

Macdonald was among the Oppositionists who voted for the bill; but its rejection caused a temporary disappointment in England, the effects of which were felt by his own administration. Choosing the Hon. L. V. Scotte as Lower Canada leader, Mr. Macdonald succeeded in forming a Government with a policy moulded after his own peculiar creed—it recognised the double majority system; rejected representation by population; stipulated for the settlement of the separate school question, which the old Government had so long left open; and adopted as its trump card departmental and financial reform. He held the office of Minister of Militia, as well as that of Attorney-General, and he passed a Militia law which served the country with slight modifications until the more comprehensive measure of Sir George E. Cartier after confederation. The Insolvent Act and other good measures owe their existence to the Macdonald-Scotte-Dorion Government. But the effort at Departmental Reform was a melancholy failure, and though some trifling economies were effected in finance, it was mainly by turning out a few subordinates; money was saved by a total suspension of public works, and efforts were made to turn formerly non-productive assets to profitable account. Meantime, the Premier's cast-iron programme of double majority, and opposition to representation by population, exposed his supporters to continuous jibes from their opponents, and reproaches from many of their outside friends. In May, 1863, the Government was defeated. Mr. Macdonald asked for and obtained a dissolution; reconstructed his cabinet, dropping some seven or eight of his old colleagues, including Messrs. Scotte, McGee, Foley, &c., and taking in others in their places, with Mr. Dorion as Lower Canada leader. The policy was also changed, the "double majority" having been dropped, and representation by population left an open question. It has been supposed that these changes both in personnel and policy were due to the Hon. George Brown's influence; but they brought Mr. Macdonald no new strength; many think by them he threw away his chance of a long lease of power. At all events, his Government was defeated in the first session of the new parliament, and went out of office in March 1864.

This ended the Hon. J. S. Macdonald's official career in the old Province of Canada. He resumed his old attitude of independent opposition. When the coalition was formed between Hon. Messrs. John A. Macdonald and George Brown, Mr. Sandfield Macdonald was one of the Reform party who urged upon Mr. Brown the necessity of taking office to secure the fulfilment of the compact; but he accepted no responsibility in advancing the Quebec scheme of Confederation. He tried in his place in parliament to secure its modification, and failing in that finally with some five or six other Upper Canadian Members recorded his vote against it. From that time, however, he has assisted to make the best of what he no doubt still regards as an expensive experiment. During the session of 1866 he assisted in forming the Local Constitutions for Quebec and Ontario and generally supported the adoption of the most economical machinery. When General Stisted was appointed Lieutenant-Governor *ad interim* of Ontario, acting on the advice of the Dominion Government, he called upon the Hon. J. S. Macdonald to form an Executive. Mr. Macdonald undertook the task and was preeminently successful. Already three annual sessions out of the four for which the Legislative Assembly of Ontario was elected have been held and many important measures passed, winning for that Province through its successful administration the admiration of the whole country. To a spirit of economy sometimes degenerating to parsimony in public affairs, Mr. Macdonald's Cabinet adds an efficiency of departmental administration and an energy in the promotion of local improvements which have fully preserved the public confidence with which it was first regarded.

The Hon. J. S. Macdonald, like the Dominion Premier, has had several opportunities of taking upon himself the highest legal office in the country—that of the Chief-Justiceship; but both have been equally generous in conferring these appointments upon the most eminently qualified of their friends at the bar; or in promoting those of them already on the bench. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald always enjoyed a large measure of personal popularity, and the more the public have become acquainted with his administrative ability the higher he has risen in the public esteem. He has never battled for, nor even sought political preferment, but when it has been thrust upon him he has accepted its responsibilities with such courage, and discharged them with such constancy and frankness, as have made him a strong politician by the mere force of his own character and abilities, totally independent of party or political following.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 1870.

SUNDAY,	May 15.—4th Sunday after Easter.. Daniel O'Connell died, 1847. Paris Exhibition opened, 1855.
MONDAY,	" 16.—Battle of Albuera, 1811. Mrs. Hemans died, 1835.
TUESDAY,	" 17.—Talleyrand died, 1838. Great Fire at St. Hyacinthe, 1854.
WEDNESDAY,	" 18.—Trial by Jury first instituted in England, 970. Montreal founded, 1642.
THURSDAY,	" 19.—St. Dunstan, Bp. Sir C. Bagot died, 1843.
FRIDAY,	" 20.—Columbus died, 1506.
SATURDAY,	" 21.—Riots in Montreal, 1832. Queen's Proclamation uniting B. N. A. Provinces issued, 1867.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1870.

PARLIAMENT is prorogued in the midst of a general feeling of insecurity and disappointment. The discontent in the Maritime Provinces, though not so intense in some localities as it formerly was, appears, from the tone of the press, to have become more general. The tariff is certainly far from popular in the Province of Quebec, and if it does find favour in Ontario, it is not in the chief centres of population and trade. The Red River troubles have caused a feeling of uneasiness, all the greater because of

the wide differences of opinion prevailing between the people of Ontario and those of Quebec; and, in addition to all these, the Premier's sudden and dangerous illness has increased the general anxiety.

These feelings, whose existence at the present time must be evident to every observer, prove conclusively that Canadians are not a revolutionary people. If they do not fear change, they certainly are in dread of its consequences. The several gradations of political development through which the institutions of the country have passed, have all been reached only after long agitation and much anxious thought. There has been but one exception to this, and that, unfortunately, was the greatest stride of all—Confederation. The public were passive or indifferent while the politicians framed a pretty thing on paper. There were, if we except a small portion of the territory and population of the Dominion, no contests at the polls, no angry hustings debates, no keen electoral canvasses for and against Union. The politicians resolved and the people acquiesced. Instead of hot political debates, there were warm public dinners, and the politicians made their speeches after the champagne had been uncorked. Need it be wondered at that such a political millenium should not last forever? Men's natures had not changed with their positions; nor had the difficult duty of government all at once become a mere holiday pastime. But a few years of a thorough political calm, of very plain sailing for the ship of State, at the time when great constitutional changes were taking place, when, as our public men were proud to say, the country was in the midst of a "bloodless revolution," have so unfamiliarised the public mind with political excitement and national troubles that the first ripple on the surface is mistaken for a storm. The time has been even in Canada when all the troubles she has now on hand would hardly have been sufficient to have prevented politics from being quoted "dull and drooping" in the news market, but our state a few years ago was so much like Utopia that we have forgotten our old capacity for turmoil and agitation.

The causes for distrust or discontent are by no means of an alarming character. The tariff, which made a narrow escape from being thrown out by the Senate, will certainly not be found to be an unmixed evil. Though pressing unequally on some classes, and though, as many men of good judgment think, the very reverse of a true "national" policy, as regards the new imposts on coal and breadstuffs, may nevertheless do something to develop certain branches of internal trade; while the Coasting bill and the new regulations regarding the fisheries are undoubtedly both well calculated to foster Canadian industry. The three measures named are the only ones directly affecting trade and industry; and if one of them may be held to be in some respects partial in its operation the other two are unexceptionable. With respect to other measures—such as those relating to banking and the currency, the country has undoubtedly gained much by the legislative and executive action taken; and other matters might be referred to as fair subjects for congratulation, instead of grumbling.

The most serious question, and the one that has gone further than any other towards unsettling men's minds, is that of the North-West. Angry passions have been excited and old prejudices warmed into new manifestations of antipathy. But the events which have led to these complications were such as the Canadian Government could not have foreseen, and could not therefore have guarded against. The bill adopted by the Legislature for the organization of the new Province is a fair and liberal measure, and will undoubtedly give satisfaction to the majority of the people. It would have been a gross injustice on the part of Canada to have attempted to force these people into Confederation without giving them fair guarantees for the security of their rights; and when the bill providing for the temporary government was passed last year, it was only to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to go in and administer until the wishes of the people as to their Government, lands, &c., could be fully ascertained. Whoever or how many are responsible for the failure of that effort, it is not necessary here to enquire; but evidently means have been adopted to repair the injury it has caused with the least possible delay. The Manitoba constitution may not be altogether such as it would have been had Lieutenant-Governor McDougall been able to enter the territory and come to an understanding with the Settlers by personal intercourse at Fort Garry; but in the absence of such precise knowledge as that would have afforded, Government was compelled to exercise its judgment upon such information as could be otherwise obtained, and the bill passed is such as is likely to give very general satisfaction to the loyal settlers of all creeds and races. The military expedition to the Red River presents another feature of this question, which creates some uneasiness. If the settlers are satisfied why send an expedition? And if not, is the place worth fighting for? The first question scarcely re-

quires an answer. In that remote settlement, where there is no legally constituted authority, except that of the impotent Hudson's Bay Company, it is necessary for the preservation of the peace that a military force should be stationed there, at least until the civil authority is properly constituted, and order firmly established. And it is too late now to raise the other question; it is not a question of value, but one of duty and honour, and from the discharge of these Canada cannot surely entertain the notion of shrinking.

These several matters present some unpleasant features, but none of an alarming or insurmountable character. As we pointed out in a former issue, we owe the new taxes on coal and breadstuffs to an agitation which has been allowed to go on unopposed for years; and should they prove as obnoxious as it is predicted they will, assuredly there will be an agitation for their removal by this time next year that can scarcely fail in its object. With respect to the Red River troubles, they will teach the country—what it was seemingly disposed to forget—that there are responsibilities attached to territorial greatness, and to prize the value of British connection. The expense of the expedition will be something; but a goodly portion of it will be permanently invested for the benefit of the country in improving the means of communication with the North-West; and many of the Volunteers will, no doubt, make Manitoba their future home. Notwithstanding the evident efforts of Riel and his party to strengthen their position, they will not resist the Queen's troops, and the provisional government being once upset, the whole insurrectionary movement will undoubtedly collapse. Upon the whole there is every prospect that when the Legislature assembles next year the public mind will be in a happier frame than it is at present.

ILLNESS OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

We regret exceedingly to have to announce that early on Friday afternoon of last week Sir John A. Macdonald was seized with severe cramps and general prostration of strength, while in his office in the Eastern departmental building. He had been getting ready to attend the three o'clock meeting of the House of Commons, but so sudden and severe was his illness that he was unable either to leave or be removed from the room. Dr. Grant was immediately in attendance and administered restoratives; Lady Macdonald was sent for; a bed was fitted up to accommodate the invalid, and everything done that was possible to allay his sufferings. In the evening Dr. Bown attended him with Dr. Grant; the former, with Mr. McMicken, spent the night by his bedside; and though the spasms had abated Sir John was so weak as to be in a complete state of collapse, his watchers fearing that he would not live until morning. Drs. Grant and Bown gave it as their opinion that the immediate cause of his illness was the passage of a calculus through the biliary duct; and their efforts were rightly directed to prevent an attack of inflammation. On Saturday, though somewhat better, his condition was still so precarious that his friends, on the advice of the attending physicians, sent for Dr. G. W. Campbell of this city, who left here on Saturday evening, and arrived at Ottawa by special train over the Ottawa and St. Lawrence railway about four o'clock on Sunday morning. By Monday Sir John was so far recovered as to warrant Dr. Campbell in returning home; and the reports have since brought the cheering information that he was steadily improving. We should be glad to believe that the statements in some of the Ottawa despatches that Sir John would again be well in a few days, were true; but from the severity of the attack, and from the fact that he had for weeks before been undergoing the fatigues of an unusually trying session, it is far more likely that he will require some time to so far recuperate his strength as to be able, with justice to himself, to resume the discharge of his arduous public duties. It need scarcely be remarked that the news of his sudden and severe illness created a universal feeling of anxious sympathy throughout the Dominion.

Since the above was in type, he have learned that Sir John became very much worse on Wednesday morning, and continued so ill throughout the day that his life was despaired of. Towards evening he began to rally again, and at night considerable improvement had taken place in his position and the hopes of his recovery were again revived.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

PARLIAMENTARY, &c.

OTTAWA, May 9, 1870.

In my last communication I expressed a doubt as to the Red River Bill being that piece of perfection which should please everybody. The doubt was more than realized, for it appeared to please nobody. In its original shape it was, to say the least, a very singular measure. The arbitrary and apparently eccentric limitation of the boundaries of the new province, the extraordinary and almost ludicrously complicated legislative arrangements, for so small a province and so sparse a population, were strange enough. The bill has been modified and amended; still, as it appears to me, it is unique as a constitution. The Hon. Mr. McDougall has prepared a rival measure which, if it has no other advantage, may claim to be more simple and less expensive. It will probably be moved as an amendment in committee.