

Historical
Places

Dr. Borden, as Minister of Militia, visited Kingston the other day, and, it is reported, came to the conclusion that it would be worth while to spend some public money in partially restoring Fort Henry and repairing the martello towers. This decision will gratify many people who do not live in the immediate neighbourhood of these historical structures. Canada has not done enough in the past to preserve such monuments of old struggles for freedom and independence, and she can well afford to carry on systematically the good work which Dr. Borden has resolved to begin at so promising a starting point as Kingston. Fort George at Niagara should be restored by degrees, if not at once, and at the very least the old powder magazine, now in ruins, should be rebuilt. The Old Fort at Toronto is, in its present state, anything but a credit to either the city or the Ordnance Department. Perhaps the best way to secure for it a reasonable amount of antiquarian attention would be to hand it over on proper conditions to the corporation of Toronto, to be preserved as a public resort. A bridge over the railway tracks would afford easy access to one of the most interesting spots about the city, from which people are now practically excluded.

Sir William
Harcourt.

The St. James' Gazette reported a few days ago that Sir William Harcourt had resigned the leadership of the Liberal party in the House of Commons. Sir William himself has contradicted the report in the most prompt and public way, and has taken occasion to say some kindly things about Lord Rosebery. What is of more importance still, he has publicly urged energetic co-operation with Russia in the solution of the Eastern question. This is extremely significant, for in doing so he is in close concert with Mr. Gladstone and is at marked variance with Lord Rosebery. As the cultivation of friendliness with Russia is just now popular with the whole British nation, from the Queen down to the working classes, and is advocated by all kinds of political journals, Sir William will lose nothing in prestige by boldly adhering to his present line. The great obstacle to a virtual alliance of Russia, France, and Great Britain for the purpose of dealing with Turkey, is the position of Egypt. As France would like to annex the whole of the Mediterranean shore westward from Algeria to the Atlantic, and as an expedition is fitting out for the punishment of the Moorish pirates, there seems to be a possibility of a settlement satisfactory to both nations being arrived at without the withdrawal of Britain from Egypt. In the event of a complete accord being reached, France, as the largest creditor of the now almost defunct Turkish Government, would be entrusted with the duty of dealing with the great assassin, but Russian and British forces would be at hand to assist. Germany and Austria-Hungary might protest, but it is hardly likely.

The Grand Trunk
Railway Meeting.

The shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway have acted sensibly in standing by the present direction and the new management. It was generally felt a year ago that the time for a change of system had come, and as a change was ordered by the shareholders themselves, it would have been absurd to reverse that step without allowing a reasonable time for experiment. Such a manifestation of indecision would have greatly injured the business reputation and financial standing of the enterprise; the recent all but unanimous action will help both. It does not follow, of course, that the new General Manager has been endorsed to any extent. He is simply notified that he is on trial, and as his staff changes

have made him personal enemies, he may count it as absolutely certain that they will closely scrutinize his management to find ground for impeaching it. The shareholders want dividends. If Mr. Hays succeeds in earning them he will be all right; if he fails to pay them he will be all wrong. He is too intelligent not to see this, and is too sensible to object to it. Meanwhile, so far as the travelling public can see, the efficiency of the Grand Trunk has not been impaired by the changes that have taken place, and this is the chief interest Canadians have in the matter.

Control of the
Fisheries.

By a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada another important constitutional question has been decided, subject to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Ever since Confederation the Dominion Government has claimed authority over inland fisheries as well as those in tidal waters. By this judgment the latter are left under its control, but all inland fisheries are declared to be, for leasing and licensing purposes, under Provincial jurisdiction. The right to legislate for the regulation of the fisheries is declared to be vested in the Dominion Parliament, but this seems to be one of those matters as to which the Dominion and Provincial jurisdictions are concurrent. As the Dominion Government has been for nearly thirty years collecting revenue that should have gone to the Provinces it may reasonably be expected that the latter will put in claims for restitution. If this is done the best mode of settlement would be to agree on a lump sum payment instead of trying to ascertain the precise amount due in each case. Such arbitrations are always costly, protracted, and otherwise unsatisfactory.

A Canadian
Veteran.

The death of Mr. Robert McLean, Secretary to the Board of Underwriters of Toronto, is none the less regrettable that it was for some time expected. He had reached the ripe old age of eighty years, and until within a few months of his death his physical activity was quite exceptional; his mental powers remained unimpaired to the end. Mr. McLean spent many years of his active life as headmaster of the Galt public school, and his former pupils have a strong feeling of reverence for his memory on account of his energetic and efficient, but kindly and helpful discharge of his pedagogical duties. When he retired from teaching to devote himself to the business of fire insurance, he soon saw that there was great room for improvements, and he set about accomplishing them. The outcome of his efforts was the organization of the Underwriters association, the management of which devolved largely on him personally. As a man of business he was sagacious, upright, and public-spirited. He was a keen politician, and in his earlier days he was well known over a large part of Ontario as a Liberal campaign speaker. Take him for all in all, he was a fine specimen of the men of a past generation who did so much to build up this country.

The Montreal
Herald.

This venerable journal has passed into the hands of a new publishing company, with Mr. J. S. Brierly as managing director and Mr. J. E. Atkinson as editor. The Herald has had a long and continuous career, and its *confrères* will all prefer to see its name perpetuated and its continuity preserved. A generation ago that name was a household word in Canada. The able editor of the paper for many years was the late Senator Penny, and his partner, the late Mr. James Stewart, was a competent business manager. No other two men were