

M. Thiers' Great Speech.

No other subject is touched upon by the journals of the French capital than the stand-up fight between Louis Philippe's old Minister and the present Minister of State. The speech of Mr. Thiers was most brilliant though perhaps a little too lengthy. It was much like the majority of this gentleman's Parliamentary orations, it did not arrive at any practical conclusion. It was a speech and nothing more. It is composed of two parts, the first being a large page of history—a little too cold perhaps—like the frost which rises in the memory of men to certify either to the wisdom or the shortsightedness of the present; but the second—a master-piece of public discussion—rapid, luminous, glowing with the fire which patriotism would render generous even though it should go astray. Mr. Thiers' argument is this: Events have followed their course, and what is the situation at this day? Prussia, aggrandized, now counts 30,000,000 of subjects—even 40,000,000 with the Confederations of the South. That power is young and ambitious, and here arises the first danger for Europe. But there is another peril not less great and urgent: that of some attempt being made in the East, analogous to what has been accomplished in Germany; the danger of Constantinople—the Empire of the world, as Napoleon called it at Tilsit—falling into the hands of the Russians. But there is still more. These two perils for Europe are closely connected, for if between St. Petersburg and Berlin there is no treaty yet signed, there is at least an evident community of interests, and all know that alliances are rapidly concluded. The pendulum whose oscillations maintain the European equilibrium was last year in the hands of France. It is now in those of Prussia and Russia.

Confederation in New Brunswick.

In a very proper and becoming spirit the opposition of New Brunswick, through their organ, the St. John Globe, declare their acceptance of Confederation, and their determination to make the best of it. That journal says: "The anti-confederates of this province have opposed confederation from the purest motives; but the issue has been against them. They have shown in disposition to do anything but to accept the results as they are. Confederation has been accepted by the whole people; and the only desire now of those who opposed it is to make the whole thing as perfect as possible, and to supply the deficiencies of the measure as far as it can possibly be done. We believe we speak the sentiments of the anti-confederate party, when we say that they are willing to give this new system of Government a full and fair trial."

Red River Settlement.

It is said that the following memorandum is being signed by a large number of members of both the House of Lords and House of Commons: "This settlement, situate in the centre of British North America, contains a population of about 12,000 British subjects, principally engaged in agricultural pursuits. It is the seat of bishops of the Church of England and of the Roman Catholic Church, who have missions throughout the whole territory, extending from the western boundaries of Canada to the Rocky Mountains. The only form of Government which the people of this settlement possess is that provided for in the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company, dating from the reign of Charles the Second, and which is now universally admitted to be both unsuited and inadequate to the requirements of civilization, as practised at the present day. The slow process of the Red River settlement (which was founded by Lord Selkirk in 1811) is attributed solely to the want of that form of government under which the other British North American Colonies have grown up and prospered, for

Several recent surveys and explorations have proved that around the Red River settlement and along the valley of the Saskatchewan an ample fertile territory exists for the formation of a great Colony, with almost boundless agricultural and mineral resources. The natural formation of the country is peculiarly favorable. The great Saskatchewan River rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows directly eastward into Lake Winnipeg. It is navigable for upwards of 800 miles, and while, therefore, preserving an equable climate it affords also great facility of transit between the British possessions on the Atlantic to those on the Pacific coast. "The Government of the United States have formed their adjoining country into three territories, with properly constituted Governments and represented by members in Congress at Washington. "To ensure the speedy settlement of this great country by British subjects and the proper development of its agricultural and mineral resources, the almost universal opinion prevails that it should be forthwith formed into a Crown Colony, and with that object the inhabitants of Red River settlement have repeatedly and recently addressed Her Majesty. "The object of the signers of this memorandum is to obtain a committee for the purpose of taking such measures as may lead the Government to recommend Her Majesty to appoint a Governor and Council for the Red River settlement. We shall return to a discussion of the whole question as to the best means of settling the North-West Territory at an early date."

THE EMERALD NICHOLAS—Captain Simons, of the fine British ship Emerald Nicholas came ashore yesterday. The ship is consigned to Sprot & Co., and will load with lumber at Port Ludlow, W.T., for London. The Emerald Nicholas is 1100 tons N. N. Measurement, and would carry 2000 tons of coal.

THE WASHINGTON TERRITORY ELECTION.—Returns received last evening fix the majority of Flanders at 75. The run was very close. The territory seems pretty evenly divided in sentiment as to the best means of reconstructing the country.

THE HIGH WIND of yesterday rendered out-door life anything but agreeable. Clouds of dust filled the air, and the streets were more than ordinarily empty.

THE ISABEL started for Nanaimo yesterday to tow down the ship Cordillera.

SPECIAL PARIS AND CONTINENTAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, April 9th, 1867.

VON BISMARCK AND THE CESSION OF LUXEMBURG. There is so much confusion in the different rumors concerning the cession of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg by the King of Holland to the Emperor of the French, that it is quite impossible to know whom and what we are to believe. Nothing can be more true than Herr von Bismarck's speech in the German Parliament in answer to an enquiry of Herr von Benigsen, who wished to know how the relations between France and Prussia stood. The great diplomat said:—"We attach great value to our friendly relations with France, and our best efforts are used to avoid hurting her susceptibilities, I cannot therefore reply to the second part of the interpellation relative to the conduct Prussia will adopt in concert with her allies in that event. I find the language of the hon. Herr von Benigsen proper for a deputy, but I think it is hardly diplomatic. As to the first question in which you ask for information on the pretended negotiations which have taken place between France and Holland for the cession of the Duchy, I can declare to you that we have no knowledge of the conclusion of such an arrangement between those States. The allied Federal Government is convinced that no foreign power will violate the unimpeded rights of Germany. We hope to protect them all the more efficaciously by peaceful means, as the debates of Parliament will show more clearly the indissoluble ties which bind the Government to the people."

FROM AUSTRALIA.—Letters have been received from Australia (says the Columbian) announcing the arrival of the ship Jeddo, Capt. Gray, at Port Adelaide, in 68 days. It will be recollected that the Jeddo took on a cargo of lumber for Messrs. Moody & Co., from their mills at Burrards Inlet. We regret to learn that, the consignees having failed a fortnight before the arrival of the ship, the cargo was put up to auction at an unfavorable moment, several cargoes of lumber having just arrived, and the prices realized were anything but satisfactory to the Consignors. A quantity of salmon taken up by Capt. Gray proved to be an ordinary bad, if not worse, speculation. The fish turned out to be of every inferior quality, and in bad condition. We shall have more to say on the fish question by and by.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED FREEMASON.—The death of the Rev. George Oliver, D. D., vicar of Loopwith, near Sleaford, is announced, at the patriarchal age of 84 years. The deceased was the author of several works on freemasonry, highly popular amongst the brethren, tracing the antiquity of that occult science to very remote times, establishing its relations with genuine religion, and connecting its ritual with the earlier worship of the chosen people. The deceased, who was greatly beloved and respected as a clergyman, and in all other relations of life, was instituted vicar of Sleaford in 1831 by the Bishop of Lincoln, and rector of South Hykeham, near Lincoln, in 1847, on the gift of the Lord Chancellor.—Standard, March 9th.

NEW JEWELRY ESTABLISHMENT.—Mr. E. Marks has disposed of his stock of jewelry to Mr. Wm. Jamieson, and retired from business. Mr. Jamieson has fitted up an elegant store in the Club building, and with a handsome stock of new styles of goods in his line is prepared to supply the public at the lowest rates. We commend our young fellow-townsmen, who have launched his bark on the troubled sea of business under favorable auspices, to the kind notice of our readers.

SHIPPING AT CHINA.—Captain Simons, of the ship Emerald Nicholas, reports that a large number of vessels are lying in Chinese waters awaiting charter at any rate. The Emerald Nicholas lay idle at Shanghai for many months. Surely steps could be taken to convey to the owners of the unemployed ships information that vessels are scarce on this coast, employment certain and freights high.

CREEL INQUIRY.—The editor of the Columbian, after giving a long account of the hanging by Lynch law of two men in the State of Wisconsin, winds up thus:—"We commend the whole subject to the consideration of the Victoria Morning News." This is cruel. It is an insinuation that the News is about to be, or ought to be, suspended, and is clearly actionable.

TO BE SENT UP.—Barry charged with the murder of Blessin at Cariboo last summer and an Indian, charged with the murder of Morgan near Soda Creek, will be sent up for trial, the former at Richfield on the 1st prox, and the latter at Quasnelmouth on 26th inst. They are to be sent up in charge of Mr. J. T. Scott and Mr. John McMurphy.

SUPPLYING LIQUOR TO INDIANS.—A man named John Wilson, a new arrival, was yesterday charged before the police magistrate with supplying intoxicating liquor to an Indian. He pleaded guilty, and will come up for sentence in three days. Messianic enquiries will be instituted as to his character.

END OF THE SEVENTEENTH VOLUME.—The Colonist yesterday completed its seventeenth volume, and is consequently eight years and a-half old to-day. Bound volumes of our journal from its first issue down to the present may be obtained at the publication office.

not presented itself under the most favorable circumstances. Grave apprehensions are formidable conflicts disturb the hopes it gave rise to. However, when one sees the eagerness with which the people of all countries and all climates have responded to the appeal, one cannot help making reflections creditable and reassuring to our age, viz., that the blessings of peace grow greater every day; that the progress of industry, science, and the moral and material well-being of the population, by absorbing the attention of the Governments and nations, fortunately distract their thoughts from bloody rivalry and conquests. That many currents still exist in the midst of this pacific movement, which can only too readily be disingued through the most important events of contemporary history, is only too certain.

Bank of British Columbia. The ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British Columbia was held yesterday, at the London Tavern; Mr. T. W. L. Mackenzie in the chair. The report of the directors and the accounts were taken as read. The report stated:—"The Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island trade having been in an unsatisfactory state, the directors deemed it prudent to curtail considerably the business of the branches there; consequently the profits for the half-year are small, the balance at credit of profit and loss account on 31st of December last being £5787 12s. 9d. The branches at Portland and San Francisco, on the other hand, have been transacting an increased amount of safe and profitable business. The directors do not consider it advisable on the present occasion to recommend a dividend, but propose to appropriate £2934 to meet bad debts incurred during the half-year, leaving the sum of £2853 12s. 9d. to be carried forward. It will be satisfactory to the shareholders to know that material reductions have been made in the expense of the bank's management. The saving that will be thus effected during the current year, and the further development of the branches at Portland and San Francisco, warrant the directors in expecting a more satisfactory result in the future. The recent union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia will, it is believed, by stopping antagonistic legislation and reducing expenses of Government, remove impediments to the progress of the Colony, and as the natural resources of the country are great, the directors have confidence in its ample and permanent requirements of the bank, there is no intention to make a call during the current year. Mr. Alexander Mackenzie has retired from the board on account of the state of his health. The retiring directors are Mr. Colville, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Robertson, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election." The accounts were as follows:

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AT HEAD OFFICE AND BRANCHES, DEC. 31, 1866.

Table with 2 columns: LIABILITIES and ASSETS. LIABILITIES: Capital paid up £200,000 0 0, Deposits, notes in circulation, bills payable 20,000 0 0, and other liabilities 170,020 14 1. ASSETS: Specie and bullion in hand, and cash at bankers' £293,700 8 5, Bills receivable, notes, and other securities 304,241 19 1, Premises, furniture and other property 890 0 0.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, DEC. 31, 1866. To dividend paid Oct. 8, 1866 £ 8,000 0 0, To amount carried to reserve fund, Oct. 8, 1866 2,000 0 0, To charges for Dec. 31, 1866, including rent, taxes, salaries and other expenses at head office and branches 9,980 2 7, To balance of profit, Dec. 31, 1866 5,787 12 9. Total £27,807 15 4.

By balance of profit and loss account brought from June 30, 1866 £ 11,044 14 1, By profit for six months ended Dec. 31, 1866, after deducting rebate of interest on bills not due 16,963 1 3. Total £27,807 15 4.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that before doing so he would make a few very brief remarks. The directors received several communications from shareholders at a distance, expressive of much alarm, and exhibiting so much timidity that although they would be replied to in detail a general answer would not be out of place. The burden of these letters was the low price of shares in the Stock Exchange list, and the large item for expenses compared with profit [hear, hear]. In reply to the first, the price of the shares—that was quite beyond the control of the directors, and he did not believe the members of the Stock Exchange themselves could explain why they were quoted so low; for if they tried to purchase at the quotations they could not be bought, and they all knew what means had been resorted to to hurt the position and credit of banking institutions during the past year. How this was to be guarded against he could not say, but any bank having large operations and large deposits could not stand against such schemes. But a glance at the balance-sheet must convince the most timid shareholders that the price of the old shares as quoted in the Stock Exchange list was also altogether incorrect. The depreciation in new shares was more easily accounted for, as there was a dread of calls being made. But the shareholders had the distinct assurance of the board that three months' notice would be given, and that there was no present intention or idea of making a call [hear, hear, and cheer]; but he trusted that when he told them that they had sufficient available funds to pay off their entire liabilities, both at the head office and at their branches, on demand, not only the shareholders, but the public, would have more confidence in their bank, as, indeed, they ought to [hear, hear]. Ever since the crisis commenced they had offered to pay off their acceptances under discount. As the shareholders would observe by the report, they had promised a material decrease in the expense of the bank's management, which in this year's accounts would

he hoped, show a full reduction of £5000 [hear, hear], and the remuneration for the directors this half year would not exceed £500 [cheers]. In regard to the statement relating directors' fees under a separate head. As he stated at former meetings, if any shareholder wished for more details he could have them on application to the manager. In regard to the smallness of the profits, it was especially accounted for by the fact that the board were more anxious to look on than to be tempted to do a large business in the face of such a commercial crisis as existed last year, and he mentioned that the branches in the colonies owed the head office nearly £100,000 less than they did at the beginning of 1866 [hear, hear]; and that while that money was in transit from the colony it was earning no interest. The directors believed the crisis in the colonies to be an increasing one, and that there would be a resumption of safe and profitable business. He would read an extract of a letter, dated Victoria, Feb. 6th, received yesterday. It was as follows:—"Quartz mining still engages much attention, and great results are anticipated. News of a large day of gold at Cariboo reached Victoria a few days ago, and since that time a great firmness is anxiously looked for. The merchants at Cariboo have enjoyed a good and remunerative trade during the winter season, and the restriction of undue credit already shown good results." A letter had also been received from the agent at Yale, who had advised Cariboo, confirming this statement, at work in that district where in 1864 there were only 600 [hear, hear]. In conclusion, he would sum up the hopeful features of the future—a decreased expenditure, a sounder business in the colonies, and an increasing and safe business at home; the introduction of gold quartz crushing, which has proved such a source of wealth to California; the accomplished fact of a line of steamers from San Francisco to Japan and China; that perfect ability to pay their liabilities on demand, which he had almost omitted to mention—the discovery of rich silver ore at French Creek; which, from samples sent to the bank, yielded 1100 ozs to the ton of stuff, and in other specimens about 570 ozs to the ton. They would also remember they were a young institution, barely in working order four years and a half, during which time they had paid an average dividend of 7 per cent. There was no incubus of promotion upon them, and if the shareholders were only true to themselves, and gave their support and confidence to the progress of the bank, and as the natural resources of the country are great, the directors have confidence in its ample and permanent requirements of the bank, there is no intention to make a call during the current year. Mr. Alexander Mackenzie has retired from the board on account of the state of his health. The retiring directors are Mr. Colville, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Robertson, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election." The accounts were as follows:

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Mr. Gillespie seconded the motion. He urged upon the shareholders, in discussing the questions that might arise, not to do anything that was calculated to damage the credit of the bank.

Mr. Murrell suggested that as a means of gaining the confidence of the public the directors should increase their holdings to not less than 200 shares each. He wished to know if, as the chairman had promised them all information, he would let them see all the correspondence between the branches and the head office (cries of "Certainly not").

The Chairman—Certainly not. Mr. Murrell then complained that the proper facilities had not been given for examination of the share register, and concluded by suggesting that there should be another meeting within three months to consider the state of their affairs.

In reply to Sir Archd. Iders, the Chairman said that the qualification of the directors under the deed was 25, the average holding of the directors was 100 shares each.

Mr. Allende suggested that the proper course was to wind up the bank, and he moved an amendment to the effect that the bank be wound up with all due despatch. The amendment was seconded.

Mr. Kintore denied that the depreciation of the shares of the bank was due to the operations for a fall; it was due to the fact that there was no dividend enough to send down the shares. The question they had to consider was whether it was possible to carry on this bank in the future with advantage to the proprietors. He had doubted whether they had not made a mistake in carrying on banking business in British Columbia, but he did not believe that their circumstances were so disastrous as to render it desirable or necessary at the present time to justify them in winding up. He thought there was a brightening of their prospects now, and they should at least wait till the next meeting, and then take counsel with the directors as to what course should be taken.

Mr. Conyne condemned the proposition to wind up as an easy, unnecessary, disastrous and cruel to the large shareholders. He had had an opportunity of consulting with a large number of British Columbia, and the effect was greatly to increase his confidence in the bank.

Mr. Keeble also opposed the amendment. A shareholder said, as an old colonist, he was sure that the bank had a bright future before it, and he regretted to hear any shareholder talk so lightly of winding up a promising bank like this, as if it was a small grocer's shop.

The Chairman explained, in reply to Mr. Murrell, that the directors were not justified in showing any one the share ledger. If the directors were supported they, he believed, could carry this bank to a successful issue.

Mr. Allender then withdrew his amendment, and the report was adopted.

The retiring directors, Messrs Colville and Gillespie, were re-elected.

The Chairman then explained that, as on a former occasion there had been some opposition to Mr. Robertson, that gentleman had declined to be nominated, as he did not wish to hold a seat at the board if any one large shareholder objected to it.

Mr. P. Webber was re-elected as auditor, and in the place of Mr. David Allison, deceased, Mr. Robertson was elected as second auditor.

After a few words of acknowledgment from Mr. Robertson, the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

A SURE remedy for CHILLS AND FEVERS AYER'S AGUE CURE never fails.

the Hudson Bay Company Red River. The Confederation of Provinces will hasten the of the "vexed question" Hudson Bay Company's old River and Saskatchewan years the Company had a willingness to disp charter rights, subject val and guarantee of Government, for the sum 000. All who have visited proposed to be thus direct testimony to the wonder the soil, its great minor and the facilities it offers port of a population of m One of the prime objects by the Home Govern federating the transmon inces was to bring this question fairly and equ the Canadians, and to that if they would e anything else than a pendage of the Crow Britain, or enjoy an inde existence except at the suff United States, they must secure the splendid ter directly in the path of ward ho!" immigrant, that the Canadian stat of whom are great, good men—are guided by a de posterity quite as much to benefit the present. They are engaged in settl stone of what is designe Empire with all the care chief bestows in laying tions of a noble edifice withstand the wear and They have conducted the of uniting the Eastern P successful issue, and they their attention absorbed River question. All are the purchase ought to be there is a difference of o how large a portion of shall be purchased at the Sir R. B. Lytton, in 1855 impracticability of "lea tervening proprietary ju divide the Confederation Cardwell, in a des-patch of June, 1865, says: "On the fourth point, the North-Western Territory. Ministers desired that territ made over to Canada, and u gulate with the Hudson's Bay the termination of their right that the indemnity (if any) by a loan to be raised by Can Imperial guarantee. With it the Cabinet, we assented to undertaking that, if the nego be successful, we, on the part being satisfied that the amon demerit was reasonable and sufficient, would apply to the liament to sanction the arran guarantee the amount."

Now, one party of Cani pose to buy all the fertile on a line with and South posed highway to the Pac the country north of the the Company as a far pro form the subject for futu tions. Another, and by f numerous party, propos the whole territory and th to immediate settlement, argue that to buy part would be to smother for not extinguish entirely, pany's rights to the terri content that the Compat by the advanced value of from an influx of immig sion decline to sell the their territory for less th ask for the whole, and th purchase now would enta difficulty upon succeeding This is a very sensible w to view the proposed p any transfer be effe, id of the whole territo y. A perial guarantee, the D Canada can carry its g church street and buy up est that the Hud-on Bay possesses east of the Rocky And the sooner the doc drawn up and signed the b be for British Columbia. in the settlement of this the only barrier that no our speedy incorporation Confederacy. Our peop sequently the strongest p for wishing to see a tra and the fertile valleys River and Saskatchewan thrifty settlers.

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