

the law respecting Banks and Banking having passed through committee, Sir FRANCIS HINCKS introduced a bill founded thereon. The resolutions for a Fenian Raid indemnity were also concurred in and a bill introduced, after which the House went into committee on the Election Bill. Hon. Mr. DOMON introduced an amendment to prevent a returning officer from disputing the validity of election lists under a penalty of \$500. The amendment excited considerable discussion, but ultimately the committee adjourned. The Bill for the Prevention of Corrupt Practices in the Collection of the Revenue was read a second time and passed through committee, and the House then went into committee on the subject of Savings Banks, and the issue and redemption of Dominion notes. Some verbal alterations were made in the resolutions which were reported. In reply to Hon. Mr. HOLTON, Sir F. HINCKS stated that the repeal of the five per cent duties would take effect on the first of April. The House then went into Committee of Ways and Means on the resolution for placing upon the free list certain raw materials and machinery used in Canadian manufacture, and also for the imposition of a duty of \$1.50 upon hemlock bark. In the discussion much opposition was made to the latter clause. A lively passage at arms took place between Hon. Mr. TUPPER and Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL, each accusing the other of inconsistency. The resolutions were formally adopted, and Hon. Mr. HOLTON made a suggestion that the repeal of the five per cent duties should come into effect on the day but one following (the 16th), which was accepted by the Finance Minister. The House then adjourned at 11 o'clock.

Wednesday, March 15.—The Bill to Prevent Corrupt Practices in the Collection of the Revenue was read a third time and passed; and the Savings Bank Resolutions having passed through their second reading, Bills founded thereon were introduced. The House then received the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, and read a second time the resolution for the removal of the five per cent duties. On the second resolution, giving power to the Government to place certain articles on the free list, Hon. Mr. HOLTON moved an amendment in the contrary sense, which was lost by 37 to 84. The third and fourth resolutions were passed, and the next, relating to the export duty on hemlock bark, was withdrawn by a majority of 98 for the Government, the vote being 112 to 14. The Uniform Currency Bill was read a second time and passed through committee, and the House then went into Committee of Supply and passed the following items:—Militia and Defence, \$27,930; Department of Secretary of State, \$22,827; Secretary of State for Provinces, \$16,630; Receiver-General's Department, \$15,950; Finance Department, \$36,307; Customs Department, \$21,940; Inland Revenue Department, \$18,150; Public Works, \$10,940; Post Office, \$53,520; Department of Agriculture and Statistics, \$21,999; Marine and Fisheries Department, \$16,725; Treasury Board, \$3,000; Finance Offices in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$7,500; Marine and Fisheries, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$3,100; Departmental Contingencies, \$50,000; Stationery, \$15,000; Increase under Civil Service Act, \$25,000; Certain Services, \$15,000; Department of Justice, Miscellaneous, \$10,000; Administration of Justice, \$10,000; Dominion Police, \$25,000; Montreal Water Police, \$10,000. Committee then rose and reported. The resolutions for effecting the uniformity of Weights and Measures and of the Inspection Laws passed through committee, and the House then rose at 11:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 16.—In answer to questions by several members having reference to Manitoba, Sir G. E. CARTIER stated that the Government had received no news from the North-West confirming the newspaper reports of the rebellion. The missing writs had arrived, and the Governor had issued a proclamation for the holding of the elections. Mr. McFARLANE'S Railway Act Amendment Bill, together with other two railway bills, was read a second time and referred to the Railway Committee. Mr. HARRISON'S Bill—adding pistols to the list of dangerous weapons the carrying of which is proscribed—was read a second time; and also the Bill to amend the Insolvent Act, which makes provision to allow of assignees calling first meetings of creditors at the office of the interim assignee, together with two other bills relating to the same subject—the one to permit the interim assignee to collect his fees before handing over the estate to the official, and the other providing that the oaths be administered by the Clerk of the Court as well as the Judge. The report of the Committee on uniform weights and measures was received and a Bill founded thereon introduced, after which the House adjourned.

Friday, March 17.—Hon. Mr. HOWE stated that the Government had received news from Winnipeg up to March stating that the elections had passed off quietly. On the motion of Sir F. HINCKS to go into Committee on the Act for the Uniformity of the Currency, Mr. E. M. MACDONALD moved in amendment that the time be extended to January, 1872. The amendment was, however, lost, and the several clauses of the Bill passed. The report of Committee having been adopted, Mr. JONES moved an amendment for delay, which was lost by 27 to 90. Sir G. E. CARTIER presented a message from the Governor-General containing a series of resolutions relative to the union of British Columbia with the Dominion. The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed the following items:—Salaries and contingent expenses of the Senate, \$42,245; House of Commons, clerks' estimate, \$79,590; salaries and contingencies per Sergeant-at-Arms' estimates, \$40,268; Parliamentary library, \$6,000; printing, binding, and distributing the laws, \$10,000; printing, printing paper, and book-binding, \$35,000; sundries, \$3,000; marine hospitals, \$39,000; Items for Ocean and River service, \$145,441; Items for Observatories, \$16,700; Arts, Agriculture, and Statistics, \$365,770; and Immigration and Quarantine, \$100,172. Committee then rose and the House adjourned at 11:30.

Signor Blitz, the magician, while travelling on the cars, once stopped at a station where an apple boy entered the train. Blitz, after patronizing him, cut open an apple and took a silver half dollar out of it, greatly to the boy's astonishment. "If that is the kind of fruit you sell, I'll take another," said Blitz, which he did and lo! there was another half dollar inside it. Blitz, assuming great excitement, then asked the boy what he would take for the whole basket of apples, saying it would be a grand speculation. But the lad refused to sell even at five cents apiece, and on leaving the station, Blitz saw him seated by the wall cutting open the unsold apples, in a vain search for silver half-dollars.

ABOUT BILLIARDS.

"Who invented Billiards?" will probably be the first question of the reader interested in the "Noble Game," who lights upon the above heading. Truly a question hard to answer, for the early history of the game is involved in the deepest obscurity. Some writers maintain that it was originally a Persian amusement, transplanted to Rome, by that prince of *bons-vivants*, Lucullus, while others contend that the introduction of the game from the East dates a century later, and was the work of the Emperor Caligula. The former opinion seems to have been held by Shakespeare, or at least to have been adopted by him for the purpose of making a point, for in his "Antony and Cleopatra" he makes the Egyptian beauty while away the lonely hours after the departure of her Antony by playing at billiards with her dark-eyed attendants. The evidence offered by the dramatist is, however, worth little or nothing, and we shall have to turn to other authorities to establish the antiquity of the game. This is furnished us from a most unexpected quarter. A high Church Dignitary, being no less a personage than the late Archbishop Hughes of New York, who was himself no despicable billiard-player, stated some time ago that he remembered reading in the Confessions of St. Augustine, written about the middle of the fifth century, an allusion to billiards. It is to be regretted that the most reverend gentleman did not state at the time the exact part of the Confessions where the passage is to be found, as that would have enabled each one to form his own opinions upon the point. Failing this, however, we have other authorities, going even farther back. If the student of history will turn to O'Reilly's English translation of Father MacGeoghegan's "History of Ireland," he will find conclusive evidence that the game was known in Ireland nearly a thousand years before the First Crusade. On page 32, the author gives the substance of the will of Cathire More, one of the petty Irish kings, who died A. D. 148. The passage alluded to runs as follows:—"To Drimoth he bequeathed fifty billiard balls of brass, with the pools and cues of the same material, etc., etc." Our author states that he gives the information "merely to show the singular tastes of those early times." Singular, forsooth! Imagine Drimoth and his friends playing on their stone tables, and polling away at the fifty brazen balls with their "cues of the same material" amidst a racket and clatter like that raised by the phantom bowlers of Sleepy Hollow.

In England, however, it would appear that billiards were unknown until the return of the Crusaders, by whom the game would seem to have been exclusively practised, for at the close of the wars it gradually fell into disuse, until it disappeared altogether with the extinction of the Templars. It was destined, however, to be revived, and its revival, by a strange coincidence, was due to the same cause as the invention of playing cards. In the early part of the fifteenth century, the latter amusement was designed for the purpose of distracting the King of France, Charles VI., during the fits of madness to which he was subject, and a century and a half later, under Charles IX., the game of billiards was revived by one Henrique De Vigne, a French artist, for the amusement of the Dauphin, at that time a lunatic confined at Versailles. The new game became immensely popular and spread rapidly to the neighbouring countries, where it was received with no less favour. In Germany especially, it was studied with great care, and its merits being fully understood and appreciated, it received the high-sounding and antithetical title of "King of Games, and Game of Kings." At that time the *modus operandi* of Billiards was very different from that of the present time. De Vigne's table was of stone, covered with cloth, with a hole and hazard pocket in the centre, into which the balls or *billes* were driven. From *bille* came the French *billiard*, which we have adopted, in preference to the old English word *balyard*. The cue was of plain wood, without a tip, which addition was made by the celebrated player and politician Mingot as lately as the year 1823. Yet, even in this rough state the game acquired such popularity that not only the highest in the land, but the highest intellects, the hard thinkers, devoted themselves to its practice. Even with women it became a favourite. Mary Queen of Scots, in a letter written on the eve of her execution, complains bitterly that her "billiard table had just been taken away from her, as a preliminary step to her punishment." The witty Madame de Staël was a patroness of the game, and her example was followed by the Empress Josephine. In a word, the game has been a favourite relaxation, not to say an agreeable study, with the most famous characters of history, who have all united in conferring the title bestowed upon it by Louis XIV.—the Noble Game.

It would be unnecessary here to enter into any explanation of the different games as played at the present time. Besides the various pool games, we have the four ball carom game, for which the table without pockets is required; the four ball American game, for a corner pocket table; the French, or three ball carom, for the table without pockets; the English six-pocket game, and a variety of German games that are generally unknown and very seldom to be seen on this side of the Atlantic. As the latter are, in all probability, unknown to our readers, some little description may not be uninteresting. The tables used for all the varieties of the German game are of the English fashion, with corner and side-pockets. Five balls are used, which are placed in the following fashion: a yellow ball at spot, a blue ball spotted on the baulk line, a red spotted in the middle of the table between the two side-pockets, and the two white balls played as usual from baulk. The red ball is known as the "Caroline," and can only be "potted" into either of the side-pockets, when it counts two to the player. Should it fall into a side-pocket his adversary counts two. Any other stroke, whether hazard or carom, counts one. A variation of this game, which is exceedingly popular in South Germany, makes the yellow ball the "Caroline," counting six in the side-pockets, and deducting six if sent into any of the corner-pockets. A carom counts one, "potting" one's adversary the same, the blue hazard two, and the red three, thus making the game of exceedingly short duration.

As to the sanitary advantages of billiards, little need be said. It stands to reason that a game requiring so much movement, such walking, posturing, stretching, and striking, must act beneficially upon the system. The various motions made in the course of the game call into action all the sinews, tendons, joints, and muscles of the frame, giving them that gentle and healthy exercise they require, without over-tasking the strength or injuring the system. Nor is this the only way in which the game is of use to invalids. It has been found—

notably at a certain establishment for the treatment of consumptives in the west of England—of the greatest benefit to persons afflicted with liver complaint, consumption, and dyspepsia. The celebrated Sir Astley Cooper, when asked his opinion as to the value of the game in a medical point of view, spoke of it in the very highest terms of praise and recommendation. "We should all sleep more soundly," said he, "if we made it a rule to play billiards for an hour or two each evening before going to bed." To this we would add, by way of rider—be sure that your table, balls and cues are of the best. If there is one miserable thing in the way of amusement—a dreary, unwilling sacrifice to the god of pleasure, it is an evening in an ill-appointed billiard-room, spent in endeavouring to extract some recreation out of a seedy, hilly, patched and evil-cushioned table, with its attendant horrors of tipless cues, and discoloured, uneven balls, worn out of their roundness by old age and hard usage. There are many such billiard-rooms in this city—many in every city—and frequently in places where one might expect something better; while of saloons such as Mr. Chadwick's, which we illustrate on another page, there are but few to be found in the length and breadth of the land. In a large and elegant room, handsomely decorated, lofty, well lighted and well ventilated, with fifteen Pheasant & Collender's standard American Tables to choose from—a private room if you will—first class attendances and a willing and attentive staff, it must go hard if the most blue-devilish man cannot have an evening's enjoyment, while those in perfect health, following Sir Astley's advice, may take their hour's play, and sleep the sounder and the better for it. To strangers visiting the city it may not be unpleasant to know that this splendid saloon is situated on Great St. James street, in Nordheimer's block.

JOHN F. SCHOLES,

THE WINNER OF THE COHEN & LOPEZ PIPE.

There has been very great interest manifested in the snow-shoe sport during the past winter, and some little astonishment at the carrying away of the great prize of the season, the \$200 Pipe, by a Toronto snow-shoer, must certainly have been felt among the patrons of the race in this neighbourhood. Scholes is, however, the "hero of a hundred fights" in the running line, as his record shows, and to have been distanced by him was a defeat that may all the better be endured with equanimity. He was born in Moat, Queen's County, Ireland, on the 23rd December, 1846, and has consequently just completed his 24th year. In 1848 his family brought him to Canada, and for the last fifteen years he has resided in Toronto. He is a fine strapping youth, six feet in height, and his "running weight" is set down at 175 lbs.

The following list of his achievements at the races in which he has taken part during the past eighteen months may indicate how formidable an antagonist he is. His first competition in a public race took place at Toronto in August, 1869, when he beat E. Griffiths, one mile, for \$100 a side; time, 4:57½. He was defeated by Bingham, 100 yards dash, \$50 a side. He beat Conway at Toronto in September, 1869, one mile, for \$100 a side; time, 4:49½; and E. Griffiths at Toronto, October 2nd, 1869, three miles, for \$250 a side; time, 15:50. He was defeated by George Forbes, of Woodstock, December, 1869, quarter mile, for \$100 a side. In addition to the above Scholes has won at Athletic meetings a large number of cups, &c., as well as many money prizes.

The following is a list of prizes won by him at the Snow-Shoe Races, Montreal, during the winter:—Feb. 11, at G. T. Club S. S. Races, ran third in first heat, for \$200 champion pipe, presented by Cohen & Lopez; open to the Dominion. Feb. 22, at Montreal S. S. Club Races, won second heat, for \$200 pipe, in 5:39½—fastest time on record. Won half mile Green, open, for gold medal; time, 2:52. Feb. 25, at Alexandra S. S. Club Races, won third heat, for \$200 pipe, in 7:05½, thus winning race and pipe. March 4, at Maple Leaf S. S. Club Races, won two miles, open, for a gold medal; time, 12:06½. March 9, defeated by Keraronwe, one mile, for \$100 a side. March 11, at the Alexandra Supplementary S. S. Races, won one mile, open, for gold medal, in 7:11.

"I will not read history," Sir Robert Walpole is reported to have said, "for I know that is false." The newspaper readers of the present day might pass much the same verdict on a good deal of the "Paris correspondence" brought them by balloon during the siege. If one assertion was made more generally than another in the letters received in England by balloon it was that all the animals in the Jardin des Plantes had been eaten. Who can have forgotten those stories about monkey, and elephant, and kangaroo, and porcupine flesh, and the price lists forwarded in each letter? Who does not bear in mind the amusing persiflage of the "Besieged Resident," who detailed from time to time his gastronomic experiences, and who discussed the qualities of porcupine and other rare creatures, and could only say of the Corsican mouflon that it was more like mouflon than anything he had ever tasted? The Besieged Resident and every other correspondent must have been egregiously deceived, for the special correspondent of the *Times* at Paris, writing of a visit he paid to the Jardin des Plantes, asserts, on the authority of the custodians, that not one animal of the collection was eaten during the siege, and that the two elephants and the camel which really appear to have been devoured belonged to the Jardin d'Acclimatation.

It is intended during the present year to introduce the Prussian system of sham campaigns into the English army, in order to instruct both officers and men in the work they may expect in actual warfare. The authorities at the War Office are strongly impressed with the desirability of adopting a similar plan. The idea is to divide the available forces, which will embrace as many men as can be got together at one place, into two armies, under separate commands, and after furnishing each officer with a rough plan of the intended operations and a map of the country over which it is proposed to manoeuvre, to let them work out the details according to their individual judgments, umpires being appointed to criticize every movement. The manoeuvres will probably be deferred till after the harvest, when the damage done to the land over which the troops will have to pass will be only nominal, and the compensation small; but open tracts of country will be made available as far as possible, and already Dartmoor and the moors of Scotland are spoken of as available for the purpose. The campaigns will extend over several days, so as to effectually test the commissariat, military train, and other services with which each division will be furnished as completely as in actual warfare.