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### NOTICE.

IN THE NEXT NUMBER OF THE

### CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

will be published a view of

#### STEVENSON'S BATTERY IN CAMP,

on the outskirts of Montreal. Also sketches of the

#### Montreal Swimming Club

at St. Helen's Island, and a view of the grounds, at Cote des Neiges Cemetery, of the

#### NATIONAL CARTIER MONUMENT.

There will also be a portrait and memoir of the late

#### DR. NICHOLLS,

Principal of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, with a view of the arrival of the Irish Canadian Pilgrims from Rome.

### CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, August 18th, 1877.

#### THE WAR AGAINST CAPITAL.

The laborer in every respect is worthy of his hire, and his wages should be commensurate with the duties and importance of the position he fills, and the current rate paid generally to men filling like positions in other lines of labour or trade. If he considers that he is not paid proportionately with others, he can, if dissatisfied, leave his employment, and, if a steady man, will readily find employment elsewhere, but he has no right to dictate the rate of wages that shall be paid to him, and, if refused, to unite with any organized body to stop the great arteries of commercial communication and upset the industries of a country. There are some industries and some descriptions of labor of such importance to the world that they should no more be allowed by the Government of a country to be suddenly stopped or interrupted by an organized force of employees, than a ship's crew would be permitted to mutiny, and should be punished accordingly. And if the Governments of Canada and the United States passed a law that any body of men employed on railroads, coal mines, and public works, and striking without giving a month's notice to leave their work, even if acting peaceably, and thereby disturbing the prosperity of an industry, should be punished by making it a penitentiary offence, such scenes as have just been witnessed in the United States could not again easily occur. Strikes like those which have just taken place, vibrate like

the shock of an earthquake through a large portion of the community in many sections of the country, and are felt with more or less disastrous results according to the importance of the industry or public work that is directly affected by it. It shakes to the foundation public confidence, closes the doors of banks, and brings misery to thousands; not only to the strikers themselves, but to those who are not of their body, yet still indirectly affected by the destruction and ruin brought around them.

Many American papers consider that the strikers have some just cause of complaint, and that their rates of wages are too low for the arduous and responsible positions filled by the class of railway employees who this time formed the strike. To some extent, perhaps, this may be correct, but whilst those men complain of a reduction in their wages, have they given a thought how fortunate they are in these times to have any employment at all? have they ever reflected for a moment that there are thousands of men, many of them far worthier than they, who have not during the whole of the past winter been able to earn a single day's work, and who would gladly fill their places to-morrow at the reduced wages if quietly permitted to do so? Any reflective and intelligent person who has travelled through the New England States (as the writer has done) and made enquiries on the subject of unemployed labourers and mechanics, will tell you that such is actually the fact, and that a large proportion of these men are natives of the country, descendants of those who fought and bled for it one hundred years ago, whilst the majority of the strikers are men of foreign birth, who came to this country to better their condition, and have done so, and many of them, too, "left their country for their country's good."

These latter are the class of men who, where they are employed, are always the seditious instigators of evil among the rest, they are the firebrands that burn houses and cities, that they may either revel in their hellishness or profit by plunder. Probably, two-thirds of the men who so recently struck, if left to their own feelings and not compelled to act as they have done from having enrolled themselves into Trades Unions and Molly Maguire Societies, would have shrunk from the lawless actions and wilful destruction of property which characterized the late riots, and no doubt feel humbled now at the action they have been forced to take with others in these disgraceful scenes.

Now let us compare the position of the employees on the railroads with other classes of the community. In the first place, as before stated, whilst the railroad men have been enjoying constant employment, and have certain small privileges besides, there are thousands of artisans in the country who can obtain no employment whatever. If the railroad men consider they have a right to strike for higher wages at any moment they please, and by so doing throw the country into a state of anarchy by burning down property, stopping the main thoroughfares, and the mails too in the very teeth of the Government, have not the unemployed men of the country, who are willing to work contentedly at the same rate of wages, and who are natives of the country, a greater right to rise *en masse*, and say to the railway companies: We are starving, let those discontented men who are now employed by you, these foreigners who have not felt the hard times and pinch of hunger during the past winter, go to one side for a time, and give us employment too until better times arrive. We are willing to work, aye, and peaceably too, for even less wages rather than want; then why should we be shut out, and a preference given to those men who, like the Israelites, having come into a land of plenty, are for ever grumbling and rebelling against the powers from which they derive more freedom, more comforts, than they

ever knew before, whilst we, natives of the United States, cannot participate in a share of the earnings of the industries and public works of a country which was raised to its present prosperous state by the industry, intelligence, and wealth of our forefathers? We say have not these men even a greater right, if such a word may be used in a sense of wrong, to demand that a large portion of the railroad men should be dismissed, particularly foreigners, on the same principle that Californians demand the dismissal of the Chinese, and these places given to them? But why do the unemployed mechanics of the United States refrain from making such a move? Simply because these men have all received a plain useful education—they have been taught to reason, to respect the law, to respect the rights of others, and common sense tells them that the depression in the times is not because the money of the country is in the hands of a few who prevent it from circulating, but from the reasons stated in the first part of this article, viz., that a general depression has fallen upon every branch of business, and no man, however desirous he may be to invest his capital to any extent out of the ordinary lines of general commercial business, can see his way clearly to realise even the smallest margin of profits. But as soon as a more healthy feeling returns, and more general confidence is felt between business men, one with another, than the wealth of the country will issue forth from many channels, and a moderate prosperity again be felt by all. Those men who have patiently borne with their troubles and endeavoured to bridge over their difficulties until better times arrive by small earnings from little industries of their own, and by frugality and economy at home, are the men who form the yeomen and real defenders of the country.

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND THE WAR.

In each House of Parliament, on July 24th, an answer almost identical was given with respect to the despatch of troops to the Mediterranean. Lord Granville questioned Lord Derby, who replied as follows: "What has happened is this—the Mediterranean garrisons are at present, I understand, below their full complement, and, in the uncertain and disturbed condition of Europe, it has been thought desirable that they should be strengthened to the extent of about three thousand. That is the sole foundation for the statements in the newspapers." In the House of Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, in answer to the Marquis of Hartington, that "the Government thought it right, in the present unsettled state of the Mediterranean region, to raise the garrison of Malta to its full complement, and that a number of troops is about to be despatched for that destination. That is the sole answer I can give to the noble lord." These replies are variously commented on by the leading journals of the Metropolis, the Opposition organs generally expressing themselves as not thoroughly satisfied therewith. On the other hand, the Government papers take a lofty tone, calling upon the Government to act out their intentions without fear of cavil. They hold that the great majority of the nation are prepared cordially to support the Government in any steps they may take for the maintenance of the British honour and interest. A British Minister can make no greater mistake at a crisis like this than to expect to satisfy public opinion by vague assurances of peace and dubious words of caution. If there is any danger of war, it is better that the people should know it as soon as possible. If Englishmen have taken, or are likely to take, any decided step in assertion of the national rights, the Government cannot too early let the people into their confidence. It could not be supposed but that a sudden order to the troops at Aldershot to prepare for embarkation and the assembling of transports at Portsmouth would lead to some public excitement and anxiety. To be told that

there is nothing in all these preparations beyond such a measure of precaution as is required by the uncertain and disturbed state of Europe is only to whet curiosity and to increase uneasiness. The very assurance that the Government will undertake nothing rashly or without deliberation makes the public more anxious for fuller information respecting this apparently abrupt determination to strengthen the garrison at Malta. No one can doubt but that the time is rapidly approaching, even if it has not come, when Britain must make up its mind as to what it should do in a certain event which may happen within the next month. The mere reinforcement of the Mediterranean garrisons cannot be all that is proposed to meet that contingency. It is either too little or too much: too little if England means to defend Constantinople against Russia, too much if she intends to let events take their course in Turkey. And it cannot be doubted that Ministers understand that whatever approval they have won by this and by some other acts of vigour in their Eastern policy, is founded entirely upon the conviction that they are but an earnest of the spirit in which it is proposed to maintain the interests of England, whenever and by whomsoever they may be assailed.

#### RUSSIAN ATROCITIES.

After hearing so much of those Bulgarian atrocities which have contributed, under the manipulation of Mr. GLADSTONE, beyond anything else to propagate a hostile feeling against the Turks in the present war, it is a sad duty to be obliged, in the interests of justice, to call attention to similar barbarities on the part of the Russians. A number of correspondents, attached to papers of every tinge of opinion, have over their signatures published a document, in which they declare it their duty to sum up the narratives they have separately addressed to their newspapers on the acts of cruelty committed in Bulgaria against the inoffensive Mussulman population. They declare that they have with their own eyes seen and have interrogated, both at Rasgrad and at Shumla, women, children and old men wounded by lance and sword thrusts, not to speak of injuries from firearms, which might be attributed to the accidents of legitimate war. These victims give horrible accounts of the treatment the Russian troops, and sometimes even the Bulgarians, inflict on the fugitive Mussulmans. According to their declarations, the entire Mussulman population of several villages have been massacred. Every day there are fresh arrivals of wounded. The undersigned declare that women and children are the most numerous among the victims, and that they bear lance wounds. This statement is signed by representatives of the *New York Herald*, *Cologne Gazette*, *Journal des Débats*, *Neue Freie Press*, *Standard*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Illustrated London News*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Times*, *Français*, *Pesther Lloyd*, *Wiener Tagblatt*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Scotsman*, and *Manchester Examiner*.

It is further proclaimed that constant acts of barbarity are committed by the Russians in the cities and villages they invade. They do not limit themselves to plunder the Mussulman population of all it owns, but they also subject the women and children to the most shameful and dreadful tortures, and that even the day after a proclamation by the Emperor Alexander, wherein was promised to the Mussulman inhabitants security and justice for their persons, for their families and property.

The following are some of the recent acts of cruelty which have been brought to the knowledge of the public: The inhabitants of Terns, near Tirnova, having, on the approach of the enemy, taken refuge in the mosque, were burned alive in the enclosure. The enemy having met three hundred carts filled with fugitive families, destroyed them with cannon shots, then completed their work of extermination in massacring all the men and women they