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The Weekly Messenger.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

This paper is published at the remarkably low price of Fifty Cents a Year, and Two Dollars for Five Copies. During the general Scott Act campaign it will be largely devoted to the service of temperance workers throughout the country. For campaign circulation it will be furnished in parcels of 125 fresh, or 150 older numbers (when on hand) for a dollar. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SOX, Montreal, Canada.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The House was informed that the Grand Trunk Railway Company was willing to sell out the North Shore Railway to the Government, to enable the Canadian Pacific Railway to reach Quebec by that line, but was not anxious to do so. Also, that the Canadian Pacific Railway was endeavoring to obtain a through road to Quebec so as to make it a summer port.

Sir Charles Tupper brought down a series of resolutions, which were passed, granting subsidies to railways as follows: To the Province of Quebec, for building the railway between the cities of Ottawa and Quebec, \$6,000 a mile for the 159 miles between Quebec and Montreal, and \$12,000 a mile for the 120 miles between Montreal and Ottawa; for a line between Montreal and Halifax by the shortest possible route, \$170,000 per annum for fifteen years; for a line from Oxford to Sydney and Louisburg, in Nova Scotia, \$30,000 per annum for fifteen years, in addition to subsidies previously granted and a gift of the Eastern Extension Railway, forming eighty miles of the proposed line; to the Quebec Central Railway Company, \$3,200 per mile for a line from Beauce Junction to the international boundary; for extending the Canadian Pacific Railway from St. Martin's Junction, near Montreal, to Quebec, \$6,000 a mile; for a line from Victoria Branch, Midland Railway, to Bancroft village, Hastings county, Ontario, \$3,200 a mile; for a line from Aylmer to Pembroke, Ontario, \$3,200 a mile; for a line from Kazabazna to Lake Desert, Gatinneau district, \$160,000; for a line from Tamworth to Bogart and Bridgewater, \$70,400; from Lake Simon to Desert, \$160,000; Fredericton to Miramichi, in New Brunswick, \$128,000 instead of the subsidy granted last year; Wallaceburg to Sarnia, Ontario, \$96,000; Cornwall to Perth, Ontario, \$262,400; Mississippi to Renfrew, \$48,000; St. Jerome to New Glasgow, Quebec, \$32,000; from Jacques Cartier Union Junction with the Canadian Pacific to St. Martin's Junction, Quebec, \$200,000; St. Louis to Richibucto, New Brunswick, \$22,400; Hopewell to Alma, New Brunswick, \$51,200; St. Andrews to Lachute, Quebec, \$22,400; Grand Piles, St. Maurice River, to Lake Deslles, Quebec, \$217,600; Digby to Annapolis, Nova Scotia, \$64,000; Head of Grand Lake to the Intercolonial Railway between Sussex and St.

John, New Brunswick, \$128,000; from Carquet to Shippegan, New Brunswick, \$76,800; from Metapedia toward Paspebiac, Quebec, \$300,000, and from Derby to Indiantown, New Brunswick, \$140,000. All these subsidies amount to about nine million dollars, and the greater part of them will go to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A spirited discussion took place on the Government bill abolishing the inspection of fish from Newfoundland. Mr. Martin protested very strongly against the measure, saying the Newfoundlanders stamped all their fish No. 1, so that it came into unfair competition with the properly graded Canadian inspected article. If the Government would not enforce a uniform inspection, he would support the Government no longer. He said, applauded by the Opposition, that they were under the National Policy, but our fishermen paid dear to sustain it. Mr. Fortier's views prevailed, inspection being retained in the bill.

Upon the occasion of voting \$526,265 for salaries of immigration agents and employees, the Opposition strongly criticized the expenditure of money with very little to show for it.

An amendment made to the Indian Act, 1883, makes a person selling liquor to an Indian by written or verbal order liable to the full penalty just as though no order had been given, and makes any person found gambling in an Indian domicile of any kind, or found within an Indian village after sunset, and who refuses to leave at the request of chief or agent, liable to all the penalties prescribed for furnishing liquor to an Indian. Mr. Paterson suggested that the Indians be allowed to lease their lands to whites, but Sir John Macdonald said the experiment had been tried without bearing the advantageous results predicated of it.

The Dominion Liquor License Act of 1883 was amended in some points. Persons applying for a license who have not had one before must present a petition signed by one-third of the electors in their districts. A penalty is imposed for not taking out a license under the Act. Instead of having a clause inserted to remit penalties under the Act pending a decision as to its constitutionality, the Government promises to remit penalties by its own action, but will pay no defendant's costs. The Premier said the Government was ready to submit the question of constitutionality at once to the Supreme Court or to the Privy Council or both.

In the Senate Mr. Macpherson used such violent language in reference to the Premier of Ontario that in a cooler after moment he decided to have the official report of his remarks toned down.

Sir Hector Langevin denied in the House the story of the Toronto Globe that the testimonial recently presented to him had been wrung from subordinates in his department and public contractors.

The Commons, after a lively debate, passed the bill to allow Sir Charles Tupper to hold the offices of High Commissioner in Great Britain and Minister of Railways together.

The Government has disallowed the act of the British Columbia Legislature, prohibiting the immigration of Chinese into that Province.

ANTIQUATED STUFF.

THE HOTEL QUESTION.

The *Barrie Examiner* throws whatever influence it may have against the movement to have the Scott Act adopted in the county of Simcoe. It talks of the importance of the liquor traffic to Barrie's commercial prosperity, "despite the exceptions taken to it on moral and religious grounds." Our contemporary goes on to praise the Crooks Act for having made hotel keeping in Ontario a respectable calling; "it has reduced indulgence in strong drink to a dietary limit, with exceptions which are few and far between, and the tendency is manifestly toward improvement. To deprive Barrie of its present hotel trade would lay a very serious embargo on the general prosperity of our town." Now, while admitting the merits of the Crooks Act as a license measure, we yet do not believe that the licensed traffic in liquor, in Simcoe any more than any other place, has been carried on without the usual fruits of open drunkenness and disorder, and public and private misery. If a "dietary limit" means only drinking in conjunction with the taking of food, again we have no hesitation in contradicting the statement in question. The licensed sale of intoxicating drink never reduced indulgence to any such a limit, and never will. The *Examiner* must imagine its readers are simple-minded indeed to accept such stuff. As to the destruction of the hotel business, which is a source of such fearful apprehension to the opponents of prohibition, we want proof—not rant—proof that men cannot be satisfactorily entertained at a profit without reference to the sale of liquor. There are a great many temperance people moving about these days, and a great many living in hotels. Do the hotel-keepers lose money in furnishing this class with bed and board and attention? We believe that temperance guests are really the most desired, even in some hotels that are only run to give respectability to the more lucrative bar. In fact, we have known drinkers to be accommodated at the bar of one of these hotels and then turned away to find bed and board in a temperance hotel. In truth, it is the liquor traffic that destroys the legitimate hotel business. Capital would, we believe, be forthcoming in every town for first-class temperance hotels were it not for the fear of entering into competition with concerns that could afford to give legitimate entertainment at cost and exist upon the profits of the bar until all legitimate rivals were thus vanquished. Our opponents could almost safely be challenged to point out a truly respectable liquor-selling hotel in town or country. In those of the latter it is doubtful, and we speak from experience, if a guest can stay three days in succession without being annoyed and disgusted, even at the tables, with the conduct of fellow guests who patronize the bar.

Neither is there any assurance of a night's quiet rest free from the noise of drunken men, either within or without the house. The abolition of the traffic in connection with hotels is, in fact, the first step in giving many towns anything worthy the name of a respectable hotel.

DISCOVERY HAS BEEN MADE of fresh dynamite plots in England. Several persons have been arrested, and English detectives are searching Paris for dynamites. The press draws particular attention to the evidence that the dynamite conspiracies are hatched in America. One of the pleas of the United States, in suing for damages against England, for the depredations of the "Alabama" cruiser, was that a nation allowing a hostile expedition to leave its shores against a friendly country was responsible for the mischief done thereby. It is therefore held to be competent for the British Government to demand that the American Government shall take measures to prevent its territory being made the base of the dynamite conspirators' operations.

THE GRAND JURY of Cincinnati, composed of the foremost citizens, has received a strong charge from the bench to enquire into the late riots. As a result of the deplorable events, there is a marked change in the conduct of criminal trials. There were three convictions and two pleas of guilty on Monday. The jurors required but a short time to agree upon their verdicts. It is satisfactory to learn that the severe lesson taught the citizens, against permitting the administration of justice being made a farce, is bearing good fruit.

A LOTTERY SCHEME for the ostensible purpose of aiding agriculture and colonization, fathered by a Roman Catholic priest named Labelle, is going through the Quebec Legislature. Before the private bills committee it was short of official character by having the word "National" struck out of the title. Still, by passing the measure the Legislature will make itself responsible for legalizing a huge evil—a downright curse to the people, as lotteries always are in more ways than one.

RELIGIOUS FEUDS have again broken out in Newfoundland. Roman Catholics mobbed the Episcopal congregation at Carbonear while coming out from divine service on Easter Sunday. This outrage was followed by the arming of the Orangemen, and serious riots have taken place. No loss of life has been reported up to the time of writing this. A British man-of-war is reported to have been ordered to the scene.

THE FREEDOM OF LIMERICK was conferred upon Messrs. Charles Dawson and Michael Davitt, members of Parliament, the other day. A monster mass meeting on the occasion passed resolutions favoring home rule for Ireland and expressing confidence in Mr. Parnell.

THERE IS DEARTH OF NEWS from the Sudan. A report that Khartoum had fallen and General Gordon been made prisoner has not been confirmed.