

## FRENCH CANADIAN REPATRIATION.

THIS somewhat wornout subject has once more been before the House, Mr. TASSÉ introducing it in moving for a statement of all sums expended by the Government since 1875 to secure the repatriation, as it is called, of Canadians (meaning probably French-Canadians) who have emigrated to the United States. The member for Ottawa, in asking the information, called attention to the enormous increase of the French element in spite of the also enormous exodus. The number of French-Canadians in the Province of Quebec in 1850 was, he said, 669,528, while in 1880 it had increased to 1,070,321. In Ontario there were 26,417 French-Canadians in 1850, and in 1880 there were 102,743, and the same promising ratio of fecundity is looked forward for without abatement. In spite of the above, however, it is claimed that there are, besides, over 350,000 French-Canadians in the United States, though some 30,000 appear to have returned within the last two years. These all seem to have "repatriated" themselves, and at their own expense, not in Quebec but in the North-West, and Mr. TASSÉ's object appears to be to induce the Government to increase that movement by financial aid. As the report says, the member for Ottawa "closed with a fine eulogy of the 'industry, loyalty and thrift of the French-Canadian race.' Perhaps Parliament is getting just a little weary of much self-laudation whether as to an individual or a race. At all events, Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN, in a most statesmanlike speech, did not encourage its extension. The House can point to no individual who is more thoroughly attached to his Church and his race than is Sir HECTOR; and in the power of benefitting them, as on proper occasions he is ever ready to do, he has no compeer. Thus he was able to say, without giving offence to his co-nationalists, "It is true the French-Canadians are loyal, but they are not more 'loyal than other British subjects.' The further suggestion of the Minister of Public Works, that in his opinion the various Colonisation Societies might themselves do a great deal in the direction of repatriation, was another hint emphatically in the right direction. They should, like all the other nationalities, 'paddle their own canoe' rather than look to the Government for help in every emergency. Sir HECTOR, however, availed himself once more of the opportunity of asserting for French-Canadians the right enjoyed by English-speaking Canadians to settle in whatever part of the Dominion they pleased, and once again asserted their claim to the thorough enjoyments of 'equal rights to all.' The entire speech was not only statesmanlike but essentially manly, and worthy of him on whom, so far as the French Canadian element is concerned, the mantle of his great predecessor, Sir GEORGE CARTIER, is recognised as having fallen, and if it helps to stave off, even for a season, the torrent of 'gush' with which Parliament has lately been

over-afflicted when kindred subjects have been before the House, it will have done excellent work.

## C. P. R. LAND BONDS' CANCELLATION.

ON Wednesday last a meeting of the trustees of the Canadian Pacific Railway Land Grant Mortgage was held at the offices of the Company in this city, Mr. C. F. SMITHERS, President of the Bank of Montreal, Hon. JOHN HAMILTON, and Mr. S. THORNE, of New York, being present. Mr. D. D. M. MARLER, Notary Public, was also there officially, and proceeded to take note of and destroy bonds to the amount of \$4,917,500, which had been received in payment of lands sold by the Company. The bonds were issued in October, 1881, \$20,000,000 being placed with the public, and \$5,000,000 remaining in the hands of the Dominion Government, pledged for the execution of the contract. Sales of lands to the amount of \$18,000,000 have been made, and as bonds are received in payment of those lands at 10 per cent. premium the balance of the purchase money remaining due covers the entire land grant bond issue within about \$2,000,000. The \$4,917,500 destroyed on this occasion, says the *Montreal Herald*, from which we derive the above information, represents the payments made on account to the end of March. It is expected that at least \$10,000,000 more will be cancelled during the present year.

## GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHY.

THE session at Ottawa is now so near its close that it is manifest the Government have no present intention of assuming the control of the entire telegraph system of the country. Perhaps the popular demand in this direction has not yet been made so apparent as to take the shape of such a pressure as cannot wisely be ignored by the Administration. We are glad to observe, however, that public opinion, as expressed by the newspapers, is rapidly drifting in the direction of the setting aside the principle of telegraphic monopoly by private corporations, though these latter do their work fairly well and at rates which provoke no general demur. It is nevertheless felt that this essential need of modern life should, like the Post-Office, be more properly under the control of a similar authority. If any financial apprehensions exist against making so important a change, some late statistics since the telegraph fell into the hands of the Government in the United Kingdom should be assuring. The increase of business there since that great change was made has been enormous. The number of messages per week have grown from 126,000 to 603,000. In 1873 the average number of messages per mile of wire was 147; now it is 256. In press messages, 5,000 words per diem have grown already to 935,154. The telegraphs in use on railways have grown from 27,000 miles of wire in 1869 to 69,000 in 1882, and the instruments from 4,423 to 15,702. A decision of the Imperial Parliament has just ordered

that the existing rate of twenty-five cents shall in future be reduced one-half, when such an immense increase of work as to leave a surplus of receipts over expenditure even exceeding that presented by the present satisfactory balance-sheets is looked forward to. Of course there is a minority to be found predicting an unfavorable consequence of the intended change. But these dissentients belong to the same order of thinkers who hailed the introduction of cheap postage as the inauguration of a system little short of imbecility. Our own Government, however, may fairly take courage from the results reached at home, and we trust it will not be long before they are able themselves safely to undertake an identical responsibility. Even some financial loss at first would be regarded without loss of public equanimity in view of the great national advantages which would accompany such a transfer. The feeling is strong that the sooner we are emancipated from our present vassalage to alien speculators the better it will be for the Dominion.

FRENCH FIVE PER CENTS.—The conversion of the French 5 per cent. Rentes into 4½ per cents. is likely to lead to disaffection if not to active manifestations of discontent. The Government bonds of France, unlike those of most countries, are largely held by small investors, and not by banks and other great corporations. Hence there is sure to be a general dissatisfaction among the best and most thriving masses of the population. The expenditures of the French Budget and the taxes are being constantly increased, and the wish to reduce both is laudable enough. But that is not the view which the small land proprietor or artisan is likely to take when he sees that he has more to pay and less to receive. France seems to be badly in want of a leading mind, which is equally absent in the Cabinet, the forum and the field.

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE.—The annual meeting of the Stock Exchange was held on Wednesday, when the officers were all re-elected, namely, Mr. D. L. McDUGALL, President; Mr. BURNETT, Vice-President; Mr. HARTLAND S. MACDOUGALL, Secretary-Treasurer. The governing board is also the same. This was the last annual meeting of the Board in their present quarters. In a few days the Exchange will be removed to the old reading-room of the Merchants' Exchange, and to which the public will be admitted by ticket, a rail d space being reserved for spectators.

A HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.—The annual report of the New York Chamber of Commerce says, "In surveying our own horizon of commercial enterprise we fail to discern one cloud of menace, and look forward with cheerful confidence to a year of quiet prosperity for the entire country. of which New York will receive her ample share."