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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 Me-  
 chanics' 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 credit-  
 able to Canada.

The Premier has changed his railway policy a second time  
 within the past two months. He declares now that he pro-  
 poses 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 esti-  
 mated to cost from sixty to eighty millions of dollars, and  
 rendering the resources of the country available for the pro-  
 secution of those links of the Pacific Railway which are neces-  
 sary 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 Par-  
 liament, although he cannot hope that this will be accom-  
 plished by December next, the time limited by the late Gov-  
 ernment for its completion.

It will be observed that the eastern or Lake Superior section  
 which, in his Sarnia speech, Mr. Mackenzie refused to counte-  
 nance, is now promised. The inference is that the honour-  
 able 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 ac-  
 quainted with the geography of the route, as utterly chimeri-  
 cal 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  
 banker, 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 con-  
 front 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 in-  
 dependent 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 elec-  
 tions. 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 minist-  
 erialists, have withdrawn, and in others, Montreal, for in-  
 stance, it is impossible to find a fitting person willing to run  
 in the Liberal Conservative interest. In Montreal the inacti-  
 vity 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 in-  
 terests 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 fel-  
 lows, and it would not be surprising were they in future to  
 cast in their lot with the party which has shown a proper re-  
 spect for itself and a thorough understanding of its own in-  
 terests. 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 mat-  
 ter 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 be-  
 longing 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 Whim-  
 perers. 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 sure-  
 ly 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 Let-  
 ter 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 astonish-  
 ing 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 chair-  
 man 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 ap-  
 pealed to, had to make the damaging admission that he had  
 not been listening to the debate. Is there no one in the Pro-  
 vince 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—compre-  
 hend 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 mat-  
 ters 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 To-  
 ronto, turns round upon them and scolds them as Macdonald-  
 ites. Which, as they renounce Macdonald and all his works,  
 is rather hard.

There is no use preaching about peace, arbitration, and for-  
 giveness. 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 Wash-  
 ington *Capital*, the other day, because the latter thought fit  
 to make some remarks on Mrs. Grant's public New Year's re-  
 ception. 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 *Minerve*.