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WILLIAM C. MILLNER,
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VOL. 7.—NO. 43.

SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1877.

WHOLE NO. 345.

Canadian Public Works.

THEIR COST, EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE
AS DESCRIBED BY MINISTER MAC-
KENZIE.

The report of the Canadian Minister of Public Works for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, is well calculated to inspire respect for the public spirit of our neighbors across the border. The report, with its appendices, makes a volume of 280 pages and furnishes a multiplicity of details concerning the canals, river navigation, harbors and piers, railways and public buildings of the Dominion, which others than those immediately interested may study with interest and profit. The Minister, in fact, has prepared a document so wide in its range and yet so thorough in its descriptive explanations and statistical data as to completely uncover and make public the entire operations of his department.

The expenditures on account of the several works during the year has been \$11,406,443.42, divided as follows: Construction, \$6,998,906.83; repairs, \$2,521,521.94; staff and maintenance, \$1,884,014.65. Of the whole amount \$2,312,952.53 were expended on the Pacific Railway, \$998,991.46 on the Intercolonial, and \$2,389,544.21 on the canals, making a total of \$5,691,438.20, the balance of the year's expenditure being \$5,715,005.22.

The Government has constructed and placed under the control of the department canals on five routes of inland navigation. The routes specified by the report are the St. Lawrence and Western lakes, the Ottawa to the city Ottawa, the Rideau navigation from Ottawa to Kingston, the River Richelieu to Lake Champlain, and the St. Peter's Canal, Cape Breton Nova Scotia. The first of these routes extends from the Straits of Belle Isle, Newfoundland, to Duluth, at the head of Lake Superior, a distance of 2,884 statute miles. The canals are seven in number, and have an aggregate length of 7,083 miles. On one of them, the Lac Seul, new work during the year covered by the report. Whenever the exigencies of commerce shall call for it, the depth of water in this canal will be increased from 13 feet to the present depth of 15 feet, hence the locks and all the main structures are being "constructed to the depth of 14 feet on the lock sills. In connection with another—the Welland—an extensive scheme of new work has been devised. The northern division embraces twenty sections and the southern sixteen. Of these thirty-six sections, twenty-seven were under contract at the date of the report. On all the other canals needed repairs and many improvements have been made.

The rivers controlled by the Dominion Government are the St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Superior; the Ottawa, St. Croix, Restigouche, St. John, Tidal, Missisquoi, Fraser and Red, in Manitoba. On the St. Lawrence work has been prosecuted for the purpose of attaining a depth of twenty-two feet at lowest water between Quebec and Montreal. A survey of the Niagara River has been ordered, for the purpose of determining to what extent the crib of Buffalo water-works, placed midway in the stream, interferes with navigation.

The revenue and expenditure for slides and booms in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the Ottawa River, forming the boundary between the two provinces, is stated as follows:

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Quebec.	\$14,665.35	\$27,750.43
Ontario.	4,309.38	4,603.57
Ottawa River.	36,398.92	36,398.92
Totals.	\$55,373.65	\$68,742.92

Independent of the amounts expended for repairs, staff and maintenance, the expenditures on the St. Lawrence, Trent and Ottawa Rivers for the years 1873-6 reached the sum of \$212,219.05. So much has been done in the several harbors of the Dominion that columns would be required to notice them in order. Some of the works have required large expenditure and been tedious to effect, but all, whether of greater or less magnitude, have contributed to the improvement of navigation and commercial advancement.

In Ottawa the outlay on public buildings accounts embraces the Parliament Houses, department buildings, Post Office, Custom House, &c. In Toronto a new Customs House has been completed, and an examining warehouse well advanced toward completion. In Kingston the expenditures were mainly on fortifications. Other works embraced a Post Office and examining warehouse at Montreal, a Post Office at St. John, a Quarantine Hospital at Halifax, a Customs House at Pictou, a Marine Hospital at Sydney, several buildings at Winnipeg, a Penitentiary in British Columbia, and a Marine Hospital in Sonris, P. E. I. In British Columbia Minister Mackenzie reports 632 miles of telegraph, on the line of which there are five submerged cables crossing straits and a half miles. The cables average a weight of 5,000 pounds to the mile. The expenditure on account of this line during the year is shown to be \$41,329.04 and the revenues \$8,567.41.

Referring to railways, the report shows that \$3,301,942.93 were expended on the Pacific and Inter-

colonial railways. The total capital outlay on account of the latter has been \$13,548,945.07, of which amount \$316,631.68 were expended during the fiscal year. The entire line was opened for express passenger traffic on the 1st of July last. Its working expenses, however, have exceeded its gross earnings for the year to the extent of \$28,628.82, as shown by the following official figures taken from the report:

	Working expenses for the year.	Gross earnings for the year.
	\$877,485.28	\$48,961.46
Deficit.	\$28,628.82	

The Prince Edward Island Railway also shows a deficit for the year of \$96,869.47, its earnings having been \$118,060.96 and its expenses \$214,930.43. This line the report shows to be 108.5 miles in length with a gauge of 3 1/2 feet. Exclusive of the right of way the cost was \$2,862,776, or about \$16,300 per mile. The report sets forth that the work was not of a faultless character when assumed by the Dominion Government. The traffic for the year embraced 99,968 passengers and 28,358 tons of freight. A mass of interesting information concerning the Pacific Railway, embracing surveys, location of line and the state of work, is found in the report. It may be stated in brief that 681 miles of the line have been definitely located and 226 1/2 miles placed under contract for construction. The route seemingly determined on, from Fort William, on Lake Superior, to Pacific waters, measuring 2,002 miles. The report also deals with northwestern communication, tunnelling the Detroit River and other matters of great interest to the statistician and friend of human progress.

A TERRIBLE TALE of suffering through shipwreck is that which comes to us from Boston, concerning the British barque "Maria." The vessel, laden with lumber and bound from Dover, Georgia, to Belfast, Ireland, sprang a leak in a gale and became water-logged. The weight of the lumber turned her on her beam ends, but, on the masts breaking away, she righted, and the crew, numbering fourteen, were enabled to gain the deck where there provisions being destroyed, they began to die of starvation. As one died the others huddled on his body, until after the lapse of thirty-two days the ship was sighted, and the only two who survived rescued. Perhaps in one or two days more, both men would have perished, and the vessel might have been classed amongst the long list of those of which nothing is heard, and whose fate is recorded by the word "missing." In view of this and many similar disasters, it has some where been proposed to establish a system of international mail vessels, consisting of vessels provided by different countries, whose duty it would be to cruise continually over the Atlantic, and be of assistance to disabled or wrecked vessels. What ever force there may be in this suggestion, there seems to be a duty to the who sail on the seas which is unrecognised by the nations.

DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS BY SWIMMING.—Very few mammals can swim over any considerable extent of sea, although many can swim well for short distances. The jaguar traverses the widest streams in South America, and the bear and bison cross the Mississippi, and there can be no doubt that they could swim over equal widths of all the great rivers of the world. Admittedly, however, the powers of most mammals to swim considerable distances, we have no reason to believe that any of them could traverse without help straits of upward of twenty miles in width, while in most cases a channel of half that distance would prove an effectual barrier.—S. S. CO. ANT, in Harper's Magazine for March.

A Few FISHES which have just been published in England show the evils which result from strikes in any branch of industry. There was a strike of the South Yorkshire miners about a year ago, in which 12,200 men took part. The loss of the miners' services amounted to \$1,250,000, and that of the railways through the reduced carriage of coals to \$700,000.

Married in the Dark.

A MICHIGAN MATRIMONIAL MYSTERY—FOUR CLAIMANTS FOR A BRIDE WHOSE SECOND BRIDAL CELEBRATION WAS ARRANGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF HER DEAD DEPARTED.

JACKSON, Mich., Feb. 12, 1877. The Mary E. Knox case has been discussed by the *Herald* and other Journals as one of the most curious cases on record, and yet the dust covered legal records of Michigan tell of a case still more singular. Miss Knox was engaged to a young man named Merritt, the day was set for the nuptials, they drove away together and were married, and now Merritt vows he was not the bridegroom. She vows that he was, but cannot prove it, and both make out a pretty good case. One may well argue that he ought to know whether he ever married a certain young lady or not, and the said young lady might well argue that she ought to know the man who rode to the clergyman's with her, stood up beside her, made his response in due form and drove her back home. These arguments are what mystify the Knox case. Now for one still more singular:—

A CURIOUS WILL. About twenty years ago there lived in central Michigan a curious old Benedict named Dodsforth. At the age of fifty he married a girl of twenty, and the burden of sixty years bore him down his wife was only half his age. Dodsforth was noted for his peculiarities, but the climax came when he found himself on his dying bed. He was worth about \$30,000, and he hadn't a blood relative living, so far as he knew. He wanted to leave his property to his wife, as the pair had lived very happily, but he could not leave it without displaying some of his peculiarities in the provisions of the will. Some old men display a mean spirit when making their wills and draft a provision cutting the wife off with a shilling if she marries again. This old man wasn't of that stamp. His young wife was good looking, vivacious, fond of society, and it was folly to suppose she would desert him for her "blue devils" and great length of time. Therefore Mr. Dodsforth turned heel on the usual custom and said in his will:—

In case my wife Celia does not take unto herself another husband within thirteen months from date of my burial, then the same shall be made in this will as to revert to the State of Michigan, to be used for building and furnishing a home for old women.

Whether Celia was pleased or displeased at this provision depends on her, but the old man had been under the sod more than six months when the widow was said to be looking out for another man. If it was singular for the dying Dodsforth to urge his wife to marry again it was still more singular that he should leave the ceremony shall be performed in the big barn, on the main floor, without works of any description, with all doors shut, and a free invitation shall be extended to all. The clergyman shall stand in the stables and the bride and groom in the stable door, and the principal parties to the ceremony shall be dressed in black throughout.

A WILLING WIDOW. The widow announced her intention to faithfully obey in spirit and letter, the will was probated and the twelfth month had scarcely passed before she issued an invitation for the public to attend a wedding at the big barn. Just who the groom was to be no one could positively assert, as the widow had been keeping company with a widower, a bachelor and two young men, as far as any outsider could judge she loved as well as the others. Being good looking and talented and having a fortune behind her, it was not strange that she should have a number of suitors. She seemed to enter into the spirit of the affair with great zest, as also did the minister; and to further mystify the people in attendance the bride entered the barn alone at one door, the groom alone at another, and no one knew that the minister had arrived until his voice was heard in the stables.

BOUND IN THE DARK.

There were at least 200 people present, and each one understood that even the striking of a match would break the will. Many jokes were passed and considerable confusion existed, but at length the minister announced that all was ready. The ceremony was gone through with, and at its conclusion, the affair having been a "profound success," a rush was made for the bride; she was kissed by a hundred men, and was then carried home, a distance of a mile and a half, in a big arm-chair.

WHO IS THE HUSBAND?

Now comes the mystery. When the lady was set down at her own door, the widower, the bachelor and the two young men each claimed to be her true and lawful husband. None of the crowd could say who was the lucky man, the minister was at sea, and the bride herself seemed to have doubts. The widower was the man of her choice, but in the confusion he could have

been hustled aside, and he did affirm that an attempt was made to choke him and get him out of the barn. The bachelor vowed that she had promised to marry him, as also did both young men, and each one was sure that he held the widow's plump hand and was legally married to her. The four men had a fight, but that didn't mend matters. The crowd crowded two of them in a creek, but that didn't decide the question. A COMPROMISE.

Just how it would have terminated had not the widower been a man of nerve no one can tell, as the other three had already appealed to law, and the widower stepped in and took his place as husband and settled with the others for \$2,000 each.

One of the young men, now over forty years old, and having all the wife he last week, with a 220 pounder in living in this city, and during an interview had with him to-day, he solemnly and earnestly assured your correspondent that he was legally married to the Widow Dodsforth that night in the big barn. Another of the parties lived in Clinton county, and he has time and again asserted that he is the woman's true and lawful husband, and help his God. The bachelor is dead, but were he alive and kicking he would renew his oft repeated protestations:—

"I married her, by gum! and, by gum, I ought to have her!"

The Centennial Liar.

Old Mrs. Robertson, who had been to the Centennial, struck in on old Pettin'gill last week, with a talk about that exhibition of national prosperity. She told him all about what she had seen, and then what each one of her party had seen. After asking about the butter women and a hundred wonderful things that Pettin'gill had to say he said, "I see the old lady asked with much interest:—

"Well, what did you see?" "I saw," said Mr. Pettin'gill, looking at her intently, "I saw an ice cream horse, life size, galloping around the track."

"Oh, Mr. Pettin'gill," said the old lady.

"Yes, madam, you well say 'oh.' It was wonderful that you didn't see it, but then they took it back to freeze it hard every five minutes, so by the time I got there it was all melted."

"Oh, Mr. Pettin'gill!" "Yes, madam, and I saw the large eagle of which you have spoken, and heard it scream—a wild scream of agony like a bird that had been talked to death about the Centennial."

"Oh, Mr. Pettin'gill!" "Yes, madam, and I saw the carriage George Washington rode in, and three queens and a jack that he had destroyed the carriage and sent outside of the church playing draughts, and Mrs. Washington lighted on him earlier than he expected from a short sermon, and I saw a handful of his hair that Mrs. W. took out that identical Sabbath morning."

"Oh-h-h, Mr. Pettin'gill!" "Yes, madam, I saw the quilt worked by Queen Victoria and the Princess Beatrice and all the other princesses, and I counted the nineteen billion, four hundred and sixty-five billion in it while I was standing there."

"Oh, Mr. Pettin'gill!" "Yes, madam, and I saw the silk-making machine, where you put in a silkworm at one end and it comes out at the other a full-blown silk dress, ready to wear, with a live humming bird in the back."

"Oh, Mr. Pettin'gill, wait till I hear all about it," and the old lady hurried off.

"I won't be here when she comes back," said Mr. Pettin'gill, taking up his hat in a hurry, "and so she may not hear all about it. I am determined when I am telling about this Centennial business to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me Bob."

A Deaf Man Explains Things.

New York Paper.

"Augustus Peralto," said his Honor at the 57th Street Police Court, "you are charged with being intoxicated; what have you to say?"

Augustus put his hand on his ear, and said "What?" in a loud tone.

"You were drunk," shouted the Court abruptly.

"Certainly, certainly," Augustus replied politely, there's my ear."

"I don't want your ear. How did you happen to get drunk?"

"Bologna," said Augustus smiling. "Bologna?" said his Honor, "that's a new intoxicant. How old are you?"

"Eighteen hundred and seventy-two," said Augustus.

"Where did you get your liquor?" "In Italy, your Honor."

"You were taken to the station in a cart, were you not?"

"Yes, sir, we had a stormy voyage; it took us four weeks."

"Well," said the court with a smile, "how long do you think I should give you on the island for this offense?"

"Thirty-two years, sir."

"Sergeant," said his Honor, "send this man downstairs and get him out of my eyes."

SUMMERBROOK is a whole team matrimonially. It had on 11th a 25 team wedding and on 12th a 12-team wedding.

Dancer's Daughter's Will.

Money Won at Faro Bequeathed to Religious Institutions.

The will of Mary M. Dancer offered for probate yesterday afternoon in the Surrogate's Court of New York county. Miss Dancer was the only daughter of Matthias Dancer, said to have been the most fortunate gambler in New York. Dancer was reared as a blacksmith, but left the anvil to enter the list of professional gamblers as a dealer of faro. He won money rapidly, and hoarded his winnings. When he had accumulated enough funds he left the Bowery for Broadway, and for twenty-five years was connected with various gambling houses on that thoroughfare. A large part of his wealth was acquired in a faro bank, which, by reason of its diminutive size, was known as the "boon box." The most part of his earnings was at 676 Broadway. He was one of the chief stockholders in a faro bank at 8 Barclay street, which is believed to have taken in \$1,500,000 during the war. He frequently carried on his person between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and on the morning of Monday, July 12, 1875, when his house was robbed, he started from home with \$2,570 in his watch box. One winter's morning, about six years ago, \$1,000 was stolen from the change pocket of his overcoat by a bootblack. A detective to whom Dancer promised one-half the amount recovered soon handed \$230 to him, and told him that the boy was in the City Prison awaiting Dancer's action. Dancer, however, declined to prosecute, and even went before the Grand Jury to plead for mercy for the boy.

Dancer had the reputation of being unequalled in the United States in skill at backgammon. A few years ago a tricky professional named Brown arranged the box so that he could control the dice, and challenged Dancer to a match. After Dancer had lost \$400 he was warned by a friend, and withdrew from the game. This is said to have been the only known instance in which Dancer was overreached. In playing at cards or backgammon he showed as much accuracy as a twenty-five cent piece to win \$25,000, and was highly excited when he had taken in his opponent's last dime.

A most daring robbery was perpetrated in Mr. Dancer's residence, 30 West Eleventh street, on Monday night, 12, 1875. Mr. Dancer and his wife were in the house. The men said that they were plumbers sent by an official to inspect the condition of the Crotonwater pipes. Notice had been sent to the Dancers and other residents of the neighborhood, that the water pipe at Broadway and Houston street, their supply of water would probably be cut off. Mrs. Dancer, therefore, readily believed the representations of her visitors, and admitted them without suspicion.

They entered the house, and went back to the dining room, remained her easy chair, and began to sew. Suddenly she was encircled by rough arms, dragged from the window, thrown to the floor, handcuffed, and gagged with a handkerchief. She tried to get up, but the men held her down, and she was unable to move.

The robbers then admitted five confederates, and ransacked the house. They burst open the doors with hatchets, and strewed the contents of trunks and bureaus on the floor, disregarding silks, satins, and even jewelry in their eager search for bonds and money.

They obtained only 60,000 of old and 22,000 of new bonds of the State of Virginia, the market value of which was then about \$30,000. The plunder was, however, worthless to the robbers, as the bonds were registered in the Citizens' Bank. Among the loose property which the robbers did not get were \$25,000 of New York Central bonds, which were afterward found lying among some old gowns undisturbed by the intruders.

After the robbers had gone, Mrs. Dancer staggered into an area, and attracted the attention of a neighboring family. A locksmith fled off the steel bands that encircled her wrists. For some time her life was in peril, and she never fully recovered from the shock.

Mr. Dancer died in August last year, leaving half of his property to his wife, and half to his daughter, Miss Mary Ann Dancer. In November the widow followed her husband to the grave, leaving all her share to the daughter, who thus came into possession of all the father's estate, valued at about \$700,000. Miss Dancer was a sincere Christian, a Methodist by faith, but not fanatical or demonstrative. She occasionally attended the Presbyterian church. She would not marry, preferring to remain a companion and comfort to her aged parents. Her death, on the 11th of February, was somewhat unexpected. She was 35 years of age.

In her will, after dividing \$185,000 among relatives and friends, she made bequests to charitable, religious, and benevolent societies and corporations.

Business Cards.

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