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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 13th May, 1876.

CAP ROUGE.

Cap Rouge has acquired a national reputation. It has risen to the dignity of a nuisance. It is the key of the St. Lawrence and rules navigation at its own sweet pleasure. Last year it retarded the opening of the river for more than a week. This year it will be the cause that shipping cannot be resumed till the first decade in May. Everywhere else the ice breaks up tardily it is true, but regularly—on Lakes St. Francis and St. Louis, in the narrows at Varennes, in the shallows at the upper head of Lake St. Peter, and everything is made ready for the resumption of business. But at Cap Rouge it perversely sticks, and we must patiently wait till the May sun and the spring tides gradually wear it away. The anomaly is simply intolerable. The city of Quebec should not allow itself to rest under the imputation of criminal negligence in the matter. That mechanical or chemical means may be contrived to break up or blow up the ice-bridge at Cap Rouge does not admit of a doubt in this age of scientific discovery and energy. That some adequate means of the kind should not have been employed this year, after the disastrous experience of last year, is inexplicable. The loss, by this untoward retardment, to the material interests of the country is very considerable, while the injury it does our shipping reputation abroad is almost incalculable.

That comparatively small ice-area should be carefully surveyed and made the subject of a geodesic survey. It must have its key or weak point where currents converge—indeed we are informed that there is such a key well known to the watermen of Quebec—and that key, once found and marked, should be the objective point of attack. The experiments of Col. STRANGE at explosion were failures this year, but they might be improved and systematized so that next year they will certainly succeed. A correspondent of the *Quebec Chronicle* asserts, and we believe rightly, that the forming of ice stops about the 1st April, perhaps earlier, and adds that then the attention of the country should at once be directed to breaking it up and loosening it so that it may float away. A few hundred dollars' worth of explosives, if applied in the right places, would clear the Coves and the whole of the St. Lawrence up to Montreal, and give our river steamers and ocean steamers early in April. The advantage of one month thus gained would be immense. Mr. SEWELL, a competent authority, proposes a scheme for preventing the ice-bridge from forming at Cap Rouge at all. That would certainly be taking the bull by the horns, but its feasibility may be questioned. But about the expediency of an early breaking up of the ice there can be no two opinions, and if the municipality of Quebec will not move

in the matter, the Government should take it up, and pass an appropriation for effective work in the premises.

INDIANS OF ONTARIO.

The Ontario Indians are much more numerous, and generally speaking, more advanced in wealth and civilization than those of Quebec or the Maritime Provinces. They are divided into six superintendencies. The first includes the Six Nations and Mississaguas of the Credit in the Counties of Brant and Haldimand, probably the largest number assembled on one reserve in Canada. The former of these numbered, in 1875, 3,052, an increase of 80 in the one year. The Mississaguas numbered 203, a decrease of 3. The real and personal property, not including the land, was estimated at \$1,460,000. Additional buildings are erected every year and their stock is constantly improving. Their reserve is 52,000 acres in extent, about one-fourth of which is cultivated or in pasture, and the crops are very fair. They have a flourishing agricultural society with annual exhibitions and several temperance associations. Their morality is improving, but they are not so desirous of education as could be wished. Out of 1,583 children only 608 attend school, of which there are 14 on the reserve, besides the destitute at Brantford. This institute and nine of the schools are maintained by the New England Company of London, England; 2 by the Wesleyan Conference; 2 by the Mississaguas; and 1 by a few of the Six Nations. The New England Company expend about \$18,000 a year in support of these schools. At the institute the boys learn practical farming, and the girls domestic work. Eleven teachers are of Indian origin. The Six Nations belong mostly to the Church of England, which has 5 missionaries among them. There is also a Methodist and Baptist Mission, and about 800 who do not profess Christianity at all. The Mississaguas are all Wesleyans. The roads are kept in better order than in the neighbouring townships. They have built a good council house, and opposite it one of the natives has opened extensive stores. He is also postmaster, and the amount of mail matter is considerable.

The Indians of the Thames consist of a band of 429 Chippewas, 129 Munsees, and 609 Oneidas. The area of the Chippewa reserve, on which also the Munsees live, is 15,360 acres, that of the Oneida 5,022. Most of them have little personal property. There are a few good brick houses, but most of them live in log or frame houses, which are comfortable. They are slowly but steadily advancing in civilization, less intemperate than formerly and their moral status hopeful and improved. There is an institute at Mount Elgin, and 8 schools, these last all taught by native teachers, supervised by Church of England and Wesleyan missionaries. The institute is under the control of the Wesleyans.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte number 804 with a reserve of 27 square miles of which 9,500 acres are cultivated and 4,000 under pasture. They raise very good crops, are pretty well supplied with farming implements, have a good number of horses and cattle, &c., and are steadily increasing in number and civilization. They belong to the Church of England, and have two fine stone churches, and three school-houses; the schools supported partly by the New England Company and partly by Indian funds. There were 320 children of which 120 attend the schools. The Mississaguas of Alnwick, Rice Lake, Mud Lake, and Scugog number altogether 496. Of the first the agent, in 1874, says they were more immoral and dishonest than any others he had ever met; and those of Scugog were if anything still worse, but in 1875 he notes an evident improvement. The other two bands are more honest and industrious, improving in civilization. Their reserves amount to about 7,200 acres. Those of Rice Lake and Mud Lake cultivate their ground, and show steady progress. There

is a church at Rice Lake and schools on the three larger reserves, but at Scugog there is neither school, teacher nor missionary, and the small band are in a wretched and destitute condition. The agent advises their being removed to Mud Lake, where they would be under better influences. The Chippewas of Snake Island number 133. They have 191 acres of their reserve cultivated, and work for the farmers and lumbermen in their vicinity. Their personal property is valued at about \$6,400. There is no want among them; they are of average morality and improving in civilization. They are principally Methodists. Those of Rama number 263. They have a resident Wesleyan missionary and 2 schools, not very well attended. Some of them are good farmers and support their families creditably, but the progress of the band has been much hindered by intemperance. They sold furs, boats and baskets during 1874 to the value of between 2,000 and 3,000 dollars.

The Chippewas of Beauséjour are located on islands in Georgian Bay. They number 282, cultivate 352 acres of land besides pasture land, own personal property to the value of \$10,500, work for the lumber luges, and are generally well behaved and industrious. They sold \$2,500 worth of fish and furs in 1874, and \$6,000 worth of boats. They have a school with 39 children taught by an Indian teacher supported by the Wesleyans.

Those of Nawash, or Cape Croker, have with few exceptions, given up hunting, and live by farming and fishing. They number 374, hold 15,586 acres of land, of which they have 2,500 cultivated and 1,000 in pasture. The value of the fish caught by them was \$1,200, and of their boats and nets, 4,000. They have three schools, with 89 pupils, 2 of the teachers being natives, and supported by their own money, except \$50 from the Church of England. About two-thirds are Protestants, the remainder Roman Catholics. There is a resident Wesleyan missionary, and in 1875 they built a church costing \$1,000 from their own funds. They attend their churches very regularly, and are evidently making progress in every way, are using better implements for agriculture, and have made excellent roads through their reserve.

The band at Saugeen numbers 30, and has a reserve of 8,600 acres, 350 cultivated and 500 in pasture. Their fisheries amounted to \$6,000. Furs \$500, boats and nets \$3,000, and baskets \$1,000. They have also a resident Wesleyan missionary, and a church and 2 schools, and are in a satisfactory and prosperous condition.

A SUCCESSFUL BOOK.

In some respects the most remarkable, and certainly the most successful book of the present generation is the novel of JULES VERNE, entitled *Around the World in 80 Days*. The number of editions in the original French is almost incalculable. It has been translated into every known language. The illustrations are superb, forming a very panorama of geography. The letter-press teems with incident and sparkling dialogue. After the book had run on its own merits for a long time, it was thrown into dramatic form and produced at the Paris Gaité, under the management of OFFENBACH, as the most gorgeous spectacular representation of the day. That play has been transplanted to other countries and we had a pretty fair view of it, in this city, only a few days ago. No better geographical and ethnological lesson could be found than this drama. VERNE acquired a large fortune by his book, and acquired a second by the play, in commemoration of which he has just launched a beautiful yacht, named *Tour Du Monde*, with which he proposes sailing over the seas at pleasure. The idea which he was the first to conceive and elaborate is still being prosecuted, and the latest attempt heard of is that of several newspapers, including the *New York Herald and Times*, *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated*, which have organized an expedition for the purpose of

encompassing the earth in 80 days. The *London Times* has joined the enterprise, and will send Dr. Russell, and an artist connected with the *The Illustrated News* will also accompany the expedition. The expedition will leave New York about June 1st, in a special train for San Francisco, which is advertised to go through to that city in 80 hours. This fast train will travel to Chicago over the Pennsylvania line, from whence it will go forward to Omaha by special engines under the direction of Mr. Stennett. The excursionists will remain in Chicago no longer than is necessary to transfer the train to the track of the Northwestern road. At San Francisco the newspaper party will take a steamer to Yokohama, and thence they will proceed to Calcutta, Cairo, and through the Mediterranean to France. They will proceed to England, and then embark for New York.

THE WHITE DOVES.

Every form of religious belief, even though corrupt, is a matter of public interest. Every phase of superstition has its moral of instruction, either attractive or deterrent. The latest sect of which we have heard is that of the Skoptzi or White Doves, which the Russian Government is trying its best to uproot, but hitherto without success. There is nothing in this world so difficult to combat as religious prejudice, and legislative or executive hostility only serves to give it renewed vitality. Not long since a large number of these people, including their chief, Kondrine, were put upon their trial, and now a fresh association of Skoptzi has been discovered in Southern Russia, and 300 of their number are about to be tried at Simpheropol. The strength of this sect is to be found in the wealth of several of its most zealous adherents, and in the mingled ignorance and superstition of the people among whom converts are sought. Each section has its prophet, who presides at the religious meetings, which are not held upon any fixed day or at any particular place, in order the more effectually to elude discovery. The service takes place at night, and commences by the singing of hymns composed by the prophet and committed to heart by his congregation. Men and women take it in turns to sing, after which they dance until they are exhausted. The Greek Church they consider to be the receptacle of every sort of sin, and it is termed by them the "Church of Babylon;" but some of the Russian Emperors, including Paul I. and Alexander I., and also the Empress Elizabeth, are claimed as members of this sect and raised to the rank of saints. They reject the sacraments, and express their opinions of priests by the saying that ample sleeves—the Russian priests wear them very large—hide a deceitful mind. Neophytes are only admitted after the celebration of elaborate rites, chief among which are invocations to their saints, and especially to Akoulina Evanoyna, their Holy Virgin. After this singing and dancing take place, as at the ordinary religious meetings, the prophet puts on white stockings, and, with a Bible in his hand, prays for strength to work miracles. He then tells different members of the congregation what fate is in store for them. These doctrines may seem more ludicrous than baneful; but they are said to be accompanied by other practices of the grossest immorality.

A GIGANTIC ENTERPRISE.

The European journals are enthusiastic over an engineering project which is said to throw the piercing of the Isthmus of Suez, the tunnelling of Mont Cenis and the English Channel, completely in the shade. The bold and original idea is that of an American Engineer, named SPALDING, and it is neither more nor less than the turning of the waters of the Black Sea into the Caspian, thereby connecting the latter with the Mediterranean. Mr. SPALDING maintains that the Caspian is drying up, and will shortly become a desert, while