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In the next number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will be published

A DOUBLE-PAGE PICTURE

which is intended to represent the portraits in group of the

PRESS GALLERY

at Ottawa, during the last session of Parliament. The members are shown in different attitudes, sitting or standing, and the illustration will be accompanied by a memoir of each member.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 17th, 1875.

THE O'CONNELL CENTENNIAL.

Preparations are actively in progress in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, for a becoming celebration of the hundredth birthday of Daniel O'Connell, the great Irish Liberator. The oldest of the Irish societies in Ottawa has already nearly prepared a programme, the leading features of which have been sent to us and to which we shall refer fully in a future number. The general committee appointed to make arrangements for a banquet, and also for the procuring of a full length portrait of O'Connell to be hung in the picture gallery of the houses of Parliament, are meeting with such encouragement that they have reason to anticipate complete success. Already the indefatigable secretary, Mr. Connell J. Higgins, has received the most flattering responses to a private circular recently issued at the instance of the Committee and he has also been in communication with ourselves with the view of producing several pictorial features which will tend to enhance the brilliancy of the festival. We are glad to hear of the success so far attained, as distinguished Irishmen, without regard to creed, have given their adhesion to it. The Ottawa papers, however, make, we think, a slight miscalculation in attributing the initiative of the celebration to Ottawa. The project has been mooted for weeks past in Montreal. But this, after all, is a matter of small consequence. The union of all Irish societies in the different Canadian cities, is the main thing, and we are pleased to see that there is every chance of its being consummated. O'Connell belongs to that privileged class of great men whose memories survive the prejudices of caste or creed, and the fiery passions of the day of battle.

FRENCH REPUBLICANISM.

In studying the gradual establishment of Republicanism in France, we must divest ourselves of American ideas. There are more reasons than one why a French Republic cannot be a copy of the American Republic, and we may add that there are as many reasons why it is not desirable that it should be such. It is sufficient to say that the United States are by no means an ideal Republic, and that even if local circumstances did not admit its adoption in France, there would be theoretic inducements for French statesmen to attempt an improvement upon it. M. THIERS has long since declared that the Washington Government was not his point of departure, and the present PRIME MINISTER,

M. BUFFET, has stated the same thing in other words. Hence we cannot properly appreciate the new Constitutional movement in France if we gauge it by American standards.

It has become a trite saying, originated by some English writer, that France is a Republic without Republicans. The proposition may have some share of truth, in one sense, but it is absolutely erroneous in another. We must distinguish between a Democracy and a Republic. The terms are philologically distinct, and they represent two different schemes of Government. The United States are a Democracy. The whole fountain of authority is the people, and its vehicle is universal manhood suffrage. All the departments of Government—the Executive, the Legislative, the Judiciary, with the sole exception of the Supreme Court—emanate directly and immediately from the popular vote. Organic laws, whether of the State or the General Government, must be submitted to the people for approval. Amendments to the Constitution must be referred to the same tribunal. Then, in the United States, there is the Federative principle. A number of minor Republics are gathered together under a general Republic. The civil war has certainly weakened the strength of the States Rights doctrine but has by no means destroyed it, and the increasing prestige of the present Opposition party is precisely its hostility to the encroachments of Centralization attempted, and in a measure accomplished, by the party in power.

The new French Government is widely different from this. In the first place, it is not, and cannot be, a Democracy, pure and simple. Frenchmen have reason to be cured of their passion for the ideal of Democracy. Those of our readers who peruse the great romance of ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN now appearing in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, may learn to excuse that enthusiasm, but the events of 1793, 1848 and 1871 have been too terrible not to inculcate the lesson of prudence and moderation.

Hence the French are now striving to build up a Conservative Republic with due and literal regard to the meaning of those words. The broad foundation of universal suffrage is retained, as it must, being the best relic of the great Revolution, and the immortal glory of France which first introduced it into Europe. But the other departments of Government, with the exception of the Assembly, are derived only mediately, and indirectly from the people. Thus a large portion of the Senate is elected by the Assembly, and the Executive is likewise chosen by that body. The Judiciary is nominative throughout. The Prefets of the Departments are not elective, but appointed by the Government. The Federal system is, of course, out of the question. France is and must remain a unit, and the Commune which tended to separate local administrations, has grown into increased disfavor since the horrors of 1871. A new element of stability is acquired in making the Presidential term one of seven years, with privilege of reelection for two or more terms. The members of the Cabinet hold seats in the Assembly and are personally responsible for their administration to the Assembly. This is a manifest improvement on the American method.

Not only in theory, but in practice as well, the Republic is intended to be conservative. The Radical wing is at present infinitesimal, and its leader LOUIS BLANC, in his late speech on the Public Powers Bill, rallied only a few followers to his extreme views. GAMBETTA has proved his statesmanship in this—that the Republic of 1875 is not and cannot be a repetition of the miserable attempt of 1848. He has proved another thing—that the peasantry of France, which forms the bulk of the population, can be rallied around a Republican Government, without undue love for any of the three dynasties—Bourbon, Orleans or Bonaparte—on the one hand, and without exaggerated dread of the Revolution, on the other. This is a wonderful step in advance, and gives reasonable hopes

for the stability of the new Constitution. Altogether, France must have the sympathy of the world in her endeavours to create a new popular Government based upon the will of the people and removed from the worst of all dangers, the tyranny of the Demos or Mob.

THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

The report of Col. FRENCH, Commander of the expedition, has just been published, and we are pleased to find that it confirms in almost every particular the accounts of our special artist and correspondent, which were concluded in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS only a few weeks ago.

On the 6th June, the Force, consisting of 16 officers, 201 men and 244 horses left Toronto. On the 17th, they reached Dufferin where they made a junction with Troops A, B, and C., which had gone on before. The total Force then consisted of 22 officers; 287 men, called constables and sub-constables; 310 horses; 67 wagons; 114 ox-carts; 18 yoke of oxen; 50 cows, and 40 calves. This long procession filed out of Dufferin in the afternoon of the 18th July. But before that event, thirty or thirty-five of the men deserted the service and took leg bail over the frontier, where, of course, they were safe from pursuit. At the first encampment, two miles from Dufferin, four or five more followed their example. There is no doubt that this had a bad effect on the Force, which, for a few days, was quite manifest, but gradually the distractions of the route effaced it. Later, the men had reason for complaint in regard to rations and general comfort; but at the beginning, no ground existed therefor. Throughout, the treatment of the men, so far as their officers were concerned, was such as every soldier receives in a campaign.

The route lay between Dufferin and Fort Edmonton, and the expedition lasted from 6th June, 1874, to the 7th November of the same year. The direction was southerly, never far from the boundary line between British America and the United States. The first favorable locality visited was Souris, or Mouse Valley. It seems admirably adapted for cultivation, and in years when the frost is not too severe, ought to grow wheat easily. It stands some 1500 feet above the level of the sea. The soil is black loam with sandy bottom and white oak is plentiful along the banks of the river. Then came Rivière des Lacs. On the opposite side is the historic Butte Marquée, a sketch of which appeared in the tenth volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, p. 177. Some sixty or seventy years ago, the Crees were at war with the Mandans, a tribe frequenting the hunting grounds of the Missouri. A party of each was on the war-path about this part of the country. One morning before sunrise, when the mist was not yet off the ground, a Cree left the camp to examine the surrounding country from the highest point of land in the vicinity. This was Butte Marquée, as it was afterwards called by the French Half-Breeds, or in English, Murdered Scout Hill. There he perceived a Mandan, in a sitting posture, also anxiously looking about for enemies, his back turned to the Cree. The latter took a large round stone weighing about fifteen pounds, crawled silently up to his enemy and killed him. To memorialize the place, with his tomahawk he dug out the form of a man lying on his back, his legs spread out and arms stretched back of his head. The figure measures about twelve feet in length. The approach is also marked out for some sixty feet by dug-out foot marks. On the 25 July, the expedition reached Roche Percée, a sketch of which appeared in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, p. 197. This singular rock is of white sandstone of wind formation, running up like a crest from the bottom of the Souris Valley. At its base, it measures about 35 feet in height and the base about 40 feet. Some parts are softer than others and from the combined influence of wind and rain, fissures and holes have been worn

through it. The largest hole is clearly seen. On different parts of the rock are cut the names of people who have passed by, and many Indian hieroglyphics which, of course, remain a mystery to us.

The water of Old Wife's Lake is deeply impregnated with sulphate of soda. It emits a disagreeable smell to the windward, as of decayed weeds steeped in brine. The effect of the odor is very nauseating, and one cannot stop long upon the banks. Men and horses were actively purged by it. This sulphate of soda is found as a thick deposit on the shores of most of the small neighbouring lakes. No grass grows in the neighborhood. It is a Dead Sea country. Shooting, however, was very plentiful. Pelicans, ducks, geese, and bastard plovers were in abundance. The Colonel killed a pelican of immense size and all white, measuring eight feet from tip to tip.

On the 13th August, the great "pow-wow" took place with the Sioux. On the 27th, the Force reached the Sweet Grass Hills consisting of three elevations, known to the half-breeds as "Les Trois Buttes." They are in a line, with about four miles of intervening space, measuring from one extremity to the other about twenty-three miles. They are a notable landmark, being on the boundary line between Canada and the United States, the western Butte on the line being on British, the others on American soil.

Appended to the report are a diary kept by Colonel French from July 8th, till November 7th, 1874; several extracts from the reports of Mr. McLeod, the Assistant Commissioner, a report of Inspector Jarvis, and another of Veterinary Surgeon Poett. All these contain valuable and interesting information.

At Lake Qu'Appelle, a point now celebrated for the treaty concluded there between the Indians and the Canadian authorities, our artist and correspondent took leave of the Force. We may repeat his parting words:—"Our mission was over, the Force had accomplished the duty for which it had been sent out, and was about to be distributed in different quarters. I therefore resolved on returning to Canada. "Home, Sweet Home!" I take this occasion to repeat to Col. French, Dr. Kittson and the officers and men of the Force my acknowledgment of the uniform kindness which I received at their hands throughout the entire march. I must express also my sense of respect for them as men and for the worthy manner in which they performed the arduous duties imposed upon them by Government."

Six weeks have elapsed since the wreck of the Vicksburg, and we have not heard a word about an official investigation. The whole press of the country called for it, and it must not be shirked. It is in the interest of the company itself that the matter should be thoroughly investigated. The interest of the public is still more pressing and cannot be overlooked. The inquiry into the Schiller disaster took place within a month after it occurred, and after the British inquiry, the German Government resolved to institute another of its own, not to invalidate, but to confirm the first, if necessary. The Dominion Government should not delay in this case, either in ordering the investigation, if such is their duty, or in urging it upon the responsible party, should the duty lie elsewhere.

There are two ways in which the careful and impartial observer should look at the late Quebec elections. As a purely Provincial contest, between Ministerialists and Oppositionists, the Government must be allowed to have a fair working majority, at least as great as that of the Ontario Government, at the late elections. As a contest of parties, between Liberals and Conservatives—it must be acknowledged that the latter have largely won. Fully ten of the members claimed by the Opposition are life-long Conservatives, who may go against the Local administration, but who are by no means pledged to join the