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NOTICE.

To prevent mistakes we may inform our readers that if they desire indexes of the two preceding volumes they will receive them on making application at this office.

TEMPERATURE.

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

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1879.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.. 46°	25°	32°	Mon.. 33°	7°	20°
Tues. 39°	19°	29°	Tues. 39°	23°	31°
Wed.. 39°	15°	27°	Wed.. 28°	10°	24°
Thur. 25°	4°	14°	Thur. 41°	30°	35°
Fri.. 33°	9°	21°	Fri.. 32°	20°	26°
Sat.. 32°	11°	24°	Sat.. 37°	18°	27°
Sun.. 32°	18°	25°	Sun.. 44°	33°	32°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 3, 1880.

It is anticipated that, during the coming summer, money, at the rate of \$25,000 per week, will be circulated by the Chaudière mill owners. This will be the result of the revival in the lumber business.

THERE is an amusing pictorial reference, on our last page, to a secret society existing in Montreal. The police are not yet decided whether to regard it as serious or not, though they have clues enough to show that several young men of good families are engaged in the foolish scheme and thereby stand a good chance of disgracing themselves. Several of the journalists of the city have been threatened with murder and arson, and a number of cottages belonging to a gentleman in Hochelaga have had their garden statuary mutilated. S. P. C. means a Society for the Protection of Canadians, as against Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen. No real harm may be meant, but the idiotic youths should be made to understand that mere threats of bodily injury or destruction of property are a criminal offence.

THE political campaign contest in Great Britain is regarded as unparalleled in this generation, and it is expected that more votes will be cast than at any previous general election; Liberals show great confidence, while Tories are more cautious; social festivity is practically suspended during the elections. Every boarding is covered with political placards. Many private houses are displaying bills of candidates; cabs, busses and other vehicles, public and private, even carriages, are similarly decorated. The total number of candidates now reaches nearly 1,100, comprising 499 Liberals, 495 Tories, and 97 Home Rulers. Both sides are attacking nearly every doubtful seat. Barely a hundred constituencies are uncontested; these return 172 members, and are nearly equally divided politically. Betting at the Carlton Club, formerly 3 to 1 on a Tory majority, is now even.

OUR HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The public man who has most occupied attention during the past week is Sir ALEXANDER GALT. We, therefore, present our readers a portrait of him taken from the latest photograph. It is not necessary that we should append a biographical memoir, as we have had the privilege of doing so in these pages on several previous occasions. It will suffice to say that Sir ALEXANDER is still in the prime of life, in the enjoyment of good health, and prepared to devote all his energies and his transcendent abilities to the service of his country. He enjoys the exceptional advantage of being acceptable to both parties, with a record above suspicion, and that independence of private fortune which places a man above the temptations of office. For a small country, Canada can boast of quite a large number of men whose talents are above the average, and whose character is beyond suspicion, as we had occasion to state only last week, in reference to the late Mr. HOLTON, and among these none occupy a higher position than Sir ALEXANDER GALT. For several years past he has chosen, for reasons best known to himself, and which have been generally accepted, to withdraw from active political life, and during that time he has been chosen to perform several functions eminently serviceable to Canada, and which have tended to enhance his reputation. He was selected by the late administration to preside over the Halifax Fisheries Conference, and the manner in which he discharged the delicate duties assigned him received general approval. On the accession of the present government he was chosen to discharge a difficult diplomatic mission on the continent, and there, too, he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of all parties. His success was indeed so marked that no one was surprised to find that he had received a higher and more responsible appointment as High Commissioner from the Dominion to Great Britain, with official residence in London. The appointment was so well received on all sides, that prior to his departure he was tendered a banquet in Montreal by a large number of his friends and admirers, irrespective of party. The banquet was in every way a successful one, and rose to the proportions of an event from the speech pronounced on the occasion by Sir ALEXANDER, in which he gave a detailed programme of the functions which he was expected to fulfil as High Commissioner. In advance of the debate on this subject, which may be expected in Parliament, the speech of Sir ALEXANDER acquires an exceptional importance and a brief analysis of the same will, therefore, be acceptable to our readers who take an interest in the onward march of the Dominion. We notice that some papers have affected to exaggerate the bearing of this discourse, and it is, therefore, the more important that its main features should be properly understood. Sir ALEXANDER divided his mission into three parts—financial, immigration and diplomatic.

With regard to the first it is intended that the Dominion should take charge of its own finances in London. The credit of our country is now so firmly established in the money market that we no longer require exceptional support, and while we continue to be grateful for the assistance received in past years from the financial firms who have attended to that duty in London, Canada has now grown to that point where it is no longer necessary that it should get its access to the London market through any particular channel of that kind, but has the right to appear there in the same way as much less important colonies are now doing, seeking any assistance they require entirely and solely on the financial merits of the colony itself. When it is stated that \$100,000 will be saved every year in this way, the uses of the mission will be most readily appreciated.

With reference to the subject of immigration there is no doubt that a resident High Commissioner can be of invaluable assistance to us on the other side. The set-

tlement of the North-West, which is the most vital of all points of policy at the present time, can only be carried through at a very considerable expense and, to be successful, that expense has to be incurred at a very early date. Sir ALEXANDER declared, and his statement was received with enthusiastic applause, that it is only through railways that this immigration can be furthered, and that unless those railways are built through our own territory before the opportune moment passes away, we shall see all the emigration, which is certain to leave the British Isles, diverted to a foreign country, instead of being utilized and brought to our own shores, strengthening not merely Canada, but the empire itself. In two years we shall have direct communication by railway through our own territory to probably 200 or 300 miles to the west of Red River. We shall then be able to carry immigrants through our own country without being obliged to hand them over to foreigners.

With regard to his diplomatic duties, Sir ALEXANDER made some very interesting and important statements. He held that by the Confederation Act, we were placed *quoad* commercial questions on the same footing in respect to the Imperial Government as toward any foreign government. Whatever we do has to be made the subject of negotiation, and being the subject of negotiation, we must be an assenting party as well as the Imperial Government. This is strong language, but it is statesmanly, because it places our relations to the Empire in their true light. In all commercial transactions, therefore, we have not only to be consulted, but our decision is expected. Britain will meet us half way, but will never impose her will or her peculiar policy upon us. In regard to any negotiations of ours with foreign countries, we are informed that England will assist us with her good-will and all the ability of her trained diplomatic staff. It is not proposed to attempt any independent negotiation, but we shall have the Foreign Office to assist and support us. We are further told that the Governor-General heartily approves of all these arrangements.

Coming down to particulars Sir ALEXANDER GALT divided the subjects upon which he would be called upon to deal with the Imperial Government into three heads—the defences of the country, the territorial question and the commercial question. We are bound to do our duty for the defence of our own shores, and also, in a less degree, to do our duty as the defenders of our common Queen and country. Hence we ought to assume our share of the military defence of the Empire, including war ships, a naval reserve and a powerful militia organization. Territorially, we may look for the assistance of the mother country in developing the immense resources of the North-West. There is no reason why we should be charged with the whole of the labour of that gigantic undertaking. Canada has done her share nobly, pledging her whole financial resources and honour in opening up that country, and there is no reason to doubt that England will perform hers, especially in view of the fact that we work over this half a continent at the instance of the Imperial Government for the sake of her children as well as our own. With respect to the commercial question, Sir ALEXANDER was rather more speculative and his meaning was not quite so clear. Some have contended that he alluded to an Imperial Zollverein, or commercial union between the mother country, Canada and all other colonial dependencies. This is a vast subject and practically does not belong to the near future. For further light on the intentions of the government in this respect we shall have to wait for the parliamentary debate which will doubtless soon come up on the point. Altogether the speech of Sir ALEXANDER GALT was received with general favour, and taking it in its essential features, it may be set down as the most important discourse pronounced in the past twelve months.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

BUDGET DEBATE.—WELLAND CANAL.—FISHERY AWARD.—IMMIGRATION PAMPHLETS.—REDUCTION OF SALARIES' BILL.—EXTRADITION.—WINDING UP INSURANCE COMPANIES.—THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 27th, 1880.—There was an effort made to get through the Budget debate before the Easter holidays, but it was not successful. Many of the members have seemed anxious to make deliverances of their sentiments on this question, and although some of the speeches have exhibited industry and ability, it is still very wearisome to have constant *rechauffés* of the same old arguments. There are no new facts; there can be no new arguments; and for the rest, the debate is purposeless, seeing that nobody expects to change a single vote, and as far as effect upon the country is concerned, it seems to me this is rather an unfortunate time for that. I shall not, for these reasons, try to furnish you with any recapitulation of the arguments used in the debate this week.

There was, on Monday, a conversation of some interest on an enquiry by Mr. Mackenzie if the Welland Canal could not be opened early in April. He stated that the question was one of great importance for the trade of the country; and Mr. Gault, one of your city members, said that the non-opening of this canal before the 1st of May would send 2,000,000 bushels of wheat through the Erie Canal, which would otherwise go to Montreal. Sir Charles Tupper replied that the Government were exceedingly anxious to open the canal at the earliest possible moment, but it was impossible to complete the works going on before the 26th of April, after which it would take until the 1st of May to fill the canal; but as respects the Erie Canal competition, it may happen that this canal will not be open before the same date, so that, in point of time, at least the competition may not be serious.

On the same day, Mr. Macdonnell, of Inverness, moved his resolutions on the Fishery Award, the object being to assert the principle that the money should be divided among the Maritime Provinces, and this motion was warmly supported by the Opposition members from those Provinces, who went so far as to refuse to accede to Sir Leonard Tilley's request that the debate should be adjourned until certain papers could be brought down. They asserted, in reply, that there could be no further papers of importance to bring down. On this issue, of course, they were simply defeated, and the debate was adjourned *sine die*. There is undoubtedly much to say in favour of the pretension that the fisheries follow the individual territorial rights of the Provinces—a principle which was recognized in the case of Newfoundland. But then that Province does not belong to the Confederation, while all the others are, as it were, married to each other, and have thrown their interest in with the Confederation. I think, therefore, that the less we make any questions of this kind sectional and provincial, the better. It certainly would happen, in the event of any body attempting to interfere unduly with the fisheries, that the whole Dominion, and not any single Province, would be obliged to maintain the rights and privileges belonging to them. This motion is, therefore, a mistake.

There was a little breeze the same evening over immigration pamphlets, remarkable principally for much *ado* about nothing. It appears that a series of somewhat lively letters written by the Hon. Peter Mitchell, descriptive of his travels in Manitoba and the North-West, which appeared during the autumn in the *Montreal Herald*, were subsequently published in pamphlet form; and that, in this pamphlet, the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Co.—that is the Company holding the line of railway from St. Paul to the boundary of Manitoba, of which Mr. Geo. Stephen, of Montreal, is President, and Mr. E. B. Angus, late of the Bank of Montreal, one of the principal managers—procured the insertion of an advertisement offering for sale the lands of the Company in Minnesota. Some of these pamphlets, with this advertisement in, were sent up to the Department of Agriculture to be distributed as "immigration literature." This led to a good deal of declamation on the part of Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Blake, Mr. Frow, Mr. Anglin and others, on the impropriety of spending the public money of Canada to promote emigration to an American Railway Company's lands in Minnesota. The Minister, Mr. Pope, answered by stating that no public money whatever had been paid for that pamphlet, and that its distribution had been stopped as soon as the objectionable features which it contained had been perceived. I do not see anything remarkable in all these circumstances, and certainly nothing on which to get up declamation in Parliament against a Minister known to be so favourably disposed towards immigration to Canada as Mr. Pope. He himself took this ground in the debate, and said he was willing to stand on his record as a promoter of immigration. He has, in fact, been conspicuous among all the Ministers for his zeal on this subject, and, therefore, deserves well of the country. It is nothing to say that an American advertisement might have slipped into a pamphlet which he did not publish, over which he had no con-