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## Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1874.

### THE FRENCH CANADIAN CELEBRATION.

The great St. Jean-Baptiste celebration of 1874, to which thousands of French Canadians throughout North America have for months past been looking forward with great expectations, has come and gone. And what has been done toward the attainment of the object of this monster reunion? How have the great expectations been realized? We have had a popular demonstration in the form of a procession, a banquet, a pic-nic, and a convention. The first three were unmistakably a success. But it is impossible to say as much for the last. The convention that met for two days in the Church of the Gesù did little beyond adopting a few resolutions, and wrangling over a great many unimportant motions. It achieved no practical results. To adopt a popular phrase, its deliberations ended in much cry and little wool. What little was done was due almost entirely to the energy and strong common sense of such men as Judge COURSOI, Judge LEBŒUF, of Cohoes, Mr. PERRAULT, and the Rev. Mr. MJON. While on the other hand much injury was done to the cause of French Canadians in general by the overweening vanity, the stubbornness, and the marvellous infatuation of a few members of the Montreal bar, who, happily for themselves and their acquaintances, got all the snubbing they deserved.

The first really important business transacted was the reception of the report to the convention. It sets forth, at the very outset, that the demonstration had not for its sole object a demonstration of numbers. It then goes on to show—that for the past twenty-five years the Province of Quebec has suffered from a scourge of expatriation; that the bone and sinew of their countrymen are leaving their native land for a country where they forget their language, and are deprived of the advantages of their religion; that the country houses are abandoned and farms left untilled; that the civil war even has not prevented this exodus; that all efforts even of the clergy have failed to prevent this exodus; that the French race cannot implant itself solidly upon the American soil, except by union of all its forces; the object of this Convention is to bring back to the country those who have migrated from it. In reply to the questions put by the committee of organization to the Canadian societies of the United States, the report goes on to state that:—So far as ascertained, nearly half a million of French Canadians have gone to the United States; that they were mostly employees in manufactories, and as tradesmen, few clerks, three or four advocates, and a number of priests. Few are occupied as agricultural labourers; the greatest misfortune of Canadian immigrants is their want of instruction; the French Canadians are isolated, the Roman Catholic priests being Irish and not understanding French, from which it results that French Canadians are isolated. Another danger is the absence of Roman Catholic and French schools. Consequently the Canadians are obliged to send their children to public schools, where they forget their love of country. By this means the Americans assimilate the French Canadians. The means to secure the return of these people are:—1st. Liberal grants of land, the title of which should be given only after certain conditions had been complied with. 2nd. Grants for the purchase of seed, of farming implements, of houses, &c.; to be repaid at long interest. 3rd. The construction of good roads to place the new districts in rapid communication with the centres of business. 4th. The giving of a preference to colonizers. 5th. The granting of free passage tickets from the United States. 6th. The establishment in Montreal of a grand central agency, to supervise generally this work of colonization.

7th. To provide for all necessary religious accommodation, by the construction of good churches and schools.

Here, then, is a plain statement of the condition of the French Canadian settlers in the States, and of the supposed best means of inducing these emigrants to return to their mother land. One would naturally have supposed that some definite scheme would at least have been proposed for attaining the desired repatriation of the exiles. But what was actually done? The report containing a mere definition of principles was adopted. A few extra resolutions, establishing a central agency, and appealing to the Government for assistance, were also adopted, and the convention adjourned after a protracted debate over some unimportant proposals.

The gist, then, of the deliberations of this assembly, from which so much was looked for, is simply the recognition of the fact that it is desirable that the French Canadians in the United States should be brought back; the adoption of the theory that it is the Government's business to bring them back; and the formation of an association of French Canadians throughout the continent. But here, at the very outset, a difficulty crops up. Judge LEBŒUF, from Cohoes, N. Y., declared emphatically that those who were fixed in the United States would not desire to come back, and they were a very numerous class. It would be impossible for many to return, as the businesses in Lower Canada were already over-stocked. Admitting, however, that a large number would be willing to come, it is more than doubtful whether the means proposed to induce them to return are either desirable or effective. This reliance on a paternal Government has been tried time and time again, and has never been known to succeed. In this matter, again, Judge LEBŒUF, with the hard common sense that characterized his remarks throughout, hit the point exactly. It is not fresh legislation, he said, that is wanted; give these men work, pay them as well in Canada as they are paid in the United States, and they will come back soon enough. Here we have the whole thing in a nut-shell. Give us more manufactures, more room for labourers and mechanics in the Province, and you will soon have your countrymen back. But do not place your whole reliance on the Government. Put your own shoulders to the wheel, and the result will not be slow in showing itself. As to discriminating between French Canadians and other immigrants, we utterly fail to see the justice of such a policy. The French Canadians left us because they could find no work. And yet hundreds of immigrants from Europe come to us in our midst, and find satisfactory employment in the country. A vigorous policy is all that is needed, and it will speedily be found that we have room enough and work enough for all—for French Canadians, as for English, Irish, Scotch, and Germans.

### THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

There is really no object in discussing the new Reciprocity Treaty at present. The Senate of the United States has quietly shelved it till its next session, our own Parliament is not sitting, and there is no means of knowing in detail what the views of the present Government are in the premises. It may be said, however, in general terms, that the Treaty excites no enthusiasm. So many different and conflicting interests are dependent upon it that nothing short of a thorough sifting of all its articles will awaken public opinion, and until then people are disposed to be quiescent. For ourselves, we expected that Mr. BROWN would have been successful in obtaining fuller concessions and making his Treaty a marked improvement on that of 1854 and the Treaty of Washington. We were therefore somewhat disappointed on finding it little more than a transcript of those two instruments. We are willing, however, to accept it on general grounds, provided a few of its clauses are satisfactorily explained, and on the distinct pledge that we shall go no further in the way of concessions to the United States. We insist upon this latter point because we find that American manufacturers in the Middle States and agriculturists in New York are clamouring for more advantages from us. The negotiation of the Treaty has done us already a world of good by drawing the attention of Americans to our commercial and financial condition. The high compliments received from that quarter ought to give us more reliance on ourselves and induce us, while straining every nerve to establish reciprocal relations with the United States, to yield nothing for which we are not guaranteed a full equivalent.

The Lower Province papers lose no opportunity to urge the building of the Baie Verte canal. Even the Ministerial journals throw out significant hints that Government should put the work under contract forthwith. We fully endorse this demand. Everything conducive to inter-provincial trade should be promptly and actively

encouraged. Thus only can our confederate existence be maintained. This should be kept in mind, particularly at the present juncture, where such strenuous efforts are being made to procure an international reciprocal treaty. It will be remembered that \$500,000 were voted, at the last session, for the Baie Verte canal. This money must be employed in some tangible shape or other, else a charge of bad faith will certainly be preferred against the Government.

It was reported some days ago that the German Catholic Bishops, assembled at Fulda, intended to issue a circular recommending a compromise with the Government at Berlin. This statement is now officially contradicted, and the contradiction will surprise no one acquainted with the stuff of which Continental prelates are made. Bismarck may be the man of blood and iron, but his opponents are men of steel. They may break, but they will never bend. From a mere human point of view, assuming, as we must that they are sincere in their principles, their best policy is resistance to the bitter end. They will thus serve their cause best, besides immortalizing themselves.

The old tow-path will be covered with grass, and the poor horses ought to be allowed to munch it. Steam has been introduced on the Erie Canal. This is an event fraught with the most vital consequences to that species of carriage. It will doubtless be made available in our own country, and with the enlargement of the Welland and the St. Lawrence canals, it ought to be boldly introduced. Not only will rivalry with Erie be thus successfully maintained, but immense advantages will be thereby gained, and our superior facilities for carrying the trade of the West to the seaboard established in the eyes of all shippers.

The Opposition press is very bitter against the appointment of Mr. W. Lamothe to the Postmastership of Montreal. We do not know their reasons, as they have not vouchsafed any. The previous history of Mr. Lamothe is curious enough. He was Chief of the Montreal Police about ten years ago, and a storm of indignation was raised against him, chiefly by the Rouge party—who were almost all anti-Southern men—for alleged complicity in the escape of the St. Albans raiders. He was removed by the then Government. His reinstatement by his friends, at his present salary, is a liberal compensation.

The Carlists have found their master at last. Old Marshal Concha has pursued them steadily from Bilbao to Estella, and now he has turned their position at that important point. The Carlists will now be forced to the foot of the Pyrenees. Without caring to pronounce on the subject, it must be a source of general satisfaction that this bloody and useless war is drawing to an end. Don Carlos never had the ghost of a chance, and if he truly loved his country he should not have subjected her to all this carnage and expense.

Mayor Bernard, of this city, has given himself the *coup de grâce*. He tried his best to get authority from the city to negotiate a Municipal loan in London, whither he obtained leave to go on business, it is pointedly asserted, connected with the bonds of the Northern Colonization Railway. The City Council refused the authority, and the Mayor is said to have gone anyhow. It is safe to predict that Dr. Bernard will never be Mayor of Montreal again.

Alarming rumours prevail in St. Petersburg respecting the situation of affairs in Central Asia. It is reported that the Ameer of Kashgar has seized a Russian Envoy, and, fearing war in consequence of the act, has concentrated 10,000 troops on the frontier. Kashgar is in Chinese Turkistan, and will have only a poor show against Russia.

Henry Ward Beecher is cornered. He must now rise and explain. He cannot be any longer silent. Theodore Tilton is too important a man to be kept down. Either he is a villainous libeller or Beecher is an adulterer. Such is the dilemma propounded by the New York press, and the world at large is entitled to know which is which.

### THE ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE CELEBRATION.

The long-talked-of celebration of St. John the Baptist's Day by the French Canadians of the Dominion and the United States duly took place on the 24th and 25th ult., and was taken part in by many thousands of people. The history of the events which brought about this monster fête is briefly as follows:—

In 1834 the St. Jean Baptiste Society was founded in Montreal by Ludger Duvernay. It was designed to include Cana-