels can pass is another question. The present Chief Commissioner has done his duty, but the ice must have formed in the Canal long before this.

MARRIAGE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

As we stated some time ago would be the case, the new Governor-General of Canada has espoused the beautiful daughter of the late Earl of Durham, Lady Mary Lambton; and as we then said, we now repeat, that it will be a source of deep satisfaction to us to see the Countess Elgin witnessing the triumph of those enlarged principles of government which in a great degree cost her noble father his life, yet which we cannot for a moment doubt her distinguished husband has been duly instructed by the Home Government to attempt to carry through.

As a young and lovely bride, and as the daughter of one whose name is identified with the political existence of the country, we fully expect that the arrival of the Countess Elgin in Canada will be hailed with a warmth of enthusiasm and manifestation of a respect and attachment, which do not usually fall to the lot of the wives of Governor-Generals of Canada.

It is stated that His Excellency and his young Countess were to leave England in December, but the positive date is not specified. The *Herald* speaks of the packet of the 19th of this month, but we are not aware that any steamer will leave later in