

The Daily Examiner

DECEMBER 31, 1885.

1885.

This has been an eventful year. Even the quiet of our own Province has been disturbed by several thrilling incidents. The first of these is widely known as "The Capes Disaster." On a lowering Saturday morning, January 28, twenty-one men, with three ice boats set out from Cape Traverse. The wind was blowing from the Northeast at the time, and snow was beginning to fall. As they proceeded, the storm increased, and the wind veering to the Northwest, the weather became bitterly cold. On they trudged only to find, as night began to fall, that land was not in sight, and that none of the company knew where they were. To proceed further would be a useless expenditure of the force required for successful exertion on the morrow. So the boats were drawn up on a large cake of ice and preparations were made to pass the night upon it. Two of the boats were placed to windward, while the third was broken up and used for firewood. By means of a match and silk handkerchief in skilful hands a fire was lighted, though a terrible gale prevailed. And so under the sea of the boats, with their feet to the wretched fire, and their eyes almost blinded by smoke, or pacing about on the ice to keep their blood from freezing, the twenty-one men passed the whole of that awful night and nearly the whole of the succeeding awful day. During most of the time the thermometer registered not less than sixteen degrees below zero; and the storm was so severe that many persons did not venture outside of their homes. Towards evening land was seen. The boats were made ready as quickly as possible, and shortly after midnight the party landed at Argyle Shore and reached shelter in the hospitable houses of the neighborhood. Some of the men were afterwards removed to the City Hospital, and were compelled to undergo amputation of the feet and hands. But all, providentially, escaped with their lives. The incident—the only one of the kind within a period of about thirty years—drew forth an outburst of sympathy and commiseration, and made a sensation at Ottawa and all over the Continent, which has moved the attention of the authorities to the wants in the means of communication between this Province and the Mainland during winter. As a result, the mail service at the Capes has been placed under the immediate control of officers of the Government, and the men employed in the service will be required to sign articles and be subject to control, while the boats will, in future, be fitted out and supplied with a view to any contingency which may arise during the passage of the straits by the ice-boats. Perhaps, the very great interest the public now have in Senator Howland's Subway Scheme, is, also, due in part to the Capes Disaster.

The barbarous murder of the old man Callaghan, and the slaughter of the poor boy Fitzpatrick stain the record of the year; and the outbreak of smallpox at Charlottetown and several other places, will render 1885 remarkable in the annals of Prince Edward Island. The scourge found us all unprepared; but the promptitude and courage which our physicians and Boards of Health displayed in grappling with it, rendered its effects comparatively light. Only for the immediate isolation of the infected houses and the rush made by the populace to the vaccinators, thousands would, in all probability, have fallen before it instead of fifty-one; and, instead of being under complete control within three weeks of its attack, it would now be holding high carnival in town and country. Yet, thankful as we are and ought to be for the success of our efforts in crushing it out, we must ever lament the mad infatuation and carelessness which kept us from preparing for its attack, and bitterly regret the loss of many valuable citizens who might be living and well to-day, if we had only taken the precautions suggested by common prudence—and THE EXAMINER.

Apart from the smallpox, death has been very busy in our midst. Among the public men whom we mourn at the close of the year, are Admiral Bayfield, who passed away full of years, and honored by his sovereign; Lawrence Kichham and Lauchlan McMillan, members of the Legislative Council; the Hon. John Longworth, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court and Clerk of the Crown; the Hon. James C. Pope, for many years the successful and powerful Leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party in the Province; Dr. Mackieson, an amiable and venerable citizen, and the Rev. George W. Hodgson, of whom it may be said that "the law of truth was in his mouth and uprighteousness was not found in his lips: he walked in peace and uprighteousness, and did turn many away from iniquity."

Looking back upon the year from another and brighter point of view, it will be seen that we have much to be thankful for. The summer season was unusually fine; a large crop was harvested in good order; and our trade, if somewhat dull, has been healthy. No business man of any consequence has failed, and the continued increase of the deposits in the Savings Banks shows that many of our farmers and tradespeople continue to be prosperous and economical. Many, too, have made their homes more

comfortable and convenient. Indeed, it is doubtful if in any previous year so many houses and barns were erected and so many improvements made throughout the Province. The new Government Post Office and Custom House is certainly the best building the city has yet seen; and it is pleasing to note that quite a critical taste for architecture and landscape gardening has been awakened in the town. In the country, too, the homesteads are being made much more sightly, and we may hope soon to be able to go about the country without being compelled at every step to regret that such naturally beautiful landscapes are marred by the barbarous taste of those who own them.

Bishop McIntyre celebrated on the 12th of August last the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the See of Charlottetown. The occasion was dignified by the presence of most of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy of Canada, and rendered thoroughly enjoyable by the hearty outburst of love and enthusiasm it drew forth, particularly from those who acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of the venerable Bishop.

Politically, the quiet of the Province has only been disturbed by the Legislative Council election, which resulted in the return of the Hon. Charles McEachen, and the abortive attempts of Mr. L. H. Davies to create dissatisfaction with the Dominion Government on account of the passage of the Franchise Act. The people of the Island still enjoy the distinction of being entirely free from the burden of direct taxation, though it is feared by many that such a satisfactory condition of affairs is too good to last. At the beginning of the last session, a memorial to the Queen was passed by both branches of the Legislature, setting forth our claims upon the Dominion Government for improved means of communication with the mainland and indemnity for the loss sustained by the Province by reason of the non-fulfilment of the Terms of Union in this regard. The memorial has since been forwarded to Her Majesty in Council; but the result is not yet known.

As we write, the telephone connects Charlottetown with Summerside and intermediate points, as well as the leading business establishments of both towns, bringing all within speaking distance; and the electric lamps shed a bright and penetrating light about our city's streets. Yet there still live persons who say that we are not progressing!

CANADA.

In Canada, the Riel Rebellion was the most exciting event of the year. It was entirely unexpected by the mass of the people of Canada. The Metis and Indians had their grievances of course—no Province in Canada, no country in the world, is without some just cause for discontent. But, while, as now appears, they petitioned the Government, they failed to agitate the country for redress; and the people of Canada were quite ignorant of their case until after they had yielded to the incitements of Riel and were in open rebellion.

The first fight with rebels took place at Duck Lake on the 26th of March. The news of this encounter was followed by a hearty and general outburst of National feeling. The militia of Canada sprang to arms with alacrity and enthusiasm. Fortunately the section of the Canadian Pacific Railway north of Lake Superior was well nigh completed; and it was therefore unnecessary to ask the Government of the United States for leave to transport our troops by means of their railways. We had the satisfaction of seeing our men sent out to the scene of the rebellion over our own road; and in an incredibly short space of time—within a month—a strong detachment of militia, under General Middleton, were ready to meet and beat the rebels on their own well chosen ground. The affair at Fish Creek was fought on the 24th of April. It was a baptism of fire for most of the men engaged on our side. The rebels shot from under cover. They skulked behind stumps, trees, hillocks and ravines. There was nothing whatever to stimulate the generous ardor which flames up naturally in the bosoms of all brave soldiers, when man meets man in the shock of open combat. Yet our raw militia men nobly stood this terrible test of bravery. Not a man flinched. Too many, indeed, exposed themselves unnecessarily, and paid the forfeit with their lives. All doubt as to the stuff Canadian militia men are made of vanished after the fight at Duck Lake. The rebels were driven from their cover and retreated, as fast as their legs could carry them, upon the entrenchments they had thrown up at Batoche's Landing. Thither they were followed in due time by General Middleton and his force; and after three days' skirmishing, in which Gabriel Dumont, as military leader, displayed the white man's skill and the Indian's craft, they were driven from their works at the point of the bayonet. Two days afterwards Riel was made prisoner by scouts who were in search of him. Poundmaker at once capitulated; and though Big Bear held out for some time longer, the Riel Rebellion was practically at an end. The affair was, from many points of view, deplorable. Yet it proved two things which are most satisfactory: (1) that there is a strong National spirit throughout Canada, and (2) that our militia force is an effective force not to be despised. General Middleton behaved throughout the campaign with

circumspection as well as bravery, and well deserved the special marks of appreciation afterwards bestowed upon him by his sovereign and the parliament of Canada.

Riel was, after his capture, taken to the General's headquarters, and subsequently transferred to the custody of the civil authorities and conveyed to Regina. There he was, according to the law of the Northwest, duly tried, found guilty, sentenced to death, and after unsuccessful appeals to the Supreme Court of Manitoba, to the Privy Council of the Empire, to the Governor-General and to the Queen herself, was finally hanged on the 16th of November.

Since that date, an agitation has taken place in the Province of Quebec under the mistaken notion that Riel was executed, not because he was a rebel, but because he was a French Canadian. The agitation will, of course, subside as soon as the mistake is found out, though it seems probable that the Government will lose the support of fifteen or sixteen members of Parliament who, yielding too hastily to the demands of popular fury, pledged themselves to go into opposition. The defection will, from a party point of view, be regretted by the Government. Yet the Government will be strong enough to live and do good service after it occurs. Last session they had a majority of 76 on division; and in the meantime they have been well sustained in the elections held at West Northumberland, South Granville, East Durham, Cardwell and St. John City, while they have won from the Opposition the seats for Antigonish and for St. John County by handsome majorities. Apart from Quebec they are therefore stronger than ever; and it may be possible that neither the Government nor the country will be materially injured by the withdrawal of a section of the Quebec contingent. It has been whispered that Sir John was apt to be a little more favorable to Quebec than strict justice to the other Provinces would permit, on account of the almost unanimous support he received from her representatives; and the contemplated defection will, all events, remove the cause for that imputation.

But the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in August last—five years sooner than the Government at first anticipated—was by far the most important event of the year for Canada and the British Empire, if not for the world. By this great railway the Provinces and Territories of Canada have been bound together by a band of iron extending from Halifax to Port Moody—the great value of which has already been proved in the case of the Riel Rebellion. It affords to Great Britain the shortest possible way of communicating with its Eastern Dominions, the Islands of Japan, and all the strategic points of the Pacific ocean. Passengers from all parts of Canada and from all the New England States, including the cities of Portland, Boston and New York, can, by taking advantage of its trains, save almost five hundred miles in every trip to the Pacific coast, or nearly a thousand miles in every round trip. The distance from Montreal to Port Moody is 2870 miles; the distance from New York to San Francisco is 3331 miles. Its great superiority to them is therefore apparent, and with its continually increasing profits, affords a sufficient explanation of the ease and celerity with which its bonds were lately disposed of in the British markets. The amount of the loan (\$5,500,000) obtained by the Company from the Government in the early part of the year, has already been repaid, and it is stated that the Company will, as soon as possible, refund the \$30,000,000 they obtained two years ago—because they can obtain the money on better terms. Such marvellous dispatch as was shown in building the railway, is a wonderful triumph of modern skill and organization, reflecting infinite credit upon the engineers, directors and managers of the Company, and upon Canada.

Parliament met on the 29th January and was prorogued on the 23rd July. The session is the longest on record; and, apart from ordinary routine, its chief work was the passage of the Franchise Act. Hitherto, members of Parliament have been elected under the franchise existing in each of the Provinces; and as every Province had a franchise different from all the others, and as each Province was from time to time changing its franchise laws to meet the exigencies of its political situation, there was neither uniformity nor stability in the franchises of the electors of Dominion representatives. It was foreseen, when the Confederation Act was passed, that this was not fair and would not work. Last session the Dominion Franchise Act was for the third time submitted by Sir John Macdonald. It was more liberal in its provisions than that of any Province except British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Yet, strange to say, it was so violently opposed by the Liberal party, so called, that fifty-six days were occupied in passing it. For the time thus uselessly frittered away, honorable members took good care to claim an indemnity of \$500 each, in addition to their sessional allowance of \$1,000.

In sympathy with the rest of the world, the trade of Canada was dull—though the country generally was prosperous—throughout the year; and a deficit in the Dominion exchequer is the result. But for the Riel Rebellion the deficit would have been little more than nominal; but the Rebellion expenditures swelled it to \$2,857,469.80. This is regretted, but is not likely to materially

affect the public credit, which reached its highest point during the year. After negotiating his most successful loan, Sir Leonard Tilley was unable to attend to his duties as Finance Minister; and, broken in health, he has again retired to the Government House of his native Province. The portfolio of Minister of Finance has lately been taken by the Hon. Mr. McLelan; and the Cabinet has been strengthened by the promotion of the Hon. Thomas White as Minister of the Interior, Hon. J. S. D. Thompson as Minister of Justice, and Hon. George Foster as Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Foreign Affairs absorbed attention in the first part of the year; Domestic Affairs in the last. The result of Mr. Gladstone's weak concession to the popular demand for the relief of the Egyptian Garrison and the despatch of General Gordon to the Sudan supported only by his walking case, was the most costly and inglorious campaign that Great Britain has engaged in for many years. Assisted by the Canadian Voyageurs, the Relief Force, headed by General Wolsley, had toiled up the Nile and arrived at Korti. There it was divided into three detachments. One under General Stewart was to proceed with all possible despatch direct to Khartoum; the second under General Eyre marched to Dulka Island, where its commander was killed while bravely leading his gallant troops in action; the other under General Wolsley himself, remained at Korti. To General Stewart's column was assigned the important and dangerous duty of relieving Gordon. The march was through the desert; the troops though fitted out regardless of expense, were parched by thirst and the hot desert's sands, the way was beset by enemies who in point of numbers only were overwhelming. A desperate engagement was fought at Abu Klea Wells, in which the coolness, bravery, and discipline of the little band of British troops were severely tested, but proved superior to the rude and reckless valor of the Mahdi's innumerable hordes. The victory was with General Stewart; but it was dearly bought at the cost of the life of the hero of the ride to Khiva, Colonel Burnaby—and a comparatively large number of British soldiers. After refreshing his troops at the wells, General Stewart pushed on towards Khartoum. At Gabul, however, his progress was again challenged, and in the action that took place he received the wound which ended his valuable life a few weeks afterwards. He was succeeded in the command by Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, who in due time arrived with his somewhat shattered column at Metemma, whence he proceeded in steamers provided by General Gordon to the point of destination. What was his astonishment and regret when on approaching Khartoum he found it in the hands of the Mahdi! He had to make a hasty retreat to avoid falling himself into the Mahdi's clutches. Thus the expedition in which so much treasure and life were expended, was all in vain.

General Gordon's fate is still involved in a mystery. Some sanguine persons believe he succeeded in effecting his escape and is still alive. But it is altogether improbable that one so brave and so careless about death would hide away and skulk out of the town, even though he knew that he was the victim of treachery. It is much more likely that he fell fighting, overwhelmed by savage foes. His was a high, pure spirit. Though perhaps, not quite a hero, he was a man cast in a heroic mould, and though unfortunate at the last, he will ever be one of the number of those for whom Britain delights to honor. After enduring untold miseries and sufferings in the hot desert, those of the troops who remained were withdrawn in the prospect of a struggle with Russia; and so ended the campaign in "the black country."

At this time war between Great Britain and Russia seemed to be unavoidable. The old fear of Russian designs upon the Indian Empire was renewed by the news that Russia had quietly obtained by negotiation an important part of the country North of Afghanistan, and was in fact at the gate of Peshawar and threatening Herat. A Commission to fix the boundary line between the two countries had been appointed, and Russia sent a strong military force to the frontier under General Komoroff. Many vexatious delays, ascribed to Russian duplicity, occurred before the Commission began its work, and in the meantime the Russian troops were, cautiously and secretly but surely, advancing. At last, after a bloody battle in which the Afghans were defeated, Russia took possession of Peshawar. This act roused the British. Preparations for an appeal to the arbitration of the sword had already been begun, and were now pushed forward with the utmost possible despatch. A special war grant of £11,000,000 (\$55,000,000) was granted by Parliament, and an immediate declaration of war was believed to be inevitable. All the world felt that the two great nations would soon be up and at it. The prices of flour and oats advanced even here. But explanations and an agreement satisfactory to Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville were made, and war was, for the time, averted. That the peace between the two countries will be lasting no one believes.

Not long since the King of Burmah made some wrongful demands upon British merchants trading in his country. The merchants appealed to the British Government for protection and justice. Remonstrances were duly forwarded to

His Majesty of Burmah. But Thebaw continued his exactions. An expedition was fitted out under General Pendergast, and now His Majesty's person and capital are in possession of the British. It is probable that the kingdom of Burmah will in future form a part of the Empire of India, and be governed from Calcutta.

The relations of Great Britain with other foreign powers continue to be friendly, and since Lord Salisbury became head of the Government a better understanding prevails.

Domestic affairs have throughout the year, been greatly disturbed by reason of the agitation on account of Ireland. Some diabolical wretches thought they could best serve that unfortunate part of the United Kingdom by blowing up the British Parliament Building and the Tower of London with dynamite. They were only partially successful. But one or two persons were killed, and the buildings were not damaged beyond repair. The principal result was to arouse feelings of alarm and horror in the breasts of the British people, and to intensify the prejudices of all who are prejudiced against the cause of Ireland. Mr. Parnell's conduct, at the time, was little to his credit, and calculated to give rise to the wrong suspicion that the dynamiters were in secret league with the Nationalists. Though he spoke at several meetings held immediately after the outrages were committed, he never denounced the perpetrators of them, nor expressed either horror or regret—as Archbishop McCabe and his priests did, and as other politicians who addressed public meetings at the same time felt constrained to do. On other points his tactics were not so bad. When Gladstone, in accordance with the demands of Earl Spencer, was about to re-enact the Crimes Act, Parnell availed himself of the first favorable opportunity to oust the Liberals from power, by uniting his forces with those of the Opposition. On the 8th of June, while the Liberal benches were far from full, the Gladstone Administration was, with the aid of the Parnellites, defeated on a petty question as to whether duties should be raised on whiskey or on sugar;—and the Crimes Act was not renewed! Lord Salisbury succeeded to the position of Premier on the resignation of Mr. Gladstone, and by the favor of the Liberals was enabled to proceed with the legislation required by the country before appealing to the electors. In the election contest lately held, Mr. Parnell had the good tact to array his followers against the Liberal Party. Had he allowed them their freedom in this respect, Mr. Gladstone would have had such a large majority in the next Parliament that he could have afforded to treat the claims of the Irish members as he might, when they were preferred, please to do. But the result is that the Liberals will probably form a very large minority of the House of Commons, with the Conservatives and Parnellites combined against them; and Parnell holds the balance of power. Both parties are now bidding for the support of his country; "Home Rule" is now the absorbing topic; and if he acts prudently, he may succeed in obtaining the passage of a measure of local self-government for Ireland, and materially improving the position of his country. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished, though it is very doubtful whether any mere political change will cure the worst of the evils which Ireland has inherited from the unrighteous past.

The farmers of the United Kingdom have had a good year, but the tide of manufactures and commerce has been at low ebb. The discontent prevailing has again given countenance to the fair trade heresy. All the foreign nations and most of the colonies continue to levy Protective duties, and in spite of their theory that it is the importer who pays these taxes, the exporters are compelled to feel that they suffer in consequence. Obligated to import the necessities of life and most of the raw materials required by her industries, and hampered at almost every point in her export trade, Great Britain is just now in a bad way. What can she do about it? If she could but be convinced that she can easily obtain from her own possessions most of what she requires to maintain her industries, she might perhaps, find revenge, if not relief by continuing to admit their products free of duty while she burdens the trade of other nations as they have burdened hers. But she is not yet convinced. Perhaps the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to be held in London next year, may have the effect of opening her eyes to the ability of her possessions, and be followed by commercial union with them, if not by Imperial Federation.

In the warm months of summer, the social atmosphere of London was made foul by the revelations of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. It is somewhat reassuring to know that the revelations created a profound sensation, showing that the conscience of England heartily condemns the vicious practices exposed, and that the English nation, as a whole, is still morally sound. Sir Charles Dilke was for a time compelled to hide his diminished head in consequence of some indiscretions, and notwithstanding his recent marriage has evidently lost caste—his election having been secured by a very narrow majority. It is very satisfactory to know that to be popular and successful in England at the present day a public man must not allow his name to be mixed up in affairs of doubtful morality. Among those prominent in Britain who have passed away are Archbishop McCabe and the Earl of

Sha'tesbury. The sincere sorrow and regret expressed by the thousands who assembled at their obsequies, show that there are means of winning popular regard apart from brilliant efforts in Parliament and brave deeds on the field of glory; and that the practical sympathy with the poor and lowly, has a great reward on earth as well as in Heaven.

EUROPEAN.

Having united and consolidated the Kingdoms and Principalities of the Fatherland, Prince Bismarck has been looking abroad. Some months ago, the German flag was, quite unexpectedly, hoisted over the Caroline Islands. These Islands were discovered by Spanish navigators in the year 1525, and ever since they have been regarded as possessions of the Spanish Crown, though truth to say, the Spanish Crown did little towards colonizing or civilizing them. This seizure was a high-handed measure, and created a great commotion throughout Spain. The Spanish King pleaded with Bismarck, representing that if the Islands were held by Germany he would be compelled to abdicate or declare war.—and he was very reluctant to take either alternative. The good old Emperor liked Alfonso, and Bismarck reconsidered the matter. After some negotiating an amicable arrangement was concluded, under which Germany withdrew from the Carolines and took the neighboring Marshall and Gilbert Islands instead. The Marshalls are scarcely distinguishable from the Carolines, Ponape and Nelaun being the chief among them, and the Spaniards have been wont to include the Gilberts also in the Caroline archipelago. Both parties seem now to be satisfied; and it would be had for the Isthmus of Panama, the Marshall and Gilbert Islands will be more convenient for Germany. Of late disturbing rumors have been published respecting the Emperor's health, and though he carries his years wonderfully well, he cannot, in the nature of things, remain much longer on the throne which has been so mightily strengthened since he began to reign.

France has just re-elected President Grevy, and for the want of a better man wishes Premier Brisson to retain his position at the head of the Administration. Since the death of Gambetta, so French statesmanship has risen to the level of mediocrity, and the grand national glories in a time when great events are transpiring, is beginning to fret under the unvarnished tameness of Republican rule. The war carried on in Tonquin is not regarded as disgraceful to France only because it is contemptible; and the surrender of the chim of France to Madagascar is anything but satisfactory to high-spirited and aggressive Frenchmen—many of whom are beginning to think that it's about time they had another revolution.

Spain, suffering from the results of the alarm and loss occasioned by the cholera and several disastrous earthquakes, has lost her brave and popular young King; and with ambitious Carlist Princes intriguing for the Spanish crown, it will probably not long remain in the keeping of the Queen Regent. Of Switzerland we hear very little, except that, under a free liquor law, her people are becoming notorious for their drunkenness. Denmark has had a change of government, and radical changes are threatened; but the bulk of her people philosophically continue to make good butter. The dynamiter have given Czar Alexander a rest, and he has been devoting some attention to the extension of his Empire and the strengthening of his arms. Greece and Turkey have had their equilibrium disturbed by the violation of the Treaty of Berlin, in the case of the revolt of Eastern Roumelia against Prince Milan, of Serbia, and in favor of Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria. This revolt is a striking example of the truth that "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley."

To preserve the equilibrium in the Balkan Peninsula, the framers of the Treaty of Berlin set apart Eastern Roumelia, and placed it under the same Government as that of old Roumelia, with Turkey as Suzerain. Eastern Roumelia is directly south of Bulgaria, and its people are Bulgarian in race and sympathies. They didn't like the arrangement, though it was made at a conference of the "wise men in Europe," and was "eminently scientific," as well as "necessary to the maintenance of the balance of power." They at once began to prepare to break it up; and all things being ready, they seized the Governor one fine morning and conveyed him over the border, while Prince Alexander of Bulgaria quietly entered in and took possession. It was called a bloodless revolution. But several bloody battles between the Bulgarians and Servians have been fought on the head of it with varying success—though the balance of advantage gained is decidedly in favor of the Bulgarians. The victorious Prince Alexander is, however, unwilling to conclude a peace before he obtains guarantees for the payment of a handsome indemnity, while Greece and Turkey, having had their equilibrium disturbed, are making preparations for war.

AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN.

In the United States there has been progress in many directions, though trade has been exceedingly dull. National politics have presented nothing more exciting than the inauguration of President Cleveland, and a weak attempt to reform the Civil Service. In accordance with his agreement so to do, the President has recommended to Congress the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report upon the inter-