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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 15th July, 1876.

### THE PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

It is surprising how much Manitoba and the North-West have contributed to the literature of the Dominion. We could count from memory at least a dozen volumes published on this subject within the past six or seven years. There is much romance about the country, and its history and condition exert a fascination on all who have visited it. But of all the books that we can call to mind, by far the most valuable is that written by Mr. J. C. HAMILTON, and published by BELFORD BROTHERS, of Toronto, under the title which heads this article. The exterior of the work is attractive, being as fine a specimen of book making as the enterprising publishers have yet turned out. But the reading matter is quite worthy of its outfit. The author travels over the whole ground of the history, present condition, resources and prospects of the Prairie Province. He writes in a free unpretentious style, while his statements are invariably backed by facts and figures which give the satisfactory element of reliability. We know of no work which contains so much useful information in so small a space. Our public men and public writers can find in it all the data they need towards an accurate comprehension of the present position of Manitoba, while for emigration purposes we should fancy that a cheap edition would materially facilitate the task of our agents abroad. Neither could a better book be chosen for distribution as a school prize. Did our space permit we would call attention to the chapter on the Indians and Half-Breeds, which contains much that we never could learn before of the condition of the aborigines in that distant land. The subjects of climate and production are exhaustively treated and we are told a great deal that is new concerning manufactures, labor, trade and the markets in the North-West. The invasion of the grasshoppers has been frequently and elaborately treated in these columns, as its paramount importance deserved, but within the limits of about twelve pages we have learned more about the grasshopper plague from Mr. HAMILTON than we had ever gathered from hundreds of pages of desultory reading. The same remark applies to the present position of the Hudson's Bay Company. After giving a history of this great establishment from its inception, the author informs us that "under article five in the deed of surrender, the Company is entitled to one-twentieth of all the land in the great Fertile Belt as it is surveyed and set out in townships. In carrying out this agreement, the Company have assigned to them, in every fifth township as surveyed, two sections, or 1,280 acres, and, in every township 560 acres; and this applies to all lands whether arable or mineral. All this in addition to the sum of £300,000 sterling paid, and to the land in and around every fort or trading post occu-

ried. What the Company pretend to have lost, as to the fur trade monopoly, they have more than gained by their treaty and statutory title to the lands which will be made yearly more and more valuable by the labor of immigrants, and the expenditure for public works, and opening of the country at the expense of the Dominion and Provincial exchequers."

This is a striking statement and there are many such bits of revelation throughout the work, which we heartily recommend to the public as a contribution to our political and historical literature creditable alike to the author and his publishers.

### YOUNG TURKEY.

The Porte is in a critical position. It is attacked both in front and rear. Not only are its borders assailed by the insurgents of the Danubian Principalities, but there are dissensions in Constantinople itself. Last week we published the programme of the rebels, as formulated by Prince MILAN. To-day we present the prospectus of Young Turkey, as we find it set forth in the Paris papers. Young Turkey aims at an entire religious and social revolution, the establishment of a Council of State and of a Chamber of Deputies composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians. To this programme are added numerous economic reforms and reductions of expenditure which must make the mouths of all the innocent subscribers to Turkish loans water. Amongst all the proposed changes, the most important, perhaps, is that which would enable Christians to enter into military service, and which would be the consecration of the principle of political equality. Are all these reforms possible in a country like Turkey, founded on conquest and maintained by armed domination? We are ready to try to believe this, but we shall believe at the same time that there is no more Turkey. It will be admitted that the means employed hitherto have not been strictly constitutional, and that the reformers enter upon the parliamentary stage by a strange beginning. Ever since the Turks announced that they are going to enter upon the path of civilization and to inoculate themselves with western institutions, we have seen nothing but revolvers, daggers, and scissiors. One would imagine that in studying French history they took the 2nd of December for the perfect model of peaceful and constitutional reforms. The late Sultan was regarded as the creature of Russia; and was deposed, imprisoned, and committed suicide, and England triumphed. The new Minister for War, a true Turk of the old stock, was determined to reduce by arms the insurrection which Russia supported. Then comes a Circassian, who shoots him dead, and Russia has her revenge. Thus cleared, the ground now belongs to Young Turkey and electoral reform. The Minister who has been assassinated was an obstacle; it was for the advantage of Old Turkey that he made the revolution; he regarded the proposed constitutional schemes as dreams and heresies, and it was he that desired to make an appeal to Africa and Asia in order to rally them round the standard of the Prophet. He has disappeared, leaving the field free to the theorists.

### RECIPROCITY.

The meeting of the American National Board of Trade, held in New York, the week before last, barely touched upon the vital question of Reciprocity. It is interesting, in view of many circumstances which affect ourselves at the present time, to learn how such a paper as the *New York Times* appreciates the manner in which the subject was handled. It asks whether on the question of reciprocal trade with Canada, it is not time that generalities and sentimentalities were discarded, and that the business men who evince the slightest interest in it, descended to talk about it in plain, busi-

ness terms? The National Board of Trade took it up on Thursday, but in a perfunctory way, and apparently more out of a desire to be civil to the Canadians who were present than with any expectation of accomplishing a practical result. The Board "resolved" in favor of Mr. Ward's plan for the appointment of an international commission to consider the subject and devise some mutually acceptable arrangement. Instead of thus wasting words—for the resolution can really amount to nothing—why did not the Board appoint a committee of its own members to confer with the visitors from Canada, and to do exactly what Mr. Ward's commission is wanted to do? Had this course been taken, we imagine that both parties would have very soon discovered the hopelessness of the project. Before the preliminaries were ended the Canadians would have been obliged to confess that they are fettered in the negotiations by their connection with Great Britain. Our people, on the other hand, would have said that it is idle to call for reciprocity so long as Great Britain insists that Canada shall not make better terms with the Americans than with her own manufacturers. Setting aside romance and good, neighborly wishes, the plain truth is that in its present state, clogged as it is with imperial conditions, Canada cannot offer a full equivalent for the benefits it would derive from free access to American markets. The former treaty never would have been ratified but for the fisheries which formed the solid consideration offered by Canada in return for the privileges it acquired. Now it hopes to get a large sum for opening the fisheries to American fishermen, and consequently has no other available bonus to tender as a make-weight in a bargain that would otherwise be a little too one-sided.

### THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

LORD DUFFERIN, with his usual consideration and that aesthetic sentiment which is one of the most prominent features of his gifted nature, has taken the earliest occasion afforded by his present visit to Quebec, to recommend, in the warmest terms, the plans of restoration and improvement, which he himself has suggested for the maintenance of the historical monuments of old Quebec. Every word which his Lordship uttered concerning the picturesqueness and the antiquarian interest of the ancient Capital is heartily echoed not only throughout the Province of Quebec, but throughout the whole Dominion. Even beyond our border, we are pleased to read in the more thoughtful papers of New York and Boston that the peculiar merits of Quebec are acknowledged and that gratification is expressed that its venerable walls, gates, bastions and other relics are to be religiously preserved from the ruthless levelling of the pickaxe and shovel.

While we all applaud this material rehabilitation of the old town, it is agreeable to be able to testify that its own sons are not backward in endeavoring to perpetuate its legends, chronicles, traditions and other landmarks in the still more enduring form of literature. Chief among these unquestionably stands Mr. J. M. LEMOINE, who has made a name for himself no less in the natural sciences than in the domain of archaeology. That gentleman is the author of several works on the antiquities of Canada, and especially Quebec, but he has crowned all his other labors by his latest publication entitled *Quebec Past and Present*. This is an octavo volume of considerable size, well printed and bound, and worthy on every account of a place in all Canadian libraries. Nothing pertaining to the local history of Quebec is forgotten in its pages, while there are hundreds of new details never published before. A most interesting chapter is that devoted to the gates and fortifications. It is to be regretted that the author did not embody in this volume his account of the streets of Quebec, which lately appeared *seriatim* in the

columns of this journal. A large appendix contains detailed descriptions of many of the public institutions and buildings, some of them from the elegant pen of Mr. LESLIE THOM, formerly of the *Chronicle*, and at present of the *Montreal Star*. Altogether we take great pleasure in recommending Mr. LEMOINE'S work to our readers, and we repeat that a copy of it should be in the library of every Canadian.

### THE AMERICAN FLAG.

From all accounts, we are pleased to learn that the Centennial Celebration of the Fourth of July was in the highest degree brilliant and enthusiastic. On that occasion, all kinds of reminiscences were indulged in, both by the orators and song writers. One of these concerning the American Flag is of sufficient historic interest to be preserved in our columns.

The American flag originated in a resolution of Congress, June 13th, 1777: "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternately red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." There were several flags used before the striped flag. In March, 1775, "a Union flag with a red field," was hoisted at New York on a liberty pole, inscribed "George Rex, and the Liberties of America," and on the other side: "No Popery." On the 18th July, 1778, Gen. Putnam raised at Prospect Hill, a flag bearing the Connecticut motto: "Qui Transtulit Sustinet," on the other, "An Appeal to Heaven." In October of the same year, the floating batteries at Boston had a flag with "An Appeal to Heaven;" the field white, with a pine tree upon it. This was the Massachusetts emblem. Another flag used during 1775, in some of the colonies, had upon it a rattlesnake coiled, with the motto: "Don't Tread on Me." The grand Union flag of thirteen stripes was raised on the heights near Boston, January 2nd, 1776. The English regulars thought the new flag was a token of submission. The idea of making each stripe for a State was adopted from the first. The pine tree, rattlesnake and striped flag were used indiscriminately until July, 1777, when the blue with the stars was added to the stripes, and the flag established by law, when by act of Congress the stripes were reduced to the old thirteen; and now a star is added to the Union at the introduction of each new State. The army standard flag is fixed at six feet six inches, by four feet four inches—the first stripe at the top is red, next white and so on, the last being red; the blue field for the stars is the width and square of the first seven stripes, viz: four red and three white.

### UNITED STATES TREATIES.

We learn from a correspondent at Ottawa that the free navigation of United States Canals, reported to have been given to Canadian vessels under the terms of the Treaty of Washington, has been so hampered with vexatious restrictions as to be practically valueless! We cannot honestly say that this announcement causes very much surprise. It is certainly in keeping with all that has preceded on the same subject. It is plain from the correspondence laid before Parliament that the concession which the good faith of the United States, pledged under a most solemn obligation, required, was not granted until every shift of diplomacy had been tried and exhausted. Then, we were three or four weeks ago told with a flourish that at last United States Canals were open to Canadian craft. Now it comes out that while the letter of the Treaty is apparently kept, its spirit is violated to such an extent as to render the concession valueless. Our correspondent further informs us that reprisals have been determined in such way as to subject United States vessels in Canadian waters to precisely the same restrictions as ours are subjected to in theirs. In the popular adage, what is good for the goose