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TEMPERATURE.

As observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING				Corresponding week, 1878.			
Max.	Min.	Mean.		Max.	Min.	Mean.	
April 20th, 1879.				April 20th, 1878.			
Mon.. 48°	28°	38°	44°	Mon.. 48°	40°	44°	44°
Tues.. 40°	26°	33°	42°	Tues.. 51°	39°	45°	45°
Wed.. 47°	32°	39° 5	47°	Wed.. 55°	39°	47°	47°
Thur.. 49°	35°	42°	49°	Thur.. 52°	41°	49°	49°
Frid.. 48°	32°	40°	47°	Frid.. 41°	41°	47°	47°
Sat.. 42°	33°	40° 5	45° 5	Sat.. 66°	43°	53° 5	53° 5
Sun.. 51°	36°	43° 5	54° 5	Sun.. 64°	43°	54° 5	54° 5

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 26, 1879.

CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

We deem it a duty, as we certainly consider it a pleasure, to give prominence through our columns to an appeal of the Quebec Historical Society for the preservation of our National Archives. Few subjects are more interesting, none more important, and we trust that the matter will receive immediate consideration from the proper authorities.

In the year 1824, His Excellency the Earl of DALHOUSIE, then Governor-General of Canada, with the co-operation of the most distinguished and educated citizens of Quebec, founded a Society at Quebec, for the promotion of literature in general and encouragement of researches touching early Canadian history in particular. On the 5th of October, 1831, His Majesty WILLIAM IV. conferred a Royal Charter on this association of scientific gentlemen, which thence was styled "Literary and Historical Society of Quebec." In accordance with the chief object of the charter, this society founded a library and museum, both of which have attained large dimensions, and has devoted large sums to collect and publish MSS. and memoirs relating to the early history of the colony, and the society now numbers close on 400 associate members.

An earnest desire to fulfil the mission devolving on it under its charter, in October, 1877, induced the Society to send delegates to attend a literary convention at Ottawa, organized for the purpose, among others, of devising practical means for the preservation and publication of Canadian archives. A report was presented by the delegates, past President, J. M. LEMOINE, and Vice-President, Lt.-Col. T. B. STRANGE, of which the following record was inserted in the annual address of the late President of the Society, Mr. JAMES STEVENSON:—

"Animated by our traditions to do our distinctive work in the land, this Society assumes a definite attitude towards every movement which has for its object the procuring and preservation of historical documents. In the absence of a public record office, such as other nations possess for the custody of official papers, journals and historical documents, irreparable losses have been suffered by Canada. It is therefore the opinion of the Council that this Society should unite with other societies of kindred purpose, in memorializing the Federal Government upon the subject, and in respectfully suggesting that the archives

of Canada should be gathered together into one Public Record Office, under the supervision and control of a competent Archivist."

In accordance with the above the Society approaches Parliament, and, whilst gratefully acknowledging the efforts made in previous years to gather up and preserve the archives of the Dominion scattered abroad, as evinced in the reports of the delegates, Messrs. DOUGLAS BRYMNER and the Abbé VERRAULT, submitted to Government by the Department of Agriculture in 1871 and 1873, the Society hopes the good work will not rest here, but will be continued. The searches of Messrs. BRYMNER and VERRAULT extended to the records of the British Museum, the Tower of London—the War Office—the Office of the Secretary of State—the Public Record Office—the military archives at Halifax—the Segnier collection in the Harlean Library—the MSS. of George III., the Colonial Calendar, the HALDIMAND papers—the DORCHESTER papers—the Royal Institution—the French archives at Paris—the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, the *Département de la Marine*, the *Département des Affaires Étrangères*, the Dubrowski and the Zalouski Collection of French MSS. in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, and also the archives of other European countries.

The most noticeable documents affecting the several provinces of the Dominion discovered in these archives are indicated by their titles, comprising several thousands, the bulk of some of which of the greatest moment for American and Canadian history, are unknown in Canada and a sealed book to those engaged in the laborious task of compiling the annals of the Dominion. Unless gathered up and deposited in some place of easy access, those unpublished and fast-decaying records of the past preclude any one from undertaking a reliable history of Canada. These State documents are not only indispensable to the historian, but their unrevealed contents must necessarily bear on other subjects fully as momentous and are calculated to throw light on many obscure points in treaties, boundaries of provinces, fishery and other international rights, &c. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, whilst recording its satisfaction at the interest shown by the Dominion Government in 1870-1, in furnishing the means to make the searches already alluded to, respectfully prays that the Dominion Government of this day will complete the measure of progress of 1870 by providing the necessary legislation to create a Public Record Office under a responsible head at Ottawa, and take the necessary steps to have copied and gathered there the archives of Canada, scattered in Canada, as well as in other lands.

CANADA'S FLOATING FARMS.

Under this rather fanciful but truthful title we published last week a sketch of the steamship *Memphis* laden with sheep and cattle for a transatlantic voyage from Montreal to Liverpool. This picture has been much admired, as worthy of the highest illustrated papers, and reflecting great credit upon our artist. It was valuable also as giving prominence to a subject of vital interest to Canadian farmers. Accompanying the sketch we published a brief summary of our cattle importation. Since then we have been officially put in possession of further facts and figures which we hasten to reproduce as most valuable to our readers. They were furnished by Mr. CRAMP, the Montreal Agent of the Dominion Line of Steamships, to the Immigration Committee of Parliament. Mr. CRAMP informs us that the cattle trade has been doubled since 1877. There were 18,655 head of cattle exported last year, and 41,250 sheep, by far the greater portion belonging to Canada; the value of these shipments was \$2,117,525. The feed to carry them across the ocean \$130,602, and the freight earned was \$500,000. This country, he believes, has only just commenced

a trade which must increase to immense proportions. The rates of transportation have been rather unsettled; but on the whole there will be a slight reduction from last year. The price averages about five dollars per head for freight, and the general live weight is about 1,600 pounds. The spar deck is preferred for cattle on account of the ventilation. The space allowed is regulated by the case of the animal. A very small proportion of the animals is lost. Casualties of a serious character have occurred, but it is principally due to the incompetency of the care-takers. He thinks as the time advances trained men will fall into those positions, but it will perhaps be necessary at some future time to see that proper officers have to look after them. There have not been as many cattle lost latterly as when the trade was first commenced. The difficulties attending the shipping of cattle are gradually being overcome. There are great efforts put forth by certain traders in England to prevent the importation of Canadian cattle into that country. There has never been an actual case of contagious pleuropneumonia among Canadian cattle. The trade with Canada has suffered very much by the opposition that has been stirred up by the persons referred to. The trade in sheep looks as if there was going to be a large increase during the coming season. Strong working horses are more saleable than any other kind. The horse trade is comparatively a very small one. Mr. CRAMP does not think there has been a single loss of a horse on his line since the exportation commenced. In addition to the cattle there were 690 horses and 2,027 hogs shipped last year. The dead meat trade was not at all promising. Cattle were received from Sarnia, in the West, down to the place of shipment. The freight charges on cattle from Kingston to Halifax were about five dollars per head. If cattle could be raised in the Lower Provinces, the people there would save the freight charges that have to be paid by Western dealers. The embargo that was placed on American cattle coming through Canada, and being shipped to England, worked against the carrying trade, and did not effect any good results as regards the prohibiting of the trade with England, as the Americans could still ship cattle to England, and the order was that the American cattle should be slaughtered ten days after landing. If arrangements could be made whereby Sarnia could be scheduled as a port of entry, where the examination of cattle could take place, and then come into the Dominion, an enormous business could be retained in Canada that was going through the States at the present time.

From the last blue-book on the census, which we analyzed a few weeks ago, we extract the following curious and interesting information:—The present ratio of creeds to the population for every 1,000 of the people is 428 Roman Catholics, 142 Church of England, 162.7 Methodists, and 156.3 Presbyterians. It thus appears that these four denominations have 889 of every thousand of the population of Canada—at least they had this in 1871; that the Roman Catholics, though only an absolute majority in one Province, are relatively the strongest in two, and very nearly equal to the most numerous in a third; that the Methodists are the most numerous body in Ontario, and the Presbyterians in Nova Scotia; and that taking the population of all these four Provinces, the Roman Catholics have not very far from one-half the entire number; while the Church of England has rather less than a seventh, the Methodists not quite a sixth, and the Presbyterians somewhat more than a seventh. There are, of course, in addition to these, large numbers of Baptists, Congregationalists, Lutherans, and others; and thus the religious or ecclesiastical strength of the population is greater than the figures previously given, when taken by themselves, would seem to indicate.

THE coming summer promises to be a gay one in Vice-Regal and high official circles. We trust that by that time the entangled LETELLIER business may be satisfactorily disposed of. The Governor-General and the Princess LOUISE will spend a week in Montreal, beginning toward the end of May. Then three weeks in Quebec. Lord LORNE's father, the Duke of ARGYLL, is expected to arrive at the ancient capital in the second week in June, for a four months' visit to his son and royal daughter-in-law. A week later they will greet Rear-Admiral the Duke of EDINBURGH at Halifax, who will succeed Admiral INGELFIELD in command of the North American squadron. At Halifax the party will be joined by Lord WHARNCLIFFE, Lord COLIN CAMPBELL (the Marquis' brother), Mr. EUSTACE BALFOUR, who will marry Lady ELIZABETH, the Marquis' second sister, in a few days, Earl PERCY, heir presumptive to the dukedom of Northumberland, and husband of Lady EDITH, the Marquis' eldest sister, and probably Lord ROSEBERRY and wife.

THERE appears in our columns this week a remarkable paper from the authoritative pen of Mr. THOMAS WIDD, Superintendent of the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, of this city, to which we beg to call the particular attention of thoughtful readers. We know of no subject more startling and more mournful, and we little thought when we broached it a few weeks ago that such authorities as Mr. WIDD, and Mr. PAUL DENYS, of the Brockville Institution, would be able to afford us so little consolation. In view of the facts adduced by them, it follows that there is, perhaps, no charity so noble and so pressing as that which gives ample encouragement to asylums for the deaf and dumb.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, April 19.—There is yet a very uneasy feeling arising out of the Letellier affair. The air is full of rumours. And on Thursday last there was a caucus of the Conservative party. It is of course, caucuses being secret, that nothing is supposed to transpire that occurs at them, and certainly ought not, or they would cease to be useful. Men will, however, talk; and it is rumoured that a question occupying this caucus was whether a long adjournment of the House should not be recommended, in order to postpone the Tariff, the Estimates and everything until the final settlement of the Letellier affair. Something of this sort has been recommended by a number of the French-speaking members. But it is rumoured that the decision of the caucus on Thursday was to get through the session as soon as possible; and certainly the Tariff debate has since been taken up and resolutions pushed to vote. We also hear that there was another caucus held in Montreal during the Easter holidays.

A circumstance which has given rise to a good deal of speculation here, is another article in the *London Times*, a summary of which was telegraphed to the leading organ of the Opposition in Toronto, quite different in sense and tone from that to which I alluded in my last letter. The argument in that was that Lord Lorne must be advised to take the advice of the Canadian Ministers, and he was, in effect, told that he might as well, at first as at last, have signed the warrant for Mr. Letellier's political decapitation.

Now we have, singularly enough, arguments in favour of the Letellier side of the case, setting forth exactly the ground taken by Mr. Mackenzie's Government, and that on which he secured a large vote in the last Parliament. This is coupled, too, with an announcement, that, so soon as the news reached England that Mr. Mackenzie's amendment to the Tariff had been defeated in the House of Commons, Canadian bonds fell two per cent. This is a sign of a great and very serious shock. It shows how profoundly the English mind is impressed with Free Trade doctrines, and how ill it can brook what it believes to be the Protectionist heresy in the Dominion of Canada. I do not say there is any connection between the argument of the *Times*, assuming it to be correctly telegraphed, and this decline of the bonds. It may not be that the *Times* article has any political significance as respects the views of the Imperial Ministers, although it is a fact that it has of late reflected them with singular fidelity; and it would not be very far fetched to suppose that the British Government would be willing to give Protection a trip-up in Canada—particularly if there were any chance that it might be successful.

I have before told you that the Grits do not sympathize with Mr. Letellier's action, but, of course, they would be willing to make use of it