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WEDNESDAY.....APRIL 8, 1885

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have sent out a large number of bills to subscribers in arrears, and up to date the returns have not been as large as they should be. As a newspaper, no more than any other business, can be run on an empty treasury, we earnestly trust that all our patrons receiving these bills will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness to THE TRUE WITNESS without delay.

ENGLAND has 65 square miles of colony to the square mile of her own area; Holland comes next with 54 square miles; Portugal follows with 20; Denmark with 6.30; France with 1.99; Spain with 0.86. The area of the British colonies is nearly 8,000,000 of square miles—rather less than the Russian Empire, including Siberia and Central Asia; but if the area of the native feudatory states in India, amounting to 509,254 square miles, be added, over which England exercises as great control as Russia does over much of the territory under its sway, together with that of the United Kingdom itself, 120,722 miles, then the area of the British Empire exceeds that of the Russian Empire by about 200,000 square miles, and it covers within a fraction of one-sixth of the whole land area of the globe.

THE number of business failures in the Dominion of Canada as reported by Dun, Wiman & Co., for the first quarter of the year, was 393, or 64 less than for the corresponding period of 1884. A more marked decrease is shown in the amount of liabilities. For the first quarter of 1885 the liabilities figured up \$4,976,575, while for the first three months of this year they amount to only \$2,827,782. This favorable showing is the reverse of the condition of things in the United States, where there has been an increase both in the number of failures and in the amount of liabilities. The record of failures in the different provinces for the three months is as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Province, 1884, 1885. Rows include Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Total.

THE Montreal Herald is violently of the opinion that any government which would send Canadian troops to the North-West via Chicago would not live a week in this Dominion. "It would," according to our ex-dominion contemporary, "be hurled from power without ceremony. It would be treated as the greatest enemy of the country. It would for all time be regarded as having trailed the honor of Canada in the dust. This is very decided and very strong, but we think it is scarcely to the point. Our morning confrere will have to admit that what is good enough for the General ought to be good enough for the rank and file. Now, the route to the North-West via Chicago was found good enough for General Middleton and his staff as it was; consequently, there would not be much more "disgrace nor national dishonor" in the troops following the steps of their General than there is in the fact of the General having in the first place "enacted" to the scene of action through a foreign country disguised in civilians' clothes.

For the past week or two strenuous efforts have been made by Mr. Gladstone and his Ministers to give the situation between England and Russia as peaceful and friendly an aspect as possible. It was asserted from the Treasury benches that the relations between London and St. Petersburg were friendly, instead of being strained, and that a pacific solution of their difficulty could be counted upon. All this talk of peace and goodwill was mere fabrication, the wish being father to the thought. We were daily told that Russia was backing down and was leaving the field in Afghanistan clear to the Ameer and to Lord Dufferin, but, as a matter of fact, the very opposite attitude was being taken by the Russians. Mr. Gladstone's game of bluff had no effect upon them, for we see by this morning's despatches that the Russian troops have advanced their outposts to within eighteen miles of Penjdeh. It is also stated that in answer to England's ultimatum Russia has declared that no single vital point at issue will be conceded. It now remains for Mr. Gladstone to advance or retire. There is no alternative.

THE movement in favor of woman suffrage in the enlightened State of Massachusetts is met by a counter-demonstration on the part of women who decline to assume the responsibilities of the franchise, and who do not like the idea of going to the polls to vote. Petitions which have been in circulation, receiving the signatures of thousands of the fair ones, set it down as a fact that the great majority of the sex are by no means desirous of having political power conferred on them, and that the agitation on the part of the female suffrage leaders is not in any sense representative of the feelings of women in general. Confronted by these formidable documents the sisterhood has changed its tactics by turning the fire away from the men and directing it toward the unsympathetic women. If the men who are opposed to female suffrage had, long ago, adopted this policy of getting the women themselves to fight the battle, they would have escaped a good deal of tongue thrashing and denunciation on the part of the female agitators. The fact is that only a very few of them, and they not the most modest or home-loving members of the sex, want to vote.

An evening contemporary, in one of its sensational items, informed the public last week that Mr. Baumgarten, the genial master of the Montreal Hunt Club, had made the generous and patriotic proposal to equip and horse 50 members of the hunt, at his own expense, for service in the North-West. Mr. Baumgarten was represented as being extremely anxious that the government would accept his offer, especially as he desired to spend \$25,000 in the project. This story has been going the rounds of the press and has elicited very warm praise on all sides. In its last issue the Toronto Mail publishes a half column of gush and glory which it dedicates to the memory of the master of the Montreal Hunt, and in mournful tones bewails the inability of the Toronto Hunt club to go and do likewise. Mr. Baumgarten has got his glory and fame very cheap, but as the gentleman does not want to retain anything under false pretences, he has denied to our reporter that he gave even any color to such a report as published by our evening contemporary, and added that he was not quite such a madman as to neglect his business and pay some \$25,000 out of his own pocket for the privilege of taking a body of men to fight against half-breeds and Indians at the first war-like rumors. Sic transit gloria mundi.

In view of the coming conflict between Russia and England, it may be interesting to know how both countries stand as regards their respective military strength. Russia has admittedly more soldiers than any other first class power in Europe; but it is not generally known that, on sea as well as on land, Russia stands at the head of all other nations, as far as the number of ships of war is concerned. In her standing army there are 780,000 men, and she has 358 ships in her navy. It costs \$125,000,000 a year to keep her military establishments on their peace footing, and her military authorities say they can place 2,300,000 trained men under arms in war time. The English standing army is 182,000 men. This includes the English regular troops serving in India. The English War Office authorities profess to be able to put 642,000 well drilled and effective British troops in the field if called on to do so. This does not include the Indian auxiliary forces, which would swell the total British forces at home and abroad to over

1,000,000 men. It costs England \$90,000,000 a year to keep up its regular army. In 1853 there were 52,000 Irish soldiers in the English army; now there are only 31,000. The British navy contains 263 ships. But while the Russian navy contains more vessels than the English navy, it must be remembered that England spends three times as much on her navy as Russia spends on hers.

SOME journals have the habit of sneering at the educational standing of the people of Quebec Province, and of alluding to it as the most backward in the Dominion. A little attention given to the other provinces would show that in the matter of education Quebec is by no means the farthest behind. The report of the schools of New Brunswick for the past year, while giving a gratifying account of the progress of education in that province, shows that a good deal still remains to be accomplished. Education seems to be so little in favor with the people that compulsory attendance is strongly advocated in the report, as a means to get the children to frequent the schools. It appears that the number of pupils registered at school between the ages of 5 and 15, during the summer term ended October 31st, 1883, was 52,159, and for the following winter term 48,285. The number of children in the Province between these ages is, according to the last census, 80,504, thus leaving over 28,000 during the first term as not enrolled at the Public Schools, and over 32,000 during the following term. But the numbers enrolled are far in excess of the average daily attendance for the full term. The summer term gives a regular daily attendance of only 28,739, and the winter one of 27,116. While we have thus between the ages of 5 and 15 80,000 children for whose education the State has made provision, there are over 50,000 of them out of school daily. The province of Quebec is far from making such a bad showing or from manifesting such a widespread disinclination to reap the benefits of education.

Ten years ago the journey of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland would have been a triumphal progress; to-day it will undoubtedly be a depressing failure. Disapprobation of the visit is almost unanimous. The visit was soon seen to be nothing better than a ministerial dodge to extract expressions of loyalty, which would be immediately manufactured into cordial approval of English misrule in Ireland. That game had already been played too often, and the leaders of the National Party judged it an opportune moment to change the tune and the play. The word went forth that the royal visitors should be severely and respectfully let alone. The highest representative national body in Ireland, the Dublin Council, acted upon it with singular unanimity. Their reasons for so doing were clearly set forth in the amendment to the motion that a hearty welcome should be given to Their Royal Highnesses, which read as follows:—"That inasmuch as the claim of the Irish people to a restoration of their ancient national legislation is unjustly opposed and rejected by the English Government, considering that the constitutional liberties of the Irish people are and have been for many years superseded by a coercion code of unparalleled severity, having regard to the fact that under cover of those oppressive laws the administration of Irish affairs has become little better than an odious despotism; and further, considering that the visit of the Prince of Wales is a political contrivance designed to produce a deceptive show of satisfaction with the rule of Dublin Castle and the British Parliament; we deem it our duty to abstain from taking any part in his reception, believing that the presentation of addresses and other such demonstrations are unsuited to our country."

Thus, the time has gone by when the mere presence of English royalty in Ireland could atone for and wipe out the sins of the Government and of Dublin Castle.

An unjust and reckless administration of Irish affairs can no longer be sugar coated by a friendly visit and royal levees at the Castle, and thus be made acceptable to the national palate.

"BLOOD FOR BLOOD."

ONE of the many correspondents out on the war path writes that the feeling in the West is strongly adverse to the sending of commissioners to treat with the half-breeds. The volunteers are said to be indignant at any such idea and would resent it. They say the blood of Canadian patriots is now upon the head of Riel and should be avenged. This is exactly the danger we pointed out from the beginning of this North-West conflict, and against which we strongly urged that full provision should be made. These volunteers mistake their mission. They are not sent, at least we assume and hope so, on a mission of vengeance and of carnage. They have no right to express sentiments of indignation at any pacific course the Government may see fit and proper to adopt to bring the uprising to a speedy end, and they have much less right to make threats which are unparagonably indecent and intolerable in mere volunteers. "Blood for blood" is an idiotic, a hideous and a savage cry under the circumstances, and especially in a conflict of this kind. We want no Mohammedan fanaticism to characterize the valor of Canadian arms. There is no cause for it, there is no necessity for any display of ferocious instincts. Our volunteers, especially those from Ontario, should bear that in mind, and should govern themselves accordingly. Their duty is to obey orders and not to act themselves up as critics and kickers against a pacific solution of the difficulty, if the Government is able to reach one.

IN THE WAY OF PEACE.

It is now an admitted fact that the dishonest class of officials sent to the North-West Territories, and the negligent manner in which they performed their duties, had a great deal to do with disgusting the half-breeds and Indians, and forcing them into rebellion against the Government. These officials were not selected on account of any special fitness for the work assigned them. They looked more after their own interest and paid more attention to their own aggrandizement than they did to the pressing necessities of the settlers. They are, as a natural consequence, distrusted and disliked by the half-breeds and the Indians, and if the Government wishes to take an effective step towards establishing peace and contentment, it must begin by weeding out all objectionable officials. Every day that they are left in power will add to the difficulty and to the gravity of the situation. The weeding out process would have to begin from the head down. Everything indicates that the usefulness of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, of the North-West, has gone. Our esteemed contemporary, the Toronto World, avers that "no one in Eastern Canada has confidence in him. The half-breeds, Indians and settlers simply detest him. He has bungled everything. And yet in these troublous times he is still kept in office. If he were removed the disaffected people in the North-West would have reason for thinking that a change of policy in their favor was about to be made, and the restoration of law and order would be accelerated. Keeping him there and sending troops forward will convey to the rebels the idea that the Government approve of Dewdney's policy, and that they are going to run it down their throats at the bayonet's point. Dewdney must be recalled immediately. To keep him there longer is criminal."

A COMPARISON.

One of the cheap methods by which the enemies of the Irish people attempt to discredit Ireland, and deprive her of the sympathy and respect of the outside world, is to parade every offence committed by an Irishman and make the nations believe that crime is his principal occupation. Wife murders and other brutal crimes are daily perpetrated by the score in England, and the world is none the wiser; even the English local press will conceal the most awful crimes in two or three line items. On the other hand, no crime of any consequence can be committed in Ireland, but special correspondents are despatched to work up even the minutest details; the telegraph and the cable are made to carry the news to the extremities of the earth. In this fashion the world is kept ringing with the echoes of Irish crime until it is easily taken for granted that the country is infinitely further advanced in the ways of wickedness than any other nation. Facts, however, have been all the time preparing to prove an opposite state of affairs. Hayter's Statistical Year Book gives official figures that effectually contradict and dispose of the popular anti-Irish theories, affording a record which is much in Ireland's favor. The Year Book for 1883-4, which has been recently published, presents some very striking testimony on this question of crime. The following table, which gives the average convictions according to the population per 10,000 during the past eight years, ought to silence once and for all the traducers and vilifiers of the Irish people. The table runs:—

Table with 3 columns: Ireland, England and Wales, Scotland. Rows show years from 1876-77 to 1883-4 and a total average.

Thus the statistics show that there were less criminals for every year in Ireland than in either England or Scotland, except for the year 1881, when the country was plunged in a great social and political agitation, and the average conviction of criminals was only 0.9 above England's and 0.3 higher than that of Scotland. Besides convictions in Ireland are much more easily obtained than they are in England or Scotland. Jurymen and magistrates in Ireland stand in a much more hostile position towards the prisoner than that which they occupy in the sister kingdoms. In many cases the judges and crown prosecutors are the bitter enemies of the people and do not stop at trifles to secure a conviction. As a matter of fact, many convictions, during the years in question, have been obtained of men known to have been innocent.

The Irish police system, moreover, is much better adapted to the discovery and arrest of criminals and offenders than the English or Scotch. The members of the force are far more numerous and are stationed at short distances apart all over the country. Then, on the other side, there is an immense amount of crime committed in England which is never brought to light, or whose authors are never brought to justice, partly because the police fail to detect them, and partly because the people against whom crimes are committed find that their interests would be injured by a prosecution of the criminals. The percentage of Irish convictions, then, considerably lower at ordinary times than that of England and Scotland, and only very slightly higher at a time of great popular excitement, gives a striking and emphatic contradiction to the calumnies so persistently and widely circulated against the good and virtuous name of Ireland. But the calumniators of the Irish cannot be put to shame, and the paid hirelings of a hostile press will not discontinue in their nefarious work.

THE VOLUNTEER FUND AND THE CIVIC TREASURY.

It is very satisfactory and gratifying to see a fund established for the relief and support of the families of the volunteers who are called away from their homes and labors to fight in defence of their country's interests. We believe that ample provisions should be made for the support of the families of the absent ones. We believe it is a debt which the country has contracted and owes its citizen soldiers, and which should be promptly met. But we do not believe in taking the money from the wrong treasury to pay off that debt. The outpourings of private benevolence and generosity will always prove most acceptable and no limit will be placed upon such. But national objects are not to be paid for out of local or municipal coffers. What is for the general good of the country must be paid for at the general cost of the country. Because a municipality supplies volunteers for national purposes is not exactly a reason why that municipality should be called upon to meet the expenses which their support must necessarily create.

At the meeting of citizens held on Saturday last at the City Hall to start a volunteer fund, Mr. Thos. White, M.P., made a proposal in this direction which cannot meet with the sanction of the ratepayers of Montreal. Mr. White said it seemed to him that the question of the city council subscribing a sum of money might ultimately become one of the necessities of the present crisis, and now that the Quebec Legislature was in session and when the City Council had before the House a bill to amend the civic charter, he suggested that a clause should be inserted in the charter authorizing the Council to vote sums of money for the relief of the families of volunteers who might at any time be called upon for the defence of the country. To this proposition we must enter the most decided objection, as it would open the road to abuses against our local and municipal institutions. Why should Montreal be compelled to pay for the support of volunteers whose services are not given to benefit the city only, but the whole country? Then, the more volunteers that would be taken from our population the heavier would be the cost to the city. Other municipalities, that would furnish neither money nor men would derive as much benefit from our sacrifices as we would ourselves. This would evidently be unfair. The duty of supporting the families of the volunteers who are in the service of the country, devolves upon the Federal Government alone. It should not be made to devolve upon the municipalities that happen to supply the government with troops.

A PACIFIC POLICY THE WISEST.

THE Government is to be congratulated on its efforts to settle the North-West difficulties on a peaceful basis. The Post was the first to suggest that a Commission be appointed to investigate the grievances of the half-breeds and to bring about an equitable settlement of these claims without a disastrous appeal to arms. Such a Commission has been appointed and officially gazetted. We hope that the half-breeds and Indians will accept this tardy olive branch and meet the Federal government half way in a peaceful solution of the problem. We do not agree with those who say that the Commission will be regarded by Riel's followers as extorted from the Government and as calculated to produce a mischievous effect. Canada cannot afford at the present juncture of its existence and of its development to enter into a protracted Indian war that would leave indelible scars and unhealing wounds on its youthful frame. Those blood thirsty journalists, who will be satisfied with nothing less than the hanging of Riel to a sour apple tree and the squelching of the pioneer settlers of the North-West, should not be heeded. Any display of jingoism in the present conflict is out of the question. It is not needed and it would be hurtful to Canada's best interests. It is very easy to talk about "smashing" this and "smashing" that, but it would be a wholesome thought to consider the possibilities of the tables being turned and of being smashed instead of smashing. Let our jingo Canadians, who want to smash Riel and his followers, observe and ponder over the result that has attended the efforts of their English jingo cousins to smash the Mahdi or the Boers. The Canadian government has acted with prudence, and we have no doubt that events will prove the wisdom of their pacific policy in conjunction with its military display. The country will understand there is no confession of weakness in it, and the insurgents will not regard it as such if they are wise and honestly counselled.

NO BAPTISM OF BLOOD WANTED.

There can be no two opinions about the duty of the government to take the most prompt and adequate measures to suppress the rebellion of the half-breeds in the North-West. The insurrection must not be allowed to spread, and what there is of it must be quelled at once. That is a first consideration with all well-ordered citizens of the State. The authority of the realm must be upheld. Law and order must be maintained at any cost; and the insurgents, no matter what their grievances may be, must be taught that armed resistance to constituted and lawful authority is not a mode of procedure calculated to earn sympathy or respect for their demands. But having recognized the gravity of the situation, there is no reason nor necessity that exaggeration should characterize the method of meeting it. We want no war fever to send the national brain crazy; we want no spirit of jingoism to fire the hearts of our impromptu soldiers with uncalled for vengeance and thirst for half-breed blood. Let there be no fury nor madness in our action. The insurgents are no foreigners; they are

not, in the ordinary sense of the term, enemies either of Canada or of its government. They have not risen to destroy either the one or the other. They have taken up arms to fight for their rights, to enforce their demands, which were not listened to in the proper spirit and time, or which were not listened to at all. The war trumpet has not been sounded for the fun of anything or for any ulterior evil motive. Fair warning of their contemplated action was given to the authorities. Men high in civil and ecclesiastical positions repeatedly implored the government for God's sake to move in the matter of adjusting the claims of the half-breeds and Indians in the North-West, or else the country would have to suffer the consequences. Warnings, private and public, were sent from Carleton and Prince Albert, and other centres, that the people were on the verge of an outbreak unless the Government moved at once. Only a few weeks ago Senator Montgomery received a letter from his son at Prince Albert pressing strongly for immediate action by the Government. The Senator handed the letter to Senator Macpherson, Minister of the Interior, and to the Minister of Justice, Sir Alexander Campbell, but it did not appear to disturb their apathy in the least. The idea of an uprising was only laughed at, and the ultimatum of the half-breeds was pigeon-holed with the rest of their demands. This policy of procrastination and contempt has led La Minerve, the French-Canadian organ of the Government, to speak its mind in unequivocal terms. While blaming the Metis for threatening to forsake legal and constitutional courses of action, our contemporary says, "but on the other hand we must take into consideration the impatience and scorn of these poor people, so long neglected, forgotten, despised and scoffed at. The Department of the Interior, against whom they rise, is, to speak frankly, the cause of these disturbances. It depended upon it to have had all these difficulties arranged long ago. It has preferred to treat the Metis like pariahs, preferring even the Metis to those who were the first settlers of the country. Let the Department of the Interior bear the responsibility of its own actions. It would be better employed in crying *mea culpa*, than in counselling the despatch of troops to massacre the rebels. We are not in the Sudan, thank God, and they are in the wrong who wish to treat the Metis as if they were the followers of the Mahdi." It is for all these reasons that we hold that the interests of law and order should be tempered by an acknowledgment of acquired rights, and by a clemency compatible with the guarantees of the peace of the country in the future.

Even at this late hour we believe that the Metis would lay down their arms without any recourse to violence being necessary if they could be persuaded that their claims would be honestly and fully investigated by an impartial commission, and granted wherever found legitimate. It is to the interests of the Confederation that this insurrection be brought to an end without any fighting, if possible. We want no baptism of blood, as some of our warlike orators have yearned for, especially when it would be made to flow from the veins of our own people. Our juvenile martial ardor, if not properly held in check, may lead to serious complications, to lasting evils. An officer of the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto, is reported as expressing pleasure that this trouble has occurred, as it will show the folks at home that they can smash any insurrection, and if necessary lend troops besides to get away with the Russians. This officer is also of the opinion that when these infernal half-breeds see about a thousand of well-drilled men in front of them there will be a general skedaddle. Men animated with such a spirit are liable to commit excesses which could not fail to produce the most injurious effects, as the fight would soon be made to assume the character of a racial war, the greatest calamity that could befall our Canadian confederation.

WAR ALL AROUND THE GLOBE.

Never in the history of the world has the demon of war shown his teeth at one time over such a broad expanse of territory as at the present day. A fact that is particularly striking in this universal ferment is, that the nations which are usually considered among the most polished and civilized are actually the most belligerent and the readiest to fight. And what is another remarkable feature is, that many of these civilized nations are engaged in war with people who are classed among the uncivilized. The telegraphs and cables of the two hemispheres are heavily taxed with messages of battles and rumors of war.

France and China are at each other's throats, hard and fast, in Tonquin. There human life is sacrificed to satisfy territorial greed on the part of the invading power, and an ambition to extend its colonial system at the expense of an inoffensive people. England and Russia are at daggers drawn; they are both in the ring and are preparing for a slugging match, which will only be ended by one knocking the other out. The result of the fight will decide the question of a geographical boundary away off in the interior of Asia. In the Sudan we find John Bull again pegging away at the Mahdi. The flower of the English troops are perishing between the heat of an African sun and the thrusts of Arabian spears. The British Lion is fighting for no higher or more useful purpose than the glory of smashing the Mahdi; the False Prophet is doing his best to prevent the smashing. From all appearances he has succeeded so far, even against the combined efforts of Canadians, Australians, Indians and Italians, who are aiding England in her inglorious struggle. If we come across to our own hemisphere we find the air both in the Northern and