

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited), Publishers.

GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGER,
73 St. James Street, Montreal.

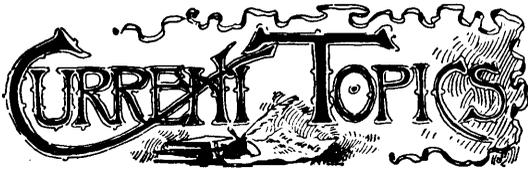
GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
16 King Street East, Toronto.

J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,
Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

22nd FEBRUARY, 1890.



Some time ago Mr. Edison gave his opinion in the *North American Review* on the subject of electric wires and the possibility of making their operation compatible with the public safety. We have now, in the same periodical, the judgment of Sir William Thomson on the same important question. It does not materially differ from that of Mr. Edison. Experience has shown, and the verdict of experts has declared that, while in the country overhead wires must still for reasons of economy be tolerated, the danger from high-pressure overhead wires in cities is too great and too constant to be permitted. It has, therefore, been stipulated that companies undertaking to light English cities by electricity must place the conductors underground, and that, if aerial wires have already been brought into action, the conductors, if for high pressure supply, must be put underground within two years. The telephone wires alone will ultimately be allowed to remain above ground. As for rural districts, strict regulations are enforced to guarantee man and beast from peril. The regulations in question, which were prescribed by the British Board of Trade under the provisions of the Electric Lighting Act of 1888, have been deemed sufficient by experienced electricians both in Europe and on this continent for the protection of the public, whether in town or country. They are cited in full in Sir William Thomson's article, but are much too long to reproduce.

In an interesting illustrated volume on the Paris Universal Exposition of 1889, M. Louis Rousselet emphasizes the marked absence of anything that would remind a visitor of the revolutionary origin of what was in reality one of the grandest and most pacific national manifestations of recent years. It was in the truest sense universal, not only in the number and variety of the races and peoples that took part in it, but in the diversity of its exhibits, which represented all the great modern triumphs in agriculture, in the various fields of industry and commerce, in the domain of art and science, in the multiplicity of its evidences of learning, culture and research. The refusal of the monarchical powers to participate in the Exposition, while not unreasonable in view of its express purpose—the commemoration of an event which was associated with an uprising against kingly rule and the execution of a king and queen, did not happily prevent the thinkers, workers and traders of the world from appreciating its manifold treasures. M. Rousselet deems it worthy of note that among the sovereigns who declined to give it their official sanction was the King of Sweden and Norway, the great-grandson of Marshal Berna-

dotte, a son of the Revolution, whom Napoleon made Prince of Monte Corvo.

It is also worth recalling that Desirée Clary, Marshal Bernadotte's wife, who became Queen of Sweden on her husband's elevation to the throne of that kingdom, had before her marriage found favour in the eyes of Napoleon himself. But the young lady, whose sister had married another Bonaparte, Joseph, sometime King of Spain, declined the offered honour. It is singular enough that the descendants of a woman who had escaped, and of the woman who incurred, the risk of Napoleon's deliberate fickleness, should have occupied thrones (for it will be remembered that Napoleon III. was the grandson of Josephine Beauharnais, whose daughter Hortense was married to his father, sometime King of Holland), while the son of the Emperor and his Austrian wife pined away in his palace prison and died unmarried in his 21st year. So true is it that "l'homme propose mais Dieu dispose."

Twenty years ago the Second Empire seemed to have renewed its lease of life by the institution, at the Emperor's suggestion, of the British system of responsible government. At the same time his Majesty insisted on making himself directly responsible to the people, and determined to test the wisdom of his policy by an immediate appeal to the nation. The result was a triumph for the principle of constitutional monarchy, which seemed to assure an enduring vitality to the Napoleonic dynasty. Yet in that day of victory the Empire had only a few months to live. The internal perils which threatened it only those who wilfully closed their eyes could fail to discern. The elections of the previous year had given the Government 199 friends and 93 enemies. The latter were irreconcilable. Of the former a good many were doubtful. The slaying of Victor Noir, a journalist, by a kinsman of the Emperor, gave to French Radicalism a voice that has never since been long silent. Rochefort called the Bonapartes a band of murderers, and his words found an echo from Paris to Marseilles. In the prevailing excitement the Emperor was not sorry, perhaps, to find diversion in a trial of strength with his northern rival. The Duc de Gramont, who had been made Foreign Minister, was a bitter anti-German. The candidacy of a Hohenzollern for the vacant throne of Spain furnished a pretext for dictatorial protests and demands. This tone Prussia resented, and when France threw down the gauntlet, it was promptly taken up. The issue was Sedan and the end of the Second Empire. Four months after the plebiscite, the Emperor was a prisoner, the Empress a fugitive, a Republic had been proclaimed, and the Germans were at the gates of Paris.

When such catastrophe could overtake a regime which to all appearance was so firmly established as the empire seemed to be in the early months of 1870, it would be rash to predict that the Republic will celebrate its 20th anniversary. There is, however, a good deal in its favour. It has overcome Boulangist aggression; and General Boulanger's allies, the Bonapartists, whom he courted and the Orleanists who courted him, have for the present been rendered powerless. The Comte de Paris, in despair of effecting anything, resolved some time ago to make a voyage across the ocean. He is not unknown on this continent, as he served on the staff of General McClennan until the failure of the Richmond campaign, and he has written a

partial history of the Civil War. He had hardly begun to put his plans in execution when Paris was startled by the appearance of his son and heir, the young Duc d'Orleans. If his advent to Paris (due, it is said, to the incitements of the Duchesse de Luynes and her son) was meant as a *coup d'etat*, it has missed its aim grievously for the chief actor. The young pretender, after a summary trial, has been committed to safe-keeping; and though his imprisonment may not last long, his untimely display of military and patriotic fervour has simply served to put the Republican authorities on their guard. Still, the plight of the Duc d'Orleans is not more ridiculous than was that of Louis Napoleon in 1836. Yet the Second Empire followed.

Referring to the movement in favour of the abolition of the French, as an official, language in the North-West, Mr. Blake said, in his speech of the 14th inst., in the House of Commons, that "it was almost impossible to conceive the evil effect of such an agitation." He asked those engaged in it to put themselves in the place of the French-Canadians. "You," he said, addressing the leaders and supporters of the movement, "may have a profound conviction of the superiority of your own tongue, your laws, your creed, but put yourselves in the place of your French-speaking fellow-citizens, and consider that you are asking them to give up that which is most sacred to them. They have their rights, which to them are as important as are yours to you. And I intend to defend those rights as if I were one of themselves. I should regard myself as dishonoured and disgraced if I yielded to the forces that prompt me to take another course, and I hope it is impossible to move me from the path of duty—the path, which, I believe, I have struck out for myself." These statesmanlike and generous words were received with deserved applause by the great majority of both sides in the House. The amendment that Mr. Blake proposed was to the intent that to abolish the French language in the North-West would remedy no practical grievance, while it would be a clear violation of a solemn covenant; that its continued use was in the interest of the Territories as an inducement to immigration, so greatly needed; that the plea that community of language was necessary to national unity had no force in Canada, and that the House of Commons should adhere to its covenants and resist any attempt to impair them, leaving the ultimate settlement of the question to a period of fuller North-West development.

A BI-LINGUAL SETTLEMENT.

The bi-lingual problem in Bohemia has found a solution which reveals on the part of the Emperor of Austria and Count Taaffe an earnest desire to give satisfaction to both sections of the population. The country is divided mainly between two races—the Czechs and the Germans, the former numbering about three, the latter about two millions. The actual predominance of the Slav element in the kingdom is one of the most remarkable phenomena in the development of nationalities in modern times, and furnishes striking evidence of that influence of literature on political life to which Prof. Roberts referred in his recent lecture. Towards the close of the 18th century the Czech language was fast approaching extinction. Except among a few peasants here and there, German had taken its place. Pelzel, though a patriot, wrote his history