

fection, buttercups and daisies of bright and endless hues cover the plains. The warbling of birds, meanwhile, the fresh balmy air, the clear azure sky, the glorious prospect of seas and islands, with the grand snow-peaked mountains in the distance, gladden the mind and impart sensations that no language can describe. By the end of June all fruits of the earth have attained maturity, and the harvest is ready for the sickle.

The remarkable serenity and equability of climate peculiar to Vancouver's Island may be ascribed to several causes. First of all, its position on the coasts of the Pacific Ocean places it within the extensive regions, the atmosphere of which is tempered by the warmer winds which blow from the great South Sea. Such is the power of these winds that the rigours of winter are softened by them even to the extreme north of the western coasts. This cannot be better illustrated than by observing that the climate of Fort Simpson is equally mild with that of New York, the isothermal line which passes through the Atlantic Ocean at 40° North latitude, intersecting the Pacific at 55° north. Being an island, Vancouver derives more benefit, as regards climate, from the surrounding seas than the neighbouring mainland. The coast exactly opposite, on the Gulf of Georgia, is well known to be subject to somewhat more rigorous extremes of weather. And yet it is not beyond the moderating influences of the South Seas.

In accounting for the extraordinarily moderate summer heat of Vancouver's Island, we must have recourse to the doctrine of meteorologists who insist upon the action of cold under-currents which flow from the Arctic Ocean. In the height of summer these currents rush against the rocky foundations of the Island, and cause their tempering influence to be felt in the waters of the locality, and above the surface of the waters, in the atmosphere of the Vancouver region. The high mountain ranges on the mainland also exercise a moderating power, particularly the lofty Olympian range in the territory of Washington. These mountains stretch out to a great extent, both in an easterly and westerly direction, presenting to the eye one of the grandest spectacles of mountain scenery. Their snow-capped summits, peering through the bright summer sunshine, modify the heat which, otherwise, must be intense. The warm winds from the South, that prevail throughout the summer season, charged with humidity and heat, coming in contact with their perpetual snows, lose both their heat and moisture, the latter being absorbed and the former condensed, so that the inhabitants of the neighbouring plains and Islands are exempt from that sultriness which is found to be so oppressive in the atmosphere of more Eastern longitudes.

The vigours of winter are moderated by an influence similar to that which modifies so much the climate of the British Isles, and which is felt as far as the extreme north of Scotland, the climate of which is more temperate than that of more southern parts of continental Europe. A warm stream, supposed to originate at the Equator, rushes northward with great impetuosity and produces climatical effects of the same nature as those resulting from the action of the Gulf current in the Atlantic. It is called the *China current*, because it first strikes against the coasts of the celestial Empire. Receding from thence it follows a curvilinear route across the Pacific Ocean, and, finally, breaks upon the shores of Vancouver's Island, thus moderating the winter cold in that region, as the Borean influences already alluded to, are believed to effect the summer heat, and to produce that agreeable temperature which renders the climate of Vancouver's Island so delightful.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

SENATE.

Monday, March 6.—Hon. Mr. WARR moved for a Committee to inquire into the management of the Intercolonial Railway. Hon. Mr. TESSIER contended that the work on the road had been unnecessarily delayed, and attacked the Commissioner system as productive of jobbery and useless expense. The North-West Government Bill was read a second time, after which the House adjourned at 4:15.

Tuesday, March 7.—The House sat for some time with closed doors, after which the North-West Government Bill was passed through committee. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL explaining, in answer to a question, that the volunteers would be brought back from Red River early in May.

Wednesday, March 8.—The Fishery by Foreign Vessels Amendment Bill passed through committee, with an unimportant amendment, and the North-West Government Bill received its third reading. Hon. Mr. WILSON called attention to the language used by Hon. Mr. MILLER reflecting on Mr. Macdougall. The galleries were then cleared, and after a debate with closed doors for half an hour the House adjourned.

Thursday, March 9.—After reading for the third time, and passing the Fisheries Amendment Bill, the Census Amendment Bill was received from the Commons, and read a first time.

Friday, March 10.—The Bill for the extension to Manitoba of the provisions of the Criminal Laws was read a first time, and the House then adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 6.—The estimates for the current year were brought down and referred to Committee of Supply. A motion made by Mr. MASSON (Soulanges) for documents relating to the North-West Expedition was carried, after which Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL, in room of Mr. CONNELL, moved for the instructions given to Mr. Moylan as Dominion emigration agent, and also for papers relating to the newspaper controversy with Dr.

Ryerson respecting emigration. He severely criticised Mr. Moylan's action in addressing a letter to Mr. Gladstone respecting the treatment of the pardoned Fenians, and more especially for undertaking to convey the opinion of the Dominion Government. He also animadverted upon Mr. Moylan's expressions regarding the education system in Upper Canada. Hon. Mr. DUKIN retorted that the hon. member was a member of the Government at the time the instructions were issued, and in making this motion he was throwing a boomerang which returned and struck the thrower. He stated that he (Mr. Dunkin) had addressed a letter to Mr. Moylan, desiring him to confine himself strictly to the duties laid down for him in his instructions. Hon. Mr. DONOX moved for a Committee of the Whole for Monday next to take into consideration the Arbitration resolutions. Sir G. E. CARTIER said before the motion was put, he wished to refer to a point of order. The object of this resolution is that all the surplus debt of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec should be assigned to the Dominion. Such resolution and such address can not be made without an address from His Excellency the Governor-General. He referred to the fifty-fourth clause of the British North America Act, which forbids the appropriation of any part of the public revenue without an address from the Governor-General. The same provision existed in the Union Act between Upper and Lower Canada. THE SPEAKER ruled the motion out of order. Mr. BODWELL moved for a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions with respect to railways under Government contract in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He maintained that such railways never paid, and that they should therefore either be sold or leased to private companies. After an animated debate the motion was adjourned. Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL brought forward a question of privilege, alluding to the strong language in reference to him employed by Senator MILLER a day or two previous in the Upper House. He said he merely called attention to the case, but if the other House took no notice of the matter he would use his privilege. Sir G. E. CARTIER moved the adjournment, and in reply to Hon. Mr. HOLTOX, who asked if the leader of the House had nothing to say respecting the breach of privilege, explained that the member for North Lanark had not desired any action to be taken in the matter. Hon. Mr. HOLTOX said that as the leader of the House had decided to take no notice of the matter, he, as an independent member, would in the strongest terms express his opinion that it was a gross, wanton, and unprovoked assault in no way warranted by the conduct of the hon. member for North Lanark. The House adjourned at 11:10.

Tuesday, March 7.—The bill to amend the Census Act was read a third time and passed. Sir FRANCIS HICKS then moved concurrence in the resolutions for the Assimilation of the Currency. Mr. CHEPMAN moved in amendment that the Nova Scotia currency be not changed, and read a telegram from the leader of the Provincial Government stating that a numerous signed petition against the change had been forwarded, and that a feeling of intense hostility to the assimilation prevailed. A discussion ensued in which it was urged by the Nova Scotian members that the concurrence should be delayed until the petition had been received, in order to see what were the arguments brought forward. Sir FRANCIS HICKS said that the whole Dominion could not yield to one Province, to which Sir G. E. CARTIER added that the petition would arrive in time for the future stages of the bill. The amendment being pressed was lost on a division, and the resolutions being concurred in Sir FRANCIS HICKS introduced a bill founded thereon. Sir G. E. CARTIER then moved the second reading of the Temporary Election Bill, which, after some discussion, was read a second time. The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed a few items under the head of Civil List. The resolutions respecting the payment of \$200,000 for expenses incurred in repelling the Fenian raid were passed through committee, after which the resolutions respecting Savings Banks and the Issue and Redemption of Government Notes passed through Committee of the Whole, and the House adjourned at 10:15.

Wednesday, March 8.—But little business of importance was transacted to-day in the House, the whole time until the recess being taken up with motions, mostly of a private nature. Mr. MILLS then moved the second reading of his Extraition Bill, which excited quite a lively discussion, but subsequently got the six months' hoist on a division of 61 to 33. The House adjourned at 11:15.

Thursday, March 9.—Mr. KIRKPATRICK'S Bill to amend the Railway Act of 1868—continuing to completed railways power to acquire lands which they have by the present law while in process of construction—was read a first time; and also Mr. GODIN'S Bill to amend the Insolvent Act of 1869, providing that the interim assignee be paid for his services before the estate passes out of his hands. Hon. Mr. DONOX moved for an address to Her Majesty for an act to amend the British North America Act, so as to allow the Dominion Parliament to deal with all questions relating to the surplus debt of the late Province of Canada. Sir G. E. CARTIER contended that the motion was hostile to the interests of the Province of Quebec, and was, moreover, an insult to the honesty and fairness of the members from the other provinces. He therefore moved an amendment setting forth the refusal of the House to express any opinion on the award. Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU moved an amendment to the amendment, expressing a desire for the settlement of the Dominion Parliament of the award. This, however, was lost, and Sir G. E. CARTIER'S amendment carried, after which the House adjourned.

Friday, March 10.—In this House the whole sitting was occupied by the delivery of the Budget speech. Sir FRANCIS HICKS commenced by justifying himself and correcting certain misstatements that had recently been made respecting the state of the finances. He showed that the whole increase of debt since Confederation was \$2,401,101, while there had been expended on Public Works \$4,759,000, leaving the total increase of debt \$2,358,999. He then spoke of the Intercolonial Railway expenditure, on which was \$1,787,451, and the acquisition of the North-West, of which the expense was \$821,820. He stated, with regard to the Imperial loan, that the whole of it was invested and ready for use when called for, and he considered that his predecessor had pursued a wise policy in placing it out at a high rate of interest. He then referred to the Civil Service, quoting the fact that while the estimate for this head was \$713,316, the actual expenditure was only \$620,348. The two branches of the service in which the greatest increase was to be found were the Post Office and the Agricultural Department. He next made quotations from

statistics showing the rapid progress made by the country, significantly proved by the fact that in the last year Canada had risen, with regard to business transactions with the mother country, from 11 in the list to 8. He then went on to show that while the expenditure had increased, the revenue, especially that derived from the customs, had also very materially increased. He then spoke of the estimates for the coming year, which, he said, were unusually large on account of several extraordinary expenses, such as that for the Census, the increased vote for Militia and Defence, the Boundary Line Survey, and the increase under the head of Public Works. Though the prospects for the future were highly satisfactory, yet the Government did not think themselves justified in making any great reduction in taxation. Some few reductions would, however, be made, among them the abolition of the additional 5 per cent on the duty imposed last year upon all articles. Sir A. T. GALT, in a long speech, criticised the financial policy of the Government and concluded by making a want of confidence motion which, after some debate, was lost by 36 to 91. The House then went into committee, and after adopting a motion taking off the 5 per cent. imposed last session on the duties previously in force, rose and reported.

The House adjourned at 11:10.

LA DEBACLE.

Our artist has seized the opportunity—only just in time, however—to depict a street nuisance of the worst kind, to which, by the peculiarity of our climate and the incivility of our Canadian Clerk of the Weather, we are condemned year after year to submit. Of course no one does so without grumbling, and many are the protests made by weary, wet-footed pedestrians that, unless the weather mends, as Gavroche said "I withdraw my subscription." However, as the nuisance, as far as mortal powers can reach, is unavoidable, the matter generally rests there, and a much-enduring public has to take refuge in thick boots and rubbers. But even when armed with these protections walking at this time of the year in crowded streets is rather an undesirable exercise, and one calculated to try both temper and shoe-leather.

"TORONTO MARKETS" AND "A WOODLAND SCENE."

We have reproduced in this number two of the paintings which were on view last week at the Exhibition of Canadian Artists. Both these pictures attracted no little attention and were the subjects of much praise for the genius and the talent they displayed, though belonging to a different class and executed in a very different style. The first of the two, the view of "Toronto Markets" which occupies our two centre pages, is from the pencil of Mr. Henry Sandham, an artist well known in Montreal circles, and whose fame has extended far and wide in the sister provinces. The painting is most happily arranged, and all the difficulties offered by the somewhat unusual subject chosen for delineation have been avoided in a most remarkable manner. An uncouth—not to say positively ugly group of buildings—flanked by a grim, square, rule-and-measure elevator, was hardly, one would have thought, a subject to attract the painter's eye. Yet our painter saw that, with a little management, a success might be made of the unpromising subject; so down went the market-place, elevator and all, on the canvass, and with a judicious arrangement of white sails, and the introduction of a few enlivening details, he produced one of the most meritorious of the many excellent paintings that adorned the gallery of 1871.

Of Mr. Allan Edson's picture there is but little to be said. He is an artist widely known, as we had occasion to remark last week, and his paintings, faithful reproductions of quaint woodland scenes—mossy tree trunks and broad patches of sunlight that brighten up the forest gloom—are studied and appreciated by numbers of charmed admirers. As a contemporary happily observed the other day—Mr. Edson is the Wordsworth of Canadian art.

We may remark, before dismissing the subject, that both these illustrations are produced from etchings by the respective artists, and though neither of them had much experience in that branch of the art, it will be seen that they have completely succeeded in the experiment. The reproduction of these pictures by the process, which as yet is peculiar to the *Canadian Illustrated News*, will show both artists and the public how much is gained in the dissemination of artistic productions by the invention we use. Had it been necessary for the wood engravers to have intervened between the etchings and the printed copies we should not have had the pleasure of giving either Mr. Sandham or Mr. Edson the access to the public which we find so readily available by our process. It is only those who are actually engaged in pictorial printing and who have had explained to them the rapidity and cheapness with which we reach the final result, who can fully appreciate the value and importance of our mode of reproducing pictures.

BARNUM'S NEW SHOW.—Mr. Barnum's wonderful menagerie will soon set forth on its career of triumph. It will comprise not only a circus but a menagerie, and not only a menagerie, but a museum, and not only these but troops of jugglers, gymnasts, and not only these but other experts of distinction, so that nothing ever seen of a peripatetic character will have begun to equal it. Mr. Barnum is taking his time for preparation; but the public will be the better and not the worse for that. We are told that his agents in France and Germany are engaged in collecting an immense number of curiosities from the various battle-fields to add to the splendour and variety of his travelling museum: a *calèche*, in which the Emperor Napoleon drove to Sedan, is said to be of the number.

A curious instance of the slackness of discipline evident in the troops since the fall of Paris is the conduct of the sentries placed at the cross roads. They stand there because they must, but the eccentric way in which they of late discharged their duty shows anything but the strict attention always expected from these worthies. The other night, a correspondent states, "As I was riding home, I was brought to a standstill by the customary '*Alut! Wer da!*' On my answering '*Offizier!*' he omitted to ask me for the password and countersign, but insisted on seeing my papers. As this request was irregular, I jokingly required him to give me the *losung* and *feld-geschrei*, upon which he immediately muttered out the two words '*Ober Jager!*' and '*Carl!*' thus supplying me with the very talisman I might have been in want of."