

PICTORIAL TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

AT

1592 NOTRE DAME STREET 1592

MONTREAL.

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PROPRIETOR AND MANAGER.

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MONTREAL, MARCH 5, 1887

THE WEEK.

Some of the papers are stultifying themselves in their estimates of the results of the elections. It is as clear as day that the government have been sustained, with a majority sufficient for working purposes, and the sooner this fact is recognized the better.

The public mind want rest and the elections have given it this rest on three points—the *lieu* question of Quebec, the repeal movement of Nova Scotia, and the National Policy over the whole country. A new Parliament has been elected on these issues and we have to make the most of it.

The grievance in Quebec was a sentimental one respectable in itself and commanding sympathy even from the outside. It had full opportunity of ventilation during a year and a half; and two elections were grounded on it. The result among the French people themselves especially, the popular vote, shows that it will not likely be continued long.

There can be no possible toleration of repeal, and the people of Nova Scotia have evidently felt this for themselves. Our plan of Confederation may not be trifled with. We have undertaken to become a nation and the attempt must have a fair trial.

As to the National Policy the popular voice is even more emphatic. Not only in the large centres of trade and industry, but in the farm districts of Western Ontario, for instance, the people have declared in favor of the protection of our manufactures.

The question of protection is very simple. We are all advocates of freedom, when we can get it. But we cannot get it with the United States,

and hence must fall back upon ourselves. If the Americans offer us reciprocity, we should all, Conservatives equally with Liberals, receive it with acclamation.

It makes very little difference who rules at Ottawa, Toronto and Quebec. The main point is to have a policy and to carry out that policy to all its legitimate conclusions. Liberals are as honest and patriotic as Conservatives, and the latter as intelligent and well meaning as the former.

The true provincial policy is purely business and financial, the proper handling of the exchequer and the material development of all the parts of the province. Theoretical questions are out of place, and personal ambitions and wrangling a mere waste of time.

The federal policy embraces the whole Dominion and is far more varied, outreaching and important. Canada is a very hard country to govern, because of its different races and creeds, but the chief aim is to make Canadians of us all, with the single object of working for the welfare of Canada and making it a nation indeed, as well as in name.

Very serious charges have been made against certain members of the Montreal Corporation and an investigation is on foot. Such accusations should not be lightly launched, but if there is any ground for them, it is only right that they should be pushed to the end.

President Cleveland has truly said that a public office is a public trust. Aldermen do not receive any money for their services, but there are many ways of making money out of their office, and if caught in the net, they deserve to be held up to public reprobation and punishment.

The movement intended to make the Queen's Jubilee Year one of especial splendor and significance, is gaining ground every day, not only in Great Britain itself, but throughout all the Colonies. Combined action in Canada has not yet been taken, but will certainly be. We should not wonder if the United States took a hand also.

The situation in Newfoundland is grave. The colony is in face of commercial ruin, owing to the impossibility of maintaining her staple industry of cod fishing against the competition of French fishermen. The legislature passed a bill restraining the export of bait which would have secured a monopoly for the island, but the Foreign office has withheld its assent to the measure.

The trade outlook for the spring is not brilliant in one sense, but satisfactory in most other aspects. The prognostics for the United States are fair, while, if anything, things look even better in Canada. One significant symptom was the rise in the best Canadian securities consequent on the late elections.

The result of the mayoralty election in Montreal rises far above the proportions of a merely local event. It tends to cement the good feelings which should exist between the different elements of the community, and will notably help to do away with that wretched spirit of race and creed which has unfortunately too long divided the people of Canada.

BRIC A BRAC.

Before the winter expires, a last word should be spoken in favor of the adoption of the snowshoe outfit as a national costume. Nothing neater or more characteristic could be devised, especially for young women. The clergy have been somewhat opposed to it, but only in church, and in the case of "loud" colors.

If modestly worn no dress is more becoming a young girl. It brings out the plumpness of the figure, gives full play to the chest and limbs, and has the further advantage of being very cheap. The finest blanket suit need not exceed ten or twelve dollars.

Then there is the toque and hood. In our hard climate, where men go with heavy fur caps, the size of half bushels, and sunken to the neck, women foolishly wear light hats leaving the half of the head uncovered and the ears unguarded. Hence the prevalence of cephalic neuralgia, thinning of the hair and other female complaints.

Neither do men dress in winter with that taste which suits the climate. The overcoat of heavy Canadian tweed is unwisely discarded. A *capuchon* or hood is a handsome and useful accompaniment of the great coat. For young men and other men inclined to be stout, the colored sash or *ceinture fléchée* looks well indeed.

We ought to get rid also of the ugly and unwholesome rubber shoe. It is meant for autumn and spring use and during thaw, but imparts no warmth in winter. The beaded moccasin is a fit substitute, and so is the felt overshoe wrought in colored goose quill. These are Canadian articles of wear and pleasantly distinctive.

Long stockings and leggings are likewise appropriate for walking in deep and heavy snow, and it makes no difference whether you have a good calf or not, because the woolen material affords sufficient padding. A strong stick is an almost indispensable adjunct in winter walking, saving from many a fall.

There is furthermore less taste in masculine furs than there used to be. The beautiful native beaver has been unaccountably neglected. The host of imitations drizzle wofully in soft snow or rain. Detachable collars and cuffs have been overdone, never looking well, because stiff and artificial. Most of the caps are too much like huge bushes, and none are so elegant as the light seal.

We are nearing the vernal equinox and the days are visibly lengthening. It is remarkable what effect this has on the spirits of men and what influence it exerts on the march of business. The early hours are devoted to work which were otherwise spent in bed. Men breakfast better, too, and the household is cleared with the rising sun.

On the old ramparts of Quebec a robin red breast was seen flitting the other day. It is a sure harbinger of spring. The bird brings warmth upon his wings, and there is music in his chirp, after the long solitude and silence of winter. The sparrow, who was with us through the cold, also eats his crumbs more blithely in the slanting sunbeam.

But the crocus and the wood violet are not with us yet. The mountains

of snow are too much for them, and we may not have them before Patrick's day, when the green trefoil and shamrock will set them off nicely on our coat lappets. Meantime we may set out geraniums and other perennials full in the southern window, where they will begin to swell and burgeon.

It is an old Canadian saying that spring always follows Lent. When one is late so is the other. This year Lent is pretty late, Easter falling on April 10th. A Longue Pointe milkman told a cook, the other morning, that we may not look for the end of winter before the beginning of May.

The poor have had a hard time during the past winter, but it is a comfort to know that there was little or no real destitution. Work was plentiful through it all, money circulated freely enough, and the price of food and provisions was reasonably low. The wind was tempered to the shorn lamb.

PERSONAL.

There is talk of Mr. Girouard, M.P., for Jacques Cartier, as the next speaker of the House of Commons.

Mr. Alexander Gunn, ex member of Parliament for Kingston, has just returned from Europe.

Senator Macpherson is spoken of for the vacant High Commissionership at London. His qualifications are certainly high.

Dr MacLagan, a pianist and musician well known in Montreal and other parts of Canada, died a few days ago at Winnipeg.

A Canadian surgeon, Dr Brodeur, who has been studying and practising for twelve years in Europe, has just returned to settle in Montreal.

Lieutenant Du Perron Casgrain, son of the Member of Parliament for G. Islet, is the only French Canadian officer in the British army. He left Quebec to rejoin his regiment, last week.

Hon. J. J. C. Abbott has been elected mayor of Montreal by a large majority. Mr Beaugrand, his predecessor, will retire from office with the respect and esteem of the whole city.

If R. II the Prince of Wales was at Nice, during the worst of the earthquake shocks there, and while he met with no harm, wisely moved northward and homeward.

The death of Cardinal Jacobini, papal secretary of State, is a loss not only to the Roman curia, but to Europe as well, especially at the present critical time, when he was using his high office to insure the peace of Europe.

Verdi is another instance of the vigor of genius. At the age of 75, he has produced a new opera, "Otello," which is pronounced superior to any of his previous compositions, from "Rigoletto" to "Aida."

Sir Alexander Campbell has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario but will possibly not assume office until the 1st June next. All the papers agree as to the entire fitness of the nomination.

Bishop Blanchet, formerly Bishop of Vancouver, died at that place last week. This venerable man, like his brother, the Archbishop of Oregon, was a Canadian, and both of them spent the best part of their long lives among the Indians.

Mr. Ingalls has been elected President of the United States senate, in the room of Mr John Sherman. No political significance need be attached to the nomination of the anti-British Senator.