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All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

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BENEATH THE WAVE.

This interesting story is now proceeding in large instalments through our columns, and the interest of the plot deepens with every number. It should be remembered that we have gone to the expense of purchasing the sole copyright of this fine work for Canada, and we trust that our readers will show their appreciation of this fact by renewing their subscriptions and urging their friends to open subscriptions with the NEWS.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 22, 1879.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

On Friday afternoon, the 14th inst., amid unwonted pomp and ceremonial, His Excellency the Governor-General delivered the Speech from the Throne to the assembled Parliament. That Speech will be found in another column, and we have published it entire, not only because of its intrinsic importance, but because it is the first official document of the kind which has emanated from the pen of the Marquis of Lorne. It will be remarked that, as to form, the speech is above the usual standard of such productions, leading to the inference that it is due to the practiced pen of the noble Lord himself, and not the creation of any of his Ministers. The substance is grave and copious. We have no patience with the party hacks and scribes who attempt to pick flaws in a State paper, crowded with suggestions and promises, and foreshadowing an elaborate scheme of commercial and financial regeneration. It is true that the reference to the tariff and its readjustment is not specific, but general; still, the broad announcement is there, and a pledge laid down which no Ministry could dare to trifle with. The revenue must be increased to meet a deficit of nearly seven millions, accumulated within the last four years, and that fact alone would necessitate a thorough overhauling of our customs and other duties. But, beyond this, there is a need for protection to all our nascent native industries, and this the Speech from the Throne distinctly promises to carry out. We confess that we were not prepared for the assumption of Life Insurance by the Government, but the surprise is an agreeable one and a progressive step, which we are certain will meet with general approval. The success of the Post Office Savings' Bank system appears to warrant that the trial of a similar scheme with regard to the insurance of lives would be equally well received. The economic principle involved in the plan is the retention in Canada of hundreds of thousands of dollars which yearly flow into the coffers of foreign insurance companies, and, in our present circumstances, it is wise to keep Canadian capital in Canadian hands. With regard to the Weights and Measures Act, a great reformation is needed, and we are glad to see that it is proposed by the Government; but before any thorough reform is attempted, we would suggest the propriety of enquiring whether the adoption of the Metrical System would not be the best at the present moment. The Metrical System is practically received by every civilized nation except England and her colonies. In the United States, the scheme is so popular that we may expect its adoption

within the next decade, and, if we are right in our surmise, it would become imperative for Canada to follow the same course. We are somewhat concerned to find that nothing is said in favour of foreign immigration. At a time when social upheavals on the Continent and the wide-spread labour crisis in England is throwing thousands upon their last resources, and when such men as Lord Derby not only suggest, but recommend a general emigration as the only cure for the evil, we think Canada might take some steps to secure for herself a portion of the outflow. The single State of Kansas announces an increase of one hundred thousand in a single year, and the Western States show a proportionate increment. The question naturally arises, why should Canada not reap a small portion of this source of strength and wealth? Altogether, the Speech from the Throne reads like an earnest, business-like document, which will give the present Government and Parliament plenty to do, and which, with the support of the press and the people, is almost sure to result in substantial constructive advantages to the whole country.

THE WHITE CHEST.

In our issue of the 15th instant there appeared a short story under the title of this article. A respected correspondent from Brockville writes to say that he has reason to know that the story is, in part at least, quite true. That the "white chest" really existed, and was under a glass case upon a roof, he can affirm with all positiveness, for, during his stay in London in 1875, he repeatedly saw it. The house upon which it was perched was on Uxbridge road—the west-end continuation of Oxford street—and was nearly opposite one of the gates opening thereon from Hyde Park. The tradition respecting it agrees substantially with the one given by the author of the tale. That it really contained a "remains," or was finally "cremated," is more than our correspondent can say. He believes that the will—or a legal copy of it—can be seen by applying to the proper authorities and—paying the necessary fees. Why the heir should have hit upon such a manner of keeping his relative above ground, would seem the oddest part of the whole affair. He must have been an inventor, of unusual resources. One would think that his safest plan would have been to have had the old gentleman cremated in the first instance, and then to have deposited the ashes in a funeral urn upon the mantel-piece, where he could have cast his eye upon it "when he felt so disposed."

The story, as our correspondent heard it, runs thus:—The legal heir had done something displeasing to his aged relative, who added a codicil to his testament with the "above ground" stipulation, intending thereby to make the young man the author of his own ruin. For, as is known, it is customary to read the will after the funeral, when, of course, it would have transpired that the property had passed to the reversionary heirs. By some means or other the heir intended discovered the true state of affairs, and when his aged relative departed for the happy hunting-grounds, he had him boxed up under oath by a carpenter, assisted by legal forms and affidavits innumerable, so that there should be no mistake. The other branch of the family, indignant at being thus cozened, sought an opportunity of carrying off and burying the chest, with its contents. The possessor, however, recognizing that glorious fact, that a Briton's house is his castle, put the box on top of the castle wall and defied the enemy. That he was finally conquered by fire is not improbable, yet that would hardly invalidate his claim to the property, for instead of the old gentleman going under ground, we think our readers will agree that in that case he would be very much gone up.

The diagram of the House of Commons which we publish to-day, along with the

names of the members corresponding to their seats, will be found both interesting and useful for reference. We are indebted for the diagram to our excellent contemporary, the Ottawa Citizen.

We have made arrangements with a special correspondent who will send us letters from Ottawa during the session, giving the points of information of chief interest each week. The first of his letters appears to-day.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Ottawa, Feb. 15th, 1879.

For the first time, yesterday, the Royal Standard of England floated in the breeze from the flag-pole of the great tower of the Parliament Buildings; and, at about ten minutes to three, the Princess Louise drove up in a covered sleigh with a single pair of horses, escorted by the new company of dragoons, who made a really imposing show with their brilliant riding and new, shining, white helmets. Ten minutes later, precisely at three o'clock, the Governor-General came up in an open sleigh drawn by four horses. The Princess entered by the Senators' door, the band playing the National Anthem, the militia officers, in their uniforms, making a cordon on the steps through which she passed. The Governor-General entered by the door under the great tower, the band again playing the National Anthem, while the artillery boomed out a royal salute. His Excellency and Her Royal Highness took their seats in the new chairs of state placed on the newly erected throne, and the members of the House of Commons were summoned in accordance with the ancient custom; and they, as usual, tumbled in pell-mell, to the Bar of the Senate, when His Excellency delivered the Speech from the Throne in French and in English. It was remarked that he uttered the French with very marked purity of pronunciation.

Probably there was never before in Ottawa so much desire to witness the opening of Parliament, and get a glance at the Princess on her first state appearance among us. The limited number of tickets for the floor were soon exhausted, among those to whom of right, or, at least, of established custom, they should be sent; and no pressure or influence could extend that limited number of places. But the tickets for the gallery were more freely given out. To appease the clamour for them, many more tickets were given out than the galleries could contain. Long before the appointed hour of three o'clock, in fact before noon, the crowd began to stream towards the Senate Chamber. All the galleries were densely packed shortly after noon, the people, ladies and gentlemen, sitting and standing, as they best could, in a dense jam, to wait for three mortal hours for the opening, and those who went at one o'clock were unable to get in. The large corridors also became packed, so that egress was exceedingly difficult, in fact, almost impossible, for those who had simply got thus far and found further progress hopeless. There were also immense crowds outside, notwithstanding the day was bitterly cold. His Excellency, as he drove up in his open sleigh, was very enthusiastically cheered. He acknowledged this compliment by uncovering his head as he passed through the crowd, despite the sharpness of the frost. In the crush of the galleries one woman was noticed to faint, and she could neither be removed nor could she fall down, and so had to remain for the space of about half-an-hour in this apparently inanimate state.

And thus amid a great crowd gathered from many parts of Canada, amid demonstrations of loyal enthusiasm, with military display, the voice of music, and the roar of cannon, after faithful observance of the ancient forms, this fourth Parliament of Canada was opened by the Marquis of Lorne, in the presence of the daughter of the Queen.

The Speech from the Throne you will have received by telegraph before these lines are written, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for me to make any recapitulation of its contents. But I may remark that it refers to topics of vast importance for the future of this country, and it is not exaggeration to say, of modern civilization itself. It will be my duty more particularly to refer to some of them as the session advances. The speech, of course, you will print, and all parties will scan its announcements at this critical time.

On the day of assembling, as everybody who is aware of Canadian political events knew would be the case, Dr. Blanchet, the Member for Levis, was elected Speaker by an unanimous vote. He was proposed by Sir John A. Macdonald in a few well-chosen words, setting forth his claims and his services. Mr. Tilley seconded the nomination. But neither he nor Sir John made any reference to the old practice, before Confederation, of choosing alternate speakers from the French and English sections of Parliament. I think, however, it is plain that Dr. Blanchet was elected because of the pressure of those reasons which first caused this rule to be established.

Mr. Mackenzie, from his point of view, made a rather happy attempt to catch Sir John in an inconsistency, in that he, Sir John, had contended, in 1873, that it was not advisable to pass over the claims of Mr. Cockburn, the previous Speaker, who had performed his duties with impartiality and to the satisfaction of both sides of the House, and that it was better to follow the English practice of continuing the same speaker. Mr. Mackenzie therefore thought that Sir John should have proposed Mr. Anglin instead of Dr. Blanchet, but it is plain that even according to Mr. Mackenzie the strictly logical course, by the rule he mentioned, was to reappoint Mr. Cockburn. Mr. Mackenzie did, however, say that Dr. Blanchet would make a Speaker in every way satisfactory to his side of the House, apart from the considerations he had mentioned.

There was another political event on Thursday worth notice, viz.: a great State Dinner given by the Governor-General and the Princess Louise, at Rideau Hall. As many as 90 invitations were sent, including Governors of Provinces, Privy Councillors, Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices, Heads of the Civil Service, &c. This was followed by an "At Home," at which were present a large number of ladies and gentlemen.

In the evening of the opening, to be continued this evening, the Marquis and the Princess held a Drawing Room, and I think there has never been before a more brilliant display of beauty and of ladies' dresses, and of civil and military uniforms, of high official persons, in the dazzlingly lighted and magnificent Senate Chamber of Canada. The Princess Louise, to whom all eyes were turned, was dressed in simple black, relieved only by a coronet of brilliants on her head, and an ornament of the same on her breast. The ladies, her attendants, who stood behind her, were also simply attired in black, with very little ornament. And nothing could be more gracious and simple than her bearing. His Excellency was dressed in the very profusely ornamented Windsor uniform of the first class. The centre of the floor of the Senate Chamber was occupied by the military officers, in attendance in their uniforms, and the Aides and Major De Winton stood in a file on the left of the ladies and gentlemen who approached the throne, on which His Excellency and the Princess stood, and made the presentations. Those presented immediately passed out into the corridor, and many went to the gallery to obtain a view of the both brilliant and magnificent spectacle below; the effect of which was much enhanced by there being no crowding on the floor; the Senators with their wives and daughters, Privy Councillors, Lieutenant-Governors, Judges of the Supreme Court, and other notable persons, alone remaining after presentation. And as to the dresses of the ladies in attendance, what words can give a description of them? They were simply bewildering! Both the ladies of Ottawa and those who had come from distant parts, fairly outdid themselves for this grand gathering. There was infinite variety of colours and materials. And if I were to be allowed one word of criticism, the error was rather on the side of doing too much. But all grouped together made really a beautiful spectacle, which those who saw will not soon forget. One further word I may say for information of the ladies. The dresses were not confined to low necks. And it is, in fact, whispered that the customs which the Daughters established, both as regard dress and invitations, and kinds of entertainments, are to be followed.

The Government have passed an Order in Council continuing the contract with the British-American Bank Note Company for a further period of five years. It is perfectly understood that this Canadian Company have performed the responsible work confided to them for some years past to the satisfaction of both the Government and the banks. The Company are known to have invested large capital in this very special enterprise, and, we understand, have an establishment with facilities capable of doing double the amount of work to be done in the country. It seems, therefore, that the Government have acted wisely and consistently in thus maintaining the National Policy platform by supporting institutions already established in the country.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

SILVER DISCOVERY NEAR OTTAWA.—While reports from surrounding towns and villages speak invariably of general business depression, the little isolated community of Carp, near Ottawa, is enjoying a return of that prosperity which left it long since, and which the oldest inhabitants have been wont to speak of with regret. The prosperity alluded to above has its origin in the discovery of an extensive deposit of silver, on the farm of Mr. Henry Mooney, about a mile from the village. The manner in which he first became aware of the presence of silver on his farm is somewhat singular. It seems that two of his daughters last summer collected a number of specimens of beautiful white stone, with which they decorated a what-not in the parlor. No further notice was taken of them until last week, when an American gentleman called, and being shown into the parlor, was surprised at seeing so many specimens of what he unhesitatingly pronounced to be composed of at least 75 per cent. of silver. On leaving soon after, he secured a lump weighing about a pound, and submitted it to a practical analyst in Ottawa. The result of this test proved it to be scarcely equal to the expectations of those interested, but fully 45 per cent. of sil-