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The Daily News.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 1.

☞ SEE FIRST PAGE.

THE MILITIA BILL.—In the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon, Hon. Mr Cartier introduced his bill respecting the Militia and the defence of the Dominion of Canada. The bill divides the Militia into active and reserve militia. The active militia is to be composed of volunteers, of the regular militia. The reserve militia is to be composed of men who would not be called to serve in any one of these capacities. The militia in general will be composed of the male inhabitants of the Dominion between 18 and 60 years of age, who will all be liable to be called out in case of a levy en masse. The militia is to be divided into four classes. The first to comprise all male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 30, unmarried or widowers without children; the second those from 30 to 45 unmarried or widowers without children; the third class those from 18 to 45 married or widowers having children; and the fourth from 45 to 60 years of age. The bill permits the organization of volunteers under existing laws. A certain time will be allowed for volunteers to enrol themselves, and then if the number be not sufficient, it is proposed to fill up the service companies, so that the number of trained men throughout the Dominion should not be less than 40,000, and at the same time the officers of the reserve militia or such proportion as may be ordered, are to train with service companies. In regimental divisions in which the complement is not raised by volunteering service men to be ballotted for.

The Dominion is to be divided into nine districts, of which New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are to form one each, Quebec three and Ontario four. To each district a District Deputy Adjutant General will be appointed with a staff. Regimental divisions will be marked out; and if it is decided to divide the Dominion into two hundred regimental divisions, Ontario will have 88, Quebec 68, Nova Scotia 24, New Brunswick 20. The bill provides for the appointment of a colonel and two majors and other necessary officers for every regimental division with captains, lieutenants and other officers as may be necessary. To furnish the quota of service men, Upper Canada will have to furnish 17,500; Lower Canada 13,500; New Brunswick 4,000, and Nova Scotia 5,000. If it be necessary to resort to the ballot in any regimental division the selection will be made first from unmarried men between 18 and 30, then from the unmarried men between 30 and 45, and next from the remaining classes.

The enrollment is to be made by captains in every alternate year. The enrolled men serve for two years, volunteers for three. The period of yearly training to be not less than eight days or more than sixteen. The colonels, majors and captains will have to be resident within their regimental divisions.

The Minister of Militia estimates the number of militia now for the Dominion at 700,000 men able to defend the country. Of these seafaring men numbered at least 70,000, a very important element in our military strength. It is not proposed to exact any training of seafaring men. In other respects the number of exemptions is very limited—only judges, clergy, and some others. Quakers will not be required to take part in actual fighting.

The system of Military Schools is to be extended to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Mr Cartier gave an outline of the expenditure to be incurred under the different provisions of the bill; but leaves an explanation of what is proposed to be done in the way of fortification until the bill comes up for its second reading.

We have received a copy of the Adjutant General's report on the Militia and Volunteer force of Canada. It is a blue book of nearly two hundred pages, devoted to an account of the state of the militia in various particulars. We propose to summarize some of the important facts and statements which it contains.

As is well known, the excitement of the Fenian invasion has greatly contributed to the strength of the Volunteer army of Canada. Since the spring of 1866 the Volunteer force of Ontario and Quebec has increased from 348 companies, with a nominal strength of 19,597 men, to 569 with a nominal strength of 33,754. Since the call for service in the spring of 1866 the isolated companies have been formed into permanent battalions, by counties where ever possible. Colonel Macdougall says the force is for the most part fairly efficient, and animated by a good spirit; but he notes that it labours under a sense of the inequalities of the service. The only sound basis, he considers, on which, in a country like Canada, any successful system of compulsory militia service can be conducted is in the practical recognition of the principle that every man not actually contributing his personal service during any one year, should pay a tax in money which should bear some proportion to the property for which the military force of the country is to afford protection. He urges that without the practical recognition of this principle it is impossible that the compulsory militia service of the country can ever be cheerfully performed by those on whom it is imposed. He suggests that either a tax proportioned to property be imposed on all not serving, supposing the service to be compulsory; or, in the case where the service is by voluntary enlistment the rate of pay must be a real compensation for the loss of time entailed on the militiaman by his military duties.

Another weak point in the Volunteer service, the Adjutant General points out, is the absence of proper power for enforcing discipline and obedience to orders. This defect, which Colonel Macdougall merely notes in these brief terms, is inseparable from the system of volunteering. Discipline and obedience must almost wholly depend upon the good spirit, intelligence and devotion of the Volunteers. These qualities would be fully called out in actual service, but in that case the law gives ample power.

An improper care of arms is perhaps the worst fault charged against the Volunteer. Colonel Wolseley, in command of the camp at Thorold, reports very damagingly when he writes:—"I regret to say that a large proportion of the arms would not go off, for although clean outside, the nipples of many were clogged with dirt." Colonel Macdougall proposes some remedial measures for this, and insists that proper storage for arms free from dampness must be provided.

The Adjutant General is an advocate for a paid battalion staff. He says that in order that a battalion should be efficient it is indispensable that it should be provided with an Adjutant and Sergeant-Major, who should give up their whole time to their military duties. "It is a delusion to imagine that an efficient military force can be kept up without a properly paid permanent staff, and the attempt to do so can only lead to an unprofitable expenditure of the public money."

In the account of the services of Captain Daly's company, 47th battalion, and Captain Horsey's company, 14th battalion, at the Penitentiary, as a guard on account of the detention of the Fenian prisoners, the Adjutant General says the behaviour of both companies was excellent, and the reports as to their smartness and efficiency were highly satisfactory.

The report states that 30,000 Snider rifles are now in the hands of the volunteers of Ontario and Quebec. The infantry corps have been completed in the articles of haversacks, water bottles, and great coat straps as a substitute for knapsacks. Reserve stores of these articles, as well as of boots, knapsacks and ammunition have been formed at the headquarters of the different districts. The field batteries have received new equipments in guns, carriages, harness and stores, and each is now supplied with three nine-pounder guns and one twenty-four-pounder howitzer. Most of the cavalry troops have been armed with the Spencer repeating rifle and have received thirty-five sets of saddlery for troops.

The Adjutant General expresses his high sense of the efficient manner in which the duties of instruction have been performed in the Military Schools. In the province of Quebec 69 first class and 385 second-class certificates were taken during 1867. In Ontario 67 first-class and 422 second-class certificates were taken. Since the first establishment of Military Schools in 1864, 973 first-class and 2628 second-class certificates have been taken.

A great deal of the report is taken up with the details of target matches and prize competitions.

STEAMER WATERTOWN.—The steamer *Watertown* returned here this morning at halfpast nine o'clock from Cape Vincent with several passengers and freight. This makes the first arrival at this port for the season of 1868. She touched at Mr Kinghorn's new wharf, foot of Brock street, and her arrival as the first steamboat in, attracted considerable interest. The wharf was thronged with spectators, and the cabmen were thoroughly on the qui vive, and appeared rejoiced at the renewal of the passenger business. She started this morning for her second trip to Cape Vincent, and apparently finds no lack of freight. Cattle dealers have been busy in the surrounding country during the early spring, and notwithstanding the increase of prices, and the uncertainty of the American markets, sent over a first consignment of twenty-five head of milch cows with their calves by this vessel.

POLICE COURT, Wednesday.—Mary Dillon, who has frequently appeared at the court on the charge of drunkenness, made her appearance again this morning. She has just completed her sentence at the gaol for such offence combined with vagrancy, and it was hoped that the city had seen the last of her; but having a child in the House of Providence her maternal instincts became unusually developed, and she insisted upon seeing her offspring, contrary to the rules of the establishment, and so persistent were her demands for admittance that the police had to be called. She pleaded hard to be allowed the privilege of seeing her child, and the magistrate directed a policeman to go with her for that purpose, after which she promised to leave the city. Another old hand by name of McDonald was sent back to gaol for another month for drunkenness. He was quite unfit to be allowed to depart, being far gone in delirium tremens and requiring medical supervision.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

FROM MONTREAL.

The Provincial Exhibition committee have made an application to the Corporation of Montreal for a grant for the Exhibition, in consequence of the failure of the Quebec Corporation to make the usual grant in time.

The Finance committee at Quebec have since recommended that a grant of two thousand dollars be made.

The City Treasurer gives notice that the collection of over due assessments by legal process will be vigourously enforced.

The trial of Falardeau, the broker, has occupied two days in the Court of Queen's Bench and is not yet concluded.

All the troops in the garrison paraded this morning for route marching.

The weather to-day is dull with an appearance of rain.

FROM PORT COLBORNE.

Port Colborne, April 1.—The schooner Elia Bates, from Buffalo, light, in tow of the tug Gardner, arrived in the harbour last night on her way to Milwaukie. The tug left for Buffalo and will bring over another vessel to-day.

The propeller barge Henry Howard, which wintered in the harbour here, has got up steam and intends to leave for Detroit to-day.

The ice is up the lake yet. The wind is from the South, and it is expected will drive the ice back.

THE FIRE IN PRINCESS STREET.

About two o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in the store occupied by Messrs Young & Co., grocers, Princess-street, corner of Montreal-st. A gentleman connected with one of the hardware stores of the city was the first to discover the presence of the fire. Business had detained him to an unusually late, or rather early hour, and when returning home he discovered smoke issuing from the shop of Messrs Young & Co., and his attention being thus drawn to the building he noticed a light in the shop, perceptible from the window over the front door. He immediately gave the alarm and endeavoured to arouse the inmates who reside in the upper portion of the building, which, after considerable difficulty, he succeeded in doing. Mr Young, upon being apprised of the nature of the alarm, endeavoured to escape through the shop or lower portion of the building, but was unable to do so from the dense smoke with which it was filled, and immediately returned to the window above and requested that a ladder might be brought to enable him and his wife and brother to escape. The bar tender of the American hotel, situated directly opposite, had been aroused by the alarm and lost no time in sending parties for ladders, and by their aid the escape of the occupants after a brief interval was effected. The engines and fire brigade were promptly on the spot, and there was a good supply of water on hand, but owing to the dense smoke with which the building was filled, more especially the lower part, their efforts were for some time rendered in a measure abortive, or at the best uncertain. The smoke was so dense in the shop that after the doors and windows had been forced, it was found impossible to enter in order to remove the goods, and a long time elapsed before anything of consequence could be rescued. About half-past three o'clock the untiring efforts of the firemen, aided by the crowd, which by this time had become very great, succeeded so far in subduing the flames that an entrance to the store was effected, and the hose was directed with something like certainty to the immediate locality of the flames, which very soon resulted in their total extinction, not, however, before the whole of the interior of the shop had been gutted, and a great portion of its contents destroyed.

One of the partners of the firm, in endeavouring to save some of the property in the shop, came near losing his life from suffocation, and had his rescue been delayed a short period longer this would have been the case. When found he had become quite helpless and unconscious. The chief of the police and the whole force were on the spot, and their efforts effected a saving of a good deal of the contents of the store. The origin of the fire is unknown. Mr Young retired, as usual, about nine o'clock, and left everything, apparently, safe around the stove in the shop, where it appears the fire started. Messrs Young & Co. have a policy of $2,000 in the B. A. Insurance Co., and the insurance of the building, which belongs to Mr Thibodo, will cover all losses. Mr Thibodo is insured in the Liverpool and London Company.

MILITARY FUNERAL.—The remains of bombadier Moston were conveyed to the Waterloo Cemetery this afternoon, and interred with Military honours. The deceased was acting hospital Sergeant, and belonged to the 10th Brigade, but attached to the 3rd, now in garrison.

Gen. Tom Thumb and wife, Commodore Nutt and Miss Warren, will shortly visit Canada.

One lady at least has demonstrated the capacity of her sex for wielding editorial thunderbolts. The wife of the imprisoned editor of the Memphis *Avalanche* performed her husband's journalistic duties so efficiently as to render the paper more formidable than it was before, and not a whit more deferential to the aggrieved judge who caused the editor's arrest.

A rather curious bet has been laid in connection with this year's Derby. A noble lord, a member of the Four-in-hand Club, is to leave Gracechurch street, London, driving his drag, at ten a.m., on the Derby day. At the same hour a female pedestrian is to leave the Plough at Clapham. An even wager to a large amount has been laid that she getting a start of four and a half miles in 17, will reach the Grand Stand before his lordship's four-in-hand. The lady's age is 55. At present the odds are five to four on the petticoat.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—On the evening of the 25th instant, a hotel keeper from Cobourg named Michael Burke, who had been on a visit to Belleville, met with two or three well known characters at a tavern convenient to the market place. They drank pretty freely, and one of their number, a notorious robber, who has been twice in the Penitentiary, and once in the State Prison, named James Labrashe, induced Burke to accompany him to the railway station, and having crossed over Taylor's Hill, on arrival at a lonesome place, the ruffian knocked Burke down, robbed him of $36 in bills, and then made his way towards Canifton. He was remarked next morning on his way to Madoc, and the chief of police telegraphed to the constable there, Mr McDonald, who arrested Labrashe in Mr Moon's hotel yard, and conveyed him to Belleville. He was brought up before the Police Magistrate on the 27th instant, and the charge was fully proved against him. A Mr George, who resides at Smithville, produced a $10 bill, which Labrashe changed for silver, and it was identified by Burke as one of those stolen from him. We hope the community will be relieved from the presence of this fellow for many years to come.—*Belleville Intelligencer.*

THE LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

Mr Mudie, engaged in the case McRae vs. Henderson recently tried in the Assize Court, furnishes us with the following extended notes of the Judge's charge, which is interesting as relating to the law of Landlord and Tenant:—

Gentlemen of the Jury: The first questions for your consideration in this action are whether or not there was unreasonable delay on the part of the defendant in repairing the plaintiff's premises; and, if so, how much too long did he take in doing the repairs.

A great deal of law is here involved respecting the relation of landlord and tenant.

Upon which party does the duty of repairing or rebuilding lie? The rule which is the answer to this question, like others relating to the law of real property, is founded on the ancient feudal tenure, of which the object was to protect the domain of the landlord.

If you rent a farm to a man, and the house or barn on it is burned down, you are still entitled to the rent, and you are not bound to rebuild. The original idea was to make the tenant careful of them. If this is wrong the Legislature ought to put it right. Such has been the law for six centuries, and as such we must obey it. If it is hard that the tenant should continue liable for the rent until the determination of the tenancy, it is also hard that the owner should ultimately have to bear the loss. Nor am I prepared to say that the tenants ought not to be put on the careful management of the landlord's property. Further, where there is a general covenant by the lessee to repair, and leave repaired at the end of the term, he is liable to rebuild in case of the destruction of the premises by fire or even (actu Dei) by the act of God; for it was his own fault that he did not stipulate against such a contingency.

In the case before us the plaintiff entered into such a covenant so that he himself should have rebuilt.

Let us now examine into his cause of complaint and the grounds for it as revealed by the evidence.

The fire occurred on the fifteenth of last July, and the plaintiff, mistaking the law, thought it was Henderson's duty to repair. This is clear from a letter written by him on the fifteenth of August, stating the destruction of his premises, and warning the defendant that he would hold him responsible if he did not repair them within a reasonable time. We find Henderson, too, supposing himself liable not only to repair this building but to rebuild the rest, for we find him about this time commencing to do so. He proposed to raise them nearly five feet higher than they were before the fire. Plaintiff saw the plans. Is there any evidence that he objected to the intended change in the height of his shop? Was it likely that he would desire a want of uniformity by having the others higher than his own? The contractors got into possession on the fifteenth of August, and were to have the plaintiff's shop ready in six weeks from that time; was the plaintiff dissatisfied with that arrangement? The action was commenced, framed on this idea. "You went voluntarily into the possession of my premises for the purpose of repairing them, and wrongfully kept possession for a longer time than you should have done."

The declaration states in strong terms "that the defendant wilfully neglected and refused to complete the repairs within a reasonable time or to leave the premises, but for the purpose of annoying and harassing the plaintiff, and for the purpose of preventing the plaintiff from carrying on his business as a grocer, wrongfully withheld the premises from the plaintiff." This means that Henderson purposely delayed the repairs. Now, there is no evidence to show this. The witnesses say that the progress of the work was facilitated and urged on by Henderson in good faith. Occasional delays do occur in the erection of buildings, and seldom is anything better than the rudest structure put up as quickly as it might have been. The second count of the declaration is in trespass "for breaking into the plaintiff's premises and expelling him therefrom," but this statement is negatived by the plaintiff's letter, which shows that the defendant entered with his sanction.

The plaintiff has offered no evidence under the common counts.

His case therefore rests on the first count, in answer to which the defendant says, you are entitled to no damages, for I am out of pocket in doing these repairs which you should have done. You might have told me not to do them, and have done them yourself. You did not do so, and I did them for your benefit.

If you find that there was unreasonable delay to any extent, the next question which will claim your attention is the measure of damages. In the solution of this question you can, as a general rule, only look to the immediate result of the wrong. In some cases the law itself fixes the amount as in the case of the non-payment of a promissory note, for though the plaintiff has sustained great inconvenience therefrom, the measure of the damages to which he is entitled is only the interest of the principal.

Again, if a man agrees to deliver a load of wheat to you in Kingston at a given time, and fails to do so, if wheat has in the meantime increased in value, the measure of damages is the difference between the agreed price and the market price at the time of the disappointment, and not the profit which the plaintiff might have made by the resale of the wheat, nor the loss which he suffered from the fact of his ulterior arrangements, made in expectation of the fulfilment of the bargain being frustrated. Hence you see what is meant by saying that only the immediate result of a breach of contract is to be regarded in estimating damages. Here the plaintiff claims damages for speculative profits, that is for the profits which he supposes he would have made during the alleged delay in repairing, but such damages are not immediate; they are too remote, and therefore are not to be taken into consideration by you. If you find that there was unreasonable delay, I think the occupation value of the premises for that time, is the proper measure of damages. The plaintiff has proved that value to be one hundred and sixteen pounds per year, which is about six shillings and five pence a day. You now have a basis by which to form your estimate, and may retire.

Verdict for the defendant.

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

Monday, March 30.—In the Senate, Senator Campbell moved that a select committee be appointed to consider and report whether by any alteration in the forms and proceedings of this House, the dispatch of public business can be more effectually promoted, and that the following be the select committee:—Senators Kenny, Ross, Tessier, Duchesnay, McCully, Ritchie, Dickson, Aikins, Bostford, and the mover. He said he would not have brought this subject before the house, had he not anticipated that a similar course would be taken in the other branch of the Legislature. That course had been taken by the other legislative body. Hon. gentlemen were aware that in the Upper House of the Legislature of the late Proeince of Canada, and no doubt in the other Provinces, there had been complaints as to the course of public business in Parliament, and the disadvantages under which the upper branch of the Legislature often labours in consequence of the manner in which business came before it During the early part of the session little business was done. Towards the close a great deal had to be disposed of; so much so that the bills coming before them during the last stages of the session could not be fully considered. This could not, of course, be remedied altogether. But something might be done. He found that in England, under similar circumstances, the course pursued was only to have separate committees appointed on the part of each branch of the Legislature to discuss the subject and endeavour to suggest some mode by which each branch of the Legislature might be enabled to give the fullest consideration possible to the various measures coming under their notice. On the committee he had ventured to put the names of those who had some time or other been speakers of that house, and had endeavoured severally to select those having experience in the house. By co-operation with the committee appointed by the other branch, he hoped that some decision would be arrived at which would enable public business to be conducted in that House in a satisfactory manner.

In the House of Commons, Mr Mackenzie, before the orders of the day were called, desired to ask the attention of the Minister of Justice to some circumstances which had just occurred on the western frontier. He had brought under notice of the house some time ago the arrest of a British subject named McDonald in the township of Moore, and his abduction into the United States on a charge of smuggling. The United States Government had agreed to restore him, but Mr Thornton, the British Ambassador, acting in a most extraordinary and undignified part, had refused to accept his liberty, and allowed him to remain in a United States prison—a course of proceeding to which he (Mr Mackenzie) intended to call the attention of the house at greater length on a subsequent occasion. It now appeared that within the last few days the gaol of St. Clair, Michigan, in which McDonald was confined, had had a sort of gaol delivery through the act of the prisoners themselves, McDonald and another prisoner charged with smuggling escaped to the Canadian side. McDonald was again arrested at the request of the United States authorities, not on the charge of having escaped, but because some one, it was alleged, had stolen a revolver from the gaoler. He and the other escaped prisoner were brought before Judge Robertson, County Judge of Lambton, and had been by him remanded to await the claim for their rendition by the United States authorities. He called the attention of the Government to these circumstances, with the view to ascertain whether they were to allow the liberties of Canadian subjects to be imperilled by such proceedings. [Hear, hear.]

Sir John A. Macdonald said his hon. friend had mentioned to him that he was to bring this matter up in the house. Since the conversation with him the papers in the case had been received at his office, but he had not had time as yet to read them. He quite agreed with his honourable friend that the British Ambassador had not exercised a proper discretion, to say the least of it, in refusing to accept the man's liberty. He would say nothing in vindication of the man's conduct; but it was clear that the offence with which he was charged—that of a breach of the United States revenue laws—was not one which he could be properly extradited. As regarded what had happened since his escape to this side, he would not prejudge the case. Judge Robertson had, no doubt, acted to the best of his discretion; but whether it was a case of extradition was a matter for the Governor in Council, under advice of his responsible advisers, to determine. The Government would give full and ample consideration to the whole facts of the case before any action was taken. [Hear, hear.]

Mr Fortin moved for correspondence with respect to the sittings of the courts in the district of Gaspe; also for correspondence with the Judges of Court of Queen's Bench and of the Superior Courts of the Province of Quebec during the last three years, respecting the demand for leaves of absence and respecting representations made on account of the failure of the administration of justice arising from the absence or illness of certain judges, or from other causes.

Mr Masson (Soulanges) complained of the character of the judiciary in the Province of Quebec. The judges were incapable, and a great wrong was consequently done in the administration of justice. Two of them had almost lost their heads; one was not of good moral character, and a third was so deaf that in an action for $10, he actually gave judgment for $100. (Laughter.) If the correspondence that had taken place between the Montreal bar and the government in regard to the judges of that district were brought down, it would astonish the House.

Mr Masson (Terrebone) said great injury was done by the state into which the bench of the province of Quebec had fallen.

Mr Blake thought it would be better to expend a little more money if thereby an efficient judiciary could be obtained.

Mr Dunkin said the trouble was that the men had grown old on the bench who refused to retire because the allowance on retirement was much less than their salary. He said it was false economy to keep incapable men on the bench. They should be given a good pension on retiring and new appointments made.

Mr Chamberlain said that all that had been said of the Quebec judiciary that was disgraceful was unfortunately too true. It would be much better to pay a few eminent men well, and others at a lower rate to assist them, allowing those to retire who were incapable.

Mr Abbott deprecated the attempts that had been made to deprecate the character and standing of the judges. As far as the judges of the Montreal district were concerned they were quite as well qualified as any other judges in the country, but the evil was, there was not enough of them. He advocated the appointment of two more as the simplest mode of remedying the evils complained of.

Mr Irvine said no doubt there was great cause of complaint, and the true mode of remedying the evil was to provide a sufficient retiring allowance for those judges who remained on the bench and who from age were incapable satisfactorily to discharge their duties.

Mr Dorion made a very severe attack upon the judiciary of Quebec, stating that out of twenty-three judges in the province there were sixteen who, from one cause or other, were incapable of performing their duties. Six of these were incapacitated from old age and infirmity, two from their habits, and one was a scandal to the district in which he resided. The press on all sides of politics denounced this state of things as one which required a prompt remedy. He charged the responsibilty for the character of the bench upon the Minister of Militia, who had the appointment of most of these judges. He went on to refer to the appointment of the Queen's Counsel by the same minister, charging them as disgraceful. Two who had been appointed had never practised law; two had been hangers-on about the doors of courts, and another had presented such a fraudulent account to the government that they had refused to pay it, and another was a swindler and a forger, who had to fly from his country to escape the penitentiary. (Sensation.) These men had been appointed Queen's counsel for their election services, and if the Minister of Militia had remained Attorney-General they would probably be made judges of the Superior Court and of Queen's Bench. He (Mr Dorion) appealed to the Minister of Justice to guard against such improper appointments in future.

After recess,

Mr Cartier spoke at great length in defence of the character of the judges of Quebec, and said the charges of the member for Hochelaga (Mr Dorion) were ungentlemanly and scandalous, and should never have been made except upon the clearest proof, which he (Mr Cartier) was satisfied could not be offered. He alluded seriatim and by name to each of the judges of the Superior Court and the Queen's Bench, and defended those of them whom he had appointed as able, painstaking, and upright judges. He spoke of the system of judicial administration which he had established in Lower Canada in 1857 as a great boon to the country, decentralizing the courts and cheapening legal proceedings. As to those whom he had appointed Queen's Counsel, he contended they were ornaments of the bar.

The debate continued several hours; a number of members, chiefly from the Province of Quebec, expressed their opinions as to the constitution of legal tribunals and administration of justice in that Province. Nearly all the speakers complained of delays and excessive costs in all legal processes, causing dissatisfaction among the members of the bar and people, and demanding a speedy remedy by the legislature.

Mr Huntington moved to amend the motion so as to include a return showing the number of days the court of revision and circuits had not sat owing to the absence of judges.

Sir John A. Macdonald wound up the debate and said, it had been remarked that he would be held responsible for future appointments to the bench, and as long as he held office he did, and he would of course accept that responsibility. He regarded his position as similar to that of the Lord Chancellor of England, but that dignitary never became the accuser, but the supporter of the judiciary. He, however, must admit there was a contrast between the judges of Ontario and those of Quebec. In the former Province they retired when they became incapacitated, but in the latter there were veterans who lagged superfluous on the stage, although no longer capable of performing their high duties. He hoped this discussion would do some good by leading them to consul, their own self-respect and dignity, and not force Parliament to summon them before it, to try their incapacity.

The motion, as amended, was carried.

The House adjourned at a quarter to 12 o'clock.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

The *Times* boils down several columns of a dreary correspondence from Abyssinia into the following:—

Our Abyssinian experience will give us another lesson in the cost of military transport. The conditions of the adventure are when compared with our anticipations, singularly favourable. Abyssinia, for a barbarous country, is not dangerous in any way. The climate is healthy; the extremes of temperature endurable; the absence of roads occasions no great trouble; and the population instead of displaying the jealous hostility of savages, is amenable to persuasion. It seems that the obstacles will disappear as we advance. Great apprehension has been entertained of the mountain torrents which it was thought would destroy the roads and intercept our communications, but our correspondent detected evidence opposed to these presumptions. There were no high-water marks in the channels, and trees were growing in places from which any sudden rush of water must have infallibly dislodged them. In the Sooroo defile, there is, indeed, a bit of road which might become impassable, but it is now hoped that this pass may be turned, and in that case communications may be maintained. Up to this time we have seen nothing of those monsters for which Abyssinia was so celebrated. One traveller has described the serpents of prodigious size, and lions of Abyssinia were spoken of like the tigers of Bengal. Yet not a lion nor a snake has been seen. A few wild elephants have been found, and jackals and hyenas abound; but, as regards danger Abyssinia is safer than many parts of India.

In the population we have found strangely little to alarm or even to surprise us. Abyssinia and the Abyssinians have almost a commonplace character. The people are unsuspicious, tolerably obliging, and as ready to work for money as Chinamen or coolies. For themselves they appear to do just as much work as is necessary for subsistance, and no more. Partly from want of energy, partly from a sense of insecurity, they will hardly plant or sow, and content themselves with a slight surplus over their daily wants. They declined to plant seeds which we offered them, even with the prospect of selling us the produce. Traces of feudal oppression are visible, but not prominent. Here and there a tower perched upon a cliff marks the ancient abode of some chieftain "endowed with a faculty for coercing mankind," but the aristocracy of Abyssinia is not more given to fighting than that of France or England a few hundred years ago. The people are acquainted with the use of arms, and have some good rifles; but there is no devastation or alarm as habitual warfare would produce. Curiously deficient, too, is the country in relics or vestiges of ancient civilization.

Nevertheless, with all this in our favour, we shall probably spend three or four months in marching 350 miles, and we are afraid to imagine how much money, although our troops are incredibly eager to get on, under a Commander as energetic as could be desired. The anxiety of the different regiments to push forward is described as almost ludicrous. The pioneers will hardly stop to make a road, lest they should be left in the rear, and the ordinary exigencies of the Indian army in the way of baggage have disappeared in the competition for a front place. Less than half the usual encumbrance will be allowed, but men and mules must live, and it is astonishing what their living costs. At present all supplies, except forage and fuel, have to be forwarded to the army, and the further the army advances the greater will be the difficulties. The country appears fertile and well adapted for tillage, but husbandry is practiced on so limited a scale that the people have little grain to spare. On the other hand, they are willing to help us in the transport service, not only with their mules and donkeys, but even with their wives and daughters, who carry loads of 70lb. each. Greater aid and fewer obstacles we could not have looked for, and yet, with a force cut down to the smallest proportions, we are obliged to halt incessantly for supplies. What our case might have been with a hostile population and an active enemy it is not difficult to imagine.

The best news is that all the captives are in Magdala, so that Magdala represents our destination; but even thus our lines of operations will be prolonged to forty miles, and the difficulties will increase in proportion unless the resources of the country itself should be found to improve. Of our enemy we have seen nothing, nor do we know, except by vague reports, where King Theodore is, or in what temper. So insignificant, however, is presumed to be his military power that the very idea of war appears to be discarded. Nobody seems to contemplate a battle—hardly even a siege. The object of all this expedition is not to fight anybody, but to march over four hundred miles of an unknown country to a certain fortress, and there liberate certain prisoners. All the money will be spent upon this one march, hitherto unopposed and likely to be unopposed. We have not spent, and possibly may not spend, anything upon powder and shot. The world will admire our opulence and outlay, and we leave behind us, for the use or wonder of future generations of Abyssinians, a stone pier, a railway, and a trunk road from the coast to the capital. The monuments will do us no discredit, but the expedition will not dispose us to a repetition of the enterprise.

As an explanation for the great interest now manifested by the *Herald* for the cause of religion, it is stated that the proprietor of that journal has "experienced religion."—*New York paper.*

A large colony of Mormons arrived in Omaha recently, on their way to Salt Lake. This body of religious followers of Brigham Young is the first move of the Mormon emigration for 1868. It has made its appearance unusually early.

Never did a people bear such a load of taxation as that which weighs down the American people do at the present time. National, State and municipal taxes are up to a figure that has no precedent. Everything that we eat, drink, wear, use or possess, is taxed, and even the coffin we rest in is subject to the inexorable greed of taxation. There are some persons simple-minded enough to suppose that the weight of taxation falls upon the rich, because taxes are levied directly upon property. Nonsense. Taxes first strike the monied class, it is true; but from that class they glance off, and lodge in the pockets of the working people, who have to toil early and late for their bread. It is the labouring man who has rent to pay and necessary articles to buy, and not the rich capitalist, who suffers by oppressive taxation.—*New York Star.*

IN THE PAPER.—The latest novelty in New York, so says an American paper, has been a "paper ball." It is stated that the quaintest, most coquettish, and magnificent toilettes were composed of paper, which admirably imitated the materials generally used in making up an expensive costume. We cannot see that this is a great novelty for the land of greenbacks. For years past, people had been not only clothed, but fed by means of paper made "to imitate materials," generally known as "coin."—*Pun.*