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NO CONFIDENCE IN THEM.

Could, we should like to know, there be any more definite announcement made that the citizens of Victoria have no confidence in their municipal authorities than the vote of Thursday last, when three out of four important money by laws were rejected by the ratepayers? The vote polled was exceedingly small, not as many as 700 individual voters thinking it worth their while to turn out. The amount to borrow which the people's sanction was sought, was, in the aggregate, \$845,000, for sewerage, educational, electric lighting and park improvement purposes. The city fathers were entrusted with the \$85,000 for educational purposes and that not to be expended by them, but to be disposed of by the school trustees, a number of whom are the nominees of the Government, and the others the elect of the people. We have said that not 700 voters turned out to vote, for each voter had a voice on each of the propositions, the total vote on each of which was as follows: Sewerage by-law, 621; electric lighting, 631; educational, 662; park, 630. The total majorities against the by laws were 671, and, in their favor, 51.

We give these figures for our readers to think about, merely asking if any such votes of lack of confidence were ever recorded against any other elective body by their constituents, they would remain in office any longer? What is the utility of an organization, which, comparatively fresh from the polls, has had recorded against it such a vote of disapproval? We must confess that we had formed in advance a favorable opinion of the present Council, believing that there was sufficient good blood in it and sufficient practicability about it to render it an efficient and effective organization; but we have been disappointed. They have been, with one or two exceptions, too great talkers and not workers as they ought to have been. They have been months without hands, maintained at vast expense. They have been living and lively representatives of officialdom on a small scale. They have kept up at the public cost a large number of comparatively useless walking gentlemen, while the working staff the men who have been accustomed to dig our drains and keep our roadways in order have been dismissed because there was no money to maintain staffs of both work ingmen and gentlemen. In our opinion, it is just about time that an end were put to this kind of thing. Which of the coun

cillors will be the first to take the hint so emphatically given by the voters of the city?

SUING THE DOMINION.

There is one individual who is manifestly of the opinion that the public are worth suing, no matter how poor a case he may have. Lewis P. Fairbanks, who has some interest in a canal connecting Halifax with Shubenacadie is suing the Dominion Government for two hundred thousand dollars damages, alleging that he had suffered great loss because navigation had been interfered with by the government building a bridge across the canal. We have said that the canal connects the two points, we ought to say it did so, forty years ago, when it was abandoned, being paralleled by a railroad, which threw it into disuse. What the Dominion has to do with that we fail to see, no matter how good the claim might have been before Confederation, when Nova Scotian legislation caused it to be paralleled.

There may, we admit, be possibly some claim for the value of the land required for the site of the bridge, but it is to be hoped that the Courts will see their way clear to nonsuit Mr. Fairbanks, otherwise there is no knowing to what extent the Dominion may be brought into the Courts on the mere hope possibly that the Government, which is always able to meet claims against it, may be inclined to compromise in order to avoid a trial or to satisfy the fictitious claims of individuals whose votes at election times count for something.

THE BANK STATEMENT.

In its analysis of the Bank statement for April the *Montreal Trade Review* says that it shows that the Banks "have not only been strengthening themselves, but have been directing their funds into the channels of trade, withdrawing them for the purpose from the various branches of investment which during the quiet winter season offer a source of revenue." The strengthening of their reserves indicates possibly that the banks are on the look-out for squalls, although due no doubt largely to the fact that they were preparing for their annual statements. Altogether, the Bank statement for April is one which is eminently satisfactory, especially as compared with the condition of affairs in the United States and Australia.

With respect to the figures it is pointed out that with regard to the reserves there is a desirable increase in specie and Dominion notes, amounting in the one case to about \$757,000 and in the other to \$755,000, a total increase of about \$1,520,000. Notes and cheques of other banks show a decline of over \$662,000; foreign investments have been reduced to \$17,165,455, the decrease for the month being over three and a quarter millions. From British balances nearly two millions have been withdrawn while call loans have been further diminished by nearly \$1,200,000. Current loans show an increase of about \$2,000,000, and over-

due debts have been reduced by nearly \$217,000.

Circulation fell off \$787,810 during the month, but Provincial and Dominion Government deposits show an increase of nearly \$360,000, while public deposits on demand, which showed a decline the previous month, now show a small increase of less than \$6,000. Public deposits payable after notice continue to increase according to the usual addition of a million per month, the increase for April being slightly over that figure. Foreign indebtedness shows an increase of \$12,000, while our indebtedness in Great Britain has been reduced by over \$310,000, standing at \$6,101,617.

THE ARBITRATION.

As the Irishman might be expected to say, Sir Charles Russell, in his argument before the Behring's Sea Arbitration Court, made a holy show of the claims and pretensions of the American counsel who had preceded him—Messrs. Phelps, Carter and Coudert. He showed the utter fallacy of their arguments, eschewed all metaphysical discussion and, from facts beyond controversy and by the application of the principles of law and equity, demonstrated that the course of the Americans had been utterly unwarranted. They had, in fact, been the aggressors, Great Britain having been wronged by the seizures, while her sovereignty had been invaded and her rights upon the high seas set at naught. President de Courcelles, who had previously complimented U. S. Counsel Carter, felt constrained to highly eulogize the British representative, which he did in the following pertinent remarks: "Sir Charles, the vigor and incisiveness of your argument have been fully appreciated. We feel that England has done honor to this tribunal when she chose as her counsel in this memorable case, one of her ablest and most powerful legal debaters."

SEALING.

Referring to the Order-in-Council prohibiting sealing in Behring Sea until May 1, 1891, the *Monetary Times* observes: "This means that no plan for the regulation of sealing which might be agreed upon between the United States and Great Britain could go into effect this year. But the delay ought not to be extended beyond the date mentioned. In the meantime, sealers have to lay up. To what extent sealing will be restricted, in future, by any regulation agreed upon, no one can foresee with certainty; the British argument against the pretended illegality of sealing in the ocean bears principally on the past; what may be done in future by agreement is another matter, but absolute prohibition is not likely to receive the assent of Great Britain." We say most certainly that the delay in coming to some understanding should not be longer delayed. There has been too much of it already as our sealers know to their discomfort and loss.

SAN FRANCISCO is talking of a World's Fair about Christmas, in the hope that quantities of exhibits at Chicago can be induced to come that way.