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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1874.

When Mr. Dorion succeeded Sir John A. Macdonald in the Department of Justice, it was expected on all hands that he would set about the work of prompt and thorough reform. Hardly more than a year ago, from his seat in the House, he poured a broadside into the whole Bench of the Province of Quebec, and held up the then Minister to a stern responsibility for the train of judicial abuses, which he described in language of unwonted violence. On the strength of that denunciation, he was elected, a few weeks later, Batonnier of the Montreal Bar, and still later, Batonnier of the whole Provincial Bar. As a leading lawyer, he was supposed to know all the abuses of which he complained, and as a Minister, with the combined influence of all the lawyers at his back, he was supposed willing and able to remedy them without loss of time. And yet, though five months have elapsed since he assumed charge of his Department, he is still hesitating and undecided. Indeed, it was only through the loud protestations of the Bar, at several meetings, that he was induced to act even partially. There were four judges whose removal the lawyers demanded—Drummond, Badgley, Monk and Duval. The first of these resigned before the late Government went out of power, and he was promptly replaced by Judge Ramsay. The second resigned some days ago, and he has been replaced by Judge Sanborn. The third, instead of resigning, has asked and obtained a six months' leave of absence—a proceeding which the lawyers of Montreal pronounce unaccountable. The fourth was said, at first to have offered his resignation, but now seems to have withdrawn it, at Mr. Dorion's suggestion, and to have obtained a *congé* till June. In consequence of all these manipulations, the Court of Appeals, which ought strictly to consist of five members, has now only three—Judges Taschereau, Ramsay, and Sanborn. Chief Justice Duval and Judge Monk, being only temporarily absent, can be only temporarily replaced, and two judges *ad hoc* had to be appointed in their stead. Up to the present writing, only one of these judges—Loranger—has been nominated. As was to be expected, the above changes have met with scant favour from the Bar. In the first place, it demands the absolute resignation of Judge Monk, who is charged with being the head and front of the offending Bench. The physical incapacity of the Chief Justice is also urged as a reason for his immediate removal from his high and responsible charge. In the next place, temporary judges cannot, in the nature of things, answer to their duties where there is such an unusually long list of cases in arrears as in the present Court of Appeals. In all this business, it is charged that there is something more than mere neglect on the part of the Minister of Justice, but we are fain to believe the rumours on this head to be exaggerated. If they were true, the case of the Chief Justiceship would assume the proportions of a scandal. Mr. Dorion owes it to his own fair fame to introduce at once and quite fearlessly the radical reforms which he urged with so much warmth on his predecessor.

Some weeks ago the London *Standard* announced that three regiments were about to be garrisoned in Canada. Private advices, of a later date, received at Quebec, were said to confirm the statement. Since then nothing more has been heard on the subject, and one paper, with or without authority, has contradicted the rumour. Whether or not the late Government had any such intention cannot now be known, and since its retirement from power the matter is of no consequence. But with the advent of a new Administration, the case assumes another aspect. It is well known that when Mr. Cardwell announced his policy of withdrawing the troops from the Colonies, he was opposed by the Conservative party, who regarded the slight economy resulting therefrom, as a trifle compared with the advantages of retaining colonial garrisons. The Gladstone Administration carried its point, but the

Conservatives maintained their opposition. The question now arises whether it would not be well for Mr. Disraeli to restore that which his predecessor took away? He would be doing a gracious and meritorious act if he made the restitution. Of course, as the troops were withdrawn without our consent, nay, against our express wishes, Mr. Disraeli should not ask to be supplicated by us in the matter. The deed must be spontaneous on the part of the British Government. Of the mutual advantage of the step to both Canada and the troops there is really no serious question. While it is quite true that we can get along without the soldiers, there is no use denying that the presence of the red-coat is a visible link of union with the old country, while the military manœuvres are ennobling to those who witness them. It is no less certain that residence in foreign garrisons has a most salutary effect on the British soldier, as the history of the army for nearly two centuries abundantly proves. We believe we are echoing a healthy public opinion in advising this measure; and we trust we shall be supported in bringing it to the attention of the new Secretary of War and the new Colonial Minister, who are both tried friends of the Dominion.

The "Reformed Church" movement in Ottawa appears to be progressing rapidly. Ever since its inception it has shown remarkable vitality, and given promise of future greatness. Indeed, until within but a short while ago, it possessed every requisite, with one exception, which could ensure its success. The lacking element has, however, been supplied, and that by the very man whose interest it was, of all men, that the movement should prove a failure. An Ottawa journal announces, on reliable authority, that the Bishop of Ontario has formally communicated Mr. J. B. Steacy, of that city, on being made aware by him of his intention to support the new establishment; and it further expresses its belief that it is his Lordship's intention to take the same course with other members of his flock who may join the movement. Naturally the only effect of opposition from such a quarter will be to confirm and establish the new Church in Ottawa, while it certainly will in no way contribute to increase the popularity of the High Church clergy, or the respect with which their Evangelical brethren regard them. Much as Bishop Cummins' schism is to be deplored, the action of the Bishop of Ottawa will be the subject of greater regret among the true friends of the Church of England. No one questions his Lordship's perfect right to use the censures of the Church in the matter, but his policy is certainly of the most doubtful; the more so as the great mass of members of the English Church have always affected to set at nought the censures of the Roman Church in similar cases.

Apropos of the recent railway disaster a commercial traveller writes to the *Globe* suggesting an improvement in the mode of hanging doors on railway car doors. In all cases these are made to swing inwards, whereas were they made to open outwards, or, better still, both outwards and inwards, so as to allow of easier egress, the danger attending accidents similar to that which occurred at Komoka would be greatly reduced. It is only extraordinary that while such an arrangement is insisted on for public buildings no provision has been made for securing its adoption for railway cars. Its necessity in the latter case has been so amply demonstrated, that there can be no excuse for overlooking it in the future.

One of the latest stories from the other side of the Ocean is to the effect that the people of Fayal, in the Azores, having petitioned President Grant for a United States protectorate over those islands, the President replied that "the era of popular will has replaced the era of conquest." It is difficult to place any faith in the rumour, for the United States Government has always been as accustomed to grasp at any chance of national aggrandizement as the President has been unaccustomed to utter any such sententious dicta as that which has been so unfeelingly put into his mouth. But for this we should be inclined to enquire what the South might have to say as to the era of popular will having supplanted the era of conquest.

The appointment to the Senate of Mr. Penny, of the Montreal *Herald*, and of Mr. Joly M. P. P., Quebec, has given great satisfaction among supporters of the Government, and has been favourably received by the majority of the Opposition Press. It is only questionable if Mr. Penny's long and valuable services to his party do not deserve a higher recognition than a seat in the upper House. To a journalist the calm and dignified repose which is characteristic of this august assembly will form but a sorry exchange for the bustle and excitement of such a newspaper office as that of the *Herald*.

An Ottawa paper suggests that on the confirmation of

the reported success of the Ashantee expedition, instructions should be sent to commanding officers of artillery throughout the Dominion to fire a salute. Would it not have been well further to proclaim a public holiday? Such a boon would have been gratefully appreciated by the busy merchant, the tired mechanic, and the over-worked Government clerk. Such an oversight—from Ottawa—is incomprehensible!

(For the Canadian Illustrated News.)

LAMENT OF A DEFEATED NOVA SCOTIA M.P.

I was first elected to serve my noble County in the Dominion Parliament in 1867. Previous to that time I had been an uncompromising Anti-Confederate. True at heart, I felt that the Union of these Provinces was a good thing, in fact, the only broad and consistent course that could be pursued. But, then, you see, the popular tide had set in against it, and I could not fancy letting the golden opportunity slip of gaining political honours. So I threw in my destinies enthusiastically with the Nova Scotia Antis. The result was I was elected to Parliament in 1867 by an immense majority over an old veteran statesman, who had served the County faithfully for years; but who had the misfortune of being in the unpopular side.

Once in Ottawa the situation was a little trying. It would not do to come out fairly in support of the Government, and yet Sir John was so strong, and had such an extensive patronage, that one could not very well resist courting his favour. The first step toward a solution of the difficulty was Mr. Howe's change of base. I watched the effect of this on the people of Nova Scotia, and more particularly my own constituents. I had an idea, at first, that all the Anti-Unionists would follow Howe, since his course was the only wise and statesmanlike one that he could pursue. "But by some means or other, it didn't take." And so I withheld from any active cooperation, and left my old leader to bear the brunt of the difficulty alone. I think I was pretty shrewd in this course.

After this I pursued a sort of temporising policy. I could not afford to let the patronage of my County slip out of my hands, and so I managed to vote with the Government on all important questions. At the same time I kept sending letters to my old supporters stating, in effect, that "the situation here was very embarrassing; that it required all the wisdom and prudence one could command to steer one's course accurately; that I had no love for the Government, but the Opposition was worse; that I would act conscientiously and do the best I could for the general interests of the County, and aim only to faithfully serve my friends, and obtain the favour of my constituents." And in this way I kept coquetting with the Government, secured its patronage and favour, and avoided openly committing myself to any particular party or policy.

In this way everything went on pretty smoothly for the first five years. It is true the Liberals of Nova Scotia, to whom I owed my election, were commencing to take sides with the so-called Reformers of Ontario, and the Rouges of Quebec. And the newspapers, too, had a nasty way of talking about "our double-dealing representatives;" but I managed to keep my constituents pretty well in the dark as to my real wishes, intimating in general to my old Liberal supporters that my sympathies were really with the Opposition, but "it would scarcely be wise, you know, etc." While to some of the leading Conservatives of the County, I quietly insinuated my belief that the "present administration should be sustained." In this way, although I was pretty strongly opposed in the election of 1872, I succeeded in quietly slipping in again, and, as I fondly thought, was good for "another five years." As my political ambition did not lead me to seek for any more lengthened Parliamentary career than ten years, I felt I could act pretty independently, now. Upon one thing I was firmly bent, that was the securing of some pleasant, lucrative office, in which I could quietly spend the remainder of my days. With this in view I began to act a little independent toward the Government. The Opposition was now pretty formidable, and I could dictate my own terms. On the first division I voted slap against the Government, and as the majority was not very large, I began to be "looked after," a neat little billet was suggested, and I, after some hesitation, made a slight sally toward the bait. It was dangled about a little, kept temptingly near my eyes, and I played about it coyly, as the cat with the captured mouse, neither taking it absolutely in possession, nor allowing it to slip from my grasp.

And thus matters proceeded till that horrible Pacific Scandal came up. Oh, how I hate the sight of that very word, "Pacific," and those miserable words "Pacific Scandal!" At first I did not apprehend any difficulty. I had seen Sir John in just such a fix before, but he always managed to come out right, and so I expected it would be this time. I wisely remained away from the meeting at August 13th and so escaped the unpleasant dilemma of signing that Protest, or offending my party, the members of which were beginning by this time to be very vigilant and warm. When we assembled in October, I was in a great quandary how to act. I heard the members of the Government say that they could command a clear majority of thirty; I heard the Opposition leaders express confidence that they could carry their ends. On the whole, the chances, at first, seemed to favour the Government. Then this little office was skilfully dangled by the Hon. Minister of — and it was proposed that I should be gazetted at once. This, and old associations, turned the scale in my mind, and I made up my mind that I could, upon the whole, stand by the Government. Meanwhile some of the Nova Scotia members began to fall off. One after another announced his intention in Parliament to oppose the Government to the last. I rather pitied these poor fellows at the time, and fancied that they were foolishly damning their prospects for the next four years. The Great Debate went on, and nothing but uncertainty prevailed. One of the Nova Scotia members hinted to me that I had better "come over," before it was too late, but I only laughed at him.

At last came the awful blow, *the Government resigns!* My first care is to see if I am gazetted all right for my promised office. To my dismay I find another fellow's name in my place! My next care was to bawl out loudly against the Government, and "corruption." I went to the reporter, one of the leading opposition papers in Nova Scotia, and told him to telegraph down that "Phipps would have supported the Opposition if it had come to a vote." But, contrary to my request, he telegraphed just the reverse. I then went to Mr. McKennie and