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FERGUSON & GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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THE CANADIAN
Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, AUGUST 22, 1863.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

It is wonderful what an appetite poor human nature has for gossip and scandal. With what intense curiosity we pry into the secret affairs of our neighbors? How dull and insipid would be the gathering of elderly maids and matrons in Mrs. Smith's parlor, if they could not investigate the domestic economy of neighbor Jones—theorize wisely over the extravagance of his daughters—tell in whispered accents of the peccadillos of his sons, and turn poor Jones' domestic establishment generally inside out. It is but a higher form of this appetite which invests the work of poor half-crazy Boswell, with its irresistible charm, and has given a wide-spread popularity to 'My Diary North and South,' notwithstanding its more than questionable violations of conventional propriety. It is the same too which prompts us to thank the Hon. Mr. Cartier for that little speech of his, delivered in the House on the 13th inst., and thus reported by the Leader:

'Mr. Cartier pointed out that material changes had taken place in the government, and it was now different from the one on which a want of confidence motion had been passed and which advised the Governor to dissolve the House. He, therefore, on behalf of the House, demanded the explanations which were due.'

Now, to the popular imagination a Cabinet Council is an institution of unbending formality, of awful dignity, of immeasurable buckram and illimitable starch. A kind of human abstraction moved by inscrutable motives, which if not high above, are at least wide apart from those which control the conduct of ordinary men. The explanations which followed Mr. Cartier's speech gives us a glimpse of the inner life of a Cabinet Council. Not a sufficient one perhaps to reveal to us all its intricacies, but enough to show how eminently like any other human concern it is. Moved by the same impulses and afflicted with the same misunderstandings which belong to all the other relations of life.

With what credit—or the reverse—Ministers and ex-Ministers appear in our view behind the scenes, we offer no opinion. That question will be settled satisfactorily to every man according to his party predilections. The advocates of the Ministry will see nothing in the conduct of the Premier save a laudable desire to strengthen the

government, and so enable him to carry out the principles of his party. Its opponents, on the other hand, will see base ingratitude to colleagues, a corrupt clinging to the sweets of office, and much else of a similar kind. Goggles make sad work of a man's optics, when he attempts to decide on color. To the advocates of each party we leave the discussion of the question, contenting ourselves with a digest of the explanations given. On the day following the defeat of the Ministry, the Premier and Mr. Sicotte had an interview, at which it was agreed that the Lower Canadian section of the Cabinet should be strengthened by the appointment of Messrs. Dorion and Holton, and consequently the retirement of two of their present colleagues, one of whom it was agreed should be Mr. McGee. According to the Premier it was agreed on the same day, that the Double Majority should be abandoned, and Representation by Population left an open question. Mr. Sicotte, however, did not understand that this was agreed to, but had only been a subject of discussion. Negotiations with Messrs. Dorion and Holton followed; but these gentlemen could not be induced to enter the Cabinet under the leadership of Mr. Sicotte. This being the case, Mr. Sicotte was willing to appeal to the country with the Cabinet as it stood. The Premier, however, insisted that the co-operation of Messrs. Dorion and Holton must be had, at the same time intimating that it could be obtained only by giving the leadership of the Lower Canadian section to Mr. Dorion. Whereupon Mr. Sicotte had a meeting with his Lower Canadian colleagues, the result of which was that they placed their resignations in the hands of the Premier, who immediately charged Mr. Dorion with the duty of reconstructing that portion of the Cabinet.

The only change made in the Upper Canadian section was the substitution of Mr. Mowat for Mr. Foley. In the carrying out of this arrangement Mr. Foley complains that he was unfairly dealt with. He first heard of his dismissal from friends outside of the Cabinet. His demand for an explanation was not answered by the Premier for several days. He received a notice to attend a Cabinet meeting after, as he asserts, it had been determined to dismiss him. To this the Premier replies that Mr. Mowat took some time to consider whether he should accept the invitation to enter the Cabinet or not, that pending the decision of that gentleman he could give Mr. Foley no definite answer, but did so immediately he was made aware of Mr. Mowat's acceptance of office.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED CANADA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, August 14.

His Excellency the Governor General at three o'clock proceeded in state to the Legislative Council Chamber, and having taken his seat upon the throne, the Hon. Ulric Joseph Tessier informed His Excellency that the choice of the Legislative Council had fallen upon him to be their Speaker. His Excellency then commanded the attendance of the Legislative Assembly. The members of that body, proceeded by their Speaker, the Hon. Lewis Wallbridge, informed His Excellency that the choice of the Assembly had fallen upon him to be their Speaker, and he prayed for the members thereof the customary Parliamentary privileges. After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentleman of the Legislative Assembly,

I have called you together at this unusual season because I desired as soon as was practicable after the dissolution of the last Parliament, to obtain your advice and assistance in reference to the public affairs of the Province.

Although the period of the year at which you are now assembled is one that renders it difficult for many of you to leave your other vocations, in order to give attention to your parliamentary duties, I am persuaded that you will cheerfully co-operate with me at the present time in considering such legislative proposals as the exigencies of the public service may demand.

Measures of importance, the progress of which in the late Parliament was interrupted by the dissolution, will again be submitted to your notice.

I would specially direct your attention to the existing Militia law, which requires extensive amendment in order to place this important arm of public defence in a condition of efficiency. The large increase which has occurred in the volunteer force, and the offers of service which I continue to receive from new companies, are gratifying proofs of the patriotic zeal which animates the whole community in reference to the subject of public defence. The interest which has been displayed in the formation of drill associations and the manifest desire of the country to perfect themselves in the use of arms, are satisfactory evidences that the people of Canada are prepared to submit to personal sacrifices which can reasonably be demanded of them in order to enable them in the most efficient manner to put forth their strength in defence of their institutions and their homes, should circumstances ever require from them such an exhibition of patriotism. I trust to your wisdom to give a proper direction to the excellent spirit by which the people are animated and to your liberality to supply the means by which practical advantages may be obtained from it.

A bill for the equitable adjustment of the relations between debtor and creditor, and to afford relief to insolvent debtors, will be laid before you.

Certain alterations in the laws regulating the administration of justice will be submitted for your approbation.

The existing laws affecting the registration of titles to real property in Upper and Lower Canada, and concerning patents for inventions as well as the laws relating to the encouragement of agriculture will also claim your attention.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

The estimates for the current year, for which provision was not made by the late Parliament, together with such additional estimates as may be necessary at the present time, will be laid before you without delay.

The last Session of Parliament having abruptly terminated without the grant of the usual Supplies for carrying on the Government, I have been obliged to undertake the responsibility of authorizing advances out of the Public Chest to defray certain indispensable charges. Statements will be submitted to you from which you will perceive that these advances have been strictly limited to the unavoidable requirements of the Public Service; under these circumstances I confidently rely upon your readiness to sanction the outlay which has been thus incurred, as well as to provide the necessary expenses of the Government for the current year.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN:

I urge upon your early attention the state of the finances of the Province, and the relation which its expenditure bears to its income and resources. You will not fail to concur with me in the expression of regret that for some years past the public expenditure has exceeded the annual income, and I cannot doubt that you will agree with me that the time has arrived when a strenuous effort should be made to avert the continuance of this deficiency.

I have received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing copies of a correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the agent of the Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company, in reference to a proposal made by that Company for the establishment of a telegraphic and postal communication between Lake Superior and New Westminster, in British Columbia. The importance of such an undertaking to the British North American Provinces, both in a commercial and a military point of view, induces me to commend the subject to your consideration. Copies of the correspondence shall be laid before you, and I feel assured that should any proposal calculated to effect the establishment of such communication on terms advantageous to the Province be submitted to you it will receive encouragement at your hands.

I cannot refrain from congratulating you at this season of the year upon the prospect which everywhere presents itself of an abundant harvest. I sincerely trust that the prosperity with which it appears likely Providence will this year bless the agricultural classes, may produce a corresponding improvement in our commerce and manufactures.

In commending to your careful attention the public affairs of this Province, I depend upon your zeal and ability to promote whatever may be conducive to the advancement of its future welfare, and I humbly invoke the divine blessing upon your deliberations, that they may be entered upon in an unselfish and impartial spirit, and may tend to the

increase of unanimity, prosperity and contentment throughout the land.

His Excellency the Governor General then retired, and the Speaker called the House to order.

Hon. Mr. Fergusson Blair moved *pro forma* for leave to introduce a bill relating to Common Schools.

Hon. Mr. Fergusson Blair also moved *pro forma* that the members of the House be a committee on privilege to meet and adjourn at pleasure.

Hon. Mr. Fergusson Blair further moved that the address in reply to His Excellency's Gracious Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on Tuesday.—Carried.

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

QUEBEC, Aug. 14.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock, shortly after which the House were summoned to attend His Excellency in the Legislative Council Chamber. On their return, the Hon. J. S. Macdonald brought in a bill *pro forma* to provide for the administration of oaths of office to persons appointed as justices of the peace.

The Speaker then read in English the Speech from the throne, which was read also in French by the Clerk at the table.

The usual formal motions proposed at the commencement of a new Parliament were then proposed and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. J. S. Macdonald it was agreed to postpone the consideration of the Speech until Monday.

Mr. Brown gave notice of a motion for Monday, reciting the words of Hon. Messrs. Cartier, Galt and Rose in 1859, in regard to the existence of great difficulties in the government of the country, which were yearly becoming worse, and appointing a select committee to inquire and report upon the best means of remedying the evils referred to.

Mr. Brown also gave notice of a motion of enquiry into the progress of the Ottawa buildings.

On motion of Mr. Scatcherd, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, attended with poll books and the special return in the case of the Essex Election. Another return and other papers were ordered to be printed.

Mr. McGee gave notice of a motion for the return of any correspondence which may have taken place in reference to the question of the proposed Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald gave notice of an address, for Monday next, for any correspondence which may have taken place on the subject of the Militia of the Province, and of the armaments for the defence thereof.

The house adjourned at ten minutes before four.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Parliamentary papers; Report of the Special Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly on Credit Foncier; Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the affairs and financial condition of Toronto University and University College.

The proprietors of the Canadian Illustrated News thank the clerks, in whose department the distribution of public documents is a duty, for their careful attention.

EDINBURGH REVIEW.—This has been received from Leonard Scott & Co., New York, but no other of the Reviews with it. The present number of the Edinburgh is great in its subjects. These are: 1, Napier's Memorials of Claverhouse; 2, Druids and Bards; 3, Fergusson's History of the Modern Styles of Architecture; 4, Louis Blanc's French Revolution; 5, Sir George Cornwall Lewis on Forms of Government; 6, Xavier Raymond on the Navies of France and England; 7, the Sources of the Nile; 8, the Scots in France; the French in Scotland; 9, Lyell on the Antiquity of Man.

We have not yet had time to read those articles, but their titles give promise of a literary treat some day. Let those who have leisure at the sea-side or elsewhere in these warm days send for the Edinburgh Review and the other re-publications of Leonard Scott & Co., and enjoy themselves profitably, delightfully.

CHARLES LEGGE, Esq., Civil Engineer, Montreal.—The book and letter have come to hand, and will be noticed hereafter. The Editor has not time to go into the subject, but he thanks you cordially.

EMMIE MANSFIELD.—The Story is not rejected; nor was anything depreciatory meant in the remark we made. It will be printed. A letter will reach you as intimated.

MORNING.—The beautiful lines with this title, inserted on another page, have been printed, unfortunately, with two or three typographical errors.