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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, June 5th, 1875.

OUR PREMIUM.

We have in several previous numbers, given our readers a description of the circumstances under which we decided on issuing a superior work of art, as a premium to our subscribers. We also fully stated the conditions on which alone this Chromo could be secured. We are pleased to be able to say that our course has met with universal favor from our friends and that the press has been profuse in its appreciation of the merits of the work. We shall, therefore, take this occasion to urge upon all the patrons of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS the importance and necessity of prompt payment of dues, in order to enable us to carry out all the improvements which we contemplate making in the journal. On the 1st July, we begin a new volume, and by that date all arrears ought to be cancelled. Those who cannot send the whole amount, should send as much as they can. The sum in each case is relatively small, but the aggregate is large and an item of considerable importance to ourselves. Our friends will find the cash system working to their own advantage, and we earnestly call upon them to adopt it without delay.

RELATIVE PROGRESS.

The Consul General of the United States made an incidental utterance at a luncheon given a few days ago, on the steamship *Lake Champlain*, to the effect that in many things the progress of Canada was relatively quite as rapid as that of the United States. We may take *acte* of this admission; and it may not be uninteresting to compare it with statements in a speech made some three or four weeks before, by the Right Hon. Mr. CHILDERS, in which he described his impressions of a visit to the United States, to his constituents in England, and which was reported with great prominence in the *London Times*. He found Canada prosperous; but the progress of America since he saw it last was "amazing." By the term "America" he described the United States, as is the practice at home, and he told his hearers that in 50 years the population would in all probably be one hundred and fifty millions of people, "when we," that is Great Britain, "go down the hill of age, advancing yet as best we may." Here is rather a painful contrast. But it does not seem to have occurred to Mr. CHILDERS that the ratio of progress of a population in the mature life of a nation is not the same as that of its youth; and especially such a nation as the United States, which has

already very nearly reached the limit of its western settlement, namely, the Great American Desert; which beyond the 100th degree of West longitude, stretches from the British border, until it meets the rains of the Gulf of Mexico. It is a fact, moreover, that settlement and increase of population in the United States, if the West is excepted, have not been so rapid as in Canada. We may probably take leisure to prove this. But at present it is enough for our purpose to state that the increase of population in the United States, in the last decennial, was disappointing to such an extent as to cause the accuracy of the Census of 1870 to be questioned; and it will probably be more so when the next census is taken in 1880. Our immediate purpose, however, is not to dwell on the probable increase of population; but to notice, for the purpose of comparison, another point of Mr. CHILDERS' "amazement." We refer to Banking Capital; and here we avail ourselves of some calculations which have been made from official figures by an able financial contemporary in Toronto. On the first of March last, it appeared from United States official returns, that the total capital of the United States Banks was \$496,000,000; deposits, \$654,000,000; circulation, \$325,000,000; and discounts, \$956,000. The corresponding figures for the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario were, capital, \$59,000,000; circulation, \$23,013,000; deposits, \$74,000,000; and discounts, \$145,000,000. Making the comparison on the basis of population, the facts stand that the United States have banking capital per year, 14 per cent; Canada, 17 per cent. The United States have circulation per year, 9 per cent; Canada 6 per cent. The United States have deposits per year, 18 per cent; Canada 21 per cent. The United States have discounts per year, 27 per cent; Canada, 40 per cent. The ratio of increase in these items also shows in favor of Canada. The increase in Bank capital in the United States in six years was 18 per cent, in Canada 104 per cent; increase in circulation in the United States, 9½ per cent, in Canada, 150 per cent; increase in deposits in the United States 9½ per cent, in Canada, 124 per cent; increase in discounts in the United States 45 per cent, in Canada, 173 per cent. These figures do not show what is popularly supposed, and probably they might add to the amazement of Mr. CHILDERS; but Mr. DART seems to be aware of them. In sober seriousness, however, the progress of Canada in wealth as shown by the increase of money of the people does afford cause for wonder; and it is right, amidst the universal puffing of our neighbours that the facts should be generally known.

DOMINION LANDS.

We have received a copy of the report of Col. DENNIS, Surveyor-General of Dominion Lands, for the last calendar year. It contains some facts of interest, and shows that settlement in the Province of Manitoba is beginning to progress with rapidity, especially when the difficulties of going there are considered. Colonel DENNIS tells us that the population of Winnipeg amounted last year, to between four and five thousand souls,—being an increase of seven fold in three years. And judging by the "Homesteads" entered, allowing an average of five persons to a family, estimating the addition to Winnipeg at 1,500 last year, 8,380 souls were added to the Province of Manitoba in 1874. This is very marked progress. Col. DENNIS notices the Mennonites, and gives very much the same accounts of them as those previously published in these columns, based upon information from our own correspondents. He remarks that the Mennonites are, in an especial manner, well suited for settlers in a prairie country, because they are able to provide their own fuel and building material from earth and straw or grass, prepared in a certain way. He further reports that they intend to introduce into the Province the cultivation of silkworms and

the manufacture of silk, to which they had been accustomed in their own country.

The "Homesteads" entered in the Province of Manitoba up to the present time, number 2,537, of which 283 were entered in 1872, 878 in 1873, and 1,376 in 1874, representing 405,920 acres. It thus appears that the entries in 1874 were more than those of the two preceding years.

The "Lands Act" allowed all settlers a free grant of 160 acres, on the condition of three years' settlement, but an amendment passed during the last session of Parliament allows the settler to enter for an adjoining quarter section (160 acres) as a reserve in connection with his homestead, into the possession of which he is allowed at once to enter, and he will receive a patent for it, on the completion of his homestead entry. This, Col. DENNIS reports, has been considered a great boon by the settlers, and has been very generally taken advantage of. The entries of this class, made since the Act was amended, number 636, and represent 101,760 acres.

The total extent of Dominion Lands sold at the date of the report was 50,133 acres at the price of \$1 per acre, and the extent of land entered by Military Bounty warrant at the same date was 118,240 acres.

The receipts from Dominion Lands in Manitoba are given as follows:—Homestead Entry Fees, \$25,370; Land Sales, \$50,133; Timber Dues and Limit Bonuses, \$2,860; Sale of Maps from Winnipeg Office, \$69,60. Total \$78,422,60. The total number of patents issued was 997; of which 577 were issued in 1874; and 420 in 1873.

Col. DENNIS states: "So far settling on lands in Manitoba has been attended with serious expense to the newcomer; the time actually occupied in travelling, the amount of money requisite to pay fares and living by the way; and the high prices of labour, lumber and supplies of every kind in the Province having proved a great obstacle in the way of its development. When we see however, what has been accomplished in so short a time, in the face of all the disadvantages mentioned, it is fair to assume, that with railway communication completed through our own territory, especially west of Lake Superior, we may fairly look for a rate of progress in the settlement of that country of which a parallel will only be found in the history of some of the most favorable of the Western States."

We do not think that this is too sanguine a prediction. We are satisfied from a very careful study of the agricultural and climatic conditions of the colony, that it offers very great attractions to the settler, and we believe that, already this year, the tide of emigration has begun to set very strongly towards it, as well from the older settled provinces of Canada, as from parts of the United States, and, to some extent, from Europe. This is apart from the expected Mennonite emigration of which the prosperous settlers who have already come are only the advance guard.

These facts are not only of very great interest to the whole Dominion, but they are so in a special manner to Montreal—the natural outlet of our vast North-West Territory being by the St. Lawrence system, of which the position of our good city may be said to be the commercial key.

THE MINISTRY

The changes that have taken place in the Dominion Ministry consequent on the promotion of the Hon. D. A. MACDONALD to the post of Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Ontario are of great importance to the country. We do not deal with questions of party politics in these non-partisan columns. But it is within our scope to note and record facts which are of interest to the Dominion at large. And the accession of the Hon. EDWARD BLAKE to the MACKENZIE Government is one of these. Mr. BLAKE may be said to divide

with Mr. MACKENZIE the leadership of the party now in power. Mr. MACKENZIE stated in addressing his own constituents, on the formation of his Ministry, that, personally, he would have been willing to give place to Mr. BLAKE; and it is known that a portion of the party did, at a caucus, at one time appoint him leader. But Mr. MACKENZIE was subsequently chosen. Mr. BLAKE's own preferences may be said to have had something to do with this; and it is due to him to say that he has not been an office seeker. He is a man of more polished education than Mr. MACKENZIE; but it is doubtful if his mastery of public business and his application to it are equal to the Premier's. These are, however, questions of *status*, which simply concern the party itself. The point of more public interest is that, when Mr. BLAKE remained outside the Government, he intimated that he desired changes of an organic nature in the constitution itself, and also as tending to place less in leading strings the nationality of Canada. In these he would be warmly opposed by the GEORGE BROWN wing of the party and the important newspaper which he controls. It is in fact impossible to say what complications might spring up from an active discussion by Mr. BLAKE, as a Minister, of the views he gave utterance to in his Aurora speech. It is probable, however, that he may recognize there is a difference between the responsibility of a Minister of the Crown, and the comparative freedom from it in the abstract discussions of an independent member of Parliament. In this event the accession of Mr. BLAKE to the Government means increase of strength. It was not good for the position of the Government to have a man of Mr. BLAKE's undoubted power actively skirmishing outside. His legal acquirements will find fitting sphere in the Department of Justice. But on this point it may be said, his enemies allege, that in his parliamentary career he has made many mistakes in constitutional law. Hon. Mr. FOURNIER who takes the place of Postmaster, to make way for Mr. BLAKE, is regarded by his party as a very able lawyer; but he has not taken much part in the discussions of the House.

There will probably be some further changes. An Ottawa correspondent writes to us that the Hon. Mr. HOLTON is spoken of; and we notice also that the *Globe* makes marked allusion to him. But it is said that he will not take any place except that of Finance Minister; and the gossips do not very clearly see how that point is to be settled between him and the Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

THIRD TERM.

General Grant has at length delivered his sentiments on the Presidential Third Term. His views on this subject, as expressed in a letter to the President of the Pennsylvania Republican Convention, though written in very obscure language, are worth placing on record:—A short time subsequent to the Presidential election of 1872, the press, a portion of it hostile to the Republican party, and particularly so to the Administration, started the cry of "Caesarism" and the third term, calling lustily for me to define my position on the latter subject. I believe it to be beneath the dignity of the office, which I have been called upon to fill, to answer such a question before the subject should be presented by competent authority to make the nomination by a body of such dignity and authority as not to make a reply a fair subject of ridicule. In fact, I have been surprised that so many sensible persons in the Republican party should permit their enemy to force upon them and their party an issue which cannot add strength to the party, no matter how met, but to the body of dignity and the party of authority of a convention to make nominations for State officers of the second State in the Union, having considered this question, I deem it not improper that I should now speak. In the first place I never sought the office for the second nor even for the first nomination. To the first