

THE SHORTEST WAY TO THE WEST.

We are in receipt of a letter from a correspondent in Richmond, Quebec, which contains some statements very interesting to the people of Fredericton.

He alleges that the shortest line for a Railway from Montreal to St. John, Halifax and points en route via Richmond, crossing the counties of Richmond, Wolfe, Megantic, Beauce and the South of Dorchester in the Province of Quebec, and then across Maine to a point near Woodstock, and thence to Fredericton, and from Fredericton east to Halifax and south to St. John.

He further alleges that the shortest line from Quebec to the eastern ports would be obtained by the shortest possible line where the proposed Richmond line crosses the Maine frontier, and then following the Richmond line to Woodstock.

That is to say, the line across Maine to Fredericton, and so on to the east, would be in common to both the Montreal and Quebec routes.

He also says that if a line of railway were built from Richmond to St. Albans, Vermont, it would give the shortest possible line from New York to Halifax and other eastern ports.

"Fredericton," our correspondent, "has an immense stake in this matter, as has in fact the greater part of our province. What are you prepared to do now to secure adoption of this route?"

We have answered our correspondent by saying that for our part we were prepared to look into the matter, and if it proved to be as good a scheme as he claims, to give it what support we could, and to urge it upon the attention of those whose assistance would be of material advantage. We have taken the liberty of giving expression to the views of our people.

Political differences should be buried out of sight in a matter touching the vital business interests of our city and country.

If Montreal, Quebec, Halifax and Fredericton interests can be united in an effort to secure any route, success will be assured.

Even St. John can perhaps be made to see that two sides of a triangle are greater than the third side, and be induced to assent to the construction of the Short Line. But before going about, let us be sure of our facts.

A reader of the GLEANER wishes us to explain the different routes talked of for the Short Line to the West. Five routes have been proposed.

First, the Southern route; commonly known as "The Megantic." This would utilize the International Railway, sometimes called Popple's road after the name of its projector, who is now acting Minister of Railways. The Megantic route would go south of Moosehead Lake to Greenville, the present terminus of the Bangor and Piscataquis road. From that point a surveyed line runs to Mattawamkeag, but it is very crooked and through a difficult country. A better line could, it is thought, be found to Lincoln, which is some miles south of Mattawamkeag.

Secondly, the Central route; commonly spoken of as Col. Snow's line. This would leave the International Railway at Moose River Post Office, and going north of Moosehead Lake intersect the New Brunswick Railway at Benoit.

Third, the Northern route. This is the route proposed by Mr. Light. It will leave Quebec and come either to Woodstock or Hartland. It would probably utilize the Gibson branch of the New Brunswick Railway as a part of the through line.

Fourth, the Eastern route to some point on the I. C. R. south of Riviere du Loup.

Fifth, the Richmond route above described.

The St. John Board of Trade has heretofore favored the Megantic route, in the hope that the connection with Halifax via Fredericton and the head of Grand Lake could be defeated. It may not make very much difference to Fredericton which route is chosen, as long as the line is continued across the Province, as in any event, the Short Line must pass through the city.

AN EFFECT OF RECIPROCITY.

The Tories tell us that Canada must not have Reciprocity; because it will destroy the N. F. factories.

In the next breath they tell us that our factories can produce goods more cheaply than those in the United States can.

Both of these statements cannot be correct.

If we can produce articles more cheaply than the United States can, then our factories will flourish all the more because of the larger market afforded.

If, for example, Mr. Gibson can produce cotton cloth at his mills more cheaply than we can, and the Tories say we can, we need not fear competition.

Many things are to be considered in comparing the cost of production.

Cheapness of labor is one element, and the cost of fuel, and the cost of the staple articles of farm produce, because the cost of living regulates the rate of wages.

Capital invested is another element. If the first cost of a factory is large, or if a lack of cash capital compels the payment of credit prices for raw materials, and the sacrificing of stocks on unfavorable markets, the effect is the same as though the cost of production were increased.

Cost of fuel, the rate of municipal taxation, freight on raw material and the cost of credit prices for raw materials, all these considerations must be taken into account in determining the cost of production. It becomes, therefore, difficult to say without an actual test whether it will cost less to produce, say for example, a yard of cotton cloth at Montreal, or St. John, or Marysville, or Lewiston or Providence, and the factory which can produce the cheapest will, other things being equal, be able to secure the first call in the market.

So it is with wool goods, with farm produce, with anything else that is manufactured. The sugar refiners in Halifax, Moncton and Montreal; and the Torsy press in the latter city, are all producing refined sugar more cheaply than is produced in New York. If this is so, then the refiners have everything to gain and nothing to lose from Reciprocity.

We believe that if New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were annexed to the United States, the cheapness of fuel, and the abundance of the staple articles of farm produce, and the accessibility of all the principal points by water communication, and the comparative lowness of municipal taxes, would lead to the investment of much capital here in manufacturing, and therefore that such industries are already established on the soil, to be, in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, would find free admission to the United States market. At first the demand for a vote was confined to this class, but after a time some very good women, and some amiable men were in.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The St. John Star regards the woman suffrage movement as a reform. It is not a reform. The demand for woman suffrage probably originated with members of the gentler sex, who, having failed to acquire that influence in moulding the future of the nation which every wife and mother possesses, sought to obtain something in lieu thereof through the instrumentality of the ballot box. At first the demand for a vote was confined to this class, but after a time some very good women, and some amiable men were in.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It may be good policy for the Liberals and Tories to compromise over the Cumberland elections, but we don't think so. A fight should have been made for Tupper's seat. The election will be held July 3rd.

We have received the prospectus of a hand book of St. John, to be published principally for circulation in England. It is a reform. The demand for woman suffrage probably originated with members of the gentler sex, who, having failed to acquire that influence in moulding the future of the nation which every wife and mother possesses, sought to obtain something in lieu thereof through the instrumentality of the ballot box. At first the demand for a vote was confined to this class, but after a time some very good women, and some amiable men were in.

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duced by one reason and another to give the movement their approbation, and it has acquired considerable momentum. But it has not reached its height. The Wyoming Territory adopted woman suffrage some time ago, and out in Washington Territory, where women are so scarce that the men will humor them in anything to keep them good natured, they have allowed them to vote, and even in the excess of their gallantry talked of electing a woman as Governor; but in Oregon, the next State, the proposed constitutional amendment admitting women to vote has been defeated. The best evidence received from Wyoming represents the effect of woman suffrage as not good. The fundamental idea of the woman suffragists is a mistaken one. They tell us that women should be enfranchised; and they propose all manner of compromises to those who differ from them. Is not a woman's judgment as good as a man's? Can she not read and think? And so on, they ask. And we admit that we must answer them all in the affirmative, and we also admit that she can save blood, and way, the streets as a policeman, and go to battle as a soldier. But we don't want her to do these things; neither do we want her to see any other acts or assume any other responsibilities that a man is especially fitted to perform. The right to vote carries with it certain responsibilities. A citizen of the State assumes certain duties towards his fellow citizens; voting is only one of these duties, and many oftentimes be not the most important of them. We would like some of our new Brunswick advocates of woman suffrage to tell us which of these duties of citizenship they propose to relieve themselves of in a measure, by casting a part of the burden of them upon the women, and also what women they propose shall assume this responsibility. Have these women any special duties? Some time or other the question may be mooted in Canadian politics and action upon it will be called for. If we remember that Sir John Macdonald provided for limited woman suffrage in one of his defeatist French bills. The St. John Star will tell us who among the women ought to vote, and what other duties of citizenship those who do vote ought to discharge.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN THE UNITED STATES.

Blaine's nomination has not been well received by that class of Republicans, who view the New York Times and the Boston Advertiser as the exponents, and of whom Geo. William Curtis and Charles Francis Adams Jr. are recognized leaders. Neither do the independent elements, represented by such papers as the Boston Herald, the New York Herald and others, accord it a favorable reception. Indeed the hostility of both these classes is open, and one might almost say, violent. They assert that the selection of Blaine as the standard bearer is the worst element of the Republican party, of the ideas, in fact, which have been threatening, not only its supremacy, but its very existence. The Massachusetts Republicans, or Reformers as they like to be called, are particularly bitter. They will probably hold convention, and send delegates to Chicago in July to offer their support to such a Democratic candidate as Cleveland or Grover Cleveland, or to the Independent candidate, or abstain from voting altogether, in which event that State would go Democratic. Strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the Democrats to induce them to choose a reputation with the name of Cleveland, but we hope they won't get it, but that there will be a general abandonment of these makeshifts, and a return to the old style and like-ton-folery. This is a young and very rich country, and would know no patent of nobility except honest industry.

Peace Assured in Mexico.

RENO, June 17.—It is now stated upon good authority that the breach between Gen. Diaz and Trevina has been repaired, and a satisfactory agreement has been reached. It is said Gen. Trevina will be made Secretary of war upon an equal footing with the President. This arrangement settles all apprehension of revolution growing out of the election of Diaz to the Presidency.

El Mahdi's Plans.

(Special to Gleaner.)

Cairo, June 17.—Later advice says that El Mahdi has appointed the present Governor of Dongola Amour of that place and not his Amer as before reported. El Mahdi is expected to leave Khartoum if he hopes for salvation, and advises that he hold Dongola for him if he is able to do so; otherwise to join him at El Obeid.

The Egyptian Conference.

(Special to Gleaner.)

LONDON, June 17.—European news reports generally condemn the Anglo-French agreement concerning the Egyptian conference.

St. Peter's Threatened.

(Special to Gleaner.)

ROUS, June 17.—Police have been advised to keep a strict watch in the interior of St. Peter's against dynamite.

A Stand Off.

A couple of practical jokes, living at a big up-town hotel, bought a tropical whirl walking through the market for other day, and slipped into the bed of a fresh arrival who had just registered.

They watched that night until they saw the new comers retire to bed. In about ten minutes a white-robed figure was seen descending the elevator shaft for the landlord. When the door opened the figure was seen to be entirely certain of that surveying the building from the outside. Its foundation was in a state of decay, and the walls were five feet in thickness, and the side and rear walls were three feet, the materials used being pressed brick with brown stone trimmings. The beams, girders and main pillars are iron, incased in fire-proof material. The fully constructed window frames and minor partitions are iron, marble and glass. No wood is to be found in the structure. The great vault is supported by four iron columns, and the walls are five feet in thickness, and the side and rear walls are three feet, the materials used being pressed brick with brown stone trimmings. The beams, girders and main pillars are iron, incased in fire-proof material. 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