



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Hon. W. B. Vail has been sworn in a member of the Privy Council in the place of the Hon. W. Ross, resigned. The hon. gentleman also replaces Mr. Ross as Minister of Militia. From the "Parliamentary Companion" we learn that the Hon. Mr. Vail was born in Sussex Vale, King's County, New Brunswick, in 1823, and is a brother of the Hon. Dr. Vail, late Speaker of the New Brunswick Assembly. He entered public life as recently as 1867, as Provincial Secretary, in the Anand Repeal Government. He is a remarkably able speaker, and possesses administrative ability of a high order.

Saturday's *Official Gazette* contains the appointment of Edward Selby Smyth, Major General in Her Majesty's Army, to be Adjutant General of Militia of Canada, with the rank of Major General in the Militia. He is expected to arrive at the Capital on the 12th inst.

We understand that Major Hale, of the Royal Engineers, has been offered the appointment of commandant of the proposed new Military College to be located at Kingston, and will no doubt accept that important position. Major Hale is considered to be one of the ablest scientific instructors in the Imperial service. He is an experienced teacher in the military schools of England, and served on the staff at the Autumn manoeuvres in 1873. He has also been of signal advantage to the British army as garrison instructor.

The *Ottawa Times* understands that Messrs R. S. M. Bouchette, Commissioner of Customs, William Dickinson, Deputy Inspector General, and George Futvoye, Deputy of the Minister of Militia and Defence, have each received three months' leave of absence, with the understanding that at the end of that time they retire on the superannuation list. Both Messrs. Bouchette and Dickinson are old and faithful public officers who well merit the handsome provision made for their maintenance in their old age. Mr. James Johnson, the present Assistant Commissioner of Customs, a most capable, painstaking and experienced officer, who has been in the public service since 1867, and who ought long since to have received official advancement, succeeds Mr. Bouchette. The appointment is an excellent one in every way, and will in this case, with truth, give general satisfaction. We presume that that excellent and well tried officer, Lieut. Col. Macpherson, who comes next in rank, will, as heretofore, take over the duties of deputy in the Militia Department.

Governor Morris, of Manitoba, has succeeded in making a Treaty with the different Indian tribes of the North West, whereby they agree to go upon a reservation set aside for their occupation. This reservation is of considerable extent and importance, and is peculiarly well adapted to afford to the aborigines those means of living to which they are accustomed. The country thus set apart is bounded on the South by the international line, and extends as far West as the Cypress Hills (110½ degrees) near the crossing of the Milk River into the States, thence along the South Saskatchewan to Qu'Appelle Fort. in latitude about 51.30; thence to Red Deer River; terminating at the extremely Northern end of Lake Winnipegosis. The Indians are said to be fully satisfied with the country allotted to them, and will go upon it without trouble. This makes the coast clear for the settlers who will be pouring in next year to the fertile valley of the Saskatchewan—a country for arable purposes the best, perhaps on the continent of America, and destined to become the Granary of the North West.

The *Manitoba Gazette* announces that Mr. Lindsay Russell has gone to the Saskatchewan to complete the surveys of the Canada Pacific, make the connections and otherwise furnish the locating of the line. In the course of a few weeks he is to pay a flying visit to Winnipeg again, after which he will return to the Saskatchewan for the winter, and during that season will make arrangements for his spring expedition to the Peace River country, where he intends to go for the purpose of making base lines. The *Gazette* says it is not yet known whether he will detach a party to explore the Bow River country or not, but the latest accounts from that district are of a very encouraging nature. It adds that the territory is very extensive, the obstacles to be met with are of a dangerous character and difficult to overcome, and the probability is that to a separate party will be delegated the duty of making an examination of it.

George Brown has sent another challenge to row Joseph H. Sadlier, champion of England, a five mile race for \$2,500 to \$5,000 aside, at Springfield, Mass., Halifax or St. John, the last week in October or the first week in November.

Lieut. Col. Forrest, and a staff of surveyors left Ottawa, en route for Sault Ste. Marie, on the 30th ult., where he will be engaged in the work of surveying base lines for the new townships on the Garden River Reserve, lately vacated by the Indians.

John O'Mahoney, Head Centre of the Fenian Brotherhood, called to order a crowded meeting of Irishmen in the large hall of

the Cooper Union, on Monday evening, 28th Sept., and after saying that they had assembled to push forward the cause of Ireland's freedom, proposed J. O'Donovan Rossa as the Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Rossa delivered a short address to prove that the *London Times* was wrong in declaring Fenianism a failure. Gen. Thomas Francis Bourke, Thomas Clarke Luby, Dr. Mulohy, and Mr. Reynolds delivered speeches, all in encouragement of the Irishmen who are still supporting the Fenian movement.

At Creedmoor the Irish and American teams had another trial of marksmanship on the 2nd inst. At 800 yards, the Americans won by five points, at 900 yards, the Irishmen won by eight points, at 1,000 yards, the Irish were ahead two points, but owing to the concluding shot having been fired when too dark to see the targets. The last five shots were to be repeated on the following day. The score stood:—Irish 889; Americans, 887. Capt. Wingate has formally accepted on behalf of the American team, the challenge of the Irish team to shoot in Ireland next June.

Advices from the North of Spain report that several Carlist leaders have abandoned the chase on account of a disagreement with Don Carlos.

The Swiss Council has approved of the selection of the city of Berne as the location for the International Post Office Convention.

A Hong Kong special states that the Chinese troops in the neighborhood of Tientsin had conspired to seize the city and massacre all the foreigners, but the ringleaders were arrested, and the conspiracy was quenched.

The steamer *Spark*, which runs between Macao and Canton, has been boarded by pirates and most of the officers and crew murdered.

The *Liberte* states that the Spanish Government has issued a protest against the conveyance of arms to the Carlists by sea.

The steamer *Faraday* will put to sea as soon as she has taken in provisions and fuel, and will resume her attempt to regain the direct cable, of which she had laid 600 knots when it was lost. Should her effort be successful, she will proceed to lay the remainder of the cable to the American coast.

The Spanish steamer *Juan*, now in the harbor of Sligo, has been warned by the authorities not to sail, and orders have been issued to prevent her departure. She has thirteen Armstrong guns on board, which are supposed to be destined for the Carlists. The captain declares that the guns are the property of the Spanish Government, and he is taking them to England for repairs. An investigation is in progress.