

congratulated, that we are ripe for the literary parasite with gorgeous wings, who lives on the foibles of his kind.

But to return. The noble woman can find no sphere in such a society as I have described, unless she seeks to raise and quicken its better instincts, while excusably pandering—if the word may pass—to its weaknesses. Her real rôle is to call forth the best that is in man, whose helpmate she is, and, like Mrs. Carlyle, while strengthening him with her sympathy and love to achieve, ultimately to share his achievements as part of her own legitimate work; for in her case, too, "the labourer is worthy of his hire."

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

DRAWBACKS TO MANUFACTURERS ON SYNDICATE SUPPLIES—DOMINION LANDS AMENDMENT ACT—MODIFICATION OF MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSIONER'S INTEREST—THE CONSOLIDATED RAILWAY BILL—M. FABRE'S EXPENSES—RAILWAYS IN CANADA, &c.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 19th, 1881.

This has been understood to be the last working week of the session, and although members are naturally very tired from long attendance and long debates they have had to consider several measures of great importance. The Government also for their measures have practically taken up the whole of the working time.

On Monday Sir Leonard Tilley brought down the promised resolutions to enable the Government to pay drawbacks equivalent to duties on such fish-plates, spikes, bolts, nuts, and iron bridges manufactured in Canada, as might be sold by the manufacturers to the Pacific Syndicate; and the same with respect to all telegraph apparatus manufactured in Canada and used by the Syndicate in the original construction and first equipment of a telegraph line in connection with their railway. It is impossible to say what amount of revenue will be effected by this provision; but it is certainly only fair to Canadian manufacturers in view of the much discussed clause of the Syndicate Bill under which these articles are allowed to be imported by that company free. Sir Leonard explained that steel rails were not included in his resolutions because they are already free.

On the same day the House went into Committee on motion of Sir John Macdonald on a very important bill to amend the Dominion Lands Act. The general effect of this measure appears to be to place much more discretionary power in the hands of the Government than is allowed by the existing law. This bill will enable the Government to make arrangements for colonization on a very much larger scale than they could under the iron rules of the present Act. We have here a provision which will be of great benefit if carefully exercised; and public opinion would scarcely allow such a power to be used for the purpose of fostering speculation. In fact no possible Government would dare to venture on anything of the kind. Another important feature of the bill is that it will allow lands to be entered on certain conditions by the pioneers of colonies before the actual arrival of the homesteader himself. This is a provision which will greatly promote the important object of colonization; but it, too, will require to be used with care. Another feature of the bill is that it does away with pre-emptions. The effect of this will be to put more homesteaders in one section, and tend to promote purchases of Syndicate lands, which can be obtained on as favourable terms, and at prices as cheap, as the Government pre-emptions. In my opinion this is a decided improvement, as the old pre-emptions were mainly used for the purposes of petty speculation which was anything but advantageous to the country. There is another important feature of this bill. It will allow liens upon homesteads to the extent of \$600. This principle had been previously sanctioned by Canadian legislation to the extent of \$200, which was, however, too narrow a limit, and had the effect of rendering the provision nugatory. This enactment will enable capitalists or benevolent associations to make sufficient advances to emigrants to enable them to settle on their farms and repay at stated periods. Many poor men who are now almost starving in Ireland or other parts of the United Kingdom may thus be enabled to settle in Manitoba and be placed in an independent position in a very few years. The bill was passed through committee and rapidly advanced its subsequent stages. Its effect will be greatly to stimulate the settlement of the North-West.

The supplementary estimates were laid before the House on Monday and several of the items were passed.

On Tuesday Sir Leonard submitted his resolution to assist the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal in the improvement of the St. Lawrence below Montreal. I have already told you the object of this resolution is to reduce the interest payable by the Commissioners from 5 to 4 per cent., and to do away with the charges

for the sinking fund. This of course will be a step in the right direction and give a good deal of relief; but as Mr. Coursol showed it is only a step, as the works for deepening Lake St. Peter are not only of city and provincial, but they are really of Dominion and continental interest; and are of precisely the same character as the ship canals from the American works at the Sault Ste. Marie to those great works on the lower waters of the same system, for the improvement of which the Dominion has spent and entered into engagements to spend millions of dollars. Mr. Ryan and Mr. McLennan both made conclusive speeches in favour of the Government assuming the whole of this debt. But Sir Leonard was obdurate and the resolution was passed and a bill fourded upon it was advanced a stage in the form I have stated.

On the same day Mr. James Macdonald moved the second reading of the Consolidated Railway Act. This measure restricts the Pacific Syndicate to a profit not exceeding 10 per cent. on their own capital. And by the terms no subsidies from the Government, nor any bonuses, nor any debt can be construed as forming any part of the capital to which the restrictions of the Act will be held to apply. The capital will, therefore, be the money which the Syndicate themselves actually subscribe with the interest accruing during construction. This Act will place in the hands of the Government the absolute power of preventing any undue exactions by the Pacific Syndicate in the operations of their road. If any such thing should be attempted no Government of the future under our system could live for a day which did not put on the brakes. But no man of common sense expects there will ever be need for the exercise of this power, it being, as I have before contended, so plainly in the interest of the Syndicate to attract settlement and make their property remunerative, to make things agreeable and pleasant to settlers rather than disgusting and repellant. The discussion on this bill was not so important as its very great moment called for. It was read a second time and passed through Committee.

The House again went into Committee of Supply and a number of items were passed. There was one for \$2,931 to cover payments to the Hon. Hector Fabre for special services in France. Sir John Macdonald explained that these services were in connection with the negotiation of a commercial treaty with France. This item did not excite much attention in the Commons; but in the Senate the Hon. Mr. Trudel attacked it with a good deal of bitterness, contending that Mr. Fabre was not a Conservative in politics, and that since he had been in Paris some very offensive letters had appeared from his pen in his Liberal newspaper at Quebec.

Sir Alex. Campbell replied that Mr. Fabre was not now in the employ of the Government and that he had been only temporarily employed because of his special fitness for the particular duties confided to him. Sir Alexander mentioned that one of these was to assist Sir Alex. Galt in negotiations in the French language with which he was not altogether familiar.

The European, American and Cable Company's Bill passed through Committee. This will enable a through line to be laid through British territory to the great populations across the Pacific; and it will constitute a British line independent of the existing cable monopolies. There was a proposed limitation as to the rates to be charged per word, but this was struck out the tariff being placed under the control of the Governor in Council.

Sir John Macdonald laid on the table the first report of the new Department of Indian Affairs. It showed that the relations of the Government with the Indian tribes were generally satisfactory. The House was in a business mood and the supplementary estimates were all passed through before midnight.

On Wednesday a number of measures were passed forward a stage the House being again apparently in a mood to forward business. A number of items of supplies passed. On that for surveys Mr. Ross moved an amendment to the effect that none of this money be expended for the publication of speeches by any members of the House. I suppose this was not intended to carry being a hit at some recent publications; but it led to a little sharp debating.

Sir John Macdonald said that no speeches would be published except such as would convey useful information for the benefit of the country.

Sir Richard Cartwright moved a general amendment protesting against the largeness of the proposed Government expenditure, "and that the House views with regret the proposal of the Government to expend for 1882 \$1,615,000 more than the expenditure of 1880, and \$2,962,000 more than the expenditure for all purposes for 1878."

Of course this motion was not intended to pass and was lost on a vote of yeas 29, nays 76. A serious debate on a want of confidence resolution of this kind would of course have been a serious matter; but nothing of this sort was attempted.

The report of the Chief Engineer of the Government Railways of Canada was laid on the table of the House of Commons. It appears from this that on June 30th last there were 6,891 miles of railway in operation in Canada; that there were 334 miles more under construction on which the track was laid; and that there were 1,302 under construction not having the track laid. These figures do not include 208 miles of the Grand Trunk Railway, and 21 miles

of the South-Eastern in the United States. The total amount of capital share and bonded debt invested was \$281,271,229. Of this the amount of Dominion Government aid is \$74,245,166. The Government of Ontario in round numbers has expended in railway construction \$2,900,000; that of Quebec \$8,700,000; that of New Brunswick \$2,700,000; that of Nova Scotia \$800,000; and the municipalities \$8,000,000. Of the fifty-nine States and Kingdoms of the world which have railway systems, Canada ranks the eighth in mileage, and the fifth in number of miles to each inhabitant.

On Thursday there was very little debating, and the members began to move away, many of them being anxious to get home. A number of measures were advanced a stage; and items of supply passed. Mr. Anglin attacked that for the Intercolonial Railway, and Mr. J. H. Pope, the acting Minister of Railways, retorted very sharply, showing that there had been a large saving under the new arrangement made by the present Government. He said the cost of running the Intercolonial had decreased \$500,000 since 1872, that the loss last year was about \$97,000; but that during the half of last year there was a profit of \$20,000; and he thought they would be able to run the road to the end of the year without loss.

Sir John Macdonald announced that the Government would not introduce any new business after Saturday, and that on Friday and Saturday members might be paid.

Yesterday Sir Leonard Tilley took a vote to raise a loan of \$18,000,000 in addition to present authorizations to redeem some portions of the public debt and cover amounts voted on capital account. This vote therefore simply means consolidation. Sir Richard Cartwright approved.

The Manitoba Boundaries' Bill next came up, and it is understood it is to be passed this session. This measure will extend the western boundary to a point between the 29th and 30th ranges of townships; thence northerly to township 46; and thence easterly to the western boundary of Ontario; the U. S. frontier being the southern line. The Province of Manitoba will be thus very greatly extended, and all the recent settlements on the Little Saskatchewan will be taken in. Some debate took place which I have not space to follow.

The next thing was in Committee of Supply the item for \$10,000 for a monument to Sir Geo. Cartier, to which Mr. Blake objected. Mr. Langevin, Mr. McDougall and Sir John A. Macdonald replied; the last named especially with much good feeling. The item was passed. The objection of Mr. Blake is talked about and resented by Sir George Cartier's friends.

Monday is the day understood to be fixed for the prorogation if nothing happens to prevent it. The House sits to-day.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE MONTREAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

On Thursday last I went to the Queen's Hall to "assist" at the production of the Judas Macabius by the Philharmonic Society. I had heard great things of the progress the Society had been making under Mr. Couture, but my mind misgave me, and justly, as the sequel showed, as to their efficiency being equal to the demands of so great a work. Apart from the difficulties inseparable from the actual rendering of the work under the most favourable circumstances by any but a systematically trained chorus and orchestra (by which I mean a chorus and orchestra who have been for years accustomed to the performance of works of a similar nature), there was apparent a want of sufficient knowledge of the work, for which no excuse should be offered, and which could have been obviated by closer attention or more numerous rehearsals. For this Prof. Couture must not be blamed, at least by me, for I know how difficult it is to secure the minimum of regular attendance on the part of a large society; but the members themselves should take it to heart that no good work can be done without hard work, and that "God Save the Queen" perfectly sung is better worth the trouble expended on it than a scrambled and disorganized production of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Not that the present performance should be characterized by terms such as these. In two choruses at least—"We never will bow down" (especially in the second movement, "We worship God"), and the "Sing unto God," in the last part, the result left very little to be desired, and had the work throughout been up to the standard of these two, which it might easily have been had more work been expended on it, we might have congratulated the Society in no measured terms. But the other choruses were by no means up to the mark. "Hear us, O Lord," and "Tune your harps" were very confused throughout, and the tenors had a most agonized struggle over the fugue, "When warlike Judas," which concludes the first number of the second part. The sopranos made by far the best impression, probably owing to the fact of the more regular attendance of ladies than gentlemen, which is the rule that obtains in most societies, but the tenors sadly needed a strong and steady lead, while the basses had a little too much of it, to judge from the persistent way in which they came in half a beat too soon. Enough, however, of fault-finding, which is always a thankless office. If I have said so much it is only because the material of the Society is too good to be wasted, and perhaps a timely hint may do some

good in this direction. There is no reason why the Philharmonic Society of Montreal should should not at least equal that of that of Toronto. The material is there, and it only needs systematic training to produce a far better effect.

I have said nothing as yet of the soloists or the orchestra. The latter was good in the lead, and on the whole did fairly well. There were one or two attempts on the parts of unruly instruments at the back to strike out a line for themselves, and the drums were particularly unhappy as to pitch, and occasionally time, but, making due allowances for circumstances, they did far better than the chorus. Of the soloists, Messrs. Hay and Tower, from Boston, took the principal rôles. The latter has one of the most remarkable voices for power that I remember, which, if not particularly sweet, was well suited to the martial music of Judas, and it is not surprising that in "Sound an Alarm," in particular, he produced a marked effect. Mr. Hay, on the contrary, possesses a very melodious register, and only lacked a little of the vigour which his *confrère* could have spared him. For want of this he scarcely made as much of "Arm, arm, ye brave" as I expected, but his singing was very easy and pleasant and a great addition to the programme. Mr. Fetherston, Miss Maltby, Mr. W. Maltby and Mrs. Elliott are well enough known in Montreal to pass without criticism, the latter's smooth vocalization of the difficult passages assigned to her was most praiseworthy, but her voice was hardly equal to the demands upon it.

The alarm with which I originally viewed the length of the programme was somewhat mitigated by the cutting of seventeen or eighteen numbers, but why, O why cut short "See the Conquering Hero Comes," which is always such a favourite, so easy of execution, and in which, had some special study been devoted to it, an effect might have been produced which would have atoned for the other shortcomings of the concert.

The concert of the Mendelssohn Choir is to come off, I believe, about the 7th prox.

MUSICUS.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Baroness Burdett-Coutts is ill.

TYPHOID fever is raging in Teheran.

THE death of the Earl of St. Germain is announced.

POLITICAL affairs in Portugal are assuming a serious aspect.

A Stockholm cable says King Oscar, who has been ill with fever, is dying.

THE reforms at present under consideration in Russia will benefit principally the agricultural interests.

THE Pope announces that the freedom of the Catholic Church in Russia will be maintained by the new Czar.

DESPATCHES from Wyoming Territory say that a strong outbreak of Ute Indians is expected as soon as the spring opens.

THE *Daily News* correspondent in Turkestan says the Russians are close to Tjend, but will not attempt to move on Merv this year.

THE Princess Dolgarouki received an anonymous letter on Sunday warning her of the intended assassination of the Czar.

A BERLIN despatch gives an account of the elopement of Count Herbert Bismarck, son of Prince Bismarck, with the Princess Elizabeth, wife of Prince Charles of Carlsruhe Beuthen.

THE conditions of the last armistice with the Boers permit General Wood to provision the besieged positions for another four days, and those not previously provisioned, for twelve days.

POST MORTEM examinations have, in some instances, led to the discovery of the scars of completely healed abscesses or sores upon the lung. This of itself shows that the lung tissue when diseased is susceptible of restoration to a sound and healthy condition. Persons afflicted with lung disease may reasonably hope to recover health by the use of well-chosen remedies. Foremost among these is Northrop & Lyman's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda, a thoroughly tested and highly accredited specific for coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, spitting of blood, and other affections of the throat, chest and lungs. Pulmonary irritation is promptly arrested by the Cod Liver Oil, and the hypophosphites, which are among the finest renovants used by physicians, revive the flagging energies of the debilitated system.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure for Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. W. SHERAR, 149 Powers' Block, Rochester, N.Y.

C.O.W.