

The Weekly Mail.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 1881.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD'S SPEECH.

His speech of the Premier on Monday probably marks the keynote of the present debate. The country will be glad to learn that the Premier, though not in perfect health, was apparently as energetic and forcible as he has been at any time during the past seven years.

THE NEW SYNDICATE.

It needed but the proceedings in Parliament on Friday to emphasize with full force all the objections we have before mentioned to the new syndicate's propositions, and to give a colour of fraud to what had previously been stained with obtrusive partisanship.

MR. CANUCK'S CONTRACT.

MR. CANUCK was the favourite nephew of old Mr. JOHN BULL, from whom he received, at a tender age, the gift of a large but comparatively unimproved tract of land.

three forms of dramatic opposition have been revealed with the same cunning has that of disapproval. The new syndicate, and it pleases the representation. It is the fact. SIR JOHN MACDONALD was severe, but not too severe, on the men who form the new syndicate. The Premier said that they were open to this severity. They have not actually stirred up the memories of previous conspiracies, and they have suggested the danger that would arise if men who have shown they are open to conspiracy against a strong Government in order to get a contract had once the power to conspire for selfish purposes against a weak Government if they had the contract.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

It is not usual, in a speech from the Throne, to introduce for puffing purposes the report of a Minister. The Ontario Premier was possibly hard put to it for a masterly, his worthy document. Still, there appears to be a suspicion, in the wording of this particular paragraph, of any attempt to wave off any detailed criticism of the conduct of the Education Department.

THE SILENCE OF RELIGIONS.

Or late years creditable progress has been made in the study of ancient, and especially of Oriental, faiths. When SIR WILLIAM JONES was patiently investigating Indian literature early in the last century, rationalism drew its weapons chiefly from the stoical philosophy of Greece and Rome.

THE GALT REFORMS.

It will cost Ontario at least forty millions of dollars in hard cash for its share of the Pacific railway syndicate. Perhaps our excellent contemporary will come down to details. The cash subsidy is \$25,000,000, and the cost of the completed sections, according to the engineers, will be \$28,000,000; in all \$53,000,000. Ontario does not pay forty-thirds of the revenue.

MR. MACKENZIE'S DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC.

The Pacific railway are equally well known to the public. The Government failed with its own plans to build the line as a Government work, and failed also in its attempt to obtain private capital to do it.

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For weeks and months past the press of Great Britain has been clamouring for the Premier to disavow to the public the course which the Government was pursuing in connection with the Pacific railway. His own speech last summer was sufficient notice of his policy. He also disposed of the charge that not enough freedom was given to Parliament.

failed, the conspirators approached Mr. CARUCK, protesting that the steward's contract with the company was a bad one for them. They could do much better if they had a chance to get a new contract. They have not actually stirred up the memories of previous conspiracies, and they have suggested the danger that would arise if men who have shown they are open to conspiracy against a strong Government in order to get a contract had once the power to conspire for selfish purposes against a weak Government if they had the contract.

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is of the highest importance that legislative responsibility should be strongly impressed upon Ministers. The long vacations and short sessions give them great scope for mischief. They have not actually stirred up the memories of previous conspiracies, and they have suggested the danger that would arise if men who have shown they are open to conspiracy against a strong Government in order to get a contract had once the power to conspire for selfish purposes against a weak Government if they had the contract.

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delegates and representatives in Canada of the Premier's committee. It is a high mark of confidence, richly deserved by Mr. WARDLAW. The nomination of Messrs. Chaplain, Wurdwell, and Workman, as well as Messrs. Paquet, Thibault, and Boudet, the Quebec directors, are ratified. Mr. Edmond Barbeau in the Montreal assembly, Mr. D. Girouard, M.P., is the advocate of the institution in Montreal, and Mr. Morin, at Quebec. A million has been paid up.

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The St. John Sun says that in 1874 the manufacturing interests of that city had an invested capital of \$7,988,000, and there were 10,197 operatives. In 1878 the invested capital amounted to \$5,730,000, and the number of hands was 6,344. Under the new tariff, says our contemporary, "dying industries have revived. Old industries are greatly extended. New industries have sprung into being. Thousands who were idle have found employment. Wages have improved. Short times have become full times and overtimes. Importers have become manufacturers; and in thousands of instances the money of the land is going to maintain foreign workshops, is retained in the country and expended among our own people."

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to approve of it. It is the purpose of enabling the most time to sign the document, knowing that the country will be "the tail you lose." Those who can themselves with this expected the present Government must and would be the first contract and therefore the Government would take its place; and my friend would take the place which an unworthy country—a place which his dual ability and individual skill and energy of his party would enable him to do. They knew what his policy would be. He declared it so openly that it could not be changed. To be sure he had changed 1880 and 1881, but then in 1880 he had declared it so openly that it could not be changed. To be sure he had changed 1880 and 1881, but then in 1880 he had declared it so openly that it could not be changed.

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DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from Third Page.)
The return of the Commissioner of Public Works for 1880 shows that \$222,000 has been spent on the Central Prison on capital account, \$120,000 on the River and Harbour, and \$118,000 on the Agricultural College and farm.
Mr. Bentley, the Brazilian consul, has appeared, being successful in forming in London a company for the purpose of establishing a line of communication between Canada and Brazil, for which the Canadian subsidy is still available.
Our debt is of some size. It is, according to the Boston Herald, an argument against annexation. But it is not an argument, the Herald says, against reciprocity treaty, which would be advantageous to both countries.
There are rumours of a third syndicate. We call upon the leader of the Opposition to talk against time until next week, when the terms of the latest scheme will be formulated. If he is sincere, he will do this. At present we are only in a position to guess that their offer will be much more liberal than the tender of either of the other combinations.
A journal hitherto very friendly to Mr. Blake, the Montreal Star, says that "there is a half suspicion" about the prairie section syndicate. It trusts that the suspicion is unfounded, but feels constrained to admit that there is a half suspicion.
Dan, Whelan & Co. give the return of failures in the Dominion as follows:
1876..... 1,728..... \$25,517,000
1877..... 1,629..... 25,622,000
1878..... 1,687..... 25,622,000
1879..... 1,687..... 25,622,000
1880..... 907..... 7,988,000
So that, after all, the new tariff is playing the havoc Sir Richard prophesied.
THE SILENCE OF RELIGIONS.
Or late years creditable progress has been made in the study of ancient, and especially of Oriental, faiths. When SIR WILLIAM JONES was patiently investigating Indian literature early in the last century, rationalism drew its weapons chiefly from the stoical philosophy of Greece and Rome. The maxims of SENECA, EPICURUS, and ANTONINE were in great favour. It was deemed sufficient if it were only proved that Roman philosophers living after Christ had uttered moral precepts as elevated as some of His. The elevation and purity of sentiment evidenced by these ethicists proved what might be done by the light of Nature. This was, of course, a mere begging of the question; because if the light of Nature, when pure and stainless, be the light of God wherever it is found, there could be nothing surprising in a coincidence between the Divine Word recorded in Scripture, and that inscribed upon the fleshy tablets of the heart. It would be singular indeed, if the purest wisdom should be found in any other than the sacred books of the East. The necessary legal papers, it is stated, have been signed, and the contract is now being put in force. The necessary legal papers, it is stated, have been signed, and the contract is now being put in force.
Commander Chayne has not abandoned his proposed Polar expedition, as has been reported. On the contrary, he declares he is determined to carry it out, and in order to do so he has secured the services of a young man who he says is the very best of his kind in the Dominion. He suggests that England should send \$5,000, America \$2,000, and Canada \$1,500. It may be that there are sufficient people in the Dominion interested in the far off regions to raise a fund of \$7,500, but we are afraid it will be slow work obtaining it.
There is at least one patriotic Grit in the country. The Mitchell Adams says—"A few days ago an out-and-out Reformer, who is a leading man in the Township of Hillsburgh, and has been a member of the Municipal Council, was asked to sign a petition demanding that the Government should not agree on behalf of the syndicate to the description of the road which we have suggested as applying to the Union Pacific railway as it was in February, 1873, so that the Government should not be bound to build the same as if that date were substituted in the clause in question for the words "as the same was when first constructed." We have been going to mention in speaking of the syndicate as it is obvious that our interest will lead us to construct the railway in a substantial manner with steel rails and efficient equipment, and our readers will be surprised to find that it should be named was in any degree to enable us to construct an inferior railway, but merely to protect us from captious or arbitrary construction.
We have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servants,
DUNCAN McLENNAN,
S. KAVRAY,
R. B. ANQUA.
On behalf of the Pacific Railway contractors.
The Hon. the Secretary of State for Canada.
Ottawa.