

NORTH-WEST NOTES.

WINNIPEG, January 27th, 1885.

ment as that of the past, will continue to attract many thousands of strangers to Montreal. Of course from year to year new features will be introduced to maintain the interest, not so much of our visitors as of our own residents, who are ever clamorous for some new thing. This year as formerly the ice-palace was of course the focus of curiosity, but the condora or cairn on the Camps de Mars, and the ice lion in Place d'Armes were decidedly good in the way of novelty. As the latter now appears it is very striking. The fallen snow has concealed the joints of its blocks, and clothed it as with delicate fur. But whether in the grey dawn of morning, or by the glow of its electric lamps, or radiant with the chemicals of pyrotechny, or seen by simple moonlight, the ice palace is simply fascinating. Its transparent walls have given architecture a revelation of new possibilities, vying with those attained on a petty scale by the worker in costly gems. No description or picture can more than suggest it to any one who has not stood before its graceful tower and battlements.

The palace, the condora and mammoth lion, are the spectacular features of the Carnival apart from the regular winter sports of the city. All these latter have been greatly extended and systematized by the demands of the festival. Five years ago, before the Montreal Club was organized, the only tobogganning hills were the natural ones, which were accepted just as snow and wind left them, with all their bumps and hazards. Now there are half-a-dozen excellent slides well-maintained and so well managed that last week only two accidents, neither serious, occurred. Montreal in many ways is indebted to Mount Royal for picturesqueness and beauty. Not less so in the matter of winter sport. Our best toboggan hills descend its slopes. To ride down the steepest of them as I did, between and under lines of lanterns, with bonfires here and there, was an experience which made the formal drop of ordinary occasions tame indeed. As requiring no skill, as skating and curling do, this tobogganning sport is the most popular of all. Its chief interest consists in watching novices come down. As a rule there has to be a little parley of persuasion to induce a journey, then overcoat or dress is carefully tucked in, and with expression of mortal dread the hero or heroine slides down with the speed of an express train.

During the week each toboggan hill in turn was illuminated, and freely placed at the service of visitors. Nothing too cordial can be said in praise of the young athletes who spent hour after hour in despatching and piloting toboggans laden with merry-makers. Their courtesy seems to spring from thorough good nature, the true source of good manners.

As clubs these young men have derived a marked benefit from the carnivals. The festivals have immensely increased the interest of our people in winter sports. Where there was one snowshoer three years ago there are six now. The Montreal Club to-day numbers a thousand members, and is fast clearing its fine gymnasium and club-house of debt. This excellent club best exemplifies the advantages of young men associating together for manly sport. It has cultivated among hundreds of young fellows all the kindness of good fellowship, giving such of them as have special ability to excel in sport, leadership, or amusement, an opportunity to show it. It has notably developed the organizations which have made the carnivals successful, and is by far the best managed athletic club in Canada. Wherever an old member of it may be found, in Boston, Chicago, or Winnipeg, his weekly tramps and reunions are still the objects of fond remembrance. If few of our youth have intellectual tastes, they have the vigour of mind and body to make them good citizens, perhaps in the next generation to present the mental flowering of Scotland or New England.

While the carnivals have greatly stimulated the enjoyment of winter sports at home, our visitors from cities in northern latitudes are wakening up to the possibilities of fun which lie concealed in ice and snow. Not only all along the line of the St. Lawrence have rinks and toboggan slides been set up, but in Saratoga, Albany, and elsewhere in the United States, Montreal has set the fashion of making winter a time of wholesome recreation. Albany possesses like Toronto an opportunity for ice-boating denied to this snowy city, and so in one important particular can distance our attractions.

In the festivities of last week one significant fact deserves mention. Let me first say that that the carnivals of 1883 and 1884 were devised and managed by our English-speaking citizens. This winter a French Canadian Committee took in hand providing attractions for the East End—the section of the city of French population. This committee raised its own funds, expended them to suit itself, and except in contributing to a joint programme, was as distant from the original executive committee as if it had been formed in Toronto. On the second night of the carnival, the Frenchmen invited their sister snow-shoe clubs to join their procession. Out of a thousand members of the Montreal Club, four attended. Next night, at the storming of the ice palace, the few scores of French snowshoers who took part refused to join in the serpentine tramp over Mount Royal. On Thursday, however, something more creditable occurred. At the French snowshoers' concert, the English clubs turned out several hundred men, this largely at the instance of leading members of conciliating spirit. This whole matter shows clearly how Montreal is becoming two separate cities within one municipal boundary. Differences of race prevent the sympathy which either in the small field of civic life, or the larger one of country, is required for real union.

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ATTORNEY: "My dear madam, I find that your estate is heavily encumbered. You will have enough left to live on, but you must husband your resources." Widow: "Well, my daughter Mary is my only resource now." Attorney: "Exactly. Husband her as soon as possible."

THE return of Mr. Norquay from the Dominion Capital after his annual pilgrimage thereto in quest of better terms for the Province, was the occasion of a demonstration in his honour, participated in mainly by the Premier's friends. An address congratulating Mr. Norquay upon the "very favourable impression" he had made upon the people of the East, was presented to him, and in reply he made a speech, lauding the "great Conservative Party" and its renowned chieftain. But Mr. Norquay did not take the public into his confidence as to what has been promised him at Ottawa. It is learned from another source that the Province is to secure \$100,000 annually in lieu of her public lands, and that the swamp lands will be ceded to Manitoba. Of the latter the quantity is very considerable, and the expenditure necessary to render them fit for cultivation would not be very large. This so far as can be ascertained from outside sources, is the only tangible concession the Dominion Government has made. Not a single specific demand laid down in the bill of rights has, if rumour can be trusted, been granted.

Is the due concession sufficient? Will Mr. Norquay accept this as a final settlement of all claims? It is believed that he will accept the terms, or perhaps more correctly speaking, the term. Should he do so, his chance of a return to power at the next Provincial Election would be slim indeed. It was thought the Government would at the ensuing session pass a redistribution bill, dissolve, and appeal to the country. Mr. Norquay has intimated that he has no intention of pursuing such a course. It is hinted that he has promised the Dominion Government to recommend the acceptance of the terms, and if he does so he can easily carry their adoption, as he holds a majority of the House. By delay in dissolution he might hope to regain any popularity he lost by accepting the terms. If so he will reckon without his host, for the people of Manitoba, and especially the farmers, are not prepared to have their rights bartered away by their Premier to oblige Sir John Macdonald. The farmers are becoming very restless, and talk of holding a Convention here, at which they claim ten thousand delegates will be present. They will not appoint delegations to interview either the Local or Dominion Government, but they claim that decisive steps will be taken in a direction which will cause alarm both to the Dominion and the British Crown. It is hinted that a delegation will be sent to Washington to invite interference. Just what further steps it is proposed to take it is difficult to learn, as the leading spirits in the farmers' union are exercising great caution to prevent their programme becoming known. In the meantime the feeling of the citizens both of Winnipeg and the Province is far from satisfactory.

THE operations of the Montreal Wheat Purchasing Syndicate have proved a very material benefit to the farmers. In the early part of the season the prices ruled exceptionally low, but in consequence of the competition, and the apparent desire on the part of the Syndicate to pay the highest price, there has been a steady rise until to-day. Wheat that sold three months ago for 56c. and 58c. per bushel is bringing 75c. and 77c., and other grades accordingly. Farmers are having their confidence restored to some extent. Notes are being met with more promptness, and merchants are inclined to "ease up" a trifle with the farmers, who, by the way, are the principal debtors. One thing is evident, and that is that the Manitoba farmers, more especially those living near the railways, have an advantage over the farmers of Northern Dakota and Minnesota, the price of wheat in Manitoba being fifteen cents per bushel higher than it is in the States named. A great many farmers living south of the boundary gladly pay the duty of fifteen cents per bushel and bring their wheat into Manitoba to dispose of. The quality of the Manitoba wheat, notwithstanding the deluge of rain during the harvest season, has proved to be much better than was anticipated. It is estimated that there are still about two millions of bushels of wheat in the Province to be disposed of. With the revenue to be derived from this wheat, farmers will be enabled to prosecute their spring work with vigour.

THE prospects of immigration for next season are beginning to be canvassed with an eagerness indicative of the vital importance attached to that subject. When the question of immigration as affecting Canada is viewed in all its phases, one cannot help but conclude that something is wrong, that some one has blundered: that thousands of our money are being expended in a manner which secures a very inadequate return. What a hopeless task it appears to be to people the country with foreigners, to help build up a nation, when our young men, the very bone and sinew of the country, are leaving it in scores to assist in building the United States. When one considers that there are sixty thousand Canadians in Chicago, and that about one-third the population of Minneapolis and St. Paul are Canadians, the task of building up a country disadvantageously situated as Canada is, appears doubly hopeless. It will scarcely be denied that one intellectual and vigorous Canadian is worth to the country just as much as ten foreigners. The questions would naturally arise, then how should the money be spent? How are we to compete with the States? There appears to be but one answer, hopeless though it may seem: cease spending the money. We cannot compete with any degree of success. The United States afford advantages to the immigrant which we cannot offer. In climate that country offers from the extremest warmth to a degree of cold suited to the hardiest settler. In soil the country cannot be surpassed, if indeed it can be equalled. Certain it is, however, that for variety of soil it cannot be surpassed by any country in the world. Handicapped thus as Canada is in competing against the United States, and with thousands of her sons deserting her soil annually, is it any wonder that the unequal