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W. H. THURSTON,
Editor and Proprietor.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.

The great event of the past week in the Dominion Parliament has been the debate upon Mr. McCarthy's bill to do away with the French language in the Northwest. To a close observer it is a matter of wonder whether Mr. McCarthy was really sincere in introducing a bill which purported to do away with a dual language in the Northwest, but which aimed at wiping out the French tongue from British America. Mr. McCarthy must have known that a sense of proverbial British fair play would prevent Canadians enforcing the absolute use of the English tongue within our borders. He must have known, too, that such coercive measures would have militated destructively in the settling of the great Northwest.

It was understood before the purport of Mr. McCarthy's bill was made known that it simply aimed at doing away with a second official language in the Northwest; that it did not aim at the destruction of free speech in whatever tongue was most convenient to the people; but it now appears that it embraced even that. This being the case, it is not surprising that our legislators have refused to countenance so grave a blow.

One peculiarity of the debate was that the French members left the battle mostly in the hands of the English speaking element to decide, only two or three French members protesting against the bill. Mr. Blake delivered a most eloquent speech against the bill, and one whose every sentiment could scarcely but be sanctioned by fair-minded men. We do not believe that the French language of itself is a menace to Canada. We believe that the English tongue, having so great a preponderance as it has, will eventually absorb the French, as it is fast doing even now, and that thereby will come a peaceful solution of the question. But we also believe that should the stirring up of racial strife be continued as it has been during the past two years it will have the effect of solidifying the French people into a compact whole which will be much more difficult of dissolution than it otherwise would be. Note the case of Great Britain and Wales. The former found it impossible a few years ago to coerce the latter into discarding the Welsh tongue, and gave up the attempt. Yet she is gaining to-day by peaceful means what she could not gain by coercive measures. At all events it would be a poor policy, at this early stage of Canadian growth, to interpose obstacles to her development and progress by obliging natives of other countries, who desired to make their home amongst us, to discard their native tongue immediately upon arrival and adopt ours. It would be an unnecessary hardship, for the object would be certain to be gained through time, just as time and expediency would cause such foreigners to conform to our laws and our customs. Let the French retain their language so long as they desire to retain it. They will undoubtedly in time come to find out that to become a successful people in Canada, with

uncircumscribed liberty, they must speak the English language; and they are very fast coming to a knowledge of that fact. Of course if, as was at first supposed, the bill under discussion simply aimed at doing away with French in the Northwest as an official language, the aspect would be changed, and we would say it was a means towards the desired end; but under the circumstances we fear that Mr. McCarthy's bill has been productive of more evil than good.

A great many of our farmers are in debt and they are likely to be there while they have to pay such enormous interest. In no instance should the legal interest exceed five per cent. It was easier to pay ten per cent. years ago than to pay five now. Salaries and interest must come down to correspond with the times. If not, the moneyed men will hold all the land and we shall only be on par with European countries. Can our farmers see the hand-writing on the wall? While you elect these millionaires to Parliament how can you expect them to make laws to better your condition? It is everyone for himself; we want farmers there to represent our interests and to make laws equally just to all.—Ex.

It is quite distressing to read the speeches of certain members of the Reform party in the Dominion Parliament. One enthusiastic Reformer will rise to his feet and shout himself hoarse for a change in the tariff whereby farmers may reap the benefit. Then, so soon as the Government has intimated its willingness and intention of meeting the matter, another Reformer will rise up in righteous indignation and protest against this "eternal tinkering with the tariff," and that, too, with the idea that his sublime ridiculousness is not noted by the world at large.

Toronto has lost her magnificent university. It is now a pile of ruined walls and cinders. Built in 1860, it was the most beautiful specimen of architecture in Canada, and was an object of pride to every Canadian. Many and many a man throughout this country will have read ere this the sad story of the destruction of his alma mater with sorrowing heart, but will be rejoiced to know that out of her ashes will arise a new one of equal beauty and equal power. We give elsewhere the press despatch descriptive of the catastrophe.

D. Creighton, Esq., was nominated on Saturday, in Owen Sound, as Conservative standard bearer for North Grey, and the fight will once more be between Mr. Cleland and Mr. Creighton.

Letters to the Editor.

For the opinions of which he does not hold himself in any degree responsible.

"Ability" Discounted.

"Blessed is he who is not condemned in the thing which he alloweth."
To the Editor of The Advance.
SIR,—One would think that age, long servitude and rigid business integrity should save me from such villainous insinuations as now periodically appear from Thorp Wright, but doubtless in all society there is generally at least one moral vampire, one whose head and heart alike are estranged. I shall now satisfy myself by giving his last production a categorical reply. Allow me to say that I hail with satisfaction any perceptible return to reason. The Nelson Hill matter was not (according to his correction) so bad after all. But here lies the pinch; he was afraid of a legal la grippe, and hence his change of front. It will surprise your readers when I assure them that Thorp Wright was in the Council at the time of this trouble, and voted, as the records show, (for I have examined them) in a manner that culminated the difficulty. It will be a further surprise to know that at the time alluded to he was my friend, he took a lively interest in this case, defended the township and myself against the aspersions of all and sundry, yet now,

for sinister motives only, he swallows his record holus bolus. The facts are unchangeable, but he changes. It seems his ability lies in this direction.

Had he enquired in reference to the Boyne culvert he would have saved himself from sad exposures and errors. I answer: There were tenders asked for; there were both plans and specifications; and Varty's work was let by public auction, so much per cubic yard in the bank. But the lowest tender of \$500 for culvert alone was deemed too high and was refused. It was built by days work for \$365 and it has not been repaired since. The repairs were for washouts on the banks by the excessive rains during that fall. The insinuation is, that Sharp and myself possibly used the money (for he was joint commissioner with me) but I don't think this insinuation needs even a denial. Every item is given in the report filed, in the usual way, for any one's inspection. He depreciates this method and you would suppose on this line he was a veritable Simon pure, yet he knows it was the practice in the County Council, and he never raised his voice against it, but filed his report spiced well with Wright stuff and such like without a particle of compunction. I candidly admit that such a detailed publication might be necessary from interested grabbing men, as in his own case for instance in this township. Look at the auditor's report for 1881, his last opportunity this item appears. "Thorp Wright, special grant on gravel road, \$83.00." Who drew this money? T. Wright. Who paid it out? T. Wright. To whom was it paid? The treasurer's books don't reveal. Examining his filed report, it says: W. G. Pickle, \$15.60, J. T. Wright, (son), \$18.00, Thorp Wright, \$16.00, balance to Geo. Stewart and one or two others. I make no comment, only that you will search the records in vain for a case like this against myself. Thus he is hung upon his own petard! Here is a man convicted for doing the identical thing he so mawkishly charges others with. Is it not always so, with men "Who bait their hooks with mites of cheese, And sits on a rock and bob for fleas." Honorable men don't use their positions for selfish means, and most all of the township's representatives, I am proud to say, have been and are honorable men, who can be trusted every time. My charge, to order, over see and direct a work of \$500 expenditure was \$10.00. Do you see any difference?

Ratepayers let me say to you finally: Permit no man to receive your countenance or support, who studies to turn your money to his own advantage or that of his kin. I have served you long and I stand bold in my integrity. There is no municipal transaction of mine but what was done in open day light and will stand the closest inspection. This vexed, disappointed aspirant rages, but in every attempt he digs his own grave deeper and ere long he will die (if not already dead) a municipal death, never more to be resurrected from. So mote it be. DR. CHRISTOE.

Testing of the Vitality and Vigour of Seed Grain

To the Editor of The Advance.
The summer of 1889 was not a favorable one in some parts of the Dominion for maturing a high quality of seed grain. Rust prevailed to such an extent as to interfere with its usual development and plumpness. Where the rust was severe the grain is unusually light, and its percentage of germinating power has been considerably reduced. This is especially the case with oats. Judging from samples received for testing, this injury has been greatest in the Maritime Provinces, and in some districts in Ontario. The important bearing of well developed, vigorous seed, of high germinating power, on good crops is now recognized by all thoughtful farmers, and no one who has any seed on hand, the vitality of which is questionable, should allow himself to remain long in uncertainty as to its value. The seed testing department at the Central Experimental Farm is now in full operation, and every farmer in the Dominion is invited to send any samples of which he may have doubt to this institution for test. The time occupied in testing is usually about a fortnight; an ounce or two is sufficient for the purpose. Samples may be sent through the mail to the Experimental Farm free of postage, and the returns will be made as promptly as possible, and free of charge. The name and address of the sender should be written plainly, and accompany each package.
WM. SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farm,
Central Experimental Farm,
Department of Agricultural,
Ottawa, February 13th, 1890.

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Mason Double-Geared Drill and Spring Tooth Seeder,
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The good qualities of these implements are sufficiently known now to speak for themselves, without any extra words from me. Anybody requiring implements in this line would do well to examine mine if not already acquainted with them. Call on me and I will be happy to exhibit the good qualities of these machines.

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articles who have heretofore had difficulty with their wells are

Guaranteed Satisfaction

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For your Supplies in Tinware,
Repairing, Eavtroughing, etc.

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Moore's Block,
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BOOT AND SHOE MAKER,
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VETERINARY SURGEON,
Graduate of Ontario Vet. College,
RESIDENCE ON COLLINGWOOD STREET,
Sixth Door East of Presbyterian Church,
FLESHERTON.

Dentistry.

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