

# Canadian Pictorial

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## The Snow Storm

Through the hushed air the whitening shower descends,  
At first, thin-wavering; till at last the flakes  
Fall broad and wide and fast, dimming the day  
With a continual flow. The cherished fields  
Put on their winter-robe of purest white.  
'Tis brightness all; save where the new snow melts  
Along the mazy current. Low the woods  
Bow their hoar head; and, ere the languid sun  
Faint from the west emits his evening ray,  
Earth's universal face, deep-hid and chill,  
Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide  
The works of man. Drooping, the laborer-ox  
Stands covered o'er with snow, and then demands  
The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,  
Tamed by the cruel season, crowd around  
The winnowing store, and claim the little boon  
Which Providence assigns them.—Thomson.

## Happenings of the Month

**M**ONDAY, January 22nd, was the greatest day in the history of the new Parliament of Canada. It was the day of the fight on Mr. Lancaster's bill on the marriage question. The bill, in a word, calls for the enactment of legislation declaring that any marriage solemnized by any recognized authority be valid in Canada despite any ecclesiastical decree to the contrary. It aims, of course, at the recently promulgated *Ne Temere* decree of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Lancaster explained that the chief purpose of his measure was to remove from the marriage ceremony all questions of the religion of the contracting parties. He argued strongly that the Dominion Government had the power to pass this legislation, the Provincial Governments having only the right to deal with the ceremonies and forms of marriage. Mr. Borden was inclined to agree with the view that marriage laws come under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. In that respect he was in accord with the views of the Hon. C. J. Doherty, the present Minister of Justice, Sir Allen Aylesworth and Mr. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice. Mr. Borden moved that the discussion be adjourned. With this motion he gave the assurance that the undecided legal aspect of the question would be sent to the Privy Council for a decision. After several speakers had been heard Mr. Borden's motion to adjourn the debate was carried by 86 to 61, a Government majority of 25. Five Conservative members voted with the Opposition, Mr. A. E. Lancaster, Lincoln; Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac; Mr. Edward Kydd, of Carleton; Mr. W. F. Maclean, of South York; and Mr. Richard Blain, of Peel. Both Mr. Tom Wallace and Mr. W. B. Northrup, who spoke in favor of the bill, voted with the Government.

Petitions in favor of the creation of a new province out of what is now known as New Ontario are being received at the office of the Prime Minister, from Kenora and other points in the northern and western parts of the province. They are in the form of resolutions passed by various public bodies in the towns of New Ontario, as recommending the division of the province and annexation to Manitoba. They do not contain any requisition for action on the part of the Federal Government. The division of Ontario into two provinces, it is stated, could only be brought about by agreement amongst the people of Ontario themselves. When such a decision is arrived at it will be necessary, in all probability, to secure an amendment to the British North America Act. Steps to this end would, no doubt, have to be taken at the instance of the Federal Government. The Dominion Government is clothed with the necessary authority to create a new province out of unorganized federal territory or to add unorganized territory to a province, but the division of a province already created into two provinces would involve considerations which have not been thought of up to the present time.

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The Hon. Frank Cochrane's proposal for an alternative Hudson's Bay route, following the Nottawa river down towards the main line of the Transcontinental Railway in Quebec, is considered by members of the House of Commons to be a good one. The mouth of the Nottawa is said to afford much better harbor facilities than are to be found at either Fort Churchill or Nelson. In the meantime there are two railway projects which bear upon the general scheme, one for a line north from Hull, and another for a line from Montreal, running up to the Nottawa. These projects are now receiving consideration from the Quebec Government.