

The Dominion Illustrated.

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27th APRIL, 1889.



Donald Morrison has been captured at last. The credit for his arrest is mainly due to two men, Constable MacMahon, of the Montreal police, and Peter Leroyer, the well-known half-breed hunter. The expedition to Megantic has not, therefore, proved fruitless after all. A man accused of the gravest crime on the calendar has been at last taught the lesson that no person, however he may consider himself to be fortified against retributive justice by mistaken sympathy, can succeed in persistently defying the law with impunity.

The Dominion Government has under consideration a series of resolutions recently passed by the Halifax Board of Trade with reference to the Atlantic mail service. The main point to be decided is the winter port and its definite mention in the contract. The Board of Trade lays stress on the advantages that Halifax offers for such a position—its safe approach, depth of water and secure anchorage, as well as immunity from tidal disturbances and freedom from fogs. The harbour can, moreover, it is urged, be depended upon to remain open all the year round.

There is one consolation on which communities and individuals can always fall back, whatever troubles may beset or disappointments worry them. They may be sure, if they only look carefully around them, to discover some other community or individual worse off than themselves. In Canada, for instance, we have no negro question, such as is now perplexing the statesmen of the Republic; we are fairly out of the track of the cyclones that desolate our neighbours, and we are not, like our fellow mortals in Dakota, a prey to the ravages of mice. Those small but destructive pests are, we are told, "so plenty in the blizzard district that the cat market has gone up, and toms and tabbies are being shipped west in carloads and sold at \$2 apiece."

The *Winnipeg Commercial*, while admitting that the President's proclamation regarding the taking of seal in Behring Sea had been misunderstood at first, and assuming that, if it be accepted in its literal significance, it is not really calculated to excite any apprehension in Canada, thinks, at the same time, that it would be well to have some definite assurance on the subject. It points out—what is really a consideration—that, since the first rash claim on the part of the United States to the exclusive control of the fisheries in those waters, an uneasy feeling has prevailed among Canadian fishermen, as though they were not quite sure what resentment might await them if they attempted to exercise what they believe to be their rights. It is even asserted that this under-

current of fear has been strong enough in many cases to keep fishermen away from the haunts that would yield them the best harvest, thus virtually losing the profit of the season's work. That is a state of things which is simply intolerable, and the only way to prevent its repetition is to insist on a clear and open denial from Washington that the Government entertains the ideas which have caused this absurd alarm.

The state of feeling which is said to exist in China at present towards the foreign population can hardly be contemplated with equanimity by the people of Canada. We can, it is true, congratulate ourselves that it is not the Government or the people of the Dominion that provoked the tempest of retaliation that is ready to burst forth with indiscriminate and unreasoning passion on the devoted heads of European and American residents. There was a time when it was the French who were the objects of Mongolian wrath, and the closing years of the Empire witnessed the terrible revenge, for slights and domineering long tamely submitted to, of the Tientsin massacre. Who was to blame, it is needless to ask now. The blunder was expiated in the blood of scores of innocent people. M. Ferry's policy revived the dormant grudge at alien pride and contempt, but the menace was not carried out. For years past the Americans, while sending missionaries to China, have been treating the Chinese who landed on their shores as if they had no rights as men. The day of vengeance was postponed again and again. Last fall the Pekin Government was insulted to serve political ends. Now it is appealed to for protection. What if Government and people come at last to think that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue? The situation is certainly a critical one and we can only hope that rumour has exaggerated.

We have taken a long time to define our boundaries, both those which part Canada from her big neighbour and those which sever the provinces from each other. Nor has the decision in either case always given satisfaction. Although the late Sir Francis Hincks became reconciled, some years before his death, to the Ashburton treaty, few Canadians will be found to share in his satisfaction, and when we read, in the late Sir George Simpson's interesting record of his "Journey round the World," of that older Vancouver, the thriving nucleus of a great Canadian city, we cannot rejoice at an arbitration that set our boundary hundreds of miles north of it. The Seward purchase brought new complications, and we have still no defined boundary to our Northwest on the side of Alaska. For years the inhabitants of Ontario have been in doubt as to where their domain ended. In the latest published map of Canada, based on Government authority, that province is separated from Quebec by a line drawn due north from the head of Lake Temiscamingue to James Bay. And that, it seems, is the line which is to be accepted as a settlement of the question, though Mr. Mercier is not yet satisfied. There are some thriving French-Canadian settlers on the shores of Lake Temiscamingue, and the Lake St. John region is growing in population and wealth, but, setting aside those comparatively recent attempts at colonization, the inhabitants of the region north of the St. Lawrence have penetrated but a short distance into the interior. There is a vast expanse still to be occupied.

A tabulated statement, in a report just received, shows that the Royal Colonial Institute received, as gifts to its library, during the past year, 809 volumes, 951 pamphlets, 22,419 newspapers, 8 maps and 139 articles classed as miscellaneous. Among the most important of the donations were a complete set of the Hakluyt Society's proceedings, 75 volumes; the latest edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; a complete set of *South Australian Law Reports* and *Blome's Description of the Island of Jamaica*, published in 1672, the oldest book in the library. The Institute acknowledges its obligations to the various Colonial Governments for their parliamentary and other publications. Our own Government is credited with 31 volumes and 35 pamphlets. The universities, the Royal Society of Canada, several historical and other societies, and about half a dozen newspapers are also among the Canadian contributors. As the Royal Colonial Institute aims to represent the resources, needs, progress, etc., of the entire colonial domain of Great Britain, it ought to be deemed a duty on the part of the colonies to help it in every way possible. The library, more especially, ought to be a centre of trustworthy information as to every subject connected with the colonies. On the 1st of January last it contained 6,885 volumes, 2,863 pamphlets, and 209 files of newspapers. Back numbers of 79 colonial newspapers, for which there was not enough space at the Institute, were sent to the British Museum, where due care will be taken of them.

A memorial, addressed, some time ago, by the Royal Colonial Institute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dealt with a subject of considerable interest to Canadians, as to other colonists. According to the Imperial Legacy and Succession Duty Acts, the liability of property to pay duty depends upon the domicile of the deceased owner instead of on the situation of the property. A person who dies domiciled in the United Kingdom, leaving property in a colony, may, therefore, be taxed twice, once by the Government of the former and again by the Government of the latter. The Council of the Institute contended that the liability of the estate of a deceased person to pay duty should, as in the case of probate duty, be determined not by his domicile, but by the locality of his estate at the time of his death, and urged upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer the advisability of introducing a measure into the Imperial Parliament to exempt personal property not situate in the United Kingdom from liability to pay legacy and succession duty. The reply was that the Lords of the Treasury could not see their way to adopt the suggestion, as it would involve a considerable loss of revenue, and there would also be a risk of involving Great Britain in controversies with foreign Governments. The Council of the Institute still, however, maintain that the principle for which they contend is a just one, as the present anomalous condition of the law presses unfairly on colonists and has the effect of deterring persons domiciled in the United Kingdom from making investments in the colonies.

FAIRY.

Who dares to say that fairy queens
Come never now as long ago,
Ere little maids are in their teens,
When daisies nod in the sunset glow?

There's many a secret in eyes that glisten,
Told in a tone that no man hears,
When little maids lean out to listen,
And bluebells tinkle for tiny ears.

TYNG RAYMOND.