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NOTICE.

THE NEXT NUMBER OF THE
CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS
will contain, as promised, the second series of
GUELPH VIEWS.

including the portraits of the present Mayor, the ex-Mayor, and the City Clerk and Treasurer. Also, a portrait of the Rt. Rev. ARTHUR SWEATMAN, M.A., the newly consecrated

BISHOP OF TORONTO.

We shall have also several sketches of the GREAT FIRE at St. Jean Baptiste Village, with the last of the

BROCKVILLE VIEWS.

Now is the time to subscribe.

NOTICE.

To prevent all confusion in the delivery of papers, our readers and subscribers are requested to give notice at this office, by post-card or otherwise, of their change of residence, giving the new number along with the old number of their houses.

TEMPERATURE.

As observed by HARRIS & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1878.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
65°	52°	58° 5'	64°	48°	56°
62°	55°	58° 5'	61°	43°	52°
63°	56°	59° 5'	62°	42°	52°
63°	47°	55°	57°	42°	49° 5'
67°	50°	58° 5'	48°	38°	43°
70°	54°	62°	53°	38°	46°
70°	40°	65°	56°	49°	57° 5'

Beautiful bright weather during the week. Steamers plying regularly between Montreal and Quebec. The Allan steamer "Circassian" first arrival from sea. Lachine canal opened.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 10, 1879.

OUR FISHERIES.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that we had occasion to refer to the necessity of preserving our forests in view of the ruthless destruction of timber which is everywhere going on. This week we may mention something analogous in connection with another source of our national wealth—the fisheries. The opportunity is afforded by the remarkable speech delivered last Saturday in the House of Commons by Hon. Dr. Fortin, M.P., than whom there is no higher authority on the question in the Dominion. The occasion of Dr. Fortin's speech was a resolution introduced by him to the effect that the Halifax indemnity should be devoted to the protection and development of our fisheries. He spoke of the importance of fisheries and fishermen to nations from time immemorial, and quoted opinions of well-known French authors in praise of fishers and fisheries. He showed how the European fishermen in ancient times followed the whales farther and farther over the ocean, till they arrived on the banks of Newfoundland, and there found a fish never before seen in Europe—the codfish. They kept the secret as long as they could, but others followed and so commenced the fishing settlements of the Gulf of St. Lawrence which are in existence in the present day. The Canadian fishermen are more ancient than most people suppose, for Jacques Cartier, when he came first, found fisheries established in the Gulf. He then pointed out the great value of the fisheries at the time of the treaty of Ghent, and how the Americans trespassed on the Canadian

fisheries till several American vessels were seized, when another convention was held, and a treaty signed in 1818, by which England was once more foolish enough to give the Americans the right of fishing along the greater part of the coast of Nova Scotia, and besides, gave them the right of fishing at the Magdalen Islands and coast of Labrador. After that, incited by a bounty of \$4 a ton, the American fishermen once more infringed on our best fishing grounds, and taking the best positions in the harbour, practically shut out our fishermen altogether. The result of that was that Americans were able to build up a trade which employed those celebrated clipper ships that have since become famous. By the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 England made further concessions, which not only admitted the American fishermen to all our gulfs and bays, but perceptibly reduced several of our best fishing banks from over-fishing. That treaty lapsed, and our fisheries once more became our own; but by the last treaty the Americans were once more admitted to them. Under a clause in that treaty the Fishery Commission was held, and an award of \$5,500,000 given in favour of Canada. He claimed that the result of the Americans fishing in our waters was to destroy our best grounds. They had so many artful means of killing fish, that in a very short time there will be none to catch. They have already destroyed the whale and the walrus fishing in the gulf, and would shortly do the same to the fish if they were allowed to do so. The Americans were not the only ones who destroyed our fisheries. Our own people have destroyed the herring fishery at River Ouelle by the annual wanton destruction of the fish, and no cod or halibut can be caught further west than 120 miles from Cape Chat. Fishing with hook and line did not disturb the shoals of fish, but when the Americans came with their seines and nets some 600 feet long, then away went the fish. When he first went to Gaspé, the bay used to be filled with mackerel, and after them the tunny, but when the Americans came sometimes with 50 schooners, each with 20 men, they would fish in that bay, till now that fishery is almost extinct. He then quoted authorities on fisheries, showing the injurious use of seine, and read portions of the evidence given before the Commission at Halifax, and added: There was but one opinion along the coast, that if the destruction now going on continues much longer, the Dominion fisheries would become extinct. He quoted from several works to show that the American fisheries were extinct, and argued that the American statesmen had shown their cleverness in obtaining, under each treaty, better terms for their fishermen, who were obliged to catch enough fish in our waters to supply 40,000,000 of people, and who, if left to their own devices, will soon render our fisheries as extinct as their own. The last treaty had but a few years to run, and it might be broken before that time by the Americans themselves. If they do break it we ought to thank them, for then we will supply the fish ourselves, and so rebuild an industry which now languishes, and which is the most important to Canada. The present House may not believe in the importance of the recommendation contained in his motion, but in 10 or 14 years a future House will be convinced by the rapid decrease that will be made in our fisheries by that time, if no steps are taken to foster and improve them.

THE SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL.

We have had frequent occasion to inform our readers of the progress of the memorial intended to be erected at Stratford-upon-Avon, to the immortal memory of William Shakespeare. This memorial consists of an elegant theatre, within two stones throw of the spot on which the poet's residence, New-place, stood, until it was needlessly demolished under circumstances well-known. Although the in-

ternal fittings of the theatre are not yet all finished, the inauguration was held on the 23rd of April. The building, which is capable of holding about 800 persons, was completely filled by an audience, among whom the ladies contributed at least one-half of the number. The withdrawal of the maroon coloured cloth curtain revealed a very fine drop scene painting representing a visit of Queen Elizabeth to the Globe at Bankside in her state carriage, followed by her pikemen and other guards. Among the groups represented are the Earls of Essex and Southampton on horseback, who are received by Alleyn, the player, who appears to be presenting to them a manuscript. The scene is animated, the composition picturesque, and the colouring brilliant and harmonious. The performances were preceded by a poetical address written for the occasion by Dr. Westland Marston, and comprising many fine lines and happy allusions, which were warmly applauded. The substantial feature of the entertainment, however, was the performance of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*, with the following exceptional cast. Persons represented:—Benedick, Mr. Barry Sullivan; Don Pedro, Mr. Luigi Lablache; Don John, Mr. Herbert Jenner; Claudio, Mr. Edward Compton; Leonato, Mr. Ryder; Antonio, Mr. Robbins; Balthazar, Mr. W. H. Cummings; Horatio, Mr. James Wheeler; Conrad, Mr. G. Weston; Dogberry, Mr. W. H. Stevens; Verges, Mr. Frank Barsby; Oatcake, Mr. Joseph Morris; Seacole, Mr. F. Hughes; Friar, Mr. H. J. Turner; Beatrice, Mrs. Theodore Martin (Helen Faucit); Hero, Miss Wallis; Margaret, Miss Goliere; Ursula, Miss Hudspeth. The song, "Sigh no more, ladies," set by Mr. Arthur Sullivan in the old English style, was sung with fine effect by Mr. W. H. Cummings. There was on this occasion no pit, all the area generally occupied by pit and stalls being filled with numbered chairs. The next evening there was a performance of *Hamlet*; but the most popular item in the series of entertainments was the concert of Shakespearian songs and ballads, with the fine music of Arne, Bishop, Sullivan, and other composers, which was given on Friday by many distinguished vocalists.

AMUSEMENTS.

Montreal is always indebted to Mr. DE ZOTCHE for hearing the best musical and vocal talent which appears on this continent. On Friday and Saturday of this week, the Swedish Lady Vocal Quartette Company, accompanied by the Blaisdell String Quartette will give their farewell concerts at the Mechanics' Hall. The programme which they place before us is a classical one and has been selected with a due regard to variety. The leading press, throughout the world, has meted out unqualified praise to this Quartette, which is composed of four Swedish nightingales, two soprano and two altos. "Their voices blend delightfully, their intonation is faultless and the ensemble leaves nothing to be desired." Thus speaks the *London Times*.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, May 2.—It is at least a curiosity to notice how the rumours in the Letellier matter spread. Every body almost immediately knew that important telegrams had been received by the Government by cable on Saturday last. On Sunday it was whispered in the lobbies that the Opposition would not now be anxious to prolong the session in the hope to receive before its close a decision in the Letellier question adverse to the Government. On Monday, of course, these confidential whispers of Sunday were the talk of the town. It is said that the Imperial Government do not want to receive any delegates either from the Dominion Government or His Honour, and this is probably true. I believe it is also true that they have decided to leave the system of Responsible Government at Ottawa to its operation. I have never seen how they could do otherwise. The potency of the House of Commons, therefore, as represented in the advice given by Sir John A. Macdonald to the Governor-General cannot be re-

sisted; and the political decapitation of His Honour is sure to come.

Col. Littleton, the able and judicious Secretary of Lord Dufferin, and for a while holding the same position with his successor, but now in England, has apparently become exercised over the controversy, and has written a letter to the *Times* to explain and defend the position which the Governor-General has assumed. But there is nothing new in his argument. I have already in these letters twice presented the substance of it.

I was misled in an anticipation I made in my last letter respecting the vote on the Insolvency Bill. The House by a large vote has passed Mr. Bechard's Bill to repeal altogether the insolvent law and enact none other in its stead. I thought from the fact of the Special Committee having been moved by a member of the Government, the Minister of Justice, and also in view of the very elaborate and painstaking nature of the investigations it made, together with the very stringent recommendations contained in the report it presented, that these would have been accepted by the House and have become law. Such certainly might have been anticipated as being in the ordinary course of events. The fact that these recommendations in such circumstances have not been accepted and a Bill passed to sweep them altogether away by a very large vote shows how strong is the feeling of the House. The speculation is, at the moment I write, what the Senate will do. I doubt if it will do anything; and if Mr. Bechard's Bill should finally pass, there will be at least good times for the lawyers.

As respects the Coteau Bridge Bill the Government will take power by act either to allow or to decline by Order in Council after further inquiry is made. Both parties express themselves satisfied with this, and that is lucky. I am inclined to think, however, the project is practically shelved.

Mr. Girouard's Broker's Restriction Bill is also put into a state of happy rest until the next session. It was curious to see what would become of this. It would, if it had passed, have made a strikingly new feature in our protection laws, and it may have a resurrection next session.

It is understood that Dr. Schultz's Railway Bill from Winnipeg to the south-western border of Manitoba is to pass. This will connect the Pembina Mountain's district, including the large Mennonite settlement with Winnipeg. It will be altogether a most valuable colonization road, and cannot fail to pay. No colonization roads due west of Winnipeg will be allowed to interfere with the Pacific Railway project; and this certainly is common sense, especially after the deflection around the south end of Lake Manitoba. Mr. Fleming's report has been laid before the House of Commons. It contains a great deal of most important information and some valuable suggestions having in view railway economy in relation to its development in our North West. As respect the Pacific terminus, Mr. Fleming is decidedly in favour of Burrard Inlet; and if the facts he has stated are established, I do not see any escape from his conclusion. Even if we could build the longer route by Bute Inlet without a frightful expenditure of capital, it is difficult to see how it could be considered so valuable as a through line compared with the shorter route, if, in fact, the extra length would not kill it as a through line. It is understood that there are to be some further northern explorations and it is rumoured that some work is to be done on the Bute Inlet route this summer. It is also rumoured there are some points connected with this question to be again referred to the Imperial Government.

Mr. Fleming's suggestion for the construction of a wagon road in connection with the extension of our telegraph system to the North-West from Lake Nipissing to Lake Superior, has naturally attracted interest. It has many features to recommend it. It will open up large tracts of country for colonization, as well as most valuable mineral regions; and also vast tracts of timber lands. Our great forest wilderness will thus be pierced, and the road paved for the railway. I must say that my opinion of the resources of that region, both for settlement and the development of mineral wealth, was very much increased by listening to the evidence a few days ago of Mr. Dawson, M.P., before one of the committees of Parliament.

The proceedings in the House have not been marked by any brilliant or even serious debate during the week. But a good deal of business has been done, and the estimates are being very rapidly voted. Of course there was a debate on many of the items, but it was not of a serious character; and every sign by which the rapid approach of the close of a session is known is now apparent. Some of the members, in fact, have already begun to go away, and people generally are getting tired.

Mr. Masson has introduced a bill to amend the Militia Act, providing that, when volunteers are called out, the municipality in which their services are required shall pay them, and provide lodging for the men and stabling for the horses.

Mr. Tilly has introduced a measure of very considerable importance—viz., a bill to provide for Government Life Insurances. The question is one on which a great deal may be said on both sides. On one side, a Government policy would give absolute security as could be promised; on the other, it is open to the danger of very risky lives being taken from political influence. This is undoubtedly a great danger, but it may be guarded against. The existing Companies will, of course, regard such a measure with great