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#### CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, June 30th, 1877.

#### THE ST. JOHN FIRE.

The destruction of the flourishing metropolis of New Brunswick has cast a gloom over the whole country. And for cause. Aside from the personal losses and sufferings of the victims themselves, which primarily claim our sympathy, there is the feeling that we are all more or less interested in the terrible calamity. These frequent and disastrous fires, this repeated destruction of our cities and towns strike at the very root of our national prosperity, and, in spite of us, leave a very disagreeable doubt whether we shall be able entirely to withstand the consequences which they entail. When losses are piled up beyond millions, when, as in the present instance, they reach the appalling figure of twenty millions, we naturally pause to inquire what these losses represent. They represent not only charred timber and crumbling masonry, the interruption of one branch of industry or the prostration of one line of commerce, but they represent the sinking of invested funds, the waste of accumulated capital and the breaking up of well matured schemes of future financial development. The ruin of the St. John house, which lies in ashes, is a shock to the Montreal or Toronto house which furnished it with supplies and to the numerous houses of the interior towns to which it acted in the capacity of purveyor. The arteries of trade are now so multifarious and their action so energetic, that, as in the human anatomy, a mishap in one quarter affects the whole body. Thus, we repeat, the fire at St. John becomes a national calamity, and the question may seriously arise whether we are in a condition to bear many more such calamities.

Of course, our first care must be for the thousands of homeless, houseless and purseless victims, and it is not without emotion that we testify to the spontaneous charity with which all our communities have answered the appeal. Every town and city of the Dominion has been stirred, and within twenty-four hours practical relief, in the shape of loaded trains of provisions, arrived in the blighted city from all points. Our American neighbours too have not been slow in proffering assistance, remembering with gratitude the generosity of Canadians when Portland, Chicago and Boston were visited with similar misfortunes. There is every reason to hope, therefore, that within a week the pressing needs of the St. John people will be met, after which the contributions in money will be distributed in such manner as to provide for the future of destitute families.

Radical municipal reform is the great lesson to be learned from this terrible conflagration. As a correspondent writes to us, "We have here exhibited the difference between the colonial sentiment which imbues the whole of the American continent, and the imperial which prevails in Europe. The latter may and does tyrannize, although that is gradually diminishing by the growth of popular influences, but it also organizes and it will not allow these great fires to become the rule, because it takes well understood precautions to prevent them, which in our corrupt and mutual-flattering communities we do not."

The proper construction of buildings is the great problem to be attacked. When a fire has certain headway in our present miserable tinder boxes, not a thousand fire-engines nor the best army of firemen can check its progress. The example of Nazareth street, Montreal, and that of St. John are there to prove it. The Insurance Companies, if they would be true to themselves, which they are not, have the power of reform in their own hands, and to them, as organized and deeply interested bodies, we must look. The enormous losses which they have incurred in the present instance must certainly stir them up, and we trust that they will renew their calls upon the City Councils there and elsewhere.

The question of the prevention of fires has now become the most important of all municipal concerns. It must be met at once, for there is no telling when a terrible catastrophe may fall upon any one of ourselves. It must be met in the broadest and most determined spirit, considering not only the municipal, but the national interests involved. We repeat, for the third time, that such losses as those at St. John strike at the very heart of the whole country's credit and prosperity, and it is much to be feared that we could not bear the burden of many more calamities of a similar character.

#### DOMINION DAY.

The tenth anniversary of the establishment of Confederation has at length arrived, and we trust it will be celebrated in the most becoming manner possible. We had hoped that the patriotism of our people would be awakened at the event and that special efforts would be made to welcome the day as an important landmark. We thought it our duty to write several articles appealing to the country in this sense, but, with two or three exceptions, our call was not repeated by our contemporaries who maintained an ominous silence. Outside of Ottawa, therefore, which has nobly done its duty, it would appear that no city of the Dominion has thought it worth while to organize an official celebration. Still we trust that something beyond the ordinary will be done, and that we shall not be called upon to chronicle the disagreeable fact that the first decade of Union was allowed to pass absolutely unnoticed.

For ourselves, we have endeavored to contribute our mite to the celebration. In the present number of the CANADIAN

ILLUSTRATED NEWS, our readers and friends will find two pictures commemorative of the important event. The first is a statue of Canada standing proudly on an emblematic pedestal on which the words "10th ANNIVERSARY" are chiselled. Canada holds her armorial shield displayed in front of her, and in the light of her eyes there is a glance of confidence in the future revealed upon the far horizon. The second double-page picture is a combination of all the Provinces of the Dominion, with suitable figures indicative of the principal pursuits of each. Thus British Columbia is represented by a miner; Manitoba, by a hunter; Ontario, by a farmer; Quebec, by her traditional *habitant*; New Brunswick, by a fisherman; Nova Scotia, by a collier; and Prince Edward Island, by a sailor. These figures are all suitably entwined together. In the inner circle are grouped the arms of each of the Provinces. These arms will be found interesting, and many will like to have them for reference. Over these shields stands the Royal Crown of England, and the whole is fastened together with the immense anchor of our hope. Thus it will be seen that, within our sphere, we have done our best to do honor to the Great Anniversary, and we trust we shall always be found ready, as in the past, to advocate the rights of our country, champion her destinies, and combat all and every that shall speak a word or write a line detrimental to her integrity, or hostile to her slightest interest.

#### THE BRATTLEBORO AND GOTHENBURG SYSTEMS.

In Canada, the question of temperance is agitating the masses fully as much as in the United States, and any suggestion which may tend to aid the movement must be acceptable to the sincere votaries of reform. It is with the view of contributing our mite that we call attention to the method pursued against drunkards in the beautiful Vermont village of Brattleboro', as fully described by a writer in the last number of *Scribner's Monthly*. There the authorities do not aim so high as to establish a temperance village especially. Their theory is that with the question of drink in the abstract they have no more to do than with religion or education, but that with the question of drink in the concrete or in practice, whenever it interferes with the good order of the village, they have a great deal to do. The following is the way in which they carry their theory into effect. Under the law of the State of Vermont it appears that four heads of prosecution may arise out of a case of intoxication. One against the drunken man and three against the vendor of liquor. The three are—first, for the act of selling liquor; secondly, for the keeping of it with intent to sell; thirdly, for the seizure and confiscation of liquor if found. The Brattleboro' authorities, faithful to their principle, enforce only the first of these prosecutions, contending that they are not called upon, in their official capacity, to attend to the two others.

A particular case will explain the mode of operation more clearly. A man is found drunk on the street. If so he is *ipso facto* regarded as a disturber of the peace, hence arrested and locked up. During his examination he is imperatively required to tell where he got his liquor. There is no squeamishness on this point. The magistrate must ask that question and the prisoner must answer it. The man is then fined five dollars and costs, and in default, he goes to the county gaol. Then the liquor vendor is arrested, and if the offence is proven, he is fined ten dollars and costs.

The advantages claimed for this system are that "it works up to the requirements of public sentiment and stops there, not attempting to frustrate it. The friends of temperance are said to have the matter entirely in their own hands under such a method." They have only to educate the public up to total prohi-

bition, and under the Brattleboro' system this final result is accomplished. "It only falls short of total prohibition, because such prohibition is not demanded by the community." This is finely drawn, and many may not admit the logic of the deduction, but all must allow that the Brattleboro' system has two practical points which are worth noting—first, the arrest of every drunken man on the street as a disturber of the peace, and secondly, the punishment of the man who sold him even one glass of liquor.

We have space for only a few lines on the Gothenburg system which was fully described by Hon. Wm. McDougall, in a late number of *Belford's Magazine*, and has otherwise been laid with some prominence before the public. The inhabitants of that Swedish city formed a company, consisting of the leading and wealthiest citizens, for the purpose of monopolising the sale of liquors. This company, under the laws of Sweden, purchases all the liquors needed for consumption in the town. With regard to the selling, this is conducted exclusively by their own employes or persons authorized by them, and every gill of liquor sold must come from the vaults of this company. But the most important point of the system is that no person selling liquor is allowed to make profit on the sale. This, of course, takes away the first and indeed the sole incentive to the vending of spirits. The result in Gothenburg has proved excellent. In the first place, the number of drinking places has been largely reduced, and in the second, only the best sorts of liquors are sold, because the company keep no other. These two advantages are in themselves sufficient to recommend the system.

#### HISTORY OF THE WAR.

V.

#### MILITARY EVENTS UP TO DATE.

Having, in the preceding papers, given our readers every one of the preliminaries necessary to a proper understanding of the progress of the war, it now remains to sketch briefly all the events of importance that have happened up to the present date. These properly disposed of, we shall be enabled, from number to number, to keep pace with contemporaneous incidents as they occur every week.

The campaign in Armenia first claims our attention, because it is there only that the contending forces have yet met face to face. The first movement of the Russians was to pass at Alexandropol on the frontier, whence they crossed at once to Bajazid, which they captured without resistance. A view of Bajazid has already appeared in our columns. On their extreme right, they made a simultaneous demonstration on Batoum, the principal Turkish port of the Black Sea, but they were obliged to withdraw from a direct attack.

Several weeks of inaction then ensued, during which the Turks made a descent with their fleet on Soukhoum-Kaleh, a Russian port on the Black Sea. With the assistance of Circassian volunteers attacking on the land side, they succeeded in capturing this important place. The capture was regarded as all the more serious by the Russians, as it was feared that the Turks would seize the opportunity to foment a general uprising of the Circassians, with a base of operations at Soukhoum-Kaleh. In that event, the Russian rear would have found itself gravely endangered. But after the lapse of five or six weeks, we have still to learn that the Turks have done much toward instigating the Circassian tribes to rebellion, and hence the capture of Soukhoum-Kaleh has been divested of a great deal of its importance.

The next forward movement of the Russians was the capture of Ardalan, a fortress of the second class, which offered no protracted resistance, and which, a little later, was taken by the Turks. It seems, however, to have since been evacuated by the latter, and indeed it is allowed that, for neither party, is the possession of the town a matter of much moment.

There has been considerable fighting in the open field around Olli and Kurs, of which the reports have been so contradictory that there is really no telling which side can claim the sum of substantial advantages. From the nature of the case, however, considering, as we must always do, the disparity of numbers, it is safe to conclude that the Turks have been considerably weakened, and the Russians proportionally emboldened.

There appears to be no doubt that, for some time, the position of Mouhtar Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief, was a very precarious one, and his removal for incompetence was openly mooted, but more lately the arrival of a reinforcement of twenty battalions has restored confidence and the Turks have been more active.

The present objective point of the Russians is