THE TORONTO WORLD

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 12. 1883.

SHALL THE PEOPLE OF CANADA BE SUBJECT TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT?

At this stage of the history of our country, when, after the people of Ontario have passed through a general provincial election with that order which has always distinguished the men of our province, reformers and conservatives alike, but when at the last of the elections, namely, that of Algoma, we find the central authorities at Ottawa, instigated by the hostile government of Manitoba, sending a battery of artillery from Winnipeg into our province professedly to preserve order but in reality to overawe and intimidate our fellow citizens of Ontario who were not rioting or law breaking but holding peaceable discussions and meetings usual before an election, surely it is in season for our people irrespective of political party leanings to ask themselves: *Shall the people of Canada be subject to military government?*

If we understand the men of this free province, we are quite sure the answer will go forth emphatically "no." The mist and smoke of the political battle which ended in the contest of Algoma having cleared away, we—who are belonging to no party, but are Ontario first, last, and always, can look on the act of the dominion government free from feelings of party hostility, and with whole manhood of our province to consider some degree of confidence appeal to the the great and terrible danger we are to be subject to should the use of artillery be brought into requisition on every occasion where two partizan justices of the peace make affirmation that they apprehend disturbance at an election, and request military aid in preserving order.

The government of Sir John A. Macdonald has received fair play from this journal. Never have we said a harsh thing of him in a partisan spirit. We have supported, and still support much of his trade policy, but that is no reason why we should not protest against a soldiery armed with weapons of death being imported into our election affairs.

Had the soldiers been our own fellow citizens of Ontario the offence would have been great, but the soldiery of a province hostile to us, with interests antagonistic to ours, having been sent with their murderous artillery and field guns, to shoot down, if an excuse could be got, our fellow provincials, was in our opinion one of the greatest outrages ever perpetrated on the electorate and freemen of our country.

Thousands of those usually in sympathy with Sir John A. Macdonald in this province will remember, in elections to come, the unjustifiable attempt to overawe for the first time in the history of confederation the people of this country while exercising their right of electing a representative, by the introduction of armed men placed under the command of a hostile government.

We are not here discussing the boundary question, nor are we expressing any opinion on the merit or demerits of either the Mowat government or the opposition, but the people of this province would be lacking in all that makes men noble and patriotic if they permit, without protest, the presence of armed soldiers in our election contests.

COMMERCE AND CHRISTIANITY ON THE CONGO

Two very powerful forces there are, which will certainly work together to bring the heart of the dark continent into connection with civilization. One is the commercial spirit—the love of gain—which we can well understand will be immensely stimulated by the news of what Stanley has found in his latest ventures into the interior of Africa. The other is the missionary spirit—born of christianity—which, with far other aims, will still avail itself of the very material helps and stepping stones which commercial enterprise supplies. These two powerful forces may work together again, as they often have before; but they may even do better than before. Let us see whether an example from the Canadian Northwest may not be utilized to the boundless benefit of Africa—of what is in our time the real "New Continent."

We propose, then, that the British and other governments concerned in the development of the great African interests take a lesson from Canada, and do on the banks of the Congo what the Canadian government—the Pacific railway company very vigorously sustaining—has done in the Northwest. And that is—to hold the new African world a territory of prohibition—a region into which liquor cannot be introduced. What has been done here can be done there; let no one say that it cannot. The limited amount of naval and military force necessary to preserve order in case of emergencies would be amply sufficient to defeat smuggling, if only the authorities were in earnest. It used to be said that British ships, and American ships too, carrying missionaries to the heathen, carried also cargoes of rum to work the other way. That was the old plan, let us hope that it is exploded. The biggest commercial profit on the Congo will be found in promoting Christianity there, and keeping whisky away from the natives. The question as to how far and in what way the Canadian example of prohibition for new territories can be applied in the vast new continent of to-day is one of surpassing interest, which we hope to see practically answered, and as it should be.

PARALLEL CASES

Only a few weeks ago President Villard drove the last spike on the Northern Pacific, and a golden spike it was at that, amid the applause of a gathering of men representing, or supposed to represent, millions—in money, or influence, or both. Strange to tell, this apparent climax of triumph for the Northern Pacific was followed, if not in time actually accompanied, by a remarkable fall in the company's shares which nobody could account for. Down they went, and they kept going down in spite of the visible material success of the road. To some extent this paragraph, from an American paper, may explain:

A special telegram from Philadelphia announces that important litigation is about to be instituted in the courts of that city which promises to bring to light some inside facts as to the cause of the remarkable decline of Northern Pacific stocks. Two banking houses, one in Philadelphia and one in New York, held, it seems, large blocks of Northern Pacific stocks, both preferred and common, as collateral security for loans. Without due notice to the owners and, as is claimed, in violation of law, this stock was suddenly thrown upon the market to be sold at any price it would bring, the effect being among other causes to break the back of the market.

Suppose a Toronto man to have borrowed money from a Toronto bank, putting up other bank stock as collateral; and supposing the lending bank to have sold or thrown upon the market for a purpose the stock it held as security, the two operations would look very much alike. It appears as if such things are actually done on both sides of the border.

The Winnipeg Free Press admits that immigration to the Northwest has not come up to expectations. For this it assigns two reasons. First, the lack of railway communication through the most fertile parts of the country, on account of the policy of the government and the Canadian Pacific railway in discouraging the building of railways other than the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway; and second, the tariff wall between this country and the United States, which shuts the Northwest farmer from an American market for his grain.

The New York Sun says it seems rather odd that in Wyandotte county, Kansas, right on the stamping ground where old John Brown rallied his followers to fight the border ruffians, a colored man should be compelled by a masked mob to take an oath to remove his children from a public school. The soul of the old abolitionist, which is popularly supposed to be on the grand march, should swing around that way with all haste.

SPECULATING BANKS.

To the Editor of The World.

SIR: The revelations in connection with the Exchange bank in Montreal, the recent action of the Federal bank with Mr. Farley a broker, the insinuation that "H. S. Jackson" was none other than a prominent official of the bank, the suit of Carnegie v. Federal bank, must cause a certain amount of uneasiness in the minds of those who have placed confidence in our banks, and owners of stocks should see to it that none but active men of good business capacity are elected to the directorate. It is well known that certain prominent officials of a bank not far from King and not far from Yonge street are large dealers in stocks, that two of the principal officials have dealt largely together, and, as one at least of the two had not until a recent period the wherewithal to gamble with, the opinion is held by many that he must have been using the funds of the bank for that purpose, and the fact that he now drives a carriage and pair is proof that he must not only have speculated largely but well. Supposing for argument sake that the principal officer found it necessary to make a change in the interest of the bank and desired to move his partner from his present position dare he do it? I fancy not. This is a thought that should commend itself to the directors of the bank and also to our legislators, that some action may be taken to keep our bank officials from taking any chances with the bank money or availing themselves of the position they hold to use brokers for that purpose.

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