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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 10th, 1875.

DOMINION DAY.

We have particular pleasure, this year, in being able to chronicle that Dominion Day was celebrated with the usual, if not more than the usual, enthusiasm. Telegrams received from different parts of the country testify that the anniversary of Confederation was observed as a holiday, thousands upon thousands profiting by the occasion to make excursions on land and water, while the firing of cannon, the display of bunting, and the almost total cessation from business, were further proofs that the whole people, irrespective of party or nationality, regarded the day as one of patriotic demonstration. In Montreal, which is a purely commercial city, and where political considerations are generally relegated to the background, the spontaneity and universality of the celebration were particularly remarkable. The day wore a Sabbath appearance, business was almost wholly suspended, and no less than 25,000 people enjoyed their outing on the bright waters, among the blooming lanes of the Mountain, amid the charming scenery of St. Helen's Island, or in the quiet seclusion of the beautiful villages which line the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Sorel.

We repeat that we are gratified at the record of these facts. And the reason of our gratification is this. Some of our contemporaries, in the absence, probably, of anything else to write about, have expressed their hostility to the celebration of the 1st of July. They have gone out of their way to vent their spleen against the "Fathers" of Confederation, thus displaying a spirit of personal jealousy and animosity, and others went the length of sneering at the stability of our present Union. We shall not enter upon a discussion of these points with the papers, in question. They have been sufficiently answered in Toronto by the *Globe* and other leading papers, while in Halifax, the *Morning Herald* has already given all the answer which the circumstances of Nova Scotia allowed. What we particularly wish to draw attention to is the fact that the popular instinct is the best answer of all, and that the enthusiasm of the people for what they justly consider their national holiday is a sufficient compensation to every true Canadian patriot for the ill-adviced attacks of carping critics.

It is a common fault of both politicians and journalists to underrate the popular intelligence. The average mind may not be able to construct a syllogism like the practiced dialectician, but it is uncommonly quick at drawing up an enthymeme. Given a broad premise, and it will jump to the conclusion with unerring insight. Given a great central fact, it will seize upon it and follow out its bearings, without the aid of scribe or speaker. Confederation is one of these central facts. Some politicians may be blind enough to deny that it was a master stroke of statesmanship, but the popular eye is purer and sharper. It has seen and appreciated what Confederation has done for the

country. Before it, there was weakness, after it, there was strength; before it, there was division, after it, there was harmony; before it, there was stagnation, after it, there was prosperity; before it, was the reign of petty parish politics after it, sprung into existence a broad national spirit. Before Confederation, Canada was nothing; since Confederation, she has taken a modest, but distinct stand among the nations of the earth. The people knows these things to be true, and that is sufficient.

In regard to the "Fathers" of Confederation, as a Toronto journal tauntingly calls them, the popular feeling is no less true. Reform writers may abuse Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD till their pens fall from their hands, Conservative speakers may calumniate Senator BROWN till their tongues cleave to their palates, but they can never make the people forget the debt of obligation they owe to these two great men—who, for the nonce, renouncing their differences, united to make this country a nation. Quebec will ever remember CARTIER, spite of the nettles of hate that have been heaped upon his grave. New Brunswick is giving due honor to TILLEY, and Nova Scotia will yet do justice to TUPPER. These men are as truly the Fathers of the New Canada, as WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, FRANKLIN and ADAMS were of the American Republic. And we are quite willing to leave their honored names in the safe keeping of a grateful people.

ATTACKS ON CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

What could possess a Canadian journal to allow the appearance in its columns of any attack against the cause of immigration is a problem utterly beyond our comprehension. And yet this has been done. Not only have the officials and agents of immigration been arraigned before the bar of public opinion, but the coming of settlers into the country has been discouraged, and the most unfavorable accounts of Canada as a ground for colonization have been scattered far and wide. We have met them cited with complacency by the New York papers. We expect that our next mails from Europe will inform us that the Provincial journals of Great Britain have taken up the theme and improved upon it to stem the tide of emigration.

It requires only a moment's consideration to convince oneself that the necessity of immigration is vital and that the attempt to thwart it in any respect is suicidal. This is a subject to which we have given frequent attention in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and a careful study of it has shown us all its bearings and destinies. We are quite willing to admit that the enginery of immigration has not been satisfactory, and that the moneys expended on agents abroad were utterly disproportionate to the results accomplished by them. We are willing also to allow that up to the time of Hon. Mr. PORE's accession to office, as Minister of Agriculture, the system even at Ottawa was not properly organized. But failure in this respect is no reason for attacking the whole scheme and discrediting the country in the eyes of Europeans.

Natural increase is not sufficient for the development of this country. However satisfactory the rate of propagation may be, especially among the French Canadians, it is not at all adequate to the growing wants of the country. The last census showed this conclusively, creating a feeling of disappointment which will not soon be forgotten. The statistics of immigration published by us, three or four weeks ago, as extracted from the last report of the Department, bear upon their face the evidence of the immense good done to the country by its yearly settlers. All those who have come are welcome. We have room for them all, work for them all. We deny that immigration has, in any respect, been a failure, so far as the immigrant himself is concerned. Canada is certainly not the paradise depicted by the imagination of some of its agents, but

it offers all the conditions required by honest labor for the acquisition of ease and competency, and how any Canadian writer can deny this fact is a mystery to us. Immigration is a vital question with us. Without it we shall fall back into our old grooves. With it, we may hope to emulate the progress and prosperity of the United States.

THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

We have received by mail the text of the remarkable article of the GOLOSS, of St. Petersburg, advocating an alliance between Russia and England as the best guarantee for the peace of Europe. The writer unequivocally asserts, in direct contradiction of statements from German sources, that the late war alarms were based on solid grounds, and that it was thanks to the friendly counsels of Russia and England that the danger has been removed. But he proceeds to ask how long a peaceful feeling will be predominant at Berlin? He regards it as indisputable that now no war can take place in Europe without either the permission or participation of Germany; that Germany may find it necessary to make war sooner than any other European State, and that, consequently, a disturbance of European peace is chiefly to be feared from her side. As to the alliance of the three Emperors, the GOLOSS says that it certainly affords an excellent guarantee for the maintenance of peace by all the powers who do not belong to that alliance, but does it secure Europe against warlike projects which might be entertained by one of the allies themselves? Warlike designs are represented as being far from unfamiliar to persons in high position in German society; and it is doubtful, first, how long the German Government will be able to oppose these designs, and, secondly, whether the alliance of the three Emperors will be able to bear another test: To meet this possible and probable danger, the writer suggests an alliance between Russia and England, "the two States which are the natural guardians of European peace," and proceeds to detail the reasons why the Indian question should not stand in the way of a perfect understanding between the two countries.

We may be mistaken in our estimate, but we are disposed to attach exceptional importance to this article, inspired, as it is known to be, from official quarters. The German papers have attempted to diminish its force by unwisely underrating the influence of Britain on the continent. The English papers, with their usual caution, have treated the proposition courteously, but not enthusiastically. To us it appears indicative of a distrustful attitude towards Germany, quite different from that maintained by the CZAR during the war and since, as also a manifest leaning towards France, increased by the CZAR's invitation to M. THIERS for a conference on the European situation.

The condition of affairs on the continent may seem complicated in one sense, but it is exceedingly simple in another. Any attack upon France for the next ten years must come from Germany, and any such attack would be an outrage upon civilization. France is in no condition for war, and pending the permanent establishment of her new constitution, can have no disposition for war. Her weakness is her first claim on European sympathy, but she has others. The resignation with which she has borne her extraordinary burdens, the spirit with which she has striven to repair her losses, the fidelity with which she has redeemed all her obligations, and the honest efforts she is making to secure a stable government, have won for her the friendship of every European nation, except Germany. The GOLOSS article only confirms us in the opinion that if France were attacked by Germany to-morrow, not only would the triple alliance of the Emperors be scattered to the winds, but every power in Europe, with the exception of the Minor States, would spring to her assistance. Notwithstanding the personal relations of

her court with Germany, we would not do Britain the injustice to suspect that, in such an event, she would hedge herself behind her insular security, and look quietly on the perpetration of an international crime.

THE SITUATION IN SPAIN.

The failure of ALPHONSO XII, to better the condition of Spain is another example of the worthlessness of compromises based upon expediency and not upon principle. When this boy was summoned from the Hotel Basilewski to the Palace at Madrid, he had, of course, no personal consideration to sustain him and the only prop of his accession was the implied promise of a constitutional Monarchy, as against the unsuccessful Republic, on the one hand, and the absolutism represented by DON CARLOS, on the other. If his system of government had been really possessed of the strength of sincerity, there was nothing to prevent it rallying around itself all parties, except of course, the irreconcilable Radicals and the Descamisados. But the event has proved that the young King has not succeeded in conciliating even the members of the powerful Liberal Union, the Spanish Right Centre, standing midway between the Progresistas of the Left, and the Moderados of the Right. This party held a meeting, a few weeks ago, at which 365 ex-senators and ex-deputies met, but their deliberations came to naught from the want of a defined line of policy, based upon a corresponding programme on the part of the Crown. Preparations are indeed being made for elections to the Cortes, and a Royal decree has guaranteed the liberty of the press to the extent of a full discussion of all topics, with the sole exception of the theory of Monarchy; but the restoration of public confidence is making no progress, and the numerous parties into which the country is unhappily divided, are as far as ever from adopting a medium through which they could cooperate towards the support of the Throne. The anarchy is still further increased by the high-handed measures of the Ministry, such as the silencing of professors, the exile of prominent men without the formality of trial, the annulling of civil marriages, and the withdrawal of several other minor concessions which the government of CASTELAR had introduced.

A careful study of affairs in Spain points to the conclusion that the military must take precedence of the political question. There is room for belief that if the February campaign against the Carlists, which the presence of KING ALFONSO so happily animated, had been crowned with success, the Spanish problem would be in a fairer way of solution than it is at present. Marshal CONCHA had opened the way to victory and his death had only retarded, not checked, the onward march, and had he been succeeded by a General as energetic as himself, the Carlist war would be over by this time, and Spain would have turned her sole attention to the work of reconstruction. But DON CARLOS has been allowed to recover from the stunning blow dealt him at Bilbao, and he is now stronger than he has been at any time since that event. His bases of supplies have been re-established on a better footing, and early in June, he received a cargo of 2,000 Snider rifles, 400,000 cartridges and several tons of lead. There are, doubtless, numbers of skilful officers in the Alfonsist army, but political considerations regulate military appointments, and political dissensions prevent the Generals from working in harmony. The wonderful tenaciousness of the Carlist army, on the other hand, spite of the odds against it, is mainly due to its homogeneity of political sentiment.

So long as the war continues, there can be no hope for Spain. Political measures at the capital will be only miserably makeshifts. The fate of the Peninsula is in the army and this is so true, that, little as we sympathise with DON CARLOS, always reserving our admiration for his talent and his sincerity, we should