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SATURDAY, MAY 17th, 1884.

OUR CENTENNIAL.

We think everybody will agree with us that the Centennial should be celebrated. In addition to the other suggestions made as to the different festivities to be indulged in we claim consideration for a river parade. This ought to be at night, with steamers, sailing crafts, row boats and canoes illuminated. The Indians could take a prominent part with birch bark flambeaux. What a magnificent sight it would be to see a hundred or more crafts of all descriptions in line brightly illuminated and passing slowly down the river to the booms and back again. The night attack made nearly two hundred years ago on Fort Nashwaak might be reproduced with fireworks. Such a spectacle as this would crowd our city with visitors. Let us give a long pull and a strong pull and a pull together, and as 1783 will long be remembered as the day the founders of our city set up their household goods on St Ann's point, so let us make 1884 memorable by a grand display of the progress made during the century.

THE RAILWAY WORKS.

While we approve of the action of the City Council in appointing a committee to examine into the chances of locating the New Brunswick Railway Workshops located in this city, we do not advise hasty action; and, above all, we do not advise the giving of a bonus to the Company. If exemption from taxation and water rates would secure the works for Fredericton we would be disposed to go that far; but we question if it would be good judgment to go any further. Of course, when the matter comes to be thoroughly investigated, it may be found desirable to do something more than this; but at present we would be inclined to draw the line at that point. Two reasons lead us to take that view. One of them is that if the Company believes it not to be in its interest to locate its works here, any sum which the citizens would be willing to give as a bonus would not have any influence upon the decision, and on the other hand if this city is the best location for the company they will come here under any circumstances. At present we fancy that the question of the location of the workshops is not very pressing. The future of the New Brunswick Railway is unsettled, and depends a great deal upon other projects which are in contemplation. If the road is to become a part, as some believe, of the Canada Pacific, its future will be very different from what it will be if it remains an independent road. In that case, Fredericton would be the converging point for the whole system in this Province, for we take it that if the New Brunswick road passes to the C. P. R., so also will the Central, when built. In this event, the position of our city would give it a great advantage in the competition for these works. But if the road remains as it now is, it is not so clear that any inducements we could offer would have any effect. It is necessary to move cautiously, and at the same time to be on the alert to lose no advantage. The location of the railway works in this city would be a capital thing if we had not to pay too much for it.

AMERICA'S WHEAT SUPPLY.

In 1882 there was under crop in the United States 161,753,278 acres, of which 37,067,194 were sown with wheat. In Canada there were 15,112,284 acres under cultivation, of which 2,566,554 were in wheat. It is estimated that, allowing for waste land, grazing land, land in other crops, and land lying in latitudes unsuitable for wheat culture, there are in the United States 156,500,000 acres well adapted for wheat. This, at the general average of the crop of 1882—12 bushels per acre—would yield 1,878,000,000 bushels. A writer in *Harper's Magazine* says that, if one-half the land drained by the Red River of Manitoba were sown in wheat it would produce 600,000,000 bushels; but it is estimated

that in Canada 833,000,000 acres are fit to be devoted to wheat raising. Making the same allowances as made above in the case of the United States, and we have 138,500,000 acres in Canada, available for wheat, which at 13 bushels per acre—a low average—would yield 1,804,400,000 bushels. This gives the aggregate yield of the two countries as 3,682,400,000 bushels a year. The amount is inappreciable, but it is more than three bushels for every man, woman and child living on the face of the earth to-day. The present wheat crop of the United States and Canada averages about 530,000,000 bushels, or about one-seventh of its possible development. The foregoing statistics show that the capacity of the two countries in this respect are equal.

GENERAL LUARD'S SUCCESSOR.

There is said to be a hitch in the appointment of a successor to General Luard as commander of the Canadian Militia. The General is known to be a great favorite with the Duke of Cambridge, Commander in Chief of the British Army, who signified his approval of the General's course in Canada by appointing him at once upon his return to England to the command at Aldershot. More than this, the Duke is said to be very much displeased with the attitude assumed by certain Canadian militia officers and the greater number of Canadian newspapers towards General Luard, and he is stated to have intimated that he might decline to appoint any successor to the retiring commander. Of course among those who believe that we must import commanding officers from England the duke's ire is something dreadful, and the bare possibility that a Canadian, somebody we know, somebody whose father we knew, and, worse than all, somebody whose grandfather used to take off his coat and work on the farm, or in the mill or workshop, may be placed at the head of the militia force, almost sends them into convulsions. As we regard the matter it all turns upon the question of efficiency. If we have developed in Canada an officer with sufficient experience to take the command of the militia, and not only prevent its deterioration, but make it more efficient, he ought to have the post of Commander. If we have not such an officer, then we should import one. Without pretending to be very well qualified to form an opinion, we believe that there are men in the Canadian militia whose military experience, powers of organization, and what is not by any means the least essential qualification, knowledge of the country and people, qualify them for the position which General Luard has vacated.

As for the General himself, he was a good disciplinarian, but he was not the man for the position he occupied. He could not, apparently at least, realize the fact that the gulf between himself and the private militiamen was only of titles and pay. He gave praise where praise was due, but he also proffered insults where respect was called for. The Canadian militia may not have suffered anything in discipline under his command, but it did lose in *esprit de corps*. Whoever may be named to succeed him, whether an officer of the Imperial Army or one of our own experienced militiamen, will lose nothing by cultivating the esteem of the men who enrolled themselves under his command, not because of what he is, but because of what they themselves are. There is a wide distinction here, but General Luard could not see it.

HEREDITARY LEGISLATORS.

The House of Lords is an institution with an illustrious history; but it is fast losing its hold upon the respect and confidence of the people of England. The idea that a right to make laws for their fellows is inherent in certain families is entirely opposed to all modern ideas. Because one man led a successful campaign, or was a prominent lawyer, or wrote many good and some bad verses, his son and his grandson, and so on until his family died out, should have the right to be law-makers is simply ridiculous, and were it not that the custom has antiquity to recommend it, no country could tolerate it for an hour. Certainly, if Englishmen were beginning to make the British constitution over anew, they would provide for no hereditary legislators. Late events in England, such as the base conduct of Lord St. Leonard, and the escapades of sundry other noblemen, of which accounts have from time

to time appeared in the papers, are calculated to lower the peerage in the opinion of all the people. There are many excellent men in the House of Lords, men whose ability and worth would secure them high positions without the adventitious aid of noble birth, but a large proportion of the younger members of the peerage are idle and dissolute, degrading the distinguished names they bear, and bringing contempt upon the institution into which they were born.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS.

The best authorities are agreed that the population of the world is 1,433,000,000. These figures are some 22,000,000 less than the most reliable estimate made two years ago, but it is conceded that in previous calculations China was given too large a population by 55,000,000. So that there is thought to have been an increase in the total population of the world of 83,000,000. This increase must be understood as approximate only, and as not having all occurred in two years, the average rate of increase, being about 4,000,000 a year. But there is no doubt that the population is increasing. Europe now has a population of 327,743,400, an increase of 12,000,000 in ten years. Asia is now estimated to have a population of 795,591,000, Africa 205,823,200, America 100,415,400, Australia and Polynesia 4,232,000, and the Polar Regions 82,500.

Of this population 440,000,000 profess Christianity; 8,000,000 are Jews; 175,000,000 are Moslems; 160,000,000 are Brahmins; 400,000,000 are Buddhists, and 250,000,000 are Pagans.

We learn that of Protestant missionaries 2,400 are engaged in the conversion of the 1,000,000,000, or thereabouts, of people who do not acknowledge Christianity, or one to every 410,000. It is evidently as true to-day as it was eighteen hundred years ago that the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Of course the native assistants of missionaries are not included in the 2,400. The annual expenditure of the missionary boards of Europe and America is \$8,447,991.

It is estimated that the Roman Catholics in the world number about 215,000,000, and the Protestants about 115,000,000 but the twenty nine nations, which are known as Roman Catholic States, have a population of only 180,787,000, while in the Protestant States, including the whole British Empire, there are 406,500,000 people. Nearly 100,000,000 people profess allegiance to the Greek Church.

Among the Protestant Denominations the Methodists take the lead in the number of Ministers, the returns of the clergy in the four leading denominations being as follows:—Methodists 33,552, Anglican Communion 31,256, Baptists 21,481, Presbyterians 19,633. The church which is making proportionately the most rapid progress is the Swedenburgian, which has more than doubled its membership in ten years in the United States alone, while new societies have been established in all parts of the world. Next to the United States the Swedenburgians have the strongest hold in Great Britain. The Unitarian Societies are increasing rapidly. In 1840 they numbered 540 societies, in 1880 the number had reached 567, and in 1880, 708; but the greatest increase in church membership is reported by the Methodist, who in 1860 claimed 2,818,414 communicants, the number enrolled in 1880 being 5,060,109. Perhaps of all institutions none are doing much more good than the Sunday Schools, if any are doing as much good. It will be interesting therefore, to learn that 1,504,613 teachers are engaged in teaching 12,680,267 children every Sunday. Surely this is a great power for good.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

To-day's *Telegraph* says: "We are informed, upon authority which admits of very little doubt, that the office of Minister of Railways, to be vacated by the retirement of Sir Charles Tupper, will be filled by the appointment of Hon. Mr. Pope to the position."

Having met with success in the military operations in China, France is encouraged to make trouble with Morocco. The Governor of a province caused the son of a Sherref, enjoying French protection, to be poisoned. The French consul demands the dismissal of the Governor, but the demand has not been complied with, and the relation between the countries are consequently greatly strained. France would no doubt be glad of an excuse to begin a war of conquest in Northern Africa.

SHORT LOCALS.

A Good Budget of News from all Parts of the Province.

The Sussex Odd Fellows will pay their St. John brethren a fraternal visit next week. The Woodstock sports are talking up a walking match for 24th May.

The liquor dealers of St. Stephen have decided to close their places of business for the present, so it is said.

The meeting of the N. B. Grand Lodge I. O. G. T. will be held at Sussex Vale on the fifteenth day of July next.

There was not a single gallon of molasses imported into St. John during the months of January, February, March and April.

The Town Council of St. Stephen have ordered the sum of \$17,898 to be assessed for general purposes for the current year.

M. Wheelhouse, of Campbellton, has obtained at the United States Patent Office, a patent for a railway switch signal.

Mr. B. Young, of Calais, lost by the late freight, property at River Herbert, N. S., valued at seventeen thousand dollars.

Mrs. J. G. Vanwart, of Woodstock, and family have gone to join Mr. Vanwart in Calgary, where they will permanently reside.

The St. John Commissioners have appointed the 31st May as a day when they will grant Liquor Licenses under the Amended Law.

Works for the manufacture of paper pulp out of refuse mill wood, are talked of for Chatham. The *World* says a company may be formed.

Wm. E. Turner's house, at Blissville, Sunbury County, was burned on the night of the 14th instant. The house was unoccupied and uninsured.

A man named Coffey had an arm and several ribs broken, by being caught in the machinery of the St. George Granite works, last week.

On last Thursday the tug Neptune went to Moncton to tow the Schooner "Marysville" to St. John. The schooner was then ashore and filled with water.

Hale & Murchie's and Moore's drives on the Meduxnakik reached Woodstock on last Sunday. Leighton's drive has probably reached that point by this time.

Sir Charles Tupper is to be banqueted at Amherst on the 22nd inst., the twenty-ninth anniversary of his election for Cumberland. He will sail for England on the 24th.

Howard D. Wallace, of St. George, is about taking out a patent for a granite working machine, which it is said will greatly reduce the cost of polishing the stone.

The crop of liquor prosecutions is nearly as plentiful in Chatham as it is in this City. Four cases came before the Police Magistrate of the former city to-day.

The Young Men's Liberal Club of Halifax have resolved to place a Liberal candidate in the field in case the constituency is opened by the appointment of Mr. Daly to the Cabinet.

John Nevers, son of Allen Nevers of Lincoln, Sunbury County, died a few days ago of consumption. This is the third child Mr. Nevers has lost within two years of consumption.

Mr. O. A. Barbare, station master at Campbellton, and family are all ill with diphtheria. One child died on Sunday last. Mr. Barbare's daughter (Mrs. Loosby) and child died only a few weeks ago.

Captain Herbert is preparing the Argyle Hotel, at St. Andrews, for the season of 1884. The doors will be thrown open for the reception of guests the last week of the present month.

Harding & Hatheway, of St. John, were advised on the 12th inst. by cable from Liverpool of an advance of one shilling per cwt on sugar, and on the 14th inst. of a still further advance of an equal amount.

It is the intention of the board of license commissioners for Albert County to enforce the provisions of the license act vigorously. The Chief Inspector announces his intention of instituting prosecutions in all cases where an infraction of the law is brought under his notice.

While sawing in his mill at Springfield, a few days ago, Mr. Wm. Chelton had his right foot caught in the saw, severing three of his toes and otherwise mangling the foot. Dr. Wilson was sent for and dressed the injured member, which is now doing as well as could be expected.

It was perhaps but natural that a surplus of water in Fredericton should find its way into the Baptist church. Last week a hand engine manned with soldiers had to be employed to pump the basement of the church clear of the liquid element, so as to allow fire to be lighted.—*Miramichi Advance*.

It was rumored on the streets Tuesday that the New Brunswick Railway Co., had purchased the Grand Southern. A later report was to the effect that a transfer of the Grand Southern to the Maine Central had been agreed on. No confirmation of either of these reports could be obtained.—*Courier 15th*.

John H. Wilson, of Elgin, Albert County, was drowned at Gordon Falls on Pallett River, on Thursday of last week. Deceased was endeavoring to break a jam of logs at the falls, when a sudden rush of water broke the jam and he was carried under. His body was recovered the next day. Deceased was 40 years of age and leaves a widow and eight children.

LANTERNS.

6 DOZEN Popular Lanterns,
6 Dozen Glass, assorted sizes,
8 Hay Cutters,
6 Box Glue, assorted sizes,
4 Barrel Paint oil,
1 Barrel Oil Oil,
1 Case Pocket knives,
24 Sheet Iron Drums,
2 Case Horse Pies,
40 Boxes Horse Nails,
1 Barrel Iron Wire,
3 Rolls Rubber Packing,
1 Barrel Iron Wire,
2 Gross Rubber Packing,
2 Gross Rubber Packing,
1 Case Iron Drills,
800 Feet Leather Beltting,
30 Barrel Coal Oil,
30 Cylinder Stoves, Cassell's latest pattern
R. CHRISTENSEN & SONS.

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Black CASHMERES, Merinoes, Silks, and Grapes.

We are now opening a Choice Assortment of the above Goods.

The New Corded Black Silks are certainly the best we have ever opened.

DEVER BROS.

Fredericton, May 17, 1884.

STOP AND READ.

GENTLEMEN:

Get your Clothing made at

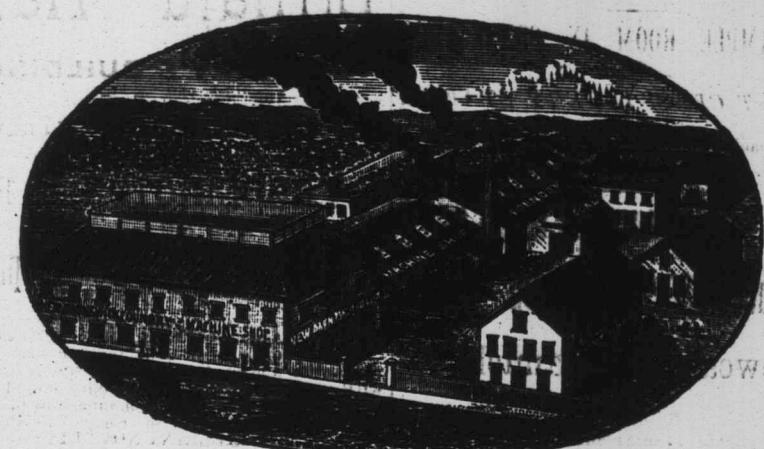
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Prompt attention to cutting.

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Fredericton, May 10th, 1884.

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