

exact only a small license, but Parliament did not scruple to tax American flour, thus showing that even in 1860 our policy was not dictated by our fears, but by the appreciation of our own interests. The tax on flour was not deemed to be for the interest of Canada, and it was repealed. It has now been discovered that the granting of licenses to American fishermen to fish in Canadian waters was not for the interest of Canada, and that system has been abolished. It has also been supposed that the freedom of our coasting trade heretofore conceded has not been to our interest, and that, too, has been or is certainly to be withdrawn. But the Americans may depend upon it that if our own lubberly marines cannot do our carrying trade to our entire satisfaction, we shall reopen our ports to their smart skippers just as soon as it will suit our interests to do so. The repeal of the duty on flour, &c., within a short time after it was put on, ought to be conclusive proof that Canada has no faith in the system of biting off its nose to spite its face. And if the commerce of Canada should suffer next season by the enforcement of the Act to regulate the coasting trade, that Act will just as surely be repealed by about this day twelve months. There is nothing retaliatory in such a policy. So far from this spirit pervading the legislation of Canada, it has avowedly been framed, in so far as it could be, for the express purpose of securing more intimate commercial relations between this country and the United States. If it has failed in effecting this purpose, then the time has come to change it, or to direct it to those ends which are within our reach. Even in the matter of the fisheries, Canada acted solely with a view to her own interests. When the licenses were instituted it was to prevent a hardship to American fishermen whom Canada regarded as victims of, rather than parties to, the ill-judged policy of the United States. When the licenses were continued year after year, it was because Canada hoped her liberality would bring a fair requital. And these fisheries will undoubtedly be again thrown open to the Americans just as soon as Canada is convinced that such a course will serve its own interests, or is even satisfied that it would not injure them.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY, 1870.—This is the title of a new annual just issued by Mr. H. J. Morgan, from the press of Messrs. Bell & Woodburn. It is neatly got up, and the arrangement of the matter is excellent. Doubtless members of Parliament and of the Local Legislatures will encourage the continuance of the publication in future years.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

No. 7.—BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By the Rev. E. A. Dawson, Ottawa.

So BRITISH COLUMBIA, with its rich gold mines and inexhaustible fisheries, its safe harbours, its fertile valleys and finely wooded mountain tracts, must be abandoned! And why? Because, for the last few years, it has cost something like £2,200 per annum to retain possession of it. There is, of course, nothing in return for this enormous annual outlay. The produce of the gold mines, of the coal fields, of the fisheries, of the vast forests and rich plains, cannot be put in comparison with £2,200 per annum. This superfluous and extravagant expenditure beggars the Imperial exchequer; and to a degree that never can be made amends for by any royalty on mines, whether of gold or coal, or customs duties, or taxes of any kind on produce, or articles of trade, exports, or imports, or anything whatsoever. The £2,200 must be got rid of, together with all such like items of colonial expenditure, no matter whether the colonies be cut adrift by this essential economy, or sunk forever to the bottom. But, is it true that the priceless colony of BRITISH COLUMBIA must be abandoned, because the economists of the day have resolved to effect a saving of £2,200? It is only the Island of SAN JUAN that has cost so much for the last ten years. It is proposed, merely, to let it go and retain BRITISH COLUMBIA, of which the little island is nothing more than an insignificant fragment. But might not circumstances arise in which the great and rich colony of British Columbia could not be held without the island of San Juan? Anyone who considers, or who, in the absence of generally diffused information, has it in his power to consider the position of this island, cannot fail to see that it is so situated as to command the approach from the Pacific Ocean, by the Frea Straits to Victoria, the flourishing chief city of Vancouver's Island, and NEW WESTMINSTER on the mainland, the capital of British Columbia. General Cass, an American official, holds, or pretends to hold, a very different view. But if JUAN ISLAND did not occupy a commanding position, both as regards British Columbia and the United States Territory, why should the Americans be so anxious to get possession of it? It is of little value in an agricultural point of view. There are many other islands in the GEORGIAN SOUND—that portion of the sea which divides Vancouver's Island from the Continent. These islands afford all the shelter that can be desired for American ships. But they do not command, in a military or naval sense, the sound or strait. Hence, there is no question of them; but heaven and earth must be put in commotion in order to obtain

complete possession of SAN JUAN. In the opinion of the Americans, therefore, it is an important position. Ever since 1846 they have fought for it with the weapons of diplomacy. As they persisted in rejecting the obvious meaning of the Treaty of that year it was found necessary to agree temporarily upon a joint occupation of the Island, by British and American troops. This has caused serious inconvenience to the American Government, whilst it has subjected the British Treasury to no greater evil than the loss, if indeed it be a loss to have a portion of our brave army in such excellent quarters, of £2,200 per annum. As regards the United States, the Government at Washington recognizes only military rule in the Island. The civil authority of the neighbouring Territory refuses to accept this arrangement, and even goes so far as to arrest and otherwise punish officers of the United States army while acting under orders from the war department of their country. Surely, therefore, the better for the Americans themselves the sooner such utter confusion comes to an end, even if the result of the arbitration at present pending, should be, as it ought to be, to give final possession of the too celebrated Island to Great Britain.

It is claimed on the part of the British Government that the boundary line, as fixed by the treaty of 1846, passes along the centre of the FREA STRAITS and the GEORGIAN GULF. The islands, in this sound or gulf, situated between the Continent of America and Vancouver Island, were not, at the time of the Treaty, if at all known to the British Commissioner, considered to be of any importance. Now that the immense resources of BRITISH COLUMBIA have been brought to light, that it has become a British Colony, and that its gold has already built up so many fortunes, it is not only important but necessary that the approaches to a land of such value, should be as secure as possible against every kind of danger. There is no security for the commerce of BRITISH COLUMBIA, no safe access to its capital, NEW WESTMINSTER, so long as the Island—SAN JUAN—which lies so close to the coast of Vancouver, is in the possession of a foreign power. It commands the navigable channel leading to the Columbian capital at several points. This may be seen by glancing at a map, for the accuracy of which we have the authority of the United States Government. Vainly, then, shall General Cass or other American officials pretend, in order to lessen the interest of the British people in the pending arbitration, that JUAN ISLAND does not command the passage from Victoria and from the Ocean, towards the South, to NEW WESTMINSTER, and is of no importance, consequently, either to GREAT BRITAIN or to the UNITED STATES. So anxious were the British authorities to arrive at an amicable settlement of a boundary question which is of such consequence to them, that they proposed a compromise which conceded everything except the possession of the power to possess a broad and rich colony. By the proposed arrangement, all the islands in the gulf or strait, are left to the Americans, with the single exception of SAN JUAN, which lies so near to the coast of VANCOUVER. The true boundary line as fixed by the treaty of 1846, passes through the strait of Rosario and is more in the centre of the greater strait or gulf, which divides Vancouver's Island from the continent. The cuteness and sophistry of the Americans have prevailed so far as to cause the idea of maintaining this line to be abandoned by the British authorities. What, however, if the arbitration should sustain it! And, indeed, if it does not, we may soon hear of a claim to remove the boundary line from the centre of the Canadian Lakes and St. Lawrence, to the shortest imaginable distance from the Canadian shores, and so have an enemy firing at us with ease and safety and efficiency, if it ever happened that we should have an enemy on that part of the continent known as the United States. May it be hoped that we never shall have such an enemy? But it belongs to the wisdom of statesmen to provide against every possible contingency.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

PARLIAMENTARY.

OTTAWA, March 21, 1870.

March 14.—The greater portion of this day's sitting (in fact no other matter of general interest was introduced) was occupied in discussing routes and roads and mails to connect us with our coy cousins of the North-West. This arose out of a motion by the hon. member for Russell, asking for a return of the survey of the Neepigon country. The advocates for a railway through our own territory were not silent, and there were those in the House who thought that branches from the North Pacific Railway would meet our requirements. If the Red River region is to form an integral portion of the Dominion, it won't do—indeed in won't, let the cost be what it may—to depend on the good-will and pleasure of our neighbours for means of intercourse. So situated, we should hold our possession by the most precarious of tenures. The speech of the hon. mover was almost unique. The learned Doctor favoured the House with an elaborate dissertation on the geographical and geological features of this interesting country, and it would scarcely be too much to say that almost as much may be learned from the hon. gentleman's speech as from all the dozens of books, the hundreds of pamphlets, and the thousands of newspaper articles that have been devoted to the subject. From the very first day of the session up to this time—never absent during and before the sitting of the House—an Indian, of pleasing countenance and goodly proportions, has been an occupant of the lobby. The poor fellow has some grievance to ventilate, some wrong to be atoned for, but with the dignity of his race, he has all its hereditary reticence, and rarely speaks—never, unless he is spoken to. This is not an effective style of lobbying, and, unless supplemented by a miracle, will hardly effect the object he has in view. It presents a curious subject for reflection; the idea that this, one of the few remaining atoms of the race, once sole and undisputed lords of all around us, should not be able to find within the Chamber, whose precinct he haunts, and which now rules the plains, the streams, the forests of his forefathers, even one in whose veins runs the blood of the red man, or one with whom he can claim the

slightest degree of affinity. Such are the strange mutations of time.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

It would be extremely gratifying were this notice to direct the attention of some kind-hearted member or members of Parliament to the poor man and to his case, and, should he be found deserving of assistance, to use their influence in his behalf.

March 15.—The proceedings in the House of Commons were even more strictly confined to one question than they were yesterday. A few returns were made to motions for correspondence, &c., among which, some of the newspapers state, was the correspondence respecting outrages and depredations committed by American fishermen; while the actual return to that particular motion was that there existed no correspondence of that nature in the Governor-General's Department. Its absence is by no means a subject for regret.

March 16.—In the earlier part of the sitting Mr. Thompson introduced a bill respecting the Postal Service, in which he proposed to abolish the franking privilege. This very much resembled the motions made at various times to abrogate the members' indemnity—made because it was certain they would not be carried. Then there was a long speech by Mr. Huntington, in which he favoured a closer commercial connection, something like a customs union, with the United States. There is little doubt but that Mr. Huntington means well, but his projects are something more than extraordinary. Let us see the man who can surpass the proposition, that we, an integral portion of the British Empire, should so tax British manufactures as to exclude them in favour of American productions, for this is what Mr. Huntington's scheme in reality points at. Sir Francis, and a little roughly, too, burst the unpatriotic bubbles. The subject was discussed at great length, but the general feeling of the House was sound and patriotic. Canada appears to get on very well without reciprocity; better and better from year to year; and now we are about to treat our neighbours to a *déjeuner* after their own style. Let us wait the result. If it should be necessary to follow breakfast with dinner we have the means at hand—the admission of British goods free, or at a very low duty, (and some other mode of raising revenue could, I think, be found) which, by a thousand channels would find their way over the border, would give our friends such an appetite for a reciprocity to which we could accede, that there would no longer be the slightest occasion to look to Washington.

Six inches lower and a Bourbon would have been king of France, as Napoleon said when the Arnstadt student drove a bullet through his hat. Six inches nearer and there might have been a vacancy in the peerage of Canada. During the violent gale that prevailed to-day a stone was blown off the Parliament buildings and fell, through a skylight, into the library, almost grazing the Hon. Mr. Tessier, who was sitting there, reading.

March 17.—In the early part of the sitting Mr. Currier introduced a bill respecting the Ottawa City Passenger Railway, which, some persons, with the City Corporation at their head, are opposing as if it would bring the plague in its trains. His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to inform the House that Her Majesty would not be advised to reject certain Acts passed in the last session of the Dominion Parliament. The sitting was almost entirely passed in a discussion on concurrence in the Banking Resolutions, and in some points they were sharply contested. Three divisions took place within half an hour; in the first the opponents of Government mustered in considerable force and presented a rather formidable front; the third, led by Mr. Thomas Ferguson, was almost Falstaffian; the gallant gentleman was followed by 4, —the opposing phalanx mustered 133.

March 1.—The Minister of Justice introduced the Supreme Court Bill, in relation to which he made an exceedingly satisfactory announcement, viz: that it was not intended to abrogate the right of appeal to England. This link is not the weakest or the least important in the chain that unites us to the Empire. The remainder of the sitting was occupied on the Electoral Representation Bill. The New Brunswick members, Col. Grey among them, advocated the introduction of the Ballot. By all means let those who wish for it have it: this much vaunted institution is much like the never-to-be-forgotten chips in the partridge. Mr. Howe made a very sensible speech recommending compromise and conciliation. An incident occurred to-day, exhibiting proof of the extreme and minute accuracy required in matters pertaining to legislation. The "Votes and Proceedings" were printed with a comma where a semi-colon should have been, which slightly altered the sense in one of the Banking Resolutions. Fortunately, the astute clerk of the Commons made the discovery before the papers were circulated, and the alteration was easily and speedily effected. A tale is told in the House of the misplacement of a comma (which was not discovered) having given an Act of Parliament a meaning, the exact opposite of what was intended by its framers.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending March 22, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician, 387 Notre Dame Street.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
We'nsday, March 16.....	23°	40°	33°
Thursday, " 17.....	29°	32°	26°
Friday, " 18.....	30°	40°	32°
Saturday, " 19.....	27°	40°	30°
Sunday, " 20.....	30°	30°	31°
Monday, " 21.....	36°	34°	38°
Tuesday, " 22.....	36°	39°	30°
	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
We'nsday, March 16.....	40°	16°	28°
Thursday, " 17.....	34°	26°	30°
Friday, " 18.....	42°	22°	32°
Saturday, " 19.....	42°	14°	28°
Sunday, " 20.....	38°	18°	28°
Monday, " 21.....	38°	30°	34°
Tuesday, " 22.....	40°	30°	35°

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
We'nsday, March 16.....	29.93	29.83	29.76
Thursday, " 17.....	29.56	29.65	29.75
Friday, " 18.....	29.56	30.63	30.10
Saturday, " 19.....	30.22	30.22	30.20
Sunday, " 20.....	30.14	30.10	30.60
Monday, " 21.....	29.70	29.73	29.84
Tuesday, " 22.....	29.88	29.90	29.91