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AFFAIRS IN CANADA.

The Legislature of Ontario is in a condition to be envied. It is in the happy possession of a surplus of money and a surplus of time. The business might be got through in four or five weeks, judging from the amount of it before the House, but that would not suit the dignity and some other concerns of our M.P.P.'s, so the session will be made to drag out two months, and each member will feel that he has done his duty to the Province and earned his \$800. A little breeze arose about the Agricultural College at Guelph, which the members of the Opposition have consistently opposed, on the ground of its inefficiency—but this year the attack upon it was neither very strong nor very persistent. The Budget was in every way satisfactory. The receipts for 1877 amounted to \$2,452,077, and the expenditure to \$2,368,315, leaving a surplus of \$83,762. The prospects for the coming year are good.

The Quebec Legislature is in a very different condition. Some prominent members have been accused by the *Minerve* and *Le National* of conspiring in the Deslongchamps affair against the Hon. Provincial Secretary. The Government have a difficulty on their hands with regard to the million dollars promised by the City of Montreal toward a new railroad, but on certain conditions as to route—which conditions the Government appear to set at naught. The Quebec Government, which assumed the building of the Railway, has not fulfilled the conditions, and Montreal refuses to be robbed out of more than the \$350,000 which it has paid, believing it would get what it bargained for. The Government propose to pass a law to sell the city's property if the money is not paid; and the City Council has not met to protest; no "Citizens" meeting has been called, and in fact nothing has been done. Above a dozen citizens of Montreal are members of the Legislature of Quebec, including its Mayor, and five ex-Aldermen; but most of them are supporters of the priestly De Boucherville Government, consequently passive in the matter. Might is not right, and the habitants of Lower Canada should not be allowed to rule the city of Montreal and impose swindling legislation upon its proprietors and tax-payers. Is there not public opinion enough to prevent such a monstrous proceeding? Is it constitutional?

The De Boucherville Government will stop at nothing, and they have a majority in the House. How can justice be got?

But all are waiting anxiously for the Budget. The Hon. Treasurer has been working at a most difficult problem in the arithmetic of finance, viz., how to borrow money at seven per cent—lend it at six per cent, and make a clear profit out of the transaction. The explanation will be of interest, opening up a new branch of business, and, probably, putting an end to trade depression.

Mr. Jones was returned for Halifax on Tuesday by a comparatively small majority. The *Toronto Mail* has taken in its flag and distributed the type which was set up to head many items of news "Victory!"

The Windsor Hotel, Montreal, was opened for business on Monday last. For architectural magnificence, for topographical position, commanding a view of the St. Lawrence, Belœil and Boucherville, for the combination of elegance and comfort, the Windsor will rank among the first hotels on either continent. It will add a new attraction to Montreal, for it will give travellers the comfort and convenience they have hitherto been unable to find. Something extraordinary it must be, for even the *Montreal Witness* has been tempted to forget its high calling and from its pious heart commend the hotel. For the Windsor it is well—and for the rest—*Nunc Dimittis*.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The war-storm in England is blowing itself out. Peace is not yet assured, and will not be while there is a chance to make war, and the Earl of Beaconsfield is at the head of the government, but the prospects are cheering. At last "British interests" have been defined, they are the passage of the Dardanelles, the occupation of Constantinople and some portions of Turkish territory not yet indicated. But in all these the interests of England and Austria are identical, and the two powers combined will compel Russia to incline to reason and moderation. It seems difficult to discover why Russia should be denied the free passage of the Dardanelles, in time of peace, in common with all the other European powers, and that appears to be the main question. But it will be settled by diplomacy and not by weapons of war, as between Russia and Turkey in the first instance, with reference to England for the ultimate decision. The government have asked for a supplementary vote of six millions sterling, not as an incentive to war, but to show "that when England had once decided on a course she was determined not to leave her sword unsharpened." So that the English Plenipotentiary is to hold a sharpened sword to the throat of Russia. The government will take the vote of the money as a vote of confidence, and that will give the opportunity for a discussion of the government's whole Eastern policy. Mr. Forster will move an amendment and the Marquis of Hartington will wind up the debate. Meantime public opinion will express itself, the country will make its voice heard, and the cabinet must defer to that or cease to be. It will doubtless be found, as it was found before, that the sober and rightminded among the people form a majority, and will not fight to bolster up a Turkish government, which means iniquity.

Latest London telegrams tell us the Conservatives in the House of Commons are expected to give a solid support to the credit vote. There are one or two defections, but no more are probable. The Liberals, on the contrary, are divided. The Home Rulers have not yet determined on their course, but will probably mostly abstain from voting. The majority for the credit is estimated at over one hundred. Meetings are being held throughout the country to influence the Parliament against the credit, but mostly by Liberal or peace organizations.

Turkey is in extremis, not only sick, but undergoing a process of amputation. The war encampment she has so long maintained to the disgrace of all Europe, seems likely to be broken up. Russia's triumph is complete. Scarcely the rag of an army to oppose her march to Constantinople, dictating terms of peace which Turkey accepts almost blindly. The tiger will be caged at last. The conditions of peace are sweeping enough in all conscience. Roumania will be free in reality as well as in name. Bulgaria will have the liberty and the justice it has so long pleaded for. Serbia will be no longer under Turkish misrule and despotism, while Russia will secure the passage of the Dardanelles for her men-of-war, and twenty millions sterling as war indemnity. Turkey will hold Constantinople, but will lose much territory. This means little less than the breaking up of the Turkish Empire in Europe. The country is bankrupt and will scarcely command credit in Europe again. The army is well nigh swept away, the people are in a panic, the Sultan has struck a humble attitude asking for peace at any price.

Russia will have suffered greatly from the war, no matter what increase of territory may be, or what the war indemnity. During the year 1877 loans were contracted to aid in the prosecution of the war against Turkey to the amount of £52,000,000. The revenue for 1876 was £76,000,000—a falling off from 1875, when it was £79,267,000. The decrease for 1877 will be still more, and the prospect for 1878 is even worse.

A telegram from Washington says the general principles on which the new tariff bill is based are reduction and simplification, and with sections directly looking to an enlargement of our foreign trade. Schedules and classifications of the present tariff are followed. A slight reduction is made, averaging about 20 per cent. of the present rates, in the entire list, though in wines, brandies, cigars and other articles of like character, there is no reduction. There are no compound duties, rates being either specific or *ad valorem*. There is no free list, every article that is not dutiable is admitted free without specification or enumeration. The present number of articles in the tariff laws is reduced to about 50 all told. Changes have been made from *ad valorem* to specific duties, wherever practicable. It is claimed that the bill reduces the cost of collection from \$7,250,000 to less than \$3,000,000.