

WINTER SONG.

Chorus I cannot sing
Glow in soft summer skies,
Rise with the grass in spring,
Soar on the quivering wing
Of every bird that flies.

But winter, too, has gifts,
Though rough in giving:
Something of beauty drifts
Down thro' the storm-cloud drifts
To all things living.

So! Fairies white and small
Flout fast on fairy steeds—
Snow-flakes that softly fall,
Rest on the poplars tall,
Then seek the frozen meads.

Wee, cunning artists wait,
Too, in King Winter's train,
And pictures fair donate—
Pictures a king in state
Might envy to my pane.

So, though he rule ruggedly,
We'll not upbraid him;
Even if we cannot sigh
When spring comes dancing by
From state to degrade him.

Chatham, N.B. E. G. R.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

THE ONTARIO BOUNDARY—INSOLVENCY BILL—
NORTH-WEST RAILWAY SCHEMES—THE
PRINCESS—INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY, &c.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 21st.—The first week in a session of Parliament is generally not productive in results, and this first week of the Parliament now sitting at Ottawa has not been an exception to the rule. The Opposition made no objection to the passing of the Address, and there were not many words lost in that debate. The topic of most interest and that which has been most debated since, is the question of the boundary of Ontario. There is enough territory and probably wealth of undeveloped resources, principally mineral, in the question debated, to constitute an European kingdom; and there is evidently some feeling that such a vast addition to the previously great Province of Ontario, might make its position too preponderating in the Dominion. But this is not the point. It is simply what is Ontario's right and due. I think also that, as a question of political economy, the larger the territory we have under one government, the better and cheaper will be the government. One can scarcely be blind to the fact that these provinces are already too much governed. We have altogether too many governors, councils, assemblies, ministries and sets of officials, for the number of our population.

Mr. Mills opened the ball by introducing a bill to ratify the boundary award. He has bestowed a great deal of study on this question, and he made at a later period a very exhaustive speech from his point of view. Mr. S. J. Dawson, of Algoma, who lives in the district, and who probably has a more intimate acquaintance with the nature of the country and its resources than any other man in the House, is not exactly of the same opinion as Mr. Mills, and does not think that the award ought to be considered final, or be carried into effect without further investigation. He, therefore, moved for the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry, the effect of which is to hang up Mr. Mills' bill while the investigation is being made; a proceeding which saves both the Government and the House of Commons from immediate decision upon a question which is by no means free from difficulty. Mr. Dawson made the statement that in the award made by the arbitrators, two important acts of the Imperial Parliament, bearing on the question, had been completely ignored.

Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Blake and the Opposition generally, hold to the position, as a sort of Ontario claim, that the delay in settling this question had already been too great, and that the Government was really bound to give effect to the award of the arbitrators. Sir John Macdonald, and the Minister of Justice, reviewed the proceedings of the arbitration and contended that in any view of the case the Government could not divest itself of responsibility for the action taken, and, therefore, it was right and proper the fullest elucidation should be had for its information. Of course this view prevailed, and the motion for the committee was carried by the crushing vote of 123 to 52.

I give you shortly the result arrived at, without having been able to follow the debate in detail, as that would take too much space; but it is fair to say that both Mr. W. McDougall and Mr. McCarthy made able speeches, the former making one notable point, viz., that in view of the kind of questions which are involved, it will be scarcely possible to arrive at a final satisfactory solution, in the absence of a judicial decision from the final and highest court of the empire.

On Monday, Mr. Colby introduced his Insolvency Bill. He desires to simplify the proceedings by making the repeal total, leaving the settlement and disposition of estates to be dealt with by separate legislation. Mr. Béchard also introduced a bill of similar purport, but Mr. Colby caught the eye of Mr. Speaker first. There arose out of this matter some unpleasant personal questions. The correspondent of the *Globe*, in fact, accused Mr. Colby of despicable trickery in actually appropriating and introducing Mr. Béchard's printed bill of last session as his own, and the *Ozette* correspondent insinuated

that Mr. Béchard had done something of the same sort with Mr. Colby's bill. There were some curious mistakes. It happened that Mr. Béchard's bill was actually that presented in Mr. Colby's name, while Mr. Colby's bill was in Mr. Béchard's desk. It is clear that somebody had tried to play a practical joke. Both Mr. Colby and Mr. Béchard denied in the House having had anything to do with it, and I certainly believe them. The kind of attack to which this matter gave rise is certainly not worth while.

As respects this question itself it is certain that the House, from the temper it exhibited last session, will pass an Insolvent repeal Bill, and the fact is one of great importance to the whole Dominion. There can not be a question that men in weak positions have anticipated this and taken time by the forelock. Hence the very large number of bankruptcies during the past year. Mr. Girouard made a statement that if the bill passed a second reading he should move an amendment granting a discharge to all insolvents whose estates had been handed over to their creditors under existing and previous acts. This seems fair.

One meets a good many Manitoba men about, and the air is rife with railway schemes to meet the wants of the great population which it is expected will immediately flow into the North-west, and of which one begins already to hear the tramp. When it is said that a railroad can be built in that country for about seven thousand dollars a mile, and when one takes into consideration the undoubtedly great resources to be developed, there is little wonder that people are anxious to obtain charters. One of these is proposed from a point at or near Rapid City to the coalfields on the Souris, and this is a charter which undoubtedly ought to be granted, if there is confidence enough in its projectors; but charters ought not to be given for the mere purposes of speculation. It is rumored that Dr. Schultz intends to ask for an extension of his South-west Colonization Road from Rock Lake to the Turtle Mountains, which certainly ought to be granted. The road which the Emerson people are asking for, to serve the country west of the Red River from that place, is a much more doubtful project, as it would simply be a feeder of American railways; of course these may tap any South-western line but that is quite a different thing. The fact of the existence of coal on the Souris is naturally beginning to cause excitement, but I understand the government will take measures to block individual speculation in that, which will be a good thing done. While on the subject of railways in the West, I may mention I see it stated that Mr. Stephen and Mr. R. B. Angus have bought out Mr. Worthington's interest in the Canada Central, with the view of getting into their hands the construction of the line of road along the south shore of Lake Superior and via the Sault Ste. Marie, through Canada to the seaboard. This is a grand project, and probably will, for some years to come, give us the shortest line to Manitoba and the North-west, although it passes for a large portion of its way through American territory. Its construction will be a terrible blow to Chicago, the first of such a nature that city has ever had, and it is very difficult to point out all the consequences to which it would lead, but one undoubtedly is, that it would very much strengthen the position between Montreal and St. Paul. If the report as respects the two gentlemen I have named is true, their ambition aims high.

You will have seen full details of the painful accident to the Princess last Saturday evening on her way to the drawing-room. The latest bulletin from Dr. Grant indicates that Her Royal Highness will not be able to appear in public for some time, which is a damper on the festivities of Ottawa, and a universal source of regret to the whole country. The accident appears to have been owing to the driver not sufficiently understanding what is technically called the "slewing" of a sleigh in driving rapidly round a corner. The injuries were much less severe than might have been expected, looking at the distance Her Royal Highness and the other occupants of the carriage were dragged after it was upset, and the feeling among all classes cannot but be one of profound thankfulness. Mr. Mackenzie mentioned the subject in the House last night, and also the fact that many municipalities had sent in addresses of condolence. Sir John Macdonald stated that he quite agreed in Mr. Mackenzie's expressions of sympathy, but that it had not been thought advisable to take any formal action in the House, in order that the accident might not be magnified to alarm Her Majesty.

Friday brought nothing of special interest in the House of Commons. The topics were a judiciary question belonging to British Columbia; and Intercolonial Railway returns. In discussing these the Opposition contended that the boasted economies were fast making the railway a wreck. Sir Charles Tupper, as Minister of Railways, utterly denied this, and stated that assertions of this kind were playing with the best interests of the country to serve the ends of faction.

The debate in the Senate on the address was much longer and more elaborate than that in the House. This may be owing to the reporters. Mr. Read (who by the by is brother to the English Agricultural Commissioner who visited Canada during the autumn) made a very elaborate speech in which he showed that the condition of the agriculturists in England had become worse during the last hundred years and

he stated on the authority of Mr. Washburn, the United States Minister to England, that no less than seventy ships are now being built for the trade of transportation of live stock between America and England. It is probable the English agriculturists will feel the effect of this. The address was finally carried in the Senate on Wednesday.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

GOLD MINING IN NORTH HASTINGS.—The Gatling location, the first of the series, is the largest claim in extent and capital invested. It is owned by an American company, presided over by General Tuttle. The mill, which we see in the middle distance, just in front of the magazine, contains four batteries of five stamps each, and is most complete in all its arrangements, but whether it is owing to having too large a directorate, or whether they began to build without first considering the cost, nothing has been done in the way of putting things in shape for actual crushing till within the last few months. Capt. O'Neil, the resident manager, has had his men at work honeycombing the quartz drifts in all directions, and the ground is strewn with heaps of mispickel, averaging \$20 to the ton, and the crushing will be commenced almost immediately. The second sketch is the Malone or Feigle mine, leased by Mr. Stuart, working night and day for some time past, crushing forty tons of quartz every 24 hours. As in the sketch, after being broken and burnt, the "dirt" is fed into the stamps and crushed wet, then being splashed through fine steel sieves is sluiced on blankets, which are washed into grinding pans and subsequently treated with mercury in the amalgamators. The last sketch shows American speculators at the Blairton iron mines, which have been lying like the "grave of the last sixpence" for so many years.

A CANADIAN CHAMPION.

We have much pleasure in publishing to-day the portrait of Robt. E. J. Summerhayes, winner of the Montreal Snow-shoe Club Cup this year, who may aptly be termed the Canadian Athletic Champion, and who has more medals for feats of speed and endurance than, perhaps, any man on this continent. The Montreal Lacrosse and Snow-shoe Clubs, of which he is a distinguished member, have, perhaps, done more than any other bodies toward the promotion of healthful outdoor sports. Mr. Summerhayes was born 14th April, 1853, at Bishops Lydeard, Somersetshire, England, and came to Canada in the autumn of 1869. He won his first race in March, 1872. Later he won the 100 yards Champion Challenge Medal of the Montreal Pedestrian Club in 1873, three times; the Champion Challenge Vase, ¼ mile, Montreal Gymnasium Club, 1874-75, two years; the Challenge Bowling Cup, Montreal Gymnasium, 1875-76. At Newport, R.I., U.S., he won the cup, valued at \$150, presented by James Gordon Bennett, for 200 yards, on Aug. 16th, 1876. At Ottawa, 1st July, 1878, he won the Governor-General's medal, ¼ mile. He has won prizes for high jump, long jump, hop, step and jump, bowling, billiards, throwing lacrosse ball, and running every distance from 100 yards to two miles. He has won in all fourteen silver medals, twenty-six gold medals, and seventeen cups, besides several other prizes. He was one of the Montreal lacrosse team on its famous European tour.

QUEER RELATIONSHIPS.

In a certain part of the British dominions, which shall be nameless, there is a child which is (I) second and third cousin to its father; (II) second cousin to one grandfather; (III) great grand nephew to the other; (IV) third cousin to each grandmother; and (V) third cousin to its mother. I suppose that few of the readers of the News could explain how these different relationships are found. Well, here is the explanation.

(I) Its father's father and its mother are first cousins. Its father and mother are, therefore, in common phraseology, also first cousins. The children of first cousins are, of course, second cousins. It is, therefore, second cousin to its father. Again, its father's mother and its mother's mother are first cousins. Its father and mother are, therefore, second cousins. The children of second cousins are, of course, third cousins, therefore, it is third cousin to its father.

(II) Its father's father and its mother—as I have already said—are first cousins. The children of first cousins are second cousins. Therefore, it is second cousin to its grandfather by the father's side.

(III) Its grandfather just referred to, is nephew to the other grandfather. Therefore, its father is his grand-nephew, and it is, of course, his great-grand-nephew.

(IV) Its grandmothers are first cousins to each other. The children of the one, are, therefore, respectively second cousins to the other. In the same way, the grand children are third cousins.

(V) Its grandmothers—as I have just stated—are first cousins to each other. Its father and mother are, therefore, second cousins. The children of second cousins are, of course, third cousins, therefore, it is third cousin to its mother.

No doubt, a little further study of this case would show other queer relationships.

OBSERVER.

GUSTAVE SATTER AMONG US.

We heartily welcome the advent in our midst of Dr. Gustave Satter, one of the most renowned pianists of modern times and one whose whole career has been an uninterrupted series of ovations and triumphs. He enjoys a double prestige. As a performer on the piano, and as a composer for this instrument he unites the fire of Liszt and the deeply emotional poetry of Chopin. In Europe he has long ago been called the only peer of Liszt and T. alberg. In the United States, for the last four years, he has been the musical pioneer of the South.

The great artist to whom we devote these introductory lines will play, on the occasion of his "début," pieces by Raff, Chopin, Mozart, Berlioz and Mendelssohn, besides his own bravura pieces which have carried his name all over the world.

In regard to Satter's execution let us here merely mention the celebrated saying of Moscheles, who when asked by Meyerbeer which of the two pianists was greater, Liszt or Satter, answered the author of the Huguenots: "My dear Meyerbeer, Liszt is the first, but Satter is the only one."

It will be a wise thing to secure seats or even entrance-tickets at Mr. DeZouche's for once. And judging by the universal interest, by the tiptoe of expectation, and by the results so far, there is no fear about one certainty, viz: about a most enthusiastic reception by probably the most fashionable and distinguished society that ever gathered together.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, February 16.—Lord Salisbury's health is improving.—The Russian fleet at Cronstadt has been ordered to the Pacific.—General Skobeloff has changed his plan of operation against the Turcomans.—O'Leary has accepted Weston's challenge to a six days' pedestrian contest for \$1,000.—Ten thousand Persian troops are about to proceed to Meshel, in the direction of Merv.—A number of Turcomans, believed to be under Abdul Rahmane have penetrated into Afghan Turkestan.—A resolution favouring extension of the Irish franchise, was rejected by the House of Commons last night.

TUESDAY, February 17.—Mr. T. C. Kinnear, one of the wealthiest merchants in Nova Scotia, died suddenly yesterday of paralysis.—The British authorities at Laraca, Cyprus, have detained the Austrian mail steamer, on account of the captain having resisted arrest.—The Emperor William of Germany had a serious fall on Saturday, caused by a sudden seizure with giddiness. The return of these symptoms causes great alarm in Government circles.—Lord Beaconsfield stated in the Upper House last night, in answer to a question from Lord Granville, that the tripartite treaty of 1856, guaranteeing the independence and autonomy of Belgium, had ceased to operate.

WEDNESDAY, February 18.—A Russian has been arrested in Paris on an extradition warrant, on a charge of attempting the life of the Czar.—M. Gambetta is mentioned as a candidate for the vacancy in the French Academy caused by the death of M. Jules Favre.—The Turcomans have resolved to strenuously oppose the Russian expedition; a levy of 60,000 men has been ordered, and aid will be asked from Persia and India.—The Montreal Caledonian Curling Club and the Quebec Curling Club played in Quebec yesterday, for the Quebec Challenge Cup, the home team winning by 18 shots.—On Tuesday an attempt was made to blow up the Czar in the Winter Palace. The explosive was successfully fired by means of electric wires, but the object sought was not attained, the Czar being absent from the place where the explosion occurred. Eight soldiers, however, were killed, and 45 wounded. It is thought likely that this last attempt will hasten the Czar's abdication.

THURSDAY, February 19.—Martial law has been proclaimed in Constantinople.—Thirty-two thousand Turcomans await the Russians at Geoktepe.—Betting on the Oxford and Cambridge is 65 to 40 on the Light Blue.—Sir G. Colley has been appointed to succeed Sir Garnet Wolseley in the command of the troops in South Africa.—The Executive of the Argentine Confederation are said to be about to disarm the population, in view of the approaching Presidential elections.—In the French Chamber of Deputies the Minister of Agriculture, speaking against the tax on wheat, said the importation of foreign breadstuffs had prevented famine in France.

FRIDAY, February 20.—The Czar has determined upon the extermination of the Nihilists, at any cost.—Roumania is rejoicing over the formal recognition of her independence by England, Germany and France.—Professor Maskelyne pronounces the experiments made by Ballantyne Hanney, in producing artificial diamonds, to have been entirely successful.—The Prince of Montenegro has signified his willingness to the Powers to treat for the substitution of other Turkish territory for Gusinje and Plevna.—A marble front building on Broadway, New York, occupied by Director, Hoff & Co. and Wilde & Co. and others, was totally destroyed by fire last night. Two firemen, of No. 1 Hook and Ladder Company, lost their lives by the falling in of the roof.—In the House of Lords yesterday, the Duke of Argyll made a long speech condemning the Afghan policy of Lord Beaconsfield, and a lively debate ensued, the Premier making a slashing reply to the attacks on his administration of Eastern affairs. Finally, the Duke of Argyll withdrew his motion censuring the Government.

SATURDAY, February 21.—The Czar has decided to declare a state of siege throughout Russia.—"Blower" Brown won the six days' pedestrian contest which closed in London on Saturday night, scoring 553 miles.—General Roberts is negotiating with the Afghan chiefs, who are said to appear favourable to making terms of peace.—Deaths from diphtheria since November in the Russian provinces of Charkoff and Poltava have reached 40,000.—The famine in the Russian provinces of Saratof and Kief and in the Caucasus is increasing to an alarming extent.—Several Moscow students have been arrested for being concerned in the burning of the Petrofsky Academy in that city.—The Turcoman army was completely defeated, on the 15th inst., at Tekka, by a portion of the Russian expedition under General Kaufmann.—After the debate on the Irish question in the Imperial House of Commons on Friday night, an Irish and English member had some high words, which resulted in the former challenging the latter to fight a duel.—Despatches from Ireland indicate that the distress is spreading rapidly, and that continuous and strenuous efforts will be necessary for some months to ward off a great calamity. Feter has also made its appearance, caused by extreme want.