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THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY;  
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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1874.

THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

The Engraving, Printing and Publishing business founded and heretofore carried on by G. E. Desbarats, will henceforth be continued by a Joint Stock Company under the above title. This Company, which will shortly be incorporated by charter under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, has acquired the property of "The Canadian Illustrated News," "The Favorite," "The Canadian Patent Office Record and Mechanics' Magazine," "The Dominion Guide," "L'Opinion Publique," and other publications issued by G. E. Desbarats, also his Patents, in Photo-typing, Photo-lithographing, Electro-typing, etc., and the good-will of his large Lithographic and Type Printing Business.

The Company proposes to build a magnificent structure in a conspicuous and convenient locality in this City, where the business can be permanently established on a footing second to none of its kind in America.

Meanwhile, the ample Capital at its command will enable it to push the existing business to the utmost extent compatible with its present location; to improve the above mentioned publications in every particular, and to satisfy its customers, as to promptness, style of workmanship, and moderation in prices.

The Patronage of the enlightened Canadian Public in every part of the Dominion is solicited for this new Company, which will strive to build up a business alike beneficial and creditable to Canada.

The Premier has changed his railway policy a second time within the past two months. He declares now that he proposes to utilise the enormous stretches of magnificent water communication which lie between a point not far from the Rocky Mountains and Fort Garry, and between Lake Superior and French river on the Georgian Bay, thus avoiding for the present the construction of about 1,300 miles of railway estimated to cost from sixty to eighty millions of dollars, and rendering the resources of the country available for the prosecution of those links of the Pacific Railway which are necessary in order to form a complete line of rail and steamboat communication from east to west.

This will involve the construction of a short line of railway from the mouth of French river, on Georgian Bay, to the south-east shore of Lake Nipissing, and a grant in aid of extension to that point of the existing and projected lines in Quebec and Ontario.

He proposes also to facilitate the construction of the branch line from Fort Garry to Pembina, already provided for by Parliament, although he cannot hope that this will be accomplished by December next, the time limited by the late Government for its completion.

It will be observed that the eastern or Lake Superior section which, in his Sarnia speech, Mr. Mackenzie refused to countenance, is now promised. The inference is that the honourable gentleman was forced into the concession by public opinion and in order to influence the elections. With regard to the bulk of the scheme—the line from Fort Garry to the foot of the Rocky Mountains—it will strike every one acquainted with the geography of the route, as utterly chimerical and unworthy the consideration which Mr. Mackenzie asks for it. Really if the new Premier expects us to be gulled by such hasty, ill-matured and gratuitous measures, he will find himself mistaken, and the sooner he learns his mistake the better. There is no object whatever to be gained in thus trifling with a matter of such national importance. The Canada Pacific *must* be built. That is an issue which cannot be shirked. The matter is vital. It is the condition of the coherence of this Confederation. It is the condition *sine qua non* of immigration. The men who oppose this great work on the score of expense are very narrow-minded or have no faith in the future of Canada. If you believe that Canada must sooner or later be absorbed by United States, then of course the road is useless, as competing with the Northern Pacific. But if you *know* and *feel* that Canada is destined to become one of the great nations of the earth, half proprietor of this hemisphere

and the home of millions of men who are still beyond the sea, then you can have no hesitation about building the road at once. Surely Canada will be good for her bonds a quarter of a century hence. Will she or will she not? If she will, why hanker, like hucksters, over a few million dollars required to build this necessary road? The day of mere parish politics, of mere personal politics is over in Canada. We want large bold statesmanship. The government party would carry the country much more readily if, instead of constantly abusing Sir John A. Macdonald—whose greatness they unwittingly admit by this abuse—they would ground their triumph on a brave enunciation of national policy. Let Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie forego diatribe and invective and ring out the principles of true statesmen, that shall stir and exalt the hearts of the people as the blare of trumpets. Thus will they win the love and the admiration of the whole people. There is a golden opportunity. They must prove that they are equal to it. It is arduous, no doubt, for whatever else Sir John A. Macdonald may have been, he was a great statesman. The difficulty of succeeding him is one that the new Ministry cannot shirk, but must confront manfully. We trust, therefore, that they will abandon the puerile make-shifts and the narrow partisan tactics hitherto employed by them, and prove themselves worthy of every independent man's approbation by the pursuit of a fearless and comprehensive policy.

If energy and activity are titles to success the Reform Party is certainly deserving of a large majority at the coming elections. Ever since the announcement of the dissolution they have displayed unabated energy and unwearied perseverance in furthering the return of their candidates throughout the country. They have left no stone unturned in their search for facts which will tell in their favour, and these facts once in their power they have lost no time in putting them to use. There is hardly a constituency in the Dominion that they are not doing their best to carry. In this matter they have borne well in mind the truth of the old maxim which warns us against despising our enemies however small their number or weak their forces. In striking contrast to the alertness of the Reformers is the lack of interest and apathy with which the party in opposition seem to look upon the coming struggle. In glancing over the list of candidates we find nearly forty constituencies in which the Reform candidates are unopposed. In several of these the former representatives, late ministerialists, have withdrawn, and in others, Montreal, for instance, it is impossible to find a fitting person willing to run in the Liberal Conservative interest. In Montreal the inactivity exhibited by the members of the party of the opposition is a disgrace to themselves. In the Western Division it has been especially marked. A whole fortnight was lost in vain endeavours to induce Sir A. T. Galt to run, and when he finally declined another week was frittered away in coquetting with Mr. Rodden. As things now stand the Reform candidate will walk the course. In the Centre Division matters are in but little better condition. The Reformers are indefatigable in the canvass, while the Conservatives, from the candidate down, evince the most unaccountable and unpardonable apathy. In the East, after much trifling, a candidate has finally been fixed upon at the eleventh hour. The spirit of inaction seems to have spread even to the Press. The editor of the only conservative paper in the city leaves his post at a most critical time for the party in order to push in another county his claims for a seat. During his absence politics have no place in his journal, the editorial columns of which are filled with discussions of such matters as the Baldacchino case, legislative interference in judicial decisions, and the interests of science, matters of great interest, no doubt, to some readers, but hardly the sort of topics one would have imagined, that a live paper would care to hold forth upon in the heat of an important election contest. It is not too much to say that many of the more active Conservatives are disgusted with the faint-heartedness and inaction of the majority of their fellows, and it would not be surprising were they in future to cast in their lot with the party which has shown a proper respect for itself and a thorough understanding of its own interests. We have not the slightest doubt that the Reformers will obtain an overwhelming majority at the polls, thanks to their own energy and the shilly-shallying of their opponents. On this account, if on no other, we shall hail their success with the utmost satisfaction.

"Indiscretion" is the word used by the Opposition Press with reference to Sir John A. Macdonald's conduct in the matter of the Pacific Railway Charter. When a married lady of position leaves her husband for some other and unlawful love, Society calls it an "indiscretion." When a young man belonging to a wealthy family embezzles other people's money, Society again dubs it an "indiscretion." Sir John's conduct is an "indiscretion," a "mistake;" some papers are almost ready to say that "it bordered on a fault." The *Mail*, with charming candour, even goes so far as to admit that nobody could be asked to say that he had done right. If he did not do right he must have done wrong; there is no medium, the casuists notwithstanding. When shall we have a little plain speaking from the party Press?

The issue of new writs has had the effect of developing a

new class of politicians whom we may designate as the Whimperers. They are all new men and are all endeavouring to unseat former members. Their cry is a whine, as follows, "Mr. So-and-so has sat in the Commons for so—many years, and surely it is time that he should give some one else a chance." The some one else is of course the speaker. This strangely childish argument is in great favour just now with would-be legislators, who look upon themselves somewhat in the light of martyrs in as much as they have hitherto been debarred from participating in the wordy fights at Ottawa.

Canadian patriotism is beginning to look very like a myth. Its products just now show themselves chiefly in the shape of "Scandals." Of these we have had a goodly crop within the last six months, witness the Pacific Railway Scandal, the Letter Stealing Scandal, the Lake Superior Ring Scandal, and the Huntington Mining Scandal. If we go on in this cheerful manner we shall before long be so bad that even the United States will decline to annex us at any price, and what a sad thing that would be for Mr. Huntington. But it is astonishing how blind some people are to their own interests.

Great is the new Speaker of the Ontario House. The other day Hon. Mr. McKellar, in the course of the debate on central prisons, referring to the "Proton Outrage" Committee report, said two members of that committee had stated that its chairman had falsified the report. Mr. Laufer asked that the word be taken down, and when this was about being done, a dispute arose as to the exact words used, and the Speaker, being appealed to, had to make the damaging admission that he had not been listening to the debate. Is there no one in the Province to paraphrase Cromwell?—"Take away that dummy!"

Mr. Blake is hardly complimentary either to himself or his fellow politicians. In his speech at Peterborough the other day he said that he was "anxious to raise the standard of the public morality to such a height that honest and honourable men would not think it a degradation to be actively engaged in political life?" Do honest and honourable men think it a degradation to be actively engaged in political life? Mr. Blake certainly bears his degradation remarkably well.

When will the journals—of all shades of politics—comprehend that the public is not to be bamboozled by all the clap-trap about purity of elections? There is not a party sheet in the country that has not accused members on the opposite side of the fence of having obtained their seats "by a very large expenditure of money," "by the most shameless bribery," and so forth. Such persistency is needless. No one disbelieves the statement, only it applies both ways.

The Protection vs. Free Trade question is complicating matters very considerably. The Young Canada party are being especially ill-used. They are in favour of Protection, the *Globe* is not. So the *Globe*, notwithstanding the service they did for the Reform candidate at the last election for West Toronto, turns round upon them and scolds them as Macdonaldites. Which, as they renounce Macdonald and all his works, is rather hard.

There is no use preaching about peace, arbitration, and forgiveness. The old war spirit is still alive in the United States. Caleb Cushing, who is unquestionably the greatest lawyer in the United States, lost all chance for the Chief Justiceship because, in the very beginning of the secession movement, he wrote a letter to Jeff. Davis recommending a young friend of his.

Young Grant wanted to whip Don Platt, editor of the *Washington Capital*, the other day, because the latter thought fit to make some remarks on Mrs. Grant's public New Year's reception. The Don had police stationed at the door of his private residence to screen his family from insult, and then dared young Grant to meet him at his office.

In the interests of humanity it is to be hoped that Mr. W. H. Scott will be returned for West Peterborough. If he is elected the constituency will have the honour of sending to Ottawa a representative who has proved himself a match for "Logical Teddy" at his, L. T.'s, own game.

Spite of every assertion to the contrary, President Grant is not a candidate for a third term, and Ben Butler is aiming at the lofty office. Butler's character is not above suspicion, but his political abilities are of the highest order.

It is to be regretted that, whereas Mr. Fred. Mackenzie, candidate for Montreal West, is charged by his adversaries with being unlearned, he has so rapidly learned to abuse his adversaries in the most bouncing style.

Is there any truth in the Lake Superior Ring story? People are rather chary about giving an opinion before the Premier has been heard from respecting the cleanness of his hands.

"Government Pap" will hardly be regarded as a favour by newspaper proprietors if it is to be administered with the spoon that was used to the *Minerva*.