The Weekly Mail.

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A FRENCH CRISIS.

POSSIBLE COUP D'ETAT.

LONDON, May 17.—All at once the quiet of the French situation is disturbed, and we hear of another crisis, a very grave one indeed, as it appears to be. M. Simon, President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, has resigned, having been in effect invited to do so by President MacMahon. The ostensible cause of the President's action is said to have been the Minister's allowing a vote to repeal the press law of 1875 to pass, without, it is said, the President's opinion, saying before the Chamber such reasons as might have prevented such a vote.

Later advices shows that the ostensible cause of the difference between the President and the Ministers was not, however, the real one, but the occasion merely for the bursting forth of an "irrepressible conflict" which has long been in preparation. The London *Times'* Paris correspondent says that there have been repeated efforts on the part of the Right to bring about a collision between President MacMahon and the Republicans. The Committee-general and Municipal Councils, which are charged with the duty of electing Senators, must soon be renewed. The men of the Right leading the conspiracy found themselves driven into a corner. They had to account to central committees of elections to the present Republican Chamber. They had, therefore, to force on a conflict which Chambord had long foreshadowed. Those who dreamed of a coup d'état had not the patience to wait, and they suggested to the Marshal the Paris pronunciamento letter. What appears to have been contemplated in the case of the Right (extreme Royalists) saw that the Conservative Republic, through sheer force of its good behaviour and the material prosperity of the country, would quietly drift away from them if something were not done to make a clean and decisive cut, and to the tender of the Conservative-Republican way. France is a country of political and other surprises, and we never know what may happen there in forty-eight or even twenty-four hours. What is likely to be the upshot of the present crisis it were vain to speculate upon at this distance; but one remark we may safely make, viz., that if France is to be a Republic, it must be a Republic, and not trying to be what it is not by nature. It is now trying to upset the Republic in three straight days.

THE WAR.

Progress of the Contest.

LONDON, May 18.—Advices from Athens report the Greek revolutionary committee as actively preparing for war.

A despatch from St. Petersburg states that considerable anxiety exists there regarding the revolt of the Mohammedans in the Caucasus. The insurrection is assuming alarming proportions. It is feared that General Melikoff, commanding the Russians in the vicinity of Kars, will be prevented from maintaining his connection with the main army. Fighting is reported around Kars, but the result is not known.

LONDON, May 19.—A Vienna despatch says the Russians are falling back from Kars. The Kurds and Circassians are advancing on the extreme Muscovite left from Van to Erivan. A great battle is expected to take place at Toprak Kale. Severe fighting is imminent at Batoum. A large force of Circassian emigrants with great stores of arms and ammunition have been shipped from the Bosphorus for a point on the Black sea coast. The expedition will be protected and assisted by two ironclad frigates.

The official news from Turkish headquarters at Ardahan represents the garrison as carrying Russian operations over an extensive front. This leads to the natural conclusion that the Russian attack on Ardahan is made for some time, as it will be more necessary to bring all the Russian reserve stores and troops to that point. Meanwhile, stretched along the extended front, it will not be difficult for the Turkish commanders to concentrate unfended point. The Russians appear to have crossed between Reni and Ibreil in force, and have meanwhile established a bridge of pontoons beyond the river, ready for the very of revolution. It may take the form of a Russian attack on the south side of the river. Four pontoons appeared before Ismail yesterday. One returned to the mouth of the Danube, another to Reni, and the third and fourth remain watching the Russians at Ismail. The Russians have been trying experiments with Krupp shells in the river, and have succeeded in exploding them under water, the fragments floating distance.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 19.—It is officially announced that the Turks bombarded Soukoum Kale unsuccessfully on the 12th inst. It was consequently evacuated.

LONDON, May 19.—A despatch from St. Petersburg states that the Mohammedan insurrection is increasing. Troops are leaving the Caucasus for the seat of war.

The forward movement of the Russian army in Asia Minor is reported delayed.

The Russian Grenadiers repulsed an engagement at Ardahan. The combined forces of Circassians and Turks repulsed the Russians with severe loss.

A Bucharest telegram reports a terrible accident on a railway between Ploesti, a train containing Russians collided with a freight train, killing and wounding many. Among the killed was a prominent Russian General.

LONDON, May 19.—A Vienna despatch states that the Russian army on the Danube will be increased to eight army corps aggregating 280,000 men. The Commander of Sebastopol has received orders to put the place in a state of defence.

BATOUM, May 19.—The Russians in the vicinity of Ardahan have been sacked and burnt all the villages they passed.

LONDON, May 19.—A Pesth correspondent says the extreme Hungarian papers demand that Count Andrassy be called to the approach of the Russians to the neighborhood of the Austrian frontiers as a casus belli.

The military preparations of the Servians are now going on with great activity and 6,000 Circassians are joining the Turkish army.

A Bucharest despatch says the establishment of the Russian headquarters at Rustchuk indicates the purpose of carrying Russian operations over an extensive front. This leads to the natural conclusion that the Russian attack on Ardahan will not be made for some time, as it will be more necessary to bring all the Russian reserve stores and troops to that point. Meanwhile, stretched along the extended front, it will not be difficult for the Turkish commanders to concentrate unfended point. The Russians appear to have crossed between Reni and Ibreil in force, and have meanwhile established a bridge of pontoons beyond the river, ready for the very of revolution. It may take the form of a Russian attack on the south side of the river. Four pontoons appeared before Ismail yesterday. One returned to the mouth of the Danube, another to Reni, and the third and fourth remain watching the Russians at Ismail. The Russians have been trying experiments with Krupp shells in the river, and have succeeded in exploding them under water, the fragments floating distance.

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PARIS, May 18.—The new Ministry is gazetted as follows: Marquis de Rochebouet, President of the Council and Minister of Justice; M. De Fourton, Minister of the Interior; Admiral Jaurès, Minister of Finance; M. Auguste Paris, Minister of Public Works; Vicomte de Meaux, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce; M. Brunet, Minister of Public Instruction; M. Berthaut, Minister of War; M. Caillaux, Minister of Marine, Affairs. The Ministry of Worship, which was separated from the Ministry of Justice by the Chamber, Broglie refused to accept, associated with it. General Berthaut provisionally undertakes the duties of the Ministry of Marine as well as of War. MacMahon writes to De Cazes that the Ministry is composed of men of patriotism and friendship and confidence must not be changed.

PARIS, May 18.—President MacMahon waited upon the Duke de Cazes to-day to request him to accept the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. The President said that having succeeded during his administration in maintaining friendly relations, he should therefore patriotically remain in office.

VERSAILLES, May 18.—MacMahon, in his message proclaiming the formation of the Ministry, said: "Deputies, I appeal to you to say the Russian force which attacked Ardahan numbered 17,000. The garrison of Ardahan numbered 8,000, besides which several thousand are encamped before the town. During the flight of the Turks the Russian cavalry inflicted a loss of 700.

LONDON, May 23.—A Vienna correspondent remarks that the fall of Ardahan, besides securing to the Russians their position before Kars, opens out a new line of operations either against Kars or Erzeroum.

JACQUES CARTIER.

Election Trial.

MONTREAL, May 16.—The Jacques Cartier election case was continued to day.

MAURICE LORINE was a voter at Isle Bizard; saw money paid to Jean Baptiste Boisjoli, sr.; thought it was paid by Doyen.

MR MOSK objected that the proof was not admissable under the allegation in the bill of particulars.

The objection was maintained.

The WITNESS was directed to retire, permission being granted to recall him at a subsequent stage.

JEAN BOURDIAS from Vaudreuil was a voter at St. Anne's; had a conversation with Alphonse Latour; at that place Latour offered him money to go and vote; Latour was a supporter of Mr. Laflamme; did not recollect the date, but believed it was on the 28th November.

Respondent's counsel objected that in the bill of particulars it said the conversation took place on the 20th.

Mr. Davidson had never heard such an objection raised before. Whether it was the 20th or 28th was a matter of no importance. If Mr. Laflamme declared that he had been misled by the mistake as to date, the second point in the Declaration appears the most important of all; it being likely that "contraband of war" for both belligerents will be carried principally by neutral vessels. And here the advantage seems to lie with the Russians, who have a fleet in the North Atlantic, that may intercept vessels carrying Turkish supplies, not only from America but also from England. Supplies intended for Russia would, of course, be sent away north, by the Baltic, on which route the Turks have no naval force. It

cognate tomfoolery only show an ignorance, aggravating perhaps to the English managers in Canada, but amusing to ordinary bystanders.

PROJECTED ALLIANCE OF THE POWERS.

WE are in a position to state positively that Lord DERBY at the close of the Franco-German war looked forward with great hopefulness to the part that Germany would play in Europe and in consort with England; and now when Lord DERBY is Foreign Secretary one of the recent telegrams brings word that such an alliance is in contemplation. In an article which appeared towards the conclusion of that war in one of the English quarterly, and which was suggested by Lord DERBY, the writer finishes a long discussion of the whole situation "as follows:—"We feel that they (Frenchmen) "have been weighed in the balance and "found wanting, that empire has justly "passed from them, and that though the "character of the new depository of power "does not leave us without some unusual

the Turks; for without such supplies an army cannot keep the field. It may be supposed, too, that in that matter the Russians will not depend wholly on a sharp look-out and the swiftness of their vessels. The John Brazzall slipped away from New York prematurely, leaving behind a number of persons who had engaged passage, for the reason, as reported, that a conspiracy to seize her at sea and hand her over to the Russians had been discovered. And it need not be wondered should Russian gold be freely used to bribe somebody to throw vessels carrying supplies for Turkey into the way of the Russian fleet.

The declaration of Paris, which after the Crimean war was signed by Great Britain, France, Russia, Sardinia, Turkey, Austria, and Prussia, now becomes of much practical interest. Its points are:—

1. Privateering is and remains abolished.
2. A neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war.
3. Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag.
4. Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective. Arms and ammunition being *par excellence* contraband of war, are under any flag still liable to seizure, by either of the present belligerents, if in

the Canadian Parliament. And, however disposed Lord CARNARVON must be to treat this Government with all possible consideration, he must often think of the shameful way in which they have violated what is known, in connection with the Pacific railway, as the "CARNARVON "Terms."

The organ had better have left such a farrago of absurdity unsaid. It provokes ridicule among those who are even superficially acquainted with the facts of our

loss and his renewals greater than at any previous time; the manufacturer is groaning under the oppressions of an unhelpful tariff which favours a foreign nation; failures are more numerous than ever; even from the farmer there is complaint—while in some places the working-man is lustily demanding bread. But what of this? Does not the Government back tell us that it is all right? We may not know it, but we are happy; and "all "who believe that, by a generous and "general contentment of a nation depend "on its Government should at the pre-"sent moment be happy and look for-"wards the men now at the head of "affairs in the Dominion of Canada." Perhaps it would be better if little as we hold there are thousands in Canada, former supporters of the "Reform" leaders, who would like to see a change, to wait for this for some time past. But of course such an *ex cathedra* assurance from the organ will frighten them into silence. Most thoughts have been running in a strong direction!

There is but one drawback to the universal happiness of the people. These rascally Tories, ever engaged in some diabolical scheme for destroying, or at actually been assailing the purity and the honesty of Mr. ALEX. MACKENZIE, as they did his predecessor, Mr. BROWN, and "chiefs of the Reform Party, able and "excellent as they were," of days long past. The present Leader of the Party, said, "Their counterpart in the "treatment meted out to Reformers "from 1848 to 1851. From 1858 "to "1863 the Tories had office again, Mr. "SANDFIELD MACDONALD receiving "when for two short years (a) assumed "the charge of office, the full share of "abuse and calumny." The reader will notice that our contemporary skips over the years between 1851 and 1858, and gives the hiatus! We must supply the deficiency. Those years are passed over because during them the Reform Party sparingly denouncing the only live Reform Government we have had in Canada, from 1848 to 1854. It was fortunate reference of the organ compels us to recall the fact that in the election of 1854 Mr. BROWN was defeated in the-whole Tories against life-long Reformers in every constituency in Upper Canada in which one was left to oppose Mr. HINCKS' Government. Mr. BROWN's bitter struggle at the polls against the Tories in 1854, for the administration of that day to continue in office, but out of it grew the Liberal-Reform Party. Mr. BROWN, Sir JOHN MACDONALD's great leader-ship, has achieved so much in Canada's behalf. Mr. BROWN should be ashamed to refer to Mr. SANDFIELD MACDONALD. Whatever legitimate opposition the Conservative Party may have to Mr. MACDONALD when he was at the head of the Canadian Government it is not the part of a Party organ to do. It is not the Conservative Opposition, but Mr. BROWN, who defeated Mr. SANDFIELD MACDONALD in 1854, as Mr. MACKENZIE was ever ready to AVOW; and Mr. BROWN wound up his hostility to this old Tory, who, notwithstanding his pledges to pure statesman as he was, by driving him from public life, as he had driven ROBERT BALDWIN years before from public life in the one, as he had hurried the other, to his grave.

The organ asks: "In six short years "what did the last Conservative Admini-"istration manage to do?" We point it to the Government statement, Mr. CARTWRIGHT issued in London when he made his second loan. If it is not satisfied with that, we can point it to Mr. MOWAT's immensely increased, taxes were reduced, important public works were constructed out of revenue—there was unexpended balance. It mentions the Intercolonial railway in a spirit of derogation. The blush of shame ought to mantle its cheek. A railway which Canada has almost paying concern is not to be flung in the face of its projectors as a mistake. Opposition to the project was, of course, and of course, and when there is opposition men will not always speak wisely, but the results prove that the proper was route selected. That the late Government provoked the Confederation of the Nova Scotia West in the Dominion of the Dominion quelled it, and handed over the Province to their successors in peace and quietness.

"They could make the United States "a present of the Washington Treaty, "with all therein contained." It is place it a meaning out of this clumsy sentence. The Washington Treaty was the work of the Imperial Government—"Liberal" Government at that. Canadian rights, however, were well protected by it, and if they have not been enforced in the matter of the fisheries, it is the present Government which is responsible for the delay and the consequent sacrifice of Canada's interests. Further, we are told, the late Government recorded the national debt ten millions of dollars in six years. Why the Intercolonial Railway alone represents more than the whole increase. But, what is the fact to be placed against this? That in three years the present men increased the public debt more than their predecessors did in six!

We pass from the old Government to the new. "Where," we are asked, "is "the work of construction in which they "[the present Administration] have "blundered, or in which they have been "influenced by any but national con-"siderations?" Has the man lost his head? We point to the Pacific Railway, to the "scandal" which, if it be regarded Georgian Bay Branch, after an useless expenditure upon it of $41,000, to the Government back, to the Canada Central muddle and the illegality of Publications on the Government Printing Office, to the Grand Junction muddle and the illegality of Publications, and was said-brother of the late Major Ethrd Pottinger, I.C., celebrated for his heroic defence of Mosul. The Right Hon. Sir Henry Pottinger, Bart, G.C.B., was a younger brother of Mal.-Gen John Pottinger's father. Major-General Pottinger, had was created at Addiscombe, retired from the service as Colonel of the Royal Bombay Artillery. He was formerly Inspector-General of Ordnance and Commissary-General of the Army at Bombay. He served as High Sheriff for the county of Leitrim in 1841. He married, 1st, Eliza, daughter of Bulkeley Bowen, Newcomen, Esq., of Lisnagry, Co. Limerick, and leaver, with other issue, then and heir, Major Bulkeley Henry Pottinger, B.A.

"SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS."—In answer to numerous inquiries, we beg to state that advertisements inserted in *The Weekly Mail* offering special indicements to subscribers to the paper, are inserted at the advertisers' themselves, and are inserted as paid for business announcements with which *The Mail* has no connection.

A STUMBLING-BLOCK.

"IT was said that PARDEE was a "scoundrel, and that he divided the "plunder with PRINCE in that under "taking" (the Canadian Oil Works Company). Such are the scandalous tales that are circulated in London, that gentleman being then on his legs to warn investors against trusting their money to new Canadian ventures. Mr. THOMAS BLAIN PARDEE, by a policy of silence, and by dint of impressing on folks in general that he is not a bad sort of fellow, has up to this time tided over the difficulties in which his connection with the Canadian Oil Company must have entangled the Cabinet of which he is a member. Unlike Lord HENRY LENNOX, who, when he was innocently implicated in the affairs of a company wherein Baron GRANT played the parts of knave and fool, Mr. PARDEE has not position in the English Government, our Crown Land Commissioner has held on to office while he, with PRINCE, made money. He has brazed out opinion, and is still content, we suppose, that his name should go abroad as one dishonest. Mr. PARDEE has not a decent whenever any sound Canadian project meets with the antagonism of rival schemes already established there. Mr. PARDEE at Toronto has his counterpart in Mr. HUNTINGTON at Ottawa. Disgraced for ever in the British metropolis, they are a curious pair to be selected by the representatives of her Britannic Majesty to shed lustre on the Colonies of the Crown in her chief colony. Mr. NELSON's works are strong, and Mr. PARDEE's share of the profits may have been something less than that imputed to him. At any rate the words are scribble, and being reported as they are in the newspapers, it seems to us incumbent on Mr. MOWAT that he should either dismiss his Minister of Crown Lands, or cast on him for the country's sake, if not his own, to bring Mr. NELSON to account. Mr. HUNTINGTON is in even a worse position; and as sworn protectors of the name and fame of Canada, they should both immediately retire from positions where their administrative energy and ability do not in this country compensate for their defects. If the Old Country the presence of such men in the Federal and Provincial Cabinets can only be regarded as a too unquestionable evidence of the low standard at which the morality of politicians on the American side of the ocean is very generally rated by those influential British classes from which the promoters of Canadian undertakings are in the habit of seeking capital and assistance. In the prospectus of the Oil Company, Mr. PARDEE's name was strictly displayed, his various local honours being quoted as so many decoy-ducks. The Chief Justice of England characterized the Company of which Mr. PARDEE was the confidential solicitor as a swindle of the first magnitude. Being as he was *solicitor*, he could not even plead that his name and titles had been used to "draw," without his knowing the inside working of the projectors' schemes. Such an excuse might now and then with some show of justice be pleaded by a poor aristocrat, whose ignorance of business might make him a fitting fool in the hands of designing sharpers. We in this country may be pretty confident that Mr. PARDEE knew what Mr. PRINCE knew. The recurrence of a reference in London to Mr. PARDEE's unfortunate connection with that Company carries, that it forces on us the unwelcome task of directing public attention to a canker that should not be allowed to eat any further into our body politic. Mr. PARDEE's prompt resignation when first his disastrous relationship to the Company was disclosed would have prevented the scandal injuring anybody but himself; and would have implied a censure of his proceedings by public opinion here. Every day that he continues in office we think it quite clear that he identifies the country at large with the endorsement of conduct, which when he was a Vice-Chancellor his leader Mr. MOWAT would have condemned in terms as emphatic as those employed by

"knowing what a day might bring forth "or what might become at any moment "a necessity for the man of the second "of December—has in all men's thoughts "taken a definitive shape, and as from "year to year it fulfils itself, we are bold "to hope that even new guarantees will "be given for the maintenance of Euro-"pean peace. We have no reason at all "events to fear a sudden rupture of "dom. Such a kingdom will be our "natural ally against Russia. Each "empire is the first concern of each. "Germany able to supply a resistless "army, England to furnish a resistless "fleet, both united would form a coali-"bination, and frown down in their early "beginnings ambitious attempts to dis-"turb the tranquillity of Europe."

The rumour of a triple alliance comes from Vienna, and we are perfectly certain it would be a most popular one. We nor do we see why it should not be equally welcome at Berlin. The French crisis may be taking attempts to prevent the conflict with Germany. France is *debout*. She has been making extraordinary efforts to repair the disaster of MOLTKE's speech of a few months ago, as we read it, indicates that the German statesmen are anxious to put off, if not soon the fight comes off. Nor could there be a better moment than the present for France. The Budget of Russia during the next six months will be occupied with Turkey alone. Russia, therefore, will have neither poly possible ally. Apart from the triple alliance, it would be once more a question between the Turk and Russian, and Col. MACMAHON, not only Orleanist but soldier, anxious to win brighter laurels than his double defeat in the last war, a people thirsting for revenge, a clerical party fearing and hating Germany, and the Moderate and Conservative Republic put on trial by a Minister look in the direction of war. It was well known that MACMAHON believed in the world being disarmed, and he not been hampered by the vacillation and political necessities of NAPOLEON III. Circumstances are vitally changed. In the advance of Russia, whose troops are at Alula on the Austrian frontier, and near one of the Austrian provinces of Transylvanian Alps. Nor need we be surprised that the Hungarian papers are demanding that Austria-Hungary should treat the approach of the Russians to the neighbourhood of the Austrian frontier as a casus belli. Nor need the triple alliance should take place the three Powers would pledge themselves to jointly protect the integrity of each. Germany and Austria might very well say to France that they considered the results of the war of 1870-71 should be accepted, that after all Alsace and Lorraine are German speaking provinces which had been torn from Germany in the hour of her division and her weakness, and that there never can be permanent peace if nations like Germany are to be insulted and wounded at intermittably blood feuds from decade to decade, along the distracted avenues of Europe. We are sorry MACMAHON has broken with the Conservative Republic in building up which he bade fair to do a service to his country and win a reputation more enviable than his bloody laurels of successful slaughter. Nor can he fail to lose the moral support of Europe. It is impossible to sympathize with a coup d'état in France. In that case Austria, Germany, and England could very quickly bring to a close a work which that Party has been anything but a walk over for Russia, and she has all her work before her even against Turkey single-handed. On the hypothesis of the alliance and France quiescent the war would soon be over. It is impossible to conceive of