H. S. Porter.

SPRING, 1877. SPRING, 1877

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Canadian Post.

[illegible]

of several important measures, and the new Minister of the Interior showed by the bills he introduced and his manner of dealing with the subjects to which they related that he is the right man in the right place. The Premier excelled himself in the ability and endurance he displayed in his capacity of leader of the House. Although the sittings were often protracted long past midnight he was always at his post and always ready to meet and repel the violent assaults of his wary and not over scrupulous foes. They could and did get some rest by relieving each other. He took none, and it is a matter for astonishment as well as congratulation that he was able to stand the terrible strain without collapsing under it. As Minister of Public Works he has no superior, no equal so far as we are aware, amongst his predecessors, but even his splendid administrative powers are not equal to the combined duties of Minister and Premier. It is to be hoped that in some way or other means may be found of relieving him of at least a part of his departmental work. He must be allowed to go on with the construction of the Pacific Railway, but the other Government railways and canals might well be handed over to another.

The financial labours of the session have been more than usually interesting. The occurrence of a deficit last year rendered it necessary to impose new taxes with a view to preventing its recurrence, the necessity being all the more indispensable on account of the reduction on coal oil. The Minister of Finance having framed his tariff resolutions with an eye to revenue, the Opposition made a series of persistent attacks on the Ministry on the ground that the principle of protection should have been recognized. The incidents of that struggle we have already recorded. Suffice it to say at present that so far from the Government having any reason to regret the stand then taken there is every indication that with the occurrence of a European war and the consequent rise in prices a protective tariff would be not only the most detrimental but the most unpopular fiscal device that could be adopted.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections has reported unfavorably to Mr. Anglin in the case referred to it for consideration. We are glad for many reasons that this result has been reached. Much as we esteemed the Speaker for his fine abilities and general qualities we unhesitatingly condemned his conduct in this matter, and so did many of our Reform contemporaries, while not one, so far as we are aware, offered any defence. It would have been better had all of them seen their way clear to a much stronger condemnation of an offence which ought to have been expiated long ago by the voluntary resignation of the offender. But while we rejoice that the course pursued by Mr. Anglin has been condemned we have to congratulate the Premier on the manner in which the assaults upon him have been repelled. He showed most conclusively that he had put a stop to the wrong doing just as soon as he could do so after it was brought under his notice, and before his attention had been called to it by the Opposition. He could do no more, except punish his more thoughtless colleagues by dismissing them, a course rendered entirely unnecessary by the fact that both Mr. D. A. Macdonald and Mr. Fournier were out of the Cabinet before he learned that they had transgressed the law. Under the circumstances the Opposition might have made some capital, per haps, had they acted with moderation and simply condemned the letting of printing to members of Parliament. But they chose to make it a case of virtue. The Independence of Parliament Act, and the consequences of their action have proved more far reaching than they anticipated. Mr Currier and Mr. Norris having been forced to resign their seats it became necessary to treat all other recipients of Government money in the same way. Several cases were referred to the Privileges and Elections Committee which had not time to deal with them. It is easy to see, however, that on the principles laid down in the Anglin case there can be no exceptions made, and that every man who has received a cent of Government money in return for services performed must be compelled to resign and seek re election.

For our own part we rejoice that this capable and fearless decision has been given by a committee on which Reformers were in a majority, the case before it being that of a member of their own party. In this respect it is a complete contrast to the decision given in the now celebrated Bell case by a Conservative committee, of which Sir John Rose was chairman a precedent which could have been followed by the committee last week without creating any surprise or arousing the suspicion that the aim was to screen the Speaker. The report was presented to the House just in time to be too late for reading and therefore the Speaker was at liberty to take part in the proceedings connected with the prorogation. He will, we presume, resign his seat, but will be re elected by acclamation and will probably become Speaker again. As First Commoner he has been singularly successful in winning the good opinion of both sides of the House, and has earned for himself the reputation of being the best Speaker we have ever had in a Canadian Parliament. It is doubtful whether the others who have been shown to have violated the Act will get back as easily to the House as he will. Sir John A. Macdonald, who as Minister of Justice gave a considerable amount of work to his own law firm, will have to resign next session, if not before, and he will find a warm contest awaiting him in Kingston. The unscrupulous attacks he has recently made on the personal and political character of his opponents have aroused such an opposition as makes his tenure of his seat not worth a week's purchase. Still more cause is there for rejoicing that the severe of the drastic resolution against Mr. Anglin will himself have to go through the same ordeal. The proofs are ready and if he does not voluntarily resign he must be made to do it, if for nothing else, to satisfy the demands of poetical justice.

The discussion which has taken place has shown the necessity of amending the Act if one half the House is not to be liable at all times to unseating and a pecuniary penalty. The cases of those members already settled have been covered by a Bill of Indemnity, brought in by Mr. Mackenzie, and out of which the Opposition attempted to make a little more capital. How the Independence Act is to be amended it is difficult to conceive. At present not even members of incorporated companies are exempt, as that Mr. Gibbs, as President of the Dominion Telegraph Company, will have to go also. However the matter may be eventually settled, the Opposition are not likely to refer with much glee to the proceedings connected with the elections of the Independence of Parliament Act.

THE CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The progress report of the Engineer-in-Chief shows that the preliminary surveys in connection with this great national undertaking are now rapidly approaching completion. The explanations made by the Premier when moving the item in the estimates for carrying on the work show clearly that all has been done that could have been done to combine speed with caution in the location of the line. If ever there was a question on which a ministry might expect something like fair treatment at the hands of opponents on the merits of the case surely it is this Pacific Railway scheme. This would have been true even if there had been no blunders made at its inception by the present Opposition, and none know better than they how much their corrupt intrigues and unpatriotic disregard for the public welfare did to make the task of their successors difficult even to the verge of impossibility. Notwithstanding this fact every nerve has been strained by the Opposition during this session and the last to hamper the Ministry in its course of action and prevent it from carrying on the scheme to a successful completion. Dr. Tupper, who had been saving himself for this great effort, delivered what was intended to be a crushing philippic against the administration on Saturday night week. His speech was nearly five hours long and consisted mainly of a rehash of all the partial criticisms so often indulged in and so often exploded. The steel rails purchase; the Georgian Bay Branch, the Fort Francis Locks, the water stretches; the construction of the telegraph line, the breach of faith with British Columbia, and a number of other matters were touched upon and presented in the worst possible light and with an utter disregard both to the demands of truth and the amenities of debate. His somewhat cavalier treatment of the Governor-General shows plainly enough what would have been attempted in this direction had the charge of bad faith to the Pacific Province not been so completely disposed of last summer by His Excellency in his Victoria speech. That address, coupled with the Colonial Secretary's despatch to the British Columbian Government urging the reasonableness of the Canadian Government's plea for delay, makes it difficult to attempt with the slightest show of reason to fasten on the Government any suspicion of bad faith, and every effort to do so will eventually recoil on those who make it. Enough of partisanship has now been displayed by the Opposition in connection with this question; it is time that common sense, if not a feeling of patriotism, should come to their rescue. They may as well make up their minds that the country is not going to entrust the building of the road to men who so shamefully abused their trust once before for the sake of securing a party victory in a general election. Mr. Mackenzie's policy is clear, intelligent and cautious, and it would be suicidal to take the conduct of the undertaking from one who has shown himself so competent to deal with it and hand it over to those whose very touch was destruction to it before and would be fatal to it again.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hamilton *Times*: "Sir John was banqueted by his Parliamentary followers the other night and presented with a chair. The chair is for him to sit in when his seat for Kingston is declared vacant."

The Hamilton *Times*: "The *Mail* reports that at the Ottawa banquet Sir John Macdonald said:

"They (Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues) drew the diary; we (the Tories) govern the country."

Kingston *Whig*: "The Ontario Bank has declared a dividend of four per cent. for the current half year, payable on the 1st of June. We want Tory organs to make a note of this. These dividends are all made off those Government deposits that patronage pap, you know.

"But as all the Tory journals unite in the opinion that Canada is being ruined on account of the manner in which it is being governed, what is the inference to be drawn from Sir John's statement that it is he who governs it? It is a partial fact that he does so, however, in the matter of the expenditure of the Secret Service money for example."

It may be well to state that "that chair" which our Tory friends are exhibiting as the latest sign of a "Conservative reaction" was won for Sir John at a bazar held here nearly three years ago. It was understood to have been claimed by the winner at the time, and had remained in one of our dry goods stores ever since, where it was all but forgotten. It was refurbished, however, as a set off to "that cane," and will come handy when Kingston elects a good Reformer.

Truly says the Toronto *Telegram*: "It would have been better for the Chieftain and what is better for the Chieftain is better for the whole party if the general election had been held immediately after he had finished his triumphal picnic tour. He has not gained any party strength since the House met. On the contrary, he has lost what additional strength the pledges were supposed to have given him. The Secret Service Scandal, the Northern Railway Scandal, and matters of that kind, cannot possibly have strengthened him in the minds of the people generally, however much they may have endeared him to the hearts of his own people, as well as to those who have experience in the same line."

LITERARY NOTES.

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.—(Montreal: John Dougall & Son.) The April number of this popular magazine has been received. It contains the good amount of choice reading usual in its pages. The original articles are all of an interesting character, particularly the Young Folks' and Home Departments.

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY (Toronto: Elizabeth Robinson, Toronto) has been received. Among the list of contents we mention expository discourse on the "Success of the Gospel of the Christian Life" by the Rev. J. Barlow, of London; a lecture on Theodore Parker's views of life" by Rev. Joseph Cooke of Boston, and a contributed one of the best preachers in the States; and a description of the Indian Mission on Lake Nyassa, illustrated.

THE CRUISE OF THE CHALLENGER (Toronto: Rose-Belford Bros.).—The important objects for which H.M.S. Challenger was placed at the disposal of a scientific staff under the direction of Prof. Sir Charles Wyville Thompson, F.R.S., are satisfactorily results obtained by the full investigation of the bed of the ocean, and the vast amount of information gathered by visits to distant lands very ably explored, rendered the voyage of the Challenger highly interesting and instructive to the British public. This extract is from the preface, and not all who have read the brief newspaper notices of the wonderful results of the Challenger explorations will be tempted to assume the handsome volume in which is given a graphic description by Mr. Story of the voyage. The purely scientific part of the work is left for Prof. Thompson, but there is sufficient scientific information however to make the book valuable, while it is on other grounds highly interesting. A chart shows the course of the vessel on its explorations; and there are numerous illustrations. The Challenger occupied three years and a half in circumnavigating the globe; and the important results it can be considered one of the most important voyages of exploration ever made. Mr. Fry has made up from his journals a very readable volume. For sale at Porter's.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY (Toronto: Hunt & Rawlinson). The number for May is, as usual, rich in attractive and varied list of contents. Wm. Black's story, "Green Pastures and Piccadilly," not the first place and deservedly, for it will be a great attraction. The story reaches a point of special interest. "The Pulpit and Revivalism" is a very sermon having for its text Dunning's famous resolution suitably altered to read "The influence of the pulpit has declined, is declining and ought to be increased." The pulpit and the pew will do well to take this sermon into careful consideration. We make room for the concluding paragraph, which may be taken home by politicians and journalists, and all who talk or preach: "The remedy is with the pulpit. Let it exalt its office. Let it remembered that no man can be too well armed who comes before a congregation as a teacher; that it is extremely dangerous in a mixed audience to attack or defend doctrines upon which the church is evenly divided; that a weak attack or defence is mischievous; that any act which tends to lower the ordinary means of grace in the estimation of the public is suicidal; and with the ability and earnestness which now characterize the preacher, it will not be long before the ground lost will be fully recovered." "The Evolution of Morality" is a reply by Mr. J. A. Allen, of Kingston, to Prof. Wallace's article in the October number of the magazine. It gives evidence of ability and erudition, but it appears to us that the struggle is becoming rather much equal to contributions of this character. "A Glance at the Revolutionary War" and "The Tuscan School of Italian Art" have the merit of brevity but not of much originality. The former topic alone and infinitely handled would possess great interest for Canadian readers. "A Comedy in Two Acts" is an amusing sketch "from real life." The interesting essay on "Spirit and the Women who loved him" is concluded in this number. The editorial departments are up to the usual standard. Amongst the other contributions are "Ivy and Evergreen of the Manor" and "Cousin Ned's Adventure on the Prairies." We have received more than usual [illegible]

ECHOES FROM THE CAPITAL.

PACIFIC RAILWAY DEBATE—DR. TUPPER "SQUELCHED"—NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL—BANQUET AND PRESENTATION TO SIR JOHN.

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

OTTAWA, April 25.

[The following, intended for last week, arrived too late.]

The Pacific Railway debate was continued on Monday afternoon, the Premier leading off in a speech of remarkable vigor and power. Having treated formerly of the business aspects of the question, Mr. Mackenzie confined himself to the policy of the present Government, as compared with the blundering course of their predecessors. He was greeted with continued rounds of applause during the delivery of his speech. Mr. Masson, the leader of the French Liberals, followed with a speech of three hours' duration, confined almost exclusively to an attack on the Government policy as regards the Province of Quebec. Mr. Masson has a most powerful voice, and were he perfectly versed in the English language would be one of the most powerful debaters on the Opposition side of the House. He has tamed down a great deal of late, and is not nearly so violent as he used to be. On Tuesday the debate was again continued, and lasted until 3 o'clock in the morning, when Dr. Tupper's motion was defeated by a majority of 45. This is a very large majority for so late in the division, and shews the Government to be stronger than at the opening of the session. Neither Mr. Blake nor Sir John Macdonald spoke on the question, the former being absent through illness. One interesting feature of the debate was that Dr. Tupper was obliged to take back in the most unqualified manner the statement made by him that Mr. Donald A. Smith was interested in the Red River Transportation Company, which had the contract for carrying the steel rails from Duluth to Winnipeg. He gave as his authority Dr. Schultz, who, as it is well known, is bitterly opposed to Mr. Smith. The Western Doctor was obliged to submit that he had nothing but "suspicions" on which to ground his charge.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Cartwright has introduced a bill compelling the Northern Railway Company to pay over $27,000 for the Government on account of moneys improperly applied, as also to hand over the mortgage on the Conchiching hotel property. This will prove a wholesome lesson to such corporations in the future.

THE HONESTY OF MEMBERS.

The cases of Messrs. Burpee and Moffatt were all referred to the committee on Privileges and Elections, and an effort will be made to report upon them this session. No decision has been arrived at yet in the Anglin case, but the Opposition are making desperate efforts to unseat the Speaker.

BANQUET TO SIR JOHN AND PRESENTATION OF A LINDSAY CHAIR.

The great event of the week in Tory circles was the banquet to Sir John A. Macdonald in the Senate refreshment room on Tuesday evening. It was well attended, and the proceedings were of an enthusiastic and highly spiritual character. Dr. Tupper officiated as chairman with much power of oratory and wristband. A notable feature of the evening was the presentation of a handsome chair won at a Presbyterian bazar at your good town and forwarded as a set-off to the prize cane forwarded from the same locality as a present to Mr. Mackenzie. Mr. Hector Cameron and Mr. A. McQuade made the presentation. Mr. Cameron read the following memorandum from the committee: "At a bazar in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Lindsay, the chair now presented was to be awarded to the candidate receiving the larger number of votes, the franchise being by special act extended to the ladies. The candidates were the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald and Hon. Alex. Mackenzie. After a spirited contest, in which the canvassers who were all ladies were most indefatigable, Sir John Macdonald was declared the winner by a handsome majority." Mr. Cameron alluded to the significance of the two presentations that to the Premier being a walking stick, while the Tory leader was asked to take a chair. Mr. McQuade's speech was a model of brevity. "God bless you, Sir John, may you long be with us." Sir John's speech was tremendously applauded, as was, of course, arranged, the dinner. It will enormously diminish the strength of the Government, at least so good Tories will think.

MR. HECTOR CAMERON AND THE NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL—CAMPBELL DIVORCE BILL—CHANGING THE FINANCIAL YEAR—THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT BILL—THE ANGLIN CASE—SOLICITOR-GENERAL'S CONDUCT—OPPOSITION MEMBERS.

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

OTTAWA, May 1.

The closing days of the session were marked with more than an usual amount of business. First we had the Northern Railway Bill, compelling that rotten institution to pay back to the Government of Canada the sum of $27,000 for monies improperly expended, as well as to hand over the mortgage on the Conchiching hotel property. The justness of this claim all must admit, but Mr. Hector Cameron took advantage of it to urge that the result of the investigation was of a most trumpery character. It was an exceedingly small thing for a railroad to be convicted of improperly spending $27,000 after an existence of nineteen years. And so, if an employee in a bank served his employers faithfully for nineteen years and then robbed them of $27,000 he should be declared virtuous, and allowed to go unpunished. Such was the logic and morality which Mr. Hector Cameron brought before House on Wednesday last. Then, he said, it was the stockholders who were wronged. And so, if a man goes into a joint stock concern, which has agreed to pay back a certain amount of money loaned to them but is prevented from doing so on account say of a defalcation on the part of its managers, the party lending is to be at a loss, and the company is no more bound to that obligation. Such reasoning may appear to be very sound to Mr. Hector Cameron, but it "won't wash" with the people of Canada. He may think the investigation has resulted in nothing, but has most certainly accomplished one thing. It has injured the reputation of the Conservative party to an extent hardly excelled by the Pacific Scandal, while no Reformer has been in the slightest degree implicated. It is not necessary, however, that I should again refer to this. The speakers on the Opposition side were careful, however, not to allude to the developments made against their own party, and, when the Bill came up for its second and third readings raised not one word against it.

CAMPBELL DIVORCE BILL.

The Campbell Divorce Bill came up before the House again on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. T. N. Gibbs moved that the standing orders in this case be suspended and the Bill placed on the order paper for a second reading. The motion gave rise to another lively debate, the House finally deciding to sustain the decision of the standing orders committee, and held the Bill to be an entirely new one, requiring proper notice. The Bill could, of course, not be discussed in its merits on this motion, but where any opinion was expressed it was decidedly adverse to the House being called upon to consider a question of this nature. It is said that Mr. McDougall took up Mrs. Campbell's case on speculation, and, if such is the case, he will be sadly out of pocket.

CHANGING THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

On Thursday Hon. Mr. Cartwright introduced a Bill respecting the auditing of the Public Accounts, the principal feature being to change the termination of the fiscal year from 30th June to 30th March. The principal object of the change is to enable the Public Accounts to be ready at a much earlier date. The Bill passed through the House, but in the Senate a decided opposition was manifested, and it was given a three months' hoist, or, in other words, thrown out altogether.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

The recent suits entered against members of Parliament on both sides of the House who had unwittingly violated the law respecting the Independence of Parliament led to a general demand that an indemnity bill should be brought in, a request to which many members on the Opposition side of the House joined. Accordingly on Thursday last the Premier introduced a bill indemnifying those members who had unwittingly violated the Act. It was unopposed by the Opposition, with any Opposition by the Tory Chief tain, knowing well that he could not defeat the bill—was thus himself and the other implicated members on that side of the House would receive the benefit, decided to make a little cheap political capital by opposing it. He was badly worsted in the fray, however, being defeated in a very small House by a majority of 45. Four Conservatives, including Dr. Tupper, who had promised to support the bill, shirked the vote, one being his purpose and opposed it, whilst Messrs. Wallace, Gill, White, Mitchell, Brooks, DeCosmos, Thompson (Cariboo), and other strong Oppositionists voted for it. If, as Mr. Hymal suggested, a clause could be added to the bill exempting those members who thus opposed it from its operations, not one member of the Opposition would be willing to be placed in such a position. It shows the double-dealing of the Conservatives. Another incident is worth mentioning. It was rumored that the Opposition intended to continue the aggressive policy and make further motions against the seats of members on the Ministerial side of the House. Hearing of this, the Ministerialists determined to place the Tory leader in the proper light before the country, and notified him that he himself would be moved against. Strange to say, there was no more talk of motions from that side of the House.

THE ANGLIN MATTER.

During the last day of the session it was rumored amongst the members that the committee on Privileges and Elections, which sat with closed doors on the Anglin case, had, while exonerating the Speaker from any intention of breaking the law, being under the impression that precedent vindicated his course, declared such practices improper and the seat void. The committee have unanimously agreed that the report would not be presented until the Usher of the Black Rod summoned the House to the bar of the Senate, thus preventing any action being taken on the report, and doing away with the necessity of electing a new Speaker, as would otherwise have been necessitated. All will agree, under the circumstances, to the propriety of this course. Accordingly just as the usher entered the Commons lobbies the report was laid on the table, and, at the same moment came the three traditional knocks at the door. Mr. Bowell, who throughout has exhibited the utmost vindictiveness against the Speaker, demanded that the report be read, simply in order to annoy, and, if possible, compromise the Speaker. He was met, however, with the order to "admit the messenger," and any action on the part of the House was thus rendered impossible. The clerk of the House before going to the Senate, placed the report in his desk for safety. He had hardly got outside the door, however, before Mr. Bowell and Mr. Mitchell began in loud words to demand the report, and, learning it was in the desk, Mr. Bowell proposed to "Break the d—d thing open." The assistant clerk appeared on the scene at this moment with the key, and, while Mr. Mitchell swore at him and shook his fist in his face, proceeded to open the desk, and deliver over the report, which was then read to an excited crowd of Oppositionists by the Chieftain. The scene was witnessed by your correspondent, and is so characteristic of the "party of gentlemen" that I cannot refrain from alluding to it. Thus ended the session of 1877. WALLACE.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

The latest telegrams do not announce an actual conflict on the Danube, though the two armies are getting into such close quarters that another week can scarcely pass without a battle on a large scale. A severe contest has taken place near Kars when about 50,000 men on each side were engaged. The Turks were driven back with great loss, owing to the powerful artillery of the Russians. England is at present neutral; but Austria is said to be hostile, and may at an early stage take action to prevent Russian aggrandisement. The telegrams are of a conflicting and sensational character.

THE CONTENDING FORCES.

The *Herald's* St. Petersburg correspondent states that intense enthusiasm prevails throughout the Czar's dominions. Russia has 200,000 men on the Danube and 125,000 men on the Caucasus, while the opposing forces of the Turks are 100,000 along the Danube and 50,000 or less in Asia Minor. Both sides exhibit weakness in skilled generals, and the position in Roumania is unfortunate. Austria and Russia are contemplating an agreement whereby Bosnia will be ceded to Austria.

The *Herald's* Vienna despatch says of the three Russian columns marching into Armenia, only one has met with serious resistance a few miles from Bujajo, where there was extensive fighting yesterday. Persia has 20,000 men ready to join Russia.

A Pera special reports that the Bey of Tunis has offered the Sultan 18,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry, provided the Porte pays part of the expense of their transportation and equipment.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.

Hobart Pasha's steamer Rethmo ran the blockade at Galatz by keeping close to the shore while in front of the Russian battteries, and the gunners were unable to depress their pieces far enough to take aim.

ENGLAND'S ATTITUDE.

A Vienna correspondent telegraphs that the British Government will possibly be the only one to return a regular official answer to Russia's representation that she is acting in accordance with the wishes of Europe. For the moment at least there is an end to anything like concert of European policy, each Power being intent upon its own interests.

RUSSIA'S ALLIES.

Bands of brigands are appearing in Moldavia since the Roumanian troops were withdrawn. The Roumanians have killed eight and wounded eleven fugitive Jews near Giurgevo.

The Czar has telegraphed to the Prince of Montenegro: "I am firmly resolved this time to realize the sacred mission of Russia and my predecessors. God will aid us."

Roumanians have re-occupied Kalafat.

GLADSTONE ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

London, April 30. In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone gave notice that he should introduce five resolutions. They declare that England has just cause of complaint at the conduct of the Porte; that until there is a change of conduct and guarantees are given the Porte has no claims to the support of the British; that in the midst of the complications, and with war actually begun, the House generally desires that the influence of England be addressed to the promotion of harmonious action among the European Powers.

ENGLISH WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

Reports of active military and naval preparations in England are pouring in so thick and fast that it is no easy matter to separate the wheat from the chaff. Recruiting, we are told, is progressing so briskly that nearly every regiment has its full complement of men; the preparation of waggons and ambulances is being pushed forward with vigor, and extraordinary activity is manifested in the Government dockyards; shot, shell, small arms, and barrack stores are being shipped off to Malta, and land service guns and iron shields to Gibraltar. The policy of France, as defined by the Due Decazes at the opening of the Chamber yesterday, will be one of absolute neutrality and scrupulous abstinence from interference with the belligerents.

The Coming War.

[London Spectator, April 14.]

It is difficult, as we watch the situation in the East, not to receive the impression that the world is on the eve of one of those great movements which alter its history, and which are scarcely within human control. The combatants appear impelled to conflict by a will which is not their own. That Russia and Turkey should fight out unimpeded the quarrel of ages; that the Christians of the East, crushed down for four hundred years, should have a chance of liberation; that there should be a possibility that the destructive sway of the Ottoman caste should end, three unlikely conditions had to be realised, and behold they are all there! It was necessary that the Ottomans should be obstinate beyond all example, should refuse all appearance of submission to Europe should court war rather than surrender even in form their right to oppress,—and they have done all these things. It was necessary that a peaceful but absolute Czar should be unable to resist the determination of his submissive subjects to bear with Turkey no longer, should risk dangers which he fears more than any man in his empire, and with weakened finances and neighbours far more formidable than ever, should gather up the whole forces of his Empire for a disinterested task,—and the Czar has been impelled by irresistible pressure to do it all. And finally, it was necessary that opinion in England should be in such a condition that war for Turkey was impossible, yet that a bad Government should be able to abstain from coercing Turks until they once more showed themselves resistless submissive,—and even this has occurred. All things, even the most unexpected, have worked together for one end, until at last the one Northern Power of Europe which has hitherto done nothing for mankind, which has shown itself selfish beyond precedent and oppressive beyond need, stands eagerly ready, without hope of conquest or reward, to expend its energy in a disinterested effort to relieve mankind of an oppression, and to restore to civilization a province which were its ancient seat. The result may disappoint us, the slowness which is the defect of the Russian armies may once more render their valour useless, or the Semitic instinct of the man who unhappily rules England may induce him once more to save Asia from the grasp of Europe; but it is difficult to resist the impression that the work will be done, done thoroughly, done well,—that before the snow falls again, the reign of the Osmanli in Europe, and perhaps also in Asia—for his deadly enemy, the Arab, will recover his energy when Constantinople falls—will be among the miseries that have been.

These are dreams, but at all events the meaningless chatter of diplomatists unable to comprehend the first facts of the situation, which for more than twelve months has so wearied the world, draws at last to an end. There may be a week or a fortnight more of it for the weather is not quite settled, and Russia wishes to be deficient in no courtesy; but then the great cloud which has been gathering so long on the Turkish frontier will break in a furious storm, and the discussion will be exchanged for breathless watchfulness. There may be one more lull still, for there are interests in Europe which are opposed to war so sincerely that they will grasp at the faintest hope of peace; but be the chances ever so apparent, there is no solution to be hoped for save that which will come of battle. The Czar knows clearly now that the future of his dynasty depends on action in the direction his people have commanded. The Turks, with their new obstinacy and their ancient courage, have resolved, like the southern slaveholders, that it is better to lose all fighting, than to perish slowly of the daily collisions between their institutions and modern civilization. England, true as heart, but deceived by false guides, will remain murmuring but inactive until events declare themselves, and all the remaining Powers of Europe have agreed that peace and war have passed out of their hands. The war will come and before it has lasted a fortnight the world will know very nearly how the war will go. The single question is the mobility of the Russian army. If that can move rapidly in the field, if the wonderful force of cavalry accumulated in Bessarabia can act with the speed and the recklessness it would display in Northern Asia, and if the Russian Staff has profited by the lessons of the last thirteen years, the world may see a collapse as marvellous and as complete as that of the French Empire, and the Crescent be swept in a month for ever from all the lands north of the Balkans. If, on the other hand, the Russians are as tardy as they have often proved, if their cavalry is not risked, risked with a certain recklessness, and if the Ottomans can still check European armies in the open, then the war will drag on for months, to be ended by the weariness of Europe or some collapse at Constantinople. We believe, on the whole, that the former will be the result; that the Russian Staff is prepared to make a modern war, that the numbers of effective and disciplined Turks will be found too few, and that the countless hordes of Asia will be as powerless as if they were Indian troops facing Englishmen in the plain. If there is one great dread, one sign visible to Southern Europe and Asia that the Ottoman sword is broken, there will be such an uprising of the enemies of the caste, from Bosnian beys and Arab goatherds, as has not been seen since Constantinople fell. That speculation, however, is useless with events so near, and to-day our only business is to repeat the opinion with which we have wearied our readers for eighteen months,—that in spite of Lord Derby and Sir Henry Elliot and the Mahommedan newspapers and society, the Eastern question is a real one, and is about to be settled by war.

Whether that war can be localised will depend mainly upon the action of Great Britain. If we stay out of it, or are on the right side—that is, on the side of the claim of Greece to Constantinople—there is no reason why it should spread. If Russia is defeated, all will go on as before, till the misery of mankind in Turkey has again become unendurable. If Russia wins, the result must be what it might have been at first, the partition of European Turkey into smaller States bound by some tie, however loose, to a federal head at Constantinople, be it a Slav, or a Greek, or an English Prince. Russia neither desires nor will be allowed to make annexations in Europe for herself; and apart from annexations, there is not, and has not been from the first, as Mr. Gladstone clearly showed, any other solution possible. If Europe likes to fight about those States, of course it can, but there will for half a century be no conceivable reason for so doing. Russia wants nothing in that region but free access to the sea. Germany wants nothing at all except the freedom of the Danube. France has neither wish nor interest there. Italy, if she does want, must remain wanting for the time, and what Austria wants will be amply supplied if an Austrian archduke, in accordance with the regular policy of the family, reigns as almost a king in Bosnia. There is no occasion for general war whatever, except, perchance, in the mind of Lord Beaconsfield, no reason conceivable why Russian and Ottoman should not decide by themselves the fate of Eastern Europe, with the datum granted that the Greek, and not the Slav, is heir of the city from which he ruled so long. At all events, there is no reason whatever, if Turkey is cleared to the Balkans, why any power should even prepare for war.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

OFFICE OF THE CANADIAN POST,

LINDSAY, May 3, 1877.

The large produce markets have been in a state of great excitement over steady advances in the price of wheat, and although a quieter feeling prevails, a further advance of 1s. 6d. per bbl. has taken place in Liverpool since yesterday. Some very good sales have been made by our local grain dealers, and certainly they deserve all they have made.

The War and the Grain Prices.

The *Monetary Times* says:—"The impression entertained by some that there are large stores of grain in this country, held for war prices, will now be proved to be erroneous. We are confirmed in this opinion by an informant who has recently gone through the country on an official inspection partly to test the matter, and to learn what would be moving forward in the event of a sudden leap in prices. Owing to the absence of statistical returns we cannot sum up with any accuracy the extent of the deficiency of last harvest. But much misapprehension prevails as to the extent of that failure. Indeed, an assertion of this journal that we were importing flour and wheat for home use has been denied; still, having taken considerable pains to ascertain the facts, we repeat the assertion that this country did not raise, last year, enough grain to provide for the home consumption, and we can name a dozen mills on the two trunk lines of railways, and in various companies, which must have closed but for their purchases of American wheat, which they used in default of Canadian. The war has raised prices when we have nothing to sell; but as the English harvest promises to be a bad one this year, and the outlook from the East of Europe must be seriously checked by continued disturbances on the very fields and roads from and through which the western markets are supplied, our next harvest cannot but be worth much beyond an average. But should we have little to spare, the increased price of grain will be but a partial benefit, as our local market prices will be driven up and the whole population saddled with an increase in the cost of living without any compensatory advantage, except to the farming community."

Lindsay Market Prices.

Fall Wheat	1 75 @	2 00
Spring Wheat	1 70 @	1 75
Flour, Fall, double extra, per 100 lbs	0 00 @	4 75
Flour, Spring, strong bakers	0 00 @	4 25
Flour mixed	0 00 @	4 50
Oatmeal	0 00 @	3 50
Cornmeal	0 00 @	2 00
Bran per ton	0 00 @	14 00
Shorts	0 00 @	18 00
Barley per bush	0 00 @	50
Peas	0 00 @	60
Oats	0 00 @	45
Potatoes	0 75 @	80
Butter per lb	0 15 @	25
Cheese	0 08 @	13
Lard	@	12
Tallow	0 06 @	06
Eggs fresh	0	10
Beef per Quarter, per lb	4 @	6
Bacon	8 @	9
Smoked Hams	0 09 @	12
Sugar cured canvass do	0 00 @	15
Mess Pork	00 00 @	19 00
do extra Prime	00 00 @	00 00
Salt pork, bbl	0 00 @	1 25
Land Salt per ton		6 00
Hay	0 00 a	11 00
Straw per load	2 50	3 00
Beef Hides	4 00 a	6 00
Sheepskins	0 70 a	1 50
Calfskins, per lb	0 00 a	0 13
Cordwood Hard	2 00 a	2 50
Cordwood Sawed	2 50 a	3 00
Self, full length	1 25 a	2 00
Clover seed per bushel	0 00	10 00
Timothy seed	2 00 a	3 25

ROUTES OF FIRST-CLASS STALLIONS.

KING OF THE NORTH.—General Purpose Horse by Imported Nabocky, will this season travel through Manvers and a portion of Fenelon. Benjamin Hancock, Proprietor.

BRAMHAM CHIEF.—Fast trotting stallion, will this season travel through Emily, Smithfield, Clover and Mariposa. T. H. Fee, Proprietor.

YOUNG DIRECTOR.—Draught, by imported Nabocky, will this season stand in Lindsay and Bangham. Robt. Fitzsimmons, Proprietor.

Over Bankers' Repository. Entrance off Kent Street.—919-4.

Bradburn & Mason.

BRADBURN & MASON,

CORNER STORE, DOHENY BLOCK, LINDSAY, ONT.

TO OUR PATRONS.

Our Buyer has returned—Our Stock is complete in each department---Our selections are judiciously made—Our Goods are bought at inside figures, and our prices will be in sympathy with the times. Below we subjoin a few of the leading lines and prices.

340 pieces of Dress Goods, newest shades and patterns, ranging from 10c.
100 pieces of Black Lustres, from 12c.
400 pieces Prints, from 7c.
60 pieces Brown and Checked Ducks, from 12½.
12 Bales Grey and White Cotton--extra good value.

We would particularly invite inspection of our Cloths and Tweeds, which for durability and design cannot be surpassed.

OUR GENTS' FURNISHINGS

Has received our most careful attention, and is very attractive.

Good lines in Small Wares and Haberdashery.

Come when in town and see for yourselves.

J. E. THORNBURY, MANAGER.

J. McCammon.

MILLINERY. MILLINERY

J. McCAMMON'S

MILLINERY ROOM

Is now open and replete with

ALL THE NEWEST GOODS.

We are showing a beautiful Stock of

TRIMMED HATS

In all

THE LATEST STYLES,
THE GREATEST VARIETY,
THE MOST POPULAR PRICES.

MANTLES,

IN CLOTH, CASHMERE & SILK--Very Cheap.

DRESS GOODS.

The nicest variety of low priced Dress Goods in the county.

See our Dress Goods at 12½ Cents.
" " " 17 "
" " " 20 "
" " " 22 "
" " " 25 "

After reading this advertisement note the place, and call at

McCAMMON'S.

921-8

Smyth & Bowes.

1877. SPRING. 1877

SMYTH & BOWES,

BEG TO ANNOUNCE

SPRING IMPORTATIONS.

COMPRISING:—

480 Patterns of Prints,
120 Patterns Dress Goods,
10 Bales Grey Cotton,
5 Bales of Carpets,
5 CASES READY-MADE CLOTHING
2 Cases Tweeds,
2 Cases Mantles,
5 Cases Millinery, Spring Costumes and Novelties

At the very lowest living

N. B.--ALL WINTER GOODS AT COST.

SMYTH & BOWES.

John Haisley.

ATTENTION.

SPRING STOCK

BOOTS AND SHOES

Now complete in all the latest styles for Ladies.

CHEAPER THAN EVER.

Just note these prices:—
Ladies' Prunella Gaiters, per pair
do do do do Steel Shanks
Men's Cobourgs, per pair
do Long Boots, do
A Choice lot of Gents' Alligator Boots
AND TEAM HARNESS
where. Repair