

Canadian Illustrated News.

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THE BAIE VERTE CANAL.

We learn with pleasure that this important question came up for discussion at the St. John meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade, and met with the almost unanimous sanction of the Delegates. Up to the present the nature of this work may be said not to have been well understood by the people of Quebec and Ontario; and hence we regard as perhaps the best result of the meeting at St. John that our representatives have been enabled to see for themselves all the geographical bearings of the case. They will have learned, probably to their astonishment, that the proposed canal is not so difficult a scheme as it has been represented to be by interested parties, and that it will entail neither formidable engineering difficulties nor disproportionate outlay of money. It is nothing more than a project to unite the Bay of Fundy with the Straits of Northumberland by means of a canal. The Straits of Northumberland separate Prince Edward Island from the south eastern shore of New Brunswick and the northern shore of Nova Scotia. The Bay of Fundy divides the south eastern shore of New Brunswick from the south western shore of Nova Scotia. The Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are joined together by a neck of land, which makes the County of Westmoreland in the former and that of Cumberland in the other co-terminous. This is the strip of land which it is proposed to canalize so as to give New Brunswick a continuous sea-line along her whole coast, from the Bay of Chaleurs to Passamaquoddy Bay, and Nova Scotia a water path all around, thus making her an island instead of a peninsula. The length of the neck of land, or at least the canal route through it, is only about twelve miles, and, as we have said, there are no special difficulties attending the work. Any one who consults the map, and makes himself acquainted with the obstacles and dangers attending navigation along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, must at once appreciate the advantages of the sheltered waters of the Bay of Fundy. There is no need to enter into an enumeration of the benefits which would accrue to the Maritime Provinces from the construction of this canal, but in regard to the new Province of Prince Edward, we have the high authority of the St. John's *Telegraph* for saying that, were the canal built, the population and prosperity of that beautiful island would expand at once. The Reciprocity Treaty brings the claims of the Baie Verte Canal into special prominence. If by the terms of that instrument we are bound to enlarge the whole system of our canals, and if, as is unfortunately probable, the Caughnawaga Canal will be forced upon the country by a Parliamentary majority, without adequate compensation in the free use of the Whitehall Canal and the Hudson River navigation, then surely the Baie Verte Canal, viewed merely as a medium of inter-provincial communication, cannot be neglected. We have heard it hinted that the support of the Lower Province members in favour of the present unamended Caughnawaga canal clause of the Treaty will be secured by promises in favour of the Baie Verte undertaking. The members of the Maritime Provinces need not to be thus inveigled. They have distinct Government pledges in regard to the Baie Verte Canal, and they may lawfully insist upon them, without the temptation of cajolery or the suspicion of a bribe.

DIVORCE.

The election of Dr. Sangster to the Council of Public Instruction will necessarily give rise to a great deal of comment. Some will regard it as a rebuke to the journals who attacked the Doctor with unwonted acerbity. Others will pronounce it an endorsement of the defense which the Doctor made of his case in the public prints. Others again will attempt a higher flight and consider the election as an index of the laxity with which the popular conscience is beginning to treat the important question of divorce. We rather incline to the belief that the latter is the proper view to take. There is no doubt that, in their attacks on Doctor Sangster, some of the Ontario papers fell into the mistake of creating sympathy for him, by stating their case with needless violence. But apart from this circumstance, which is only accidental, the Doctor must be presumed to have acquired a following directly on the merits of his case. Hitherto, this Canadian community of ours has enjoyed a kind of primitive simplicity. We have

been remarkably free from vice and crime. The morals of our country population have been unexceptionable. In our cities there have been few murders and almost no midnight disturbances, while to those refinements of sin which obtain in larger and older towns, we may be said to have been total strangers. But this ideal state of things is not going to last. We must pay the penalty of growth and prosperity. According as we increase in wealth and expand in population and territory, we shall change our ideas and relax our consciences. Of course, this is a pity, but it is human nature. Besides, we have the example of the United States before us. Unconsciously, and spite of our protestations of loyalty, we are copying American models, and reducing to practice American teachings. And the more we go, the more this copying will continue. Reciprocity in trade will induce reciprocity in ideas and morals, and in this intercourse, the weaker party must always undergo the influence of the stronger. In respect to the particular question of divorce, there is reason to fear that the plausibility with which American legislation, clerical and lay, has invested it, will prove a trying source of temptations to discontented wives and husbands in Canada. It may be a considerable time before we advance so far in the new creed as to establish divorce courts in our midst, but we think the number will go on increasing of those Canadians who will quietly slip across the border, to break asunder the old ties and assume new ones. Social recognition, or even social tolerance on this side of the line, in one case, will give countenance and encouragement to a score of others.

RECIPROCITY.

We have at length a decided and an authoritative opinion on the proposed Reciprocity Treaty. It comes from no less a body than the Dominion Board of Trade, which met in St. John, New Brunswick, last week. If any body of men may be presumed to know whereof they speak, and if there are any to whom the country naturally looks up with confidence, on a question of this specific nature, it is our Board of Trade. Their opinion will be of enhanced value when the public learn that the Board was fully represented by members from the different Provinces, and that the discussion was entirely without political bias. Nay, in regard to this latter circumstance, it is remarkable that the resolutions which embody the judgment of the Board were proposed and sustained in an able speech by Mr. WM. ELDER, of St. John, who is a public supporter of the Government. When the discussion was opened, it was attempted to make it non-committal in its nature, by a resolution which reaffirmed the opinion of the Board in favour of a treaty of Reciprocity, on a just, comprehensive and liberal basis, and the deep interest with which it viewed the efforts now being made to bring about such a treaty. Mr. ELDER, however, at once took the subject out of this commonplace and placed it on its proper ground of distinct affirmation. After proposing that the Board reiterate its opinion in favour of a Reciprocity Treaty, he moved that "while the document known as the 'draft reciprocity treaty' contains many desirable provisions, particularly such as relate to exchange of natural production and reciprocal extension of maritime privileges, the treaty is nevertheless defective the privileges secured for Canada, which are not nearly so valuable as those conceded to the United States; and that this Board, by means of a properly constituted committee and otherwise, take steps to represent to the Government of Canada those aspects of the treaty in which it is unfair to Canada, or might act prejudicially to Canadian interests."

After a long and exhaustive debate, during which another effort was made to defer an expression of definite opinion, the resolution was passed by the very significant vote of 26 to 7.

At the Masonic Grand Lodge of Canada, held a few days ago, in Toronto, the Grand Master announced the settlement of the difficulty with the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and directed the passage of a resolution recognizing that Grand Lodge as the supreme Masonic authority in that Province. He announced that, in consequence of this settlement, the Grand Lodges of Illinois and Vermont have revoked their edicts of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Canada. The Grand Master is opposed to allowing other societies to take part in Masonic funerals, and ask for a decision on the subject. He also announced that, in the case of a member on whom a sentence has been passed by his Lodge, he ordered the Lodge to restore him to full fellowship, and invite the Grand Lodge to consider the propriety of the law that permits such in

terference with Subordinate Lodges. During the past year dispensations for the formation of nineteen Lodges were granted by him.

The Ministerial deadlock in France is getting monotonous. De Broglie has been trying his hand at Cabinet making again, but without success, and his old colleague, De Cazes, has been entrusted with the task. MacMahon affects not to see it, but it is his septennate that is in the way. He is trying to postpone the dissolution of the Assembly, but will have to come to it at last.

The whole of Spain has been put under martial law. This extraordinary step shows conclusively that the Carlist war is by no means over, and that the death of Marshal Concha was a disastrous event indeed. In retaliation for the alleged atrocities of the Carlists, their property throughout Spain is to be sequestered; but the Government have humanely decided not to shoot their prisoners. In the wake of these important announcements a despatch from Madrid states that ex-Queen Isabella has not revoked her act of abdication, which must be read to mean that the claims of her son Alfonso remain in full force, and may, perhaps, soon be brought forward.

As was to be expected, the attempted assassination of Bismarck resulted in increased stringency against the Ultramontanes. The clubs and clerical press are to be closely watched and vigorously dealt with for illegal manifestations. It is some satisfaction to know, however, that Kullman, the would-be murderer, is now proved to have had no accomplice, and that the Catholic priest who was arrested with him has been discharged from custody as entirely innocent of any participation in the crime.

The Beecher scandal investigation is being vigorously prosecuted. It is evident from the tone of the New York papers and the despatches of the Associated Press, that the sympathy lies almost entirely with Beecher, but it will be found more prudent to wait for the full text of Tilton's charges. Should the accusation prove a merely venial offence, as is at present stated, Beecher will rise immeasurably higher than ever from the ordeal, while Tilton will be wholly ruined.

A New York paper hints that the postponement of the Saratoga inter-collegiate regatta from Thursday to Friday and then from Friday to Saturday morning, was due to the hotel proprietors and boarding house keepers of the village, and that the time announced for the start was sufficiently late to prevent any spectator from leaving Saratoga on Thursday or Friday evening. It is calculated that this possible accident was worth about two hundred thousand dollars to the fashionable watering place. Wonderful, if true, and yet not so wonderful after all.

Chicago is determined this time that no more wooden buildings shall be put up within its limits. Nay, further, the immediate removal of all frame houses is demanded by the citizens in mass meeting assembled. The portion of the city destroyed by the late fire consisted almost wholly of shanties and other inferior buildings, and these will be replaced by handsome constructions, so that, in the end, the visitation will have proved a blessing in disguise.

It is pretty well ascertained in Ontario that the crops there this season will be more abundant than for many previous years. Winter wheat is progressing far better than was expected. Spring wheat and other cereals are doing splendidly. The grass crop promises to be a most abundant one. Roots are coming on excellently despite some partial ravages by the potato bug; while the fruit crop is likely to prove an extraordinary one.

Still another railway. Instructions have been given by the Provincial Government of Quebec to define the line of the projected Bay of Chaleurs Railway. This line will pass through that part of Bonaventure County, extending from the confluence of the Métapedia and Restigouche rivers, at a point on the Intercolonial Railway, to the town of New Carlisle, a distance of about 87 miles.

At the present writing the chess contest has not yet been decided, although only one game remains to be played. The outside players left the city some time ago, and the Montreal players have been finishing the games between themselves. Prof. Hicks has taken the first prize, having won seven game out of ten; Dr. Hurlburt will probably take the second prize, with six and a half games, and Dr. Howe the third prize.