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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 1st July, 1876.

A VITAL QUESTION.

There are many aspects of the present situation of this country which give rise to serious thought. There is no philosophy or patriotism in alarm, but really it is well to have one's eyes open and to view things as they are, without the glamour of false issues, induced by blind partisanship. The state of the Dominion is by no means what it should be, and the prospects of the future are not reassuring. To take only one example—the question of emigration. It is painfully clear that it is at present in a very unsatisfactory state. The stream of immigration is not flowing as continuously nor in such volume as our necessities demand. We must have immigrants, and plenty of them. Our natural increase is not at all sufficient to meet the growing requirements of the country. All our public works—canal and railway—are dependent, for their being, on the increment of our foreign population. We must have hands to build these works, and families for whom these works may become profitable. Otherwise, if we are to remain within our primitive limits, we shall have to be content with our primitive population and its natural ratio of increase. We know of no subject, in the whole wide range of public topics, which ought more steadily, more energetically, and more patriotically to engage the attention of the press and people than this of immigration. It can suffer no check. It will allow of no dilatoriness, and especially it cannot afford to be the field of intrigue or double-dealing. We have before us a pamphlet published by DAWSON BROTHERS, of this city, containing the report of ex-Agent General JENKINS, for 1875, and extracted bodily from the blue book of the year. Whatever may be said of Mr. JENKINS, and that colonial building of his in London, the present report is a very valuable one, as giving a clear insight of the immigration prospects on the whole continent of Europe. It is the result of a personal visit in France, Switzerland, Bavaria and Prussia, with important data on the Austrian Tyrol and Northern Italy. It contains a variety of most useful intelligence and abounds with suggestions of the highest practical moment. The conclusion to be drawn from it all is, that there is little, if anything, to be hoped from French emigration. Swiss emigration might be made considerable, but Canada is absolutely unknown there, and the absence of a direct line from Havre or Antwerp is a fatal drawback. Furthermore, there were complaints from prominent men, of misunderstanding as to terms with the Canadian and Provincial Governments. Spite, however, of these objections, Mr. JENKINS states that a considerable emigration might be obtained from Switzerland of agriculturists, both laborers and farmers, first, by cheapening the rates; secondly, by direct steamers; thirdly, by improving and increasing the propaganda in the press and otherwise,

and fourthly, by better organization and better treatment in Canada. Mr. JENKINS also discusses the elaborate scheme of a Mr. Joos, Federal Councillor, for colonization or emigration in large bodies, which strikes us as statesmanlike and which we venture to commend to the proper authorities at Ottawa. Certainly, considering the keen competition of Australia and the United States, we cannot refuse to strain a point, if necessary, to secure such accessions as are foreshadowed in the project. Precisely the same remark applies to the plan of Madame Vox KOEHLER of getting the Frauenvereins to organize the emigration of German women to Canada. It is stated that there is an excess of females in Germany, said to amount to more than a million. Let them come over here, and not only will we find them employment, but husbands as well. The last point which was forced upon Mr. JENKINS was that some *bonus in aid is essential* to anything like a successful emigration. The general opinion seemed to be that, considering the higher rates from the Continent, as compared with those of Great Britain, the longer distance, and the greater ignorance about the country, the bonus should amount to £1 10s., or £2 sterling. When he wrote, a vessel for South Australia was shortly about to leave Hamburg which carried 500 persons, the whole of whose passage money was paid—although many of them were well off.

Our space will not allow us to go further into this matter, but we think Mr. JENKINS was right in publishing his report separately, in order that everybody might become acquainted with its facts, and that thus popular opinion might support, or if need be, stimulate the Government to earnest, intelligent, and persevering action in the vital cause of immigration.

THE RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION.

We are gratified to see that, at length, there is a growing disposition throughout the country to dispense with the condition of residence in Parliamentary elections. The custom always prevailed more or less, but was ostentatiously revived at the time of Confederation, and has been observed until now, when experience is beginning to show that there is little to recommend it. The law is binding in the United States, from which, doubtless, we adopted it, but every observer of American institutions is painfully aware that precisely to this circumstance is owing much of the disfavor into which the legislative bodies at Washington have fallen. Time was when the United States Senate stood high in the eye of the world, and the chief ambition of every American youth was to become a United States Senator. There was a time, also, when the House of Representatives contained the best elements of American culture, probity and statesmanship. But with the growth of the country, and the rapid settlement of the West, the scene changed and the standard was lowered. District upon district in the interior sent its representatives to Congress, and what specimens the majority have proved to be is only too apparent to those who read the proceedings of the House.

It is clear that, when all things are equal, a resident of a county or riding should be selected over a non-resident for Parliamentary honors. But where things are not equal, it is altogether best to choose a non-resident. With the usual recklessness of our political conflicts, both parties have used the "non-resident cry," as it suited their purposes, and the consequence has been the defeat of most important men who ought to be in Parliament. Now that both parties are suffering from their selfish error, they unite in demanding a healthier appreciation from the public of the merits of a representative. Mr. SCATCHMAN was elected for Middlesex, the other day, notwithstanding that he resides outside of the constituency. Mr. EDGAR, although living in Toronto, is at present seeking the suffrages of the elec-

tors of South Ontario. We have in Montreal a large number of residents representing rural counties. This is very well. We trust that, hereafter, we shall hear no more of the non-resident disqualification *per se*, and whichever side starts it again should be held up to merited animadversion by the press. We have none too many able and worthy public men, and our Parliamentary bodies should be, in the largest sense, the representatives of the best qualities of Canadian manhood, intelligence and honor.

THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

The game of politics has been reduced to such a science in the United States that outsiders, knowing little or nothing of the principles at stake, watch its different phases with much of the interest manifested in matches of cricket, yachting or billiards. In the forthcoming Presidential election, the forces are so evenly balanced that this kind of mechanical interest is considerably enhanced, and from this point of view, it may truly be asserted that the campaign will be the most interesting of any that has taken place in the history of the country.

The following tables, compiled with some care, will give a pretty accurate idea of the chances in favor of either side. The Republicans may safely count upon:

Table with 2 columns: State and Votes. Includes Illinois (21), Iowa (11), Kansas (5), Maine (7), Massachusetts (13), Michigan (11), Minnesota (5), Nebraska (3), New Hampshire (5), Ohio (22), Pennsylvania (29), Rhode Island (1), South Carolina (7), Vermont (5), Wisconsin (10), Total (156).

The Democrats may claim:

Table with 2 columns: State and Votes. Includes Alabama (10), Arkansas (6), California (6), Connecticut (6), Delaware (3), Florida (4), Georgia (11), Kentucky (12), Louisiana (8), Maryland (8), Mississippi (8), Missouri (15), Nevada (3), North Carolina (10), Oregon (3), Tennessee (12), Texas (8), Virginia (11), West Virginia (5), Total (149).

The four doubtful States are:

Table with 2 columns: State and Votes. Includes Colorado (3), Indiana (15), New Jersey (9), New York (35), Total (62).

The electoral vote stands thus:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Votes. Includes Total (369), Majority (185), For the Republicans (158), For the Democrats (149), Doubtful (62).

If the Democrats carry New York, thus adding its 35 votes to the 149 conceded to them, they will count 184, or one less than the majority. In that case, the Republicans would have to carry the three other doubtful States, thus adding 27 votes to their 158, and reaching exactly 185 or one more than the Democrats.

The chances are, therefore, nicely balanced, and with the above tables before us, we can quietly assist at the tournament and calculate on the prospects of victory.

ENGLISH DIPLOMACY.

The present Government of England has won golden opinions for its prompt and energetic diplomatic action in the present Eastern difficulties. John Bull is no longer disposed to remain passive and quiescent in Continental affairs. The whole public feeling of Britain, to say nothing of the preponderating influence of the army and navy, warmly supports the national policy of Lord DERBY and Mr. DISRAELI. We foreshadowed the secret of England's policy in our last number. We are pleased to see that the French papers, received by this week's mail, understand it thoroughly and explain it with admirable clearness. The *Gazette de France* says that people in France do not sufficiently bear in mind the enormous interests England has at stake in the East. All the efforts of her policy have tended to protect those interests. England may have confined herself to neutrality while war was raging on the Continent, and tolerated with apparent indifference the disturbance of balance of power. But in the East it was necessary to turn over a new leaf. With a sagacity which does credit to the present Cabinet, the British Government devoted itself to

watching step by step all the shifting courses of Russian policy; and when the hour arrived that by longer delay English interests might be compromised at some time more or less remote, the Queen's Government acted with a promptness and decision that took the whole world by surprise. For the moment England carries the day. The policy which tended to the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire has sustained an unquestionable check. Under the patronage of Great Britain, Turkey is about to endeavour to maintain her unity, while granting to her Christian subjects reforms which, while excluding the autonomy or half-independence of the provinces, are calculated to satisfy all reasonable requirements. English policy, it is therefore easy to understand, has a double object in view—the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire and an improvement in the condition of the Christians. If England can achieve this double object, Russia will have sustained a considerable check. Mr. JOHN LEMOINNE says:—The revolution in Turkey was expected—perhaps prepared—in England. The attitude of the English Government had changed the state of the Eastern question, and the despatch of her fleet to the Mediterranean showed that England was determined not to let the affair be settled without her. We were the first to point out that the adhesion of France to the Berlin Memorandum only signified a Platonic assent, a mere desire to strengthen the pacific efforts of the Powers, and not a co-operation in the event of active measures. It is clear that on this point we shall always have to consult England in preference to any other Power. The result of the revolution in Turkey will therefore be the quashing of all ideas of intervention which may have been conceived by the Powers represented at the Berlin Conference, from whom Austria may perhaps be struck out, for Austria must be relieved by the change in the situation, and no doubt England reckoned on this tacit satisfaction.

The Hon. JOHN H. CAMPBELL has given an opinion in regard to the right of the Provincial Legislatures to limit the number of liquor licenses. He says:—"I have no doubt that the Provincial Legislatures have the power to require that a license shall be necessary to sell spirituous liquors, &c., to determine the fee or duty that shall be payable therefor, and to make regulations respecting the issuing of licenses, but I am of opinion that whenever any brewer has complied with these regulations, whether enacted directly by the Legislature or by any municipality under the authority of the Legislature, he is entitled to a license on payment of the license fee, and that the Provincial Parliament has no power to enact a law that he shall have it only at the discretion of the municipality or Commissioners, under such circumstances."

The beautiful town of St. Johns, on the banks of the Richelieu, has been the victim of a catastrophe which has created the deepest impression of sympathy throughout the Province, and even throughout the country. St. Johns is one of the oldest and most historic points in Canada, being prominently connected in our annals with many military events of importance, and associated with the names of CHAMPLAIN, MONTCALM, MONTGOMERY, CARLETON, BURGUYNE, DE LOURMIEU, DE SALABERRY, PROVOST, and others. It is to be hoped that the energy of the inhabitants will triumph over the present disaster, and that the chief town of the Richelieu Valley—the garden of Quebec—will arise from its ashes more prosperous than ever.

In accordance with the recommendation of General SMYTH, the Dominion Government has sent orders to England for the purchase of five 64-pounder rifled guns, to be mounted at Negrotown Point, for the protection of St. John, N. B., harbor. Orders have also been issued for the partial armament of Point L'avis, at Quebec.