

POOR DOCUMENT

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 11, 1909.

FRENCH-CANADIANS.

In the House of Commons yesterday a large part of the sitting was taken up with a discussion on the subject of repatriation of French Canadians. The speakers were chiefly members from Quebec, and they put forward their strongest arguments in the matter of bringing back to Canada those of their race who have migrated to the eastern states or elsewhere. It is not apparent that the French speaking population of Canada has been diminished or even kept stationary by the removal of those thousands who have sought new homes across the border. Indeed the increase has continued at the usual high rate, and within a few years this Province of New Brunswick will find that a majority of its population are of French descent. In the northern diocese of the Catholic church which includes some of the North Shore counties and those bordering on Quebec, statistics show that during the past ten years there has been a slight decrease in the number of English speaking members. During the same period there has been an increase of no less than ten thousand French Canadians. This is easily explained by the gradual spreading of the population of Quebec, and the excessively high birthrate among people of this nationality. In view of the recognized rapid growth of the French Canadian element and also in view of the fact that many thousands of English speaking Canadians have emigrated to the United States during the past generation, it is not apparent why special effort should be put forth and money expended in bringing back any particular class, especially that class which suffers least from the outward movement.

UNITED AFRICA.

A new nation has been created within the British Empire. The act of union of the South African States has been passed by representatives of those states and will be submitted to the respective legislatures before reference to the Imperial Parliament. There is little doubt that the Transvaal, Orange, Natal and Cape Colony will endorse the basis of union agreed upon by their delegates. Under this new act the dual capital is provided, Pretoria as the legislative and Cape Town as the executive. Each one of the four colonies will be converted into a province of the Union, under an Administrator and a Provincial Council. The various Provinces will be equally represented in the Senate, which will be elected in the first instance by the colonial Parliaments and subsequently by the Provincial Councils. The Assembly will be elected on the basis of European male adult population of each Province, but at the outset Orange and Natal are favored. The principle of proportionate representation is adopted with an automatic redistribution of seats every five years. The members of the Senate and Assembly must be of European race, though in the Cape the colored franchise is maintained except by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly and Senate. No votes are detachable solely on account of race. The Provincial Councils deal with Provincial affairs and with education for five years, except higher education. English and Dutch are the official languages enjoying equal rights. The railways, ports and harbors are vested in three commissioners, and a Cabinet Minister, who must promote the settlement of agricultural and industrial populations in the interior. The union Parliament may amend the constitution, but amendments affecting the colored franchise, the equality of the languages and the basis of representation require a two-thirds majority.

Steel wins.

It is always thus. After 6 magnificent heats, the final in the 40 at the rink last night was a fizzle. But young Wright looks like a coming man.

Fred Logan is not yet a back number, but is able to show some of the would-be champions the way around the ring.

Take a look at those youngsters who skated last night, skated not only with their feet, but with their heads, and it is no longer surprising that St. John is the home of champions. But it is all the more regrettable that those youthful enthusiasts find little encouragement here.

There is a deeply rooted objection among needy persons to going to the almshouse. This institution is maintained by all the taxpayers for their own benefit and becoming an inmate of it is no disgrace any more than it is a disgrace for a man to live on the proceeds of an endowment policy.

Commander Spain is now quite free to buy Prince Rupert town lots, or real estate wherever his fancy takes him to purchase. The charge against him was not very serious, but apparently Hon. Mr. Brodeur has considered it such as to warrant a request for the commander's resignation. Mr. J. F. Fraser's retirement had been anticipated for some time.

Noah was plainly downcast. "I brought along plenty of clothes for my wife, but she says they look as if they came out of the ark!" he cried.

"Sir, could you give me a little assistance?" said the weary wayfarer. "I don't know where my next meal is coming from." "Neither do I," replied the prosperous-looking individual. "My cook left this morning, too."

"A Turkish bath is such an excellent thing," remarked Miss Tartan, "that I have often wished these Turks who sell candles at expositions would take one occasionally."

"Gee, but it's hot!" cried Mr. Sizer, mopping his brow. "Where is Tommy?" "Out flying his kite," said Mrs. Sizer. "Well, for goodness sake, tell him to stop it!" roared Sizer. "The kite of course up what little breeze there is on such nonsense."

The father of a family, all of whom were devoted to bridge and much given to talking of the game and holding post-mortems over badly played cards, died rather suddenly. There was a difference of opinion as to whether he should be buried in the family plot or cremated. In the course of the discussion the mother said weepingly to her son: "John, what do you think?" "I leave it to you, mother."

"I make it sp-spades," was her reply.

Wife—John, dear, dearest a philanthropist.

Husband—A philanthropist, my love, is a man who gives away other people's money.

Wife—And what is a philosopher?

Husband—A philosopher is a man who bores with resignation the toothache from which his neighbor is suffering.

LANDMARKS WIPED OUT

BY A MOVING BOG

Strange Freak of Nature Changes Entire Face of Irish District.

DUBLIN, Feb. 10.—More than 100 acres of fertile land have been lost forever by the bog slide at Llanowr, County Galway, and further damage is threatened. The bog began to move again this week at the rate of about five miles an hour, and the farmers' homesteads are in its track.

For hours all the roads were choked with carts piled high with furniture and bedding, while cattle, sheep and pigs added to the confusion.

The land is now covered with twelve feet of solid bog, and will never be anything but a sterile waste.

Divers possible effort is being made by the authorities to prevent further damage. Mr. Corvay, the Galway county surveyor, arrived on the scene yesterday, and immediately employed a large gang of men opening up the rivers which had been choked by the moving bog matter, and Mr. Bates, the local inspector of the Congested Districts Board, employed 100 men on similar work.

The entire face of the district has been changed. Rivers and roads have disappeared, and all landmarks have been obliterated.

Efforts were made to recover the body of Mrs. McDonnell, the old woman who was overwhelmed and drowned in her cottage. Nothing but the outer walls of the cottage remain and yesterday morning a frail causeway of planks was laid over the quaking bog. A policeman crossed it and tried to explore the house. He dived into the mass of mud and water, but was unable to find the body, and was almost drowned in the attempt.

Laurence Martin, whose house was also submerged, had a narrow escape. He was awakened by a noise, which he declared resembled thunder, and when he opened the door of his house he was almost smothered by the rush of bog and water. He rushed back to rescue his wife and his two daughters, and by the time he reached the door again the flood was up to his armpits. He managed however to carry his wife and children to the higher ground but all their clothing and everything they owned in the world were lost.

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THE STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 1909

ZOO LION ATTACKS

VENTURESOME VISITOR

Man Climbs on Railing Around Cage, and is Seized by Feroocious Beast.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The folly of visitors to the Zoological Gardens at attempting to feed the lions and other animals through the bars of their cages was exemplified by an incident which occurred on Thursday morning. Around the outside cages of the lions' house is an iron railing some three feet high to keep the public out of harm's way. While a knot of sightseers were watching three lions in their cage, a young man, William Percival, climbed up the railing and leaned right over the cage.

In an instant a lion had shot forth a paw and caught the man's right arm with its claws. A scene of wild confusion ensued. The man cried for help as he felt himself dragged nearer the cage, the screams of women and children added to the turmoil, while the lion was splashing and snarling through the bars. The bystanders succeeded in pulling Percival away just as several keepers dashed up.

Fortunately, Percival was wearing a thick overcoat, but even this, and his undercoat as well, was torn away and the forearm lacerated and scored with claw marks. He was taken to a cub in the London Temperance Hospital, and was able, when his wounds had been dressed, to go to his home near Vauxhall.

"We shall have vertical railings put round the cages instead of the horizontal ones because of this incident," said Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, the secretary to the Royal Zoological Society, yesterday, "and this will make them more difficult to climb, although why any one should want to climb them when they are I cannot understand."

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PATRIARCH DEPOSED

IN THE HOLY CITY

Action of Synod Resented by Greek Laity, Who Boycott the Churches.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 10.—Few aspects of the bloodless revolution of Turkey have been more interesting than its results in Palestine, for one associates it with everything that belongs to an ancient world.

For some weeks the subject of all-absorbing interest in Jerusalem has been the grave conflict between the Greek clergy and the laity, native-born, of the same community.

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