

grants of land should be awarded, and they should be worked under their own officers.

The Royal Canadian Rifles are about being disbanded, it would be no hard matter to make an arrangement with the Imperial authorities by which the personnel and material of that corps could be passed to the government of the Dominion. As soon as navigation opens no difficulty could exist in placing them at Red River within six weeks from the day the order was issued at Ottawa by way of Lake Superior and the roads and chain of waters described. They should be kept there till civil government was quietly established, and as the period of service of the men expired let them have free grants of land to settle on.

It is not necessary to spill blood in any of those operations, but when the Dominion Government undertakes to organize the territory let it be done with a firm but gentle hand.

THE attention of the readers of the REVIEW is correctly directed to the very able, patriotic and statesmanlike speech of the Hon. Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart., at a public dinner at Quebec on the 23rd Dec. After speaking of his family and their connection with the ancient capital, the Hon. the Baronet says:—

"With regard to Quebec, in the opinion of many, it has seen better days. I do not think they look at its position correctly. Quebec is the principal city of British North America. (Hear, hear.) From it the British system was extended to the West. It is yet the key of that system. For long after the cession to England Quebec was the chief place, the other districts connected with it being the Chambly and Montreal. Up to 1810 or 1812 the latter was only a town of 9,000 or 10,000 inhabitants. What made Montreal was the western settlements. When colonization proceeded westward, a portion of Quebec trade was naturally transferred to the younger and smaller city. This is the law of nature and trade. (Hear, hear.) Quebec had and has, however, the best position during navigation. Formerly it was cut off from other parts of Canada during winter, and from England and the European continent. But up to 1830 it prospered greatly. Not by the lumber trade, but by the West India trade and the exportation of wheat and other Lower Canada grain grown west of Quebec. The settlement of the west, however, created a revolution; one trade left Quebec, but another, the lumber, took its place. So lumber was not the first cause of this city's prosperity."

And again:—

"Quebec has been to some extent spoiled by that easy trade in square timber from the Ottawa. It has produced more merchant princes than Montreal. It produces more men who can give up business and settle in England on large fortunes than Montreal. (Cheers and laughter.)

I would prefer to see the successful merchants remain with us. But we belong to an empire, and if a British subject in any part of it makes a fortune he should be allowed to spend it in any other part of it still under the British flag. I do not reproach those who do so, while noting that more Quebecers have been able to settle on real

estate in the mother country than Montrealers with all their advantages. If to-morrow I had the means, and could get myself out of this maelstrom of politics, I might be tempted myself to settle in London. ("No, no.") Quebec is still a great center of trade. It pained me last night to hear in the assembly that within the last year she had lost 30,000 citizens. ("No, no.") I believe it was an exaggeration. There is much vitality in this city. You keep well up to Montreal after all. You must consider the population of your suburbs, St. Sauveur and Point Lévis. Quebec merchants should observe they will shortly have a new era opened to them. They will soon be in a position to be masters of the Fisheries. (Loud applause.) My opinion is that 10,000 or 12,000 of the population of Quebec ought to be busy about the Gulf, Bay of Chaleurs and the other fishing grounds doing the work that the Maine and Massachusetts people are doing at present. (Applause.) The cod fishery has done much for the prosperity of those states, whose children have toiled in a region belonging to Quebec. This city will have to take to those fisheries soon as well as to manufactures. There is no place in the Dominion where labour for seven months of the year can be procured as cheaply as in Quebec.

"A VOICE—Give us foreign trade.

"SIR GEO. CARTIER—You have it. Look what my friend Mr. Stephens, of Montreal, has done. He started cloth factories at Cornwall, to which he had to bring labour from a distance, and, notwithstanding, can undersell the Scotch and English tweed-makers. (Applause.) The Manchester and Sheffield men reproached me in England with ever protecting this and other industries. I told them our maximum duties were fifteen per cent. the same as their own. Then how comes it, they asked, you can undersell us? We cannot make as cheap or as good tweed as Mr. Stephens sends to Manchester. The last public accounts show that Canada exported \$800,000 of woollen goods for the year principally to England and the United States. (Cheers.) You cannot create a trade with other nations against their will. Your only chance is cheap labour, and manufacturing better articles at a less price than theirs. Now, nowhere in Canada could this be better done than in Quebec. (Hear, hear.) Manufacturers frequently ask for protection. It is absurd, as is also the notion of extreme free trade. As to it, you must pay the amount of your duty to the Government by direct taxation. With extreme protection you destroy your foreign trade, as the Americans have done, and this again leads to direct taxation. We are not going to commit such a folly. We have adopted the proper policy of imposing merely an income duty, not a protective one. With regard to English labour, merchants here are paying 20 per cent. more for its products than five years ago. The change is owing to the trade associations in England which have put prices up to such an extent that manufacturers are obliged to mix silk with cotton and cotton with wool to sell at acceptable rates. They give you apparently the same article as before, but not a good one. As to Quebec, if Mr. Glover and others wish to start manufactories they need not commit the mistake of Mr. Stephens who went where there was no labour. They can get all they want in Quebec city, and this labour or population is the first element of wealth. If proper advantage has not been taken of it already it is not the fault of the climate or the soil of Quebec but of

its capitalists (applause.) Mr. Stephens wanted protection the other day. But when you protect manufactories you limit them to your own people. The United States do not export any quantity of goods because rendered too dear by protection. A number of consumers are thereby limited to the inhabitants of the country itself. We are on the eve, we may say, of the opening of the Intercolonial Railroad, when Quebec will take its true place as the *Cul-de-Sac* of the Dominion. I hope it will have through the gulf access to those fisheries which might be made immensely advantageous to her. Even in winter that trade might be beneficial. Fresh fish might be brought from the gulf to Montreal, Toronto, Chicago and other western places. Then this new trade with the Lower Provinces, which Quebec is now doing, might be increased. It properly belongs to this city. The merchants can do a great deal to further the prosperity of the country. Had it not been for the British merchants, England could not have maintained possession of those great colonies she has so long held, but must like Rome have lost them soon after their acquisition. The British merchant has gone everywhere to establish ties between the empire's various extremities. No sooner was Canada conquered than they were here with their merchandize, and they have helped to keep up the attachment to Britain. (Applause.) Fortunately we have the same spirit among us, which has kept Lower Canada a prosperous British Province. We are not Frenchmen here; we are Englishmen speaking French. What has kept us British? That commercial spirit which immediately followed the British army and created fresh and strong interests between us and England. (Loud applause.) In conclusion, I am sincerely thankful to you for this kind entertainment. I appreciate it because it comes from British merchants, and this phrase includes men of my own origin, because every merchant on this continent, who is engaged in commerce, has to deal with England; and because, as I said before, all born under the British flag here, have a right to the title of Englishman. I have great respect for that interest whose representatives I meet here to-night, an interest which has contributed so much to the prosperity of the Dominion and the various Provinces, and which is one of the most valuable and important that enters into the composition of any society. The Hon. Baronet resumed his seat amidst hearty and continued applause."

In reply to a speech of Mr. Withall, who complained that the Canadian commercial marine was at a disadvantage by being obliged to go to England for Sailing Masters' Certificates, as the Marine Insurance Companies would not accept any others, and declaring that some board should be established in the Dominion.

"SIR GEORGE CARTIER.—Said he had already brought this matter under the notice of the Right Hon. John Bright, President of the Board of Trade. Though a liberal in politics, he is not so liberal in other matters, however, he (Sir George) had secured the passing of an Act to amend the Merchants' Shipping Act, by which and under certain regulations certificates could be obtained by Quebec sailing masters empowering them to take a vessel to the West Indies or other places. He informed Mr. Bright and Lord Granville that Quebec captains or masters who could take a vessel to English ports and back were incapacitated by their