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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 16, 1878.

### A NEW ERA FOR CANADA.

Before the elections it was natural enough, and quite proper, to discuss the theories of Protection and Free Trade. The topic was before the public, subject to their decision, and it was plainly the duty of those who presented themselves as their representatives to offer whatever reasons their reading or experience furnished on one or the other side of the question. But after the elections, the matter has assumed quite another complexion. Theory has given place to reality, and the country has passed from the domain of fancy to that of fact. The people have recorded their decision by an overwhelming verdict in favor of one side of the controversy, and so final is the judgment that the whole country must bow to it. Never was the voice of a majority so definite and so imperious in its conclusions. And especially should the spirit of party bend to the decision. The elections of the memorable 17th September involved not the triumph of a party, but of a policy; not the victory of the Conservatives, but of the Nationalists. It was not Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, in his individuality, that was returned to power—and we give him credit for enough statesmanship to recognize this—but Sir JOHN as the exponent and pledged executant of a "new departure" in the fiscal and commercial relations of the country. There never was a greater mistake than to suppose—as they will soon find out—who persist in saying so—that the people were carried away by a sudden whim, that popular opinion was drawn off in a whirlwind of delusive enthusiasm. No public question was ever more fully discussed than was this during the past three years. The debates in Parliament were exhaustive, and the multitudinous "picnic" speeches wore the subject thread-bare. The people were thoroughly instructed both through their teachers and their own common sense reflections—the best of all tutors. "Give the people a chance," was one of LINCOLN'S homely aphorisms, "and they will always do right." They were not so silly as to charge Government with the hardness of the times, but they believed that something might be done, or at least attempted to alleviate it. They saw the United States before their eyes, rising from the ruins of a tremendous conflict, recovering their energies, recuperating their forces, shaking off their debt, as so many links of a ponderous chain, year by year, and regaining their prosperity until their exports exceeded their imports by millions upon millions of dollars, and they forced their manufactured goods into the hitherto unapproachable markets of Great Britain. They beheld France, stunned for a moment by the hammer of Fate, and to all appearances helplessly bankrupt, clearing herself of debt as if by magic, and at the end of seven years presenting the spectacle of the most flourishing country in Europe. They heard, with legitimate wonder, that Victoria, in an incredibly short time, had shot ahead of all the Australian Colonies, as the records of the Paris Exhibition abund-

antly show. The people of Canada studied these facts and drew conclusions therefrom. What had been done elsewhere might at least be tried here. A trial could do no possible harm, and it might accomplish a deal of good. They were tired of a policy of obstruction, and of "masterly inactivity," and demanded instead a policy of construction, an attempt to build up the industrial institutions of the country, develop its immense latent resources, spread the ramifications of its commerce, and give some kind of employment to thousands of idle hands. And when, at length, the opportunity presented itself, they formulated this demand in the shape of an overwhelming vote.

We repeat that this is not a question of party. The remarkable stand of Ontario proves it. We have reason to state, after inquiry, that several Liberal members of Quebec will not oppose, even if they do not support, the development of this policy. We believe we are justified in saying that even New Brunswick will be about fairly divided on the subject. Those who will persist in attacking it, in the press or elsewhere, must know that they are running counter to national aspirations and to a determined national will. They may point their shafts, harmless as the javelin of Anchises, against what they are pleased facetiously to call the N.P., but it will remain none the less true that a truly National Policy, demanded and sustained by the people, should not be made the object of narrow partisan attack. If the scheme fails, then will be the time to cover it with ridicule, but while it is in process of formation, with all the high aims which the popular will has put into it, we boldly declare our belief that it is the duty of every patriotic Canadian, irrespective of party, to give it a fair trial.

We are not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but we venture to predict this—that if our present rulers, or any other set of men—for we repeat that we make no account of individuals or parties in this matter—succeed in elaborating a plan of industrial reconstruction, which shall revive our manufactures within proper limits, protect and expand our agricultural interests and regulate the problem of labor on the basis of a fair day's wage for a fair day's work to the majority of the unemployed, they will confer a boon second only to that of Confederation. Canada will then enter upon a new life, and her benefactors will have earned historical names.

We are aware that the task is one of great difficulty. It will require the co-operation of many wise heads, whence it is that we are pleased to see our business men, of all branches, throughout the country, forming into associations to assist, with their experience, in the good work. It will also require time and patience. Unlike the water columns of Venice, it cannot spring up at once, as from a stroke of the enchanter's wand. But, in spite of all obstacles, we believe it will succeed, because we believe that the country wants it. A young land like ours has peculiar needs, and is surrounded by peculiar circumstances not found elsewhere. We cannot be ruled from Manchester. This is a rugged primitive soil, and not entirely adapted to theories framed for other and older countries. In shaping our destinies, these facts must be kept in view, and he is the true statesman who will govern the country strictly within the sphere of its limitations and its opportunities.

### COMPLICATIONS IN EUROPE.

Last week was distinguished by a series of sensational despatches bearing on the Eastern question. The first came to us from the *Manchester Guardian* to the effect that there exists a treaty between Lord BEACONSFIELD and Count ANDRASSY said to have been signed by them before the conclusion of the Berlin Congress. The purport of this treaty is that, if Russia persists in the occupation of Ottoman territory after May, 1879, Austria and England will insist on a complete

evacuation, and if in spite of the representations of these two allied powers, Russia attempted to justify her action by the inability of the Turks to protect the Christians, as in the case of Roumelia, England and Austria bind themselves to furnish an army corps to replace the Russian troops. It is added that the tenor of this treaty was communicated to the Russian authorities, but the question naturally arises whether the communication was made at the time it was signed, or whether Lord BEACONSFIELD only recently imparted the information. On this point, however, no light is thrown.

Another piece of news is traceable to the *London Standard*. That usually well-informed journal invests Count SCHOUVALOFF with a mission to Pesh, the object of which is the proposal of another Congress to give that of Berlin all possible developments. Why the Russian diplomatist should be sent to Pesh of all places is not clear, unless it be that, in spite of its intestine dissensions, the Austro-Hungarian Empire holds in its hands the key of the situation. Something like this idea was lately thrown out by the Baron VON PRETIS when he stated that the occupation of Bosnia, authorized by the Porte itself, was necessary to prevent the development, in the Balkan peninsula, of forces that, sooner or later, might prove hostile to the interests of Austria.

The latest despatches have not confirmed the rather startling information cited above, and the *Pull Mull Gazette*, whose whole course is bitterly opposed to Russia, has the rather reassuring news that the latter power openly declares its intention of carrying out the Berlin Treaty to the letter. We should like to pin our faith to this statement, but the *Golos* simultaneously intervenes with the announcement that it is impossible for Russia, under present circumstances, to fulfil the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin.

As will be seen, it is difficult to gather any light from this confusion. One or two points however, present themselves as worthy of consideration. The first is the gradual approach of England and Austria for the purposes of a joint resistance to Russian obstinacy. That Russia is preparing for such a combination appears clear enough. She is raising 218,000 recruits this year, instead of the peace contingent of 150,000 men, and it is not improbable that a large corps of observation will be stationed on the Austrian frontier. In the second place, it is being confirmed that SCHOUVALOFF will be relieved of the English mission to take a leading part in the Russian Foreign Office, as temporary, if not permanent, successor of GORTSCHAKOFF, whose career is now closing by reason of illness and old age. This change would be the more significant that it would probably lead to a renewal of the Russo-German alliance, virtually broken through the lately declared hostility between BISMARCK and GORTSCHAKOFF. The only circumstance that might check such a result would be the confirmation of the Czar's serious illness, which would invalidate his co-operation, and bring forward the Czarevitch, who is notoriously opposed to German ideas and influence. Altogether the situation is delicate and interesting, and well worthy the attention of those who study the intricate problems of diplomacy.

### THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

It is very important, for obvious reasons, that Canadians should take an interest in the varying phases of American politics, and, as a consequence, we deem it the duty of journalists to keep them informed of these as they present themselves. The November elections in thirty States were very serious in their results, and it is well that the whole subject should be laid before our readers. The first information was that the Republicans had won a sweeping victory, but such does not prove to be the fact, the most that can be said being

that the Democrats received a significant warning, while the substantial success still remains on their side. In New York Tammany Hall was beaten outright—a consummation devoutly to be thankful for—but it must be remembered that its victorious opponents are also Democrats. Throughout the State, the popular vote was in favour of the Democracy, the figures being 90,000 against 50,000 Republicans. What the Republicans have really gained is a majority in the Legislature, thereby ensuring their election of an United States Senator. As this Senator will be Mr. Conkling, the result is a matter of even international congratulation.

This Democratic loss in New York is compensated by gains in other States; the principal feature of which is the control of the United States Senate. The present Senate is composed of 76 members, of whom 39 are Republicans, 36 Democrats, and 1 Independent. In the October elections 3 Republicans were replaced by 3 Democrats, and in November, 4 more Republicans yielded their places to as many Democrats, making a total, in the next Senate, of 43 Democrats, 32 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

With regard to the House of Representatives, the Democratic majority has been lessened by five or six votes, but the plurality still remains at about twenty. There is, however, this important point to be considered—in the event of the Presidential election of 1880 being thrown into the House—that is, not decided by the people, but left to Congress, the result would be a tie, as, giving Nevada and California—still in doubt, as we go to press—to the Republicans, the opposing delegations would stand 19 to 19, or a tie. In that case, the casting vote would lie with the Democratic President of the Senate. It must be added, nevertheless, that the chances of such a narrow issue of the Presidential election are far less after the November campaign than they were before it.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Greenback National Party, whose presence caused such confusion in both ranks, has met with signal discomfiture. In Massachusetts, where it presented the boldest front, General Butler was defeated for the Governorship by a majority of 25,000. In the next Congress there will be only six "Greenbackers," instead of the 80 that the party counted on. Their alliance with the Democrats of the North proved a source of weakness to the latter, while in the Southern States, where they were leagued with the Republicans, their co-operation only tended to cement a solid South.

The situation may, therefore, be summed up as follows: In New York, the popular vote remains Democratic, while the Legislature is secured to the Republicans. The United States Senate becomes Democratic by a majority of 11, and the House of Representatives retains a Democratic majority of about 20. It is on this basis that the XLVIth Congress will proceed, from the 4th March, 1879, till the 3rd March, 1881.

It rarely happens that the fate of a Government hangs upon a single election. But such is the case with the JOLY Administration in the County of St. Hyacinthe. The death of Hon. M. BACHAND opens that constituency. The whole tremendous force of the two parties throughout the Province will be thrown into it—the one to re elect, the other to defeat the Ministerial candidate. And the closeness of the vote in the County will give an additional point of interest, placing the result beyond the scope of ordinary foresight. In May, M. Bachand was elected by a narrow majority, and a subsequent revision of the register showed that this majority was legally still less, if not null. In September, the Conservatives carried St. Hyacinthe by a small majority. Thus the chances are evenly balanced, but not so the issue. Should the Government succeed, they will have gained