

FROM THE CAPITAL.

SIGHT OF OTTAWA.—RIDEAU HALL.—GOWAN'S OPERA HOUSE.—THE HOLMANS.—OPENING OF THE SESSION.

OTTAWA, FEB. 7.—Here we are again. These yearly visits to Ottawa have just zest enough to keep up a transitory interest. Ottawa is the session and little else to my mind. I hope my Capitoline friends will not be offended at this. Later, there is no doubt, their city will become beautiful and pleasing for its own sake. When that great back country is settled, when that great upper river is made navigable, when the locomotives of the Canada Pacific thunder through its streets, Ottawa must become a beehive of industry, and the centre to which thousands will gladly converge. But at present, those tall, cold, silent Parliamentary towers dwarf the city, and, when they are empty, the city itself looks empty. *Au contraire*, when they are full, how full indeed is the city. They come from all quarters, manufacturers, traders, importers, contractors, railroad men, this one with a petition, that one with a reclamation, lobbyist, wire-pullers, hangers on. The session is but two days old, and already the hotels are gorged with these men, vampires many of them, come to fatten upon the public thing.

Before entering upon our Parliamentary business proper,—indeed, there is little to write on the subject this week—let us ramble about the town a little. And first, a peep at Rideau Hall. It is situated at New Edinburgh, a little village at the confluence of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers. Hence the name. The building is not much to look at, being a rather irregular edifice of greyish stone. But the grounds are picturesque enough, the present Governor General having done a great deal towards improving them. He is very fond of curling, a game which he learned, I believe, in Montreal, and he has had a tasty rink constructed for himself. He has also an ice area for skating out in the open air. Tobogganing is a further source of amusement for the vice-royal family, and Lord Dufferin has had quite a break-neck hill made up for the exercise. To reach the top you have to climb three series of short ladders, each of which abuts on a small terrace. The grounds are well set with trees, some of them grand specimens of our native forests. The interior of the "Castle" has been very much improved since the days of Lord Lisgar. The present occupant is younger, livelier, fonder of society, and his tastes are more in accord with modern fashion. The only features which recall the former "reign," is the profusion of flowers, for Lady Lisgar was extremely fond of flowers, especially the wild varieties of this country. The drawing room is elegantly fitted up with rich furniture, rare paintings and countless articles of vertu. In the dining room are the Dufferin family portraits. The dining room can and is frequently converted into a stage, where amateur theatricals are performed. The mode of life pursued at Rideau is simple and princely together, a combination which will easily be understood by those who are aware what true nobility is, and how admirably it is personified in our Governor-General.

Driving back from Rideau, we encounter very little new in the city itself. It has grown certainly since last year, and you feel this, without exactly being able to point where the growth has taken place. The Parliament grounds have that appearance of finish which is derived from use, but they are still far from what they should be. Marshall Wood's plans were costly, but grand, and I seriously doubt whether that Yankee architect, whose "submissions" have been spoken of, will answer the purpose half as well. But he is a cheap man, and cheapness is one of the elements of Reform.

Ottawa has, however, got ahead of Montreal in one thing. It has a decent theatre, while you have absolutely none. The old Skating Rink has been replaced by Gowan's Opera House. It was inaugurated last week, by the Holman Company, under the patronage of the Governor-General, who attended with a full suite. The opera was the "Bohemian Girl," or Balfé's "Girl," as we fondly term that delicious partition, for short. I have always been a stickler for the Holmans, because they are so painstaking, conscientious, and because they are Canadian. Mr. Geo. Holman, is one of the best managers in America, and it is agreeable to know that he has got on so well in the world. Miss Sallie, in light opera, is always satisfactory, and her renderings this week, in Ottawa, show that the qualities of her voice are unimpaired. When the star system is abandoned, as it will be, by Strakosch, Maretzek and Grau, all of whom are losing money with it, and stock singers will be in requisition, Sallie Holman will then rank with the Kelloggs, the Abells, and other native artists. She will soon be heard in Montreal, I understand, where she is deservedly popular since the winter of 1872-73, and I am certain you will turn out in numbers to give her a fitting reception. The opening of the session took place on last Thursday, the 4th.

At three o'clock, the firing of the guns announced the arrival of His Excellency, at the Parliament House. After being seated on the Throne, the gentleman usher of the black rod summoned the Commons before the bar of the Senate. The representatives came, when His Excellency delivered the speech from the Throne.

The Staff-Officers who accompanied the Governor-General were Major General Selby Smyth, Captain the Hon. Mills Stapleton, Colonel Fletcher, Lieut. Hamilton, Colonels MacPherson, Stewart, Brunet, Ross, Egleson, Major Whyte and others.

The interior of the Senate Chamber presented

an animated appearance. There was a large and distinguished assemblage of ladies and gentlemen on the floor of the House, while the galleries were literally packed. The greater portion of the audience was ladies, and their toilets were of the richest. Owing to indisposition, the Countess of Dufferin was not present, but in the evening, she gave a reception in the Senate Chamber which was largely attended. CHAUDIERE.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE QUEEN'S HOTEL—TORONTO.

Some of the hotels of Toronto enhance its good repute with strangers, and none more so than the "Queen's Hotel," for it stands first in the order of merit of all the hotels in the city, and is generally regarded as second to none in the Dominion. This hotel has been closely associated with the name of Captain Dick, in its origin and progress, a name which is held in high esteem by the people of Toronto, and throughout Ontario, for his enterprise in ship-building, and in the establishing of steamboat traffic on Lake Ontario and the upper lakes; besides his efforts for the development of the resources of the country, through the promotion of sundry railway schemes, stamped him as one of the chief pioneers of the commercial and industrial progress of the Province. His energy, perseverance, ability and judgement, were such, that whatever he set his mind to accomplish became in time a realised success. In an eminent degree was this manifest in the establishment of the Queen's Hotel, which from small beginnings has, through gradual advance and steady prosperity, reached its present magnificent proportions.

The original design of the building was certainly not that of a first class hotel, for it consisted of two or three dwelling houses, which were ultimately leased and combined to form that early Presbyterian institution, "Knox College." On the removal of the college to other premises on Grosvenor street, Captain Dick was induced by some old Toronto friends to open a hotel in the College buildings, as the property was his own, and he had become a great favorite with the travelling portion of the community. Thus began the now popular, extensive and prosperous Queen's Hotel, which, since the death of Captain Dick, in November of last year, has been, and will continue to be, under the able management of Messrs. McGaw and Winnet, whose training and experience, for many years, under the former proprietor, give a sure guarantee of the future prosperity of the establishment.

At first there was only one centre block, which was gradually enlarged and extended; then, as the demand for increased accommodation required, one wing after another was added, till now, in its completed form, the building has a frontage range of 220 feet, with garden at each end, giving a total frontage of 344 feet.

The centre portion of the hotel is four stories high, with a tower surmounting it, rising to a height of eighty-five feet. The balcony over the main entrance is to be lengthened to double its present range, and also widened to the outer edge of the side walk. This balcony is to be enclosed with glass, for the purpose of forming a conservatory of choice flowers and plants, thus enhancing the pleasure of the guests, and giving quite a luxurious aspect to the hall on the first floor. Another balcony will also be erected in front of the third storey, and the whole arrangement, when completed, will largely contribute to the beauty of the structure, and give it quite an imposing aspect.

Besides the centre block, there is an extensive wing on either side, to the east and west—the latter of recent erection. These wings are not of the same altitude as the centre building, having only three stories and attics; but this diversity is pleasing, in relieving the structure of any monotony of architectural outline.

The grounds on each side are to be laid out in accordance with a tasteful design in ornamental gardening. Croquet lawns will minister to the amusement of the summer tourists, surrounding which there will be a profusion of rich flower plots, combined with statues, fountains, and grotto-like groupings of shrubbery, rocks, flower and plants.

The interior arrangements and equipments of the hotel are all that could be desired in relation to comfort, convenience and luxury, so that even the most fastidious taste could find no cause for complaint. Everywhere, from the kitchen to the attic, throughout all the ramifications, is there evidence of harmony of design, good taste and sound judgement. The bedrooms, parlours, dining-room, and all else, are richly furnished; and whilst there is even a sumptuousness in the draperies, carpets, bureaux, bedsteads, &c., of some of the suits of apartments for families, there is nothing loud or gaudy. The commercial traveller and the aristocratic tourist, alike, can feel that there are here the aspects of home more than the glare and excitement habitually characteristic of some large hotels. For winter comfort there are double windows, and steam-pipes all over the house, and in every room there are fire-places and grates, to afford, when desired by the guests, greater cheerfulness and warmth. On the various floors there are sundry bath-rooms, closets, &c., and the arrangements on the ground floor, in sample rooms, sitting rooms, bath rooms, water closets, and barber's shop, are unexcelled anywhere in our Dominion cities. Besides the public billiard-room, there is a private billiard-room, held in reserve for special use when desired by any of the guests.

It is not our province to descant on the merits of the culinary department, on bills of fare, on the catering to suit every palate, on the varied vintages in the wine cellar, or on the special virtues of the chief butler and chief baker; but simply to say that in these relations everything is in keeping with the other appointments of the establishment. We have already referred to the new landlords, Messrs. McGaw and Winnet, and may only further add that the old reputation of the Queen's Hotel will be fully sustained through their careful supervision, enterprise and courteous manners.

HAMILTON RACES.

Some of the odd scenes and the odd faces seen at the races on the ice on Burlington Bay on the 23rd ult. Both scenes and faces are typical and must be familiar to all outside of Hamilton, who have attended such sports. Next week, we will give a sketch of the races themselves.

HON. R. J. CARTWRIGHT.

The Minister of Finance is the youngest member of the Cabinet. He was born on the 4th Dec., 1835. He is son of the late R. D. Cartwright, Chaplain to the Forces at Kingston, and grandson of Hon. Richard Cartwright, a United Empire Loyalist, who was a member of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, which met in 1792, and continued to hold a seat in that body until his death in 1815. The subject of this sketch sat for Lennox and Addington in the Canadian assembly from 1863 until the Union. He was returned to the Commons for Lennox at the general elections of 1867, and acted in an independent way with the Macdonald administration for several years, but later, he joined the opposition, and on the 7th of November 1873, he was sworn of the Privy Council and appointed Minister of Finance. He lately negotiated an important loan in England with remarkable success, and, altogether, has so far proved himself the worthy occupant of an office which has been filled by several of the greatest names in Canada.

HON. A. J. SMITH, Q.C.

Mr. Smith was born at Westmoreland, New Brunswick, in 1822. After finishing his education at the Court Grammar School, he was called to the bar of his native Province and subsequently promoted to a Queen's Counsel. He has always held a high position in New Brunswick. From 1856 to 1863, and for a short period, in 1865, he was a member of the Executive Council. He sat in the Assembly from 1852 till the Union, was Attorney-General from 1862 to 1863, and held this same office in his own administration, 1865. He was a delegate to England with the present Judge Fisher in 1858, on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway; to the same country with the present Judge Allan, on public business in 1863, and to Washington with Hon. Messrs. Galt, Howland and Henry, in 1866, on the subject of reciprocal trade. He declined the Chief Judgeship of New Brunswick in 1866, and the Lieutenant-Governorship of the same Province in 1873. He was sworn of the Privy Council and appointed Minister of Marine and Fisheries in November 1873. Mr. Smith is one of the most eminent members of Parliament and of the Cabinet. He has discharged the duties of his department with marked ability.

THE CARAQUET RIOTS.

We gave an account of this unfortunate circumstance at the time of its occurrence. Our illustration represents the death of the young constable Gifford. Along with eight or nine special constables, he had gone up to a room to arrest the Frenchmen who had been pointed out as the chief instigators of the riot. On reaching the landing the door was opened and the room found full of people. A shot was fired, laying poor Gifford low. Then the constables rushed into the room, firing their revolvers and one of the rioters was shot. We are glad to chronicle that the troubles in Caraque have since been allayed.

SEND IN YOUR BILL.

The failure of Reciprocity is good game for fun. It looks so like a *fiasco*, that we cannot resist the temptation of having another squib at it. Brown the tinker has certainly not come up to the expectations of his patrons. His solder is too "soft," his pan leaks, and altogether the job has been poorly done. No wonder that he is threatened with loss of custom. The best thing he can do now is to "send in his bill," which muse be a pretty long one, and stop tinkering.

THE SKATING CARNIVAL.

This novel spectacle was exhibited on the 27th ult., at the Victoria Skating Rink, Montreal, in honor of the Governor-General. Instead of any lengthened description we refer our readers to the splendid double page illustration of it in the present issue of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. The pageant was not so gorgeous as two years ago, but, such as it was, we believe it surpassed anything ever attempted on the continent in all its accessories.

CURLING MATCH AT TORONTO.

The annual match between the Toronto and Caledonian Curling Clubs took place, on the 25th ult., five rinks a side, three on the Adelaide Street Rink and two on the Mutual Street Rink, play simultaneously. The ice was in splendid condition, and the temperature of the day all that the most enthusiastic curler could desire. Both clubs fought bravely, and some excellent playing was made.

The following are the scores:—

RINK NO. 1.	
TORONTO.	CALEDONIANS.
R. L. Cowan,	J. A. Gartshore,
C. W. Moberly,	J. A. Dillworth,
W. Bayly,	J. Malcolm,
J. S. Russell—19	R. Malcolm—19.

RINK NO. 2.

J. Wright,	J. Forsyth,
Rev. Dr. Barclay,	M. Paterson,
J. L. Smith,	J. White,
J. O. Heward—21.	Rev. W. F. Clark—18

RINK NO. 3.

T. McGaw,	J. Rennie,
Major Gray,	C. Hunter,
D. Walker,	J. Thompson,
Capt. Perry—32	W. Rennie—19.

RINK NO. 4.

W. Hill,	D. W. McIntosh,
C. Postlethwaite,	A. Noble,
J. Stovel,	W. Christie, Jr.,
J. Riddell—23.	R. Ramsay—13.

RINK NO. 5.

R. Shanklin,	J. Ritchie,
G. P. Shears,	R. Coulson,
D. S. Keith,	W. Ross,
D. Forbes—20	J. Pringle—22

Aggregate for the Toronto Club	115
do do Caledonian Club	86

Majority for the Toronto Club 20

PARLIAMENTARY.

The second session of the third Parliament of Canada met at Ottawa, on the 4th inst. At 3 p. m. His Excellency arrived in the Senate Chamber, and that body being summoned together, he was pleased to deliver the following speech:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have much satisfaction in meeting you at this early and convenient season.

THE N. W. MOUNTED POLICE.

I have to congratulate you upon the organization of the North West Police force, and the success of its operation. It has materially aided in the creation of confidence and goodwill among the Indian tribes, in the suppression of the liquor traffic, the establishment of legitimate trade, the collection of duties, and above all in maintaining security for life and property within the territory. Another effect of the presence of the Police in the North-West has been to enable the Government to largely reduce the strength of the military establishment in that country.

INDIAN TREATIES.

The negotiation of a friendly treaty with the Crees and Saulteaux of the North West for cession of territory may be regarded as a further guarantee for the continuation of amicable relations with the Indian tribes of the North West.

THE VICE-REGAL TOUR.

During the past summer I had the pleasure and advantage of visiting a very large portion of the Province of Ontario, including the whole coast of the Georgian Bay and Lake Superior. This official tour enabled me to form a better idea of the great extent of comparatively well settled country, and of that which is still almost undeveloped. I was everywhere received with welcome, and was much gratified in witnessing the enterprise, contentment and loyalty manifested.

SUPREME COURT FOR THE DOMINION.

Your attention will be invited to a measure for the creation of a Supreme Court. The necessity for such a measure has yearly become more and more apparent since the organization of the Dominion. It is essential to our system of jurisprudence and to the settlement of constitutional questions.

INSOLVENCY LAW.

You will also be invited to consider a bill relating to the important subject of insolvency.

THE NORTH-WEST—INSURANCE—COPYRIGHT.

Measures will be submitted to you providing for the re-organization of the Government of the North West, and the consolidation of the laws relating to that country, for a general insurance law and on the subject of copyright.

PACIFIC RAILWAY SURVEY.

Gratifying progress has been made in the survey of Canada Pacific R. R. route. Measures have been taken to secure the early construction of the Georgian Bay branch, and to provide a connection with the Eastern railroad system. The report of the surveys of the road from Lake Superior to Fort Garry, which will be ready in a few days, will afford information upon which tenders may be invited for the construction of the Eastern and Western portions of that section, so as to reach the navigable waters of the interior.

ESTIMATES.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you. The estimates for the present financial year will also be submitted. They will, I believe, be found to have been framed with every regard to economy consistent with efficiency in the public service.

CANADIAN TRADE.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am happy to believe that, notwithstanding the general and wide spread commercial depression which has prevailed over the continent, the trade of Canada is sound, and that the contraction we have experienced in some branches of industry for the past year has not been greater than might naturally have been anticipated.

THE NORTH-WEST TROUBLES AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Papers will be submitted to you on the North-West troubles, and in reference to the negotiations between the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia on the subject of the Pacific Railway.

IMMIGRATION.

Steps have been taken during the recess for a combination of efforts on the part of the several Provinces of the Dominion to promote emigration from Europe under the general direction of the Dominion officials. It is hoped that the effect will be increased efficiency and economy in this branch of the public service.

CONCLUSION.

I rely with confidence on your prudence and ability, and on your patriotic devotion to the great public interests entrusted to you, and pray that the divine blessing may rest upon your labors.

On the return of the members of the Commons to their Chamber, the usual announcements were made by the Speaker in respect to controverted election trials and the return of members. The new members were afterwards introduced, and received with cheers.

After the usual motions in respect to bribery, oaths of office and standing committees had been passed, a motion was adopted, submitted by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, that His Excellency's speech be taken into consideration to-morrow.

FEB. 5.—The Reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by Mr. Fréchet, of Lévis, and seconded by Mr. Colin McDonald, of Elgin. Sir John A. McDonald made no opposition.