

The Review.

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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JAN. 30, 1896.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

Another diplomatic surprise was the other day sprung on the world in the report of a secret treaty between Russia and Turkey. The full scope of the agreement is not yet known, but there is a strong belief that a secret and dangerous combination has been effected which may have a most important bearing on the fate of Europe and the world.

Turkey, whose external affairs have long been subject to a conference of the great powers, is not free to enter into any such treaty as is reported, but no reliance can ever be placed upon the pledges of either Russia or Turkey. Both are notorious truce-breakers. In fact force is the ultimate arbiter among the great powers of the world, and it will take a little time to effect combinations and exhaust the resources of diplomacy before the world will be made acquainted with any probable outcome of the new order of things.

For the moment it would appear that Russia may have gained a new and dangerous preponderance in the affairs of the east and of the Mediterranean. Has Turkey become the mere vassal of Russia? Has the control of the Bosphorus passed into the Czar's hands? What will be the attitude of France and of the triple alliance toward the newly disclosed plot? Were any of these powers in the secret? Such are some of the questions arising. What concerns us more as British subjects is, how far are British interests in Egypt, and her highway to India threatened?

Of late Britain and France had been drawing closer together, notably since Germany's threatened interference in the affairs of South Africa. Italy, too, has long been most friendly to our mother country. And neither France nor Italy have anything to gain but much to lose by turning the Mediterranean into a Russian lake.

It is not unlikely that the reported secret agreement may be exaggerated, like many previous emanations from that perpetual storm-centre, Constantinople. No doubt the British foreign office is kept well-informed of what is going on, and is prepared to act promptly and decisively if the occasion calls. When the struggle comes over the affairs of the Sick Man Britain will not be found unready or without allies.

NATIONAL EMBLEMS.

We have grown accustomed to hear the lion, the eagle, the crescent and various other creatures and things spoken of as national emblems, and the selection of the beaver as emblematic of Canada has been sometimes discussed. Those who object to taking a bird or beast of prey as a national symbol find encouragement for the notion of promoting the beaver in this way from the fact that he is known as a most industrious, provident, skillful and harmless animal, and that in these respects he is a fair representative of the Canadian people. But there is another side to this picture. The beaver was never a beast of prey, but he has been sadly preyed upon. Once the tribe had their homes on almost every river and lake in Canada; to-day they are almost extinct, the victims of the pioneer and hunter. His rich fur coat was the temptation, and hence his life became forfeited. Only in recent years when the last of the race had vanished, or been driven into the inaccessible wilds beyond the farthest white man's settlement, have laws been framed for the protection of the gentle beaver. Such are the cold facts of beaver history. His past engineering feats are recalled by the remains of the dams he built, or by his plump figure in miniature on a rare Canadian coin, but the beaver himself has vanished, and with him the beaver hat of other days. Surely this hunted and now almost extinct quadruped is hardly a fitting national emblem for this young, thrifty, free and aggressive dominion.

There are some who put forward the maple tree as our most fitting national symbol, and not a few of our budding

poets and orators have sung or said something in its praise. The maple formerly decorated most Canadian valleys and hillsides, or mountain tops. Its growth was stately, its stem was sturdy, its branches wide-spreading, its foliage abundant and beautiful. Its life blood, too, was richer than that of its fellows of the forest, and its gorgeous coloring in autumn is wondrous to behold.

But to this picture there is also another side, when we come to consider the maple as a national emblem. The leaf "that grows more beautiful as it fades" is surely not a fair type of this healthful and youthful nation. It might more accurately typify us if we were a nation of hectic consumptives. The sturdy sons and daughters of Canada are the opposite of this. Moreover the settlers and pioneers have despoiled and made war upon the maple almost as they annihilated the beaver. It has been swept from the plains and hillsides, and wherever a grove remains it is doomed to an every year bleeding in the springtime at the hands of the remorseless sugar-maker. Its trunk is annually scarred with new wounds, and its precious life blood is boiled into syrup or crystallized into sugar cakes. True it is that like the sandal tree of the east, it sheds, not perfume, but sweetness "upon the axe that fells it," and so may teach us to cultivate a forgiving spirit even towards our enemies. But this is rather too meek and submissive a feeling to suit the average Canadian citizen. And is not the annual bleeding too suggestive of the visit of the taxgatherer to be altogether congenial to our feelings?

If for these reasons we reject both the beaver and the maple from the category of possible emblems of our rising nationality what shall we select in their stead? Clearly the object of our search in this regard should have something inspiring as well as something distinctively Canadian in it. The sunburst of Ireland, the crescent moon of Turkey, and the stars of the great republic have so depleted the heavens that we can borrow nothing there unless it should be a stray comet, not much to our liking. We must therefore search the earth beneath. Now it so happens that Canada is owner of the north pole. Certainly we own the region of the magnetic pole, which is well defined and located within our northern territories. This is a grand, inimitable and unique distinction. The magnetic pole of the northern hemisphere is Canadian property, and every compass on sea or land, of whatever nationality, points towards that wonderful spot. The bare mention of the fact fills the mind with the grandeur of the idea and suggests at once the rightful national emblem for Canada. Let it be the magnetic needle, or the mariner's compass if you will.

Here we have a glorious, peaceful, useful and distinctive emblem, which carries with it a noble sentiment. What is truer than "the needle to the pole"? What single agency has done as much for commerce as the compass? What better symbol for a great commercial nation like Canada, daughter of the greatest, and owner of the pole itself? Would not such a symbol, pointing to our own magnetic pole, truly typify the feeling we should sedulously cultivate, of Canada first, Canada self-centred, unique, distinguished, and in one respect at least pre-eminent among the nations of the world? no fitter emblem.

CAPE BRETON AND NORTHERN BERLAND.

For the moment two pending by-elections quite overshadow the interest in parliamentary proceedings. The latter, indeed, have not developed anything to greatly move the public mind. The debate on the address turned out merely a harmless skirmish. No amendment was put forward either by Mr. Laurier or Mr. McCarthy. The battle is coming all the same, but is postponed till Sir Charles Tupper shall return from the east, the member elect from Cape Breton County. For, notwithstanding that his election is opposed with energy, there is probably but one opinion among well-informed persons in both camps as to the result.

Cape Breton County enjoys the distinction of being the most eastern constituency in Canada. Its interests of coal mining, farming and fishing have received great benefit from the extension of the Intercolonial railway system through the island, to say nothing of the coal duties and the vigorous protection of the fisheries for which the people of the constituency now open appear to have been very grateful in the past. The county has not always been conservative, but in 1891 returned two ministerial supporters with majorities of five hundred to six hundred each.

A winter campaign covering so much ground must prove trying to a veteran of Sir Charles Tupper's age. He is now more than half way along his seventy-fifth year, but robust and vigorous, and knows how to take care of himself. He has abundant assistance in the way of speakers and organizers, and despite the vigor of the fight against him, may be expected to score a decided victory on polling day, the 4th February. This will give a check to the exuberant shouts of the opposition over their recent successes.

In Northumberland the polling is to take place two days later than in Cape Breton, and it is not a little singular that

while in the one County Sir Charles Tupper is asking for votes, in the other another of the fathers of confederation, though now opposed to his former colleague, is also before the people. Hon. Peter Mitchell's name is a familiar one on the North Shore of New Brunswick, and in fact throughout the province and dominion. He has passed the allotted limit of three-score and ten years, dating his birth from 1824. After a period of estrangement from the Liberal Conservative party, with which he was long identified, Mr. Mitchell has now fully allied himself with Mr. Laurier and the opposition. He was defeated by Hon. Michael Adams in 1891 with a majority of 473 votes, and is now opposed by Mr. Robinson, M. P. P., an admittedly strong candidate. The Miramichi newspapers oppose Mr. Mitchell, but editors Ellis, of St. John, and Hawke, of Moncton, came to his aid and he has a resolute body of friends who still value his important, though long-past public services. A regrettable feature of the campaign is the angry feeling engendered between speakers at some of the numerous public meetings.

ABUNDANCE OF RAW MATERIAL IN KENT.

The following excerpt is from a report of the late Edward Jack, C. E., submitted to the city of Moncton on the harbor facilities of that port and the increased trade that might be expected there if better shipping accommodations were provided:

Richibucto is a point from which it would appear that considerable shipments of spruce pulp could be expected.

Mr. F. Schilde, formerly Superintendent of the Chatham Sulphite Fibre Company's works, a German pulp maker resident in America for the last four years, was employed by some parties in Richibucto in September last to estimate the cost of erecting a chemical pulp mill there which would be capable of producing 25 tons of pulp per day. This he placed at \$200,000, and he further estimated that pulp could be made there for \$29 per ton as against \$37.25, which he gave as the average cost of the production of this article in the United States.

A specimen of chemical pulp made by Mr. Schilde was sent by me to Bertram & Co., of London, Great Britain, who valued it at 28 sterling per ton. There is abundance of small spruce on the neighboring rivers, whose products can be brought to Richibucto by water or Kent Northern Railway to supply such mill for an indefinite period of time.

A brighter day seems to be dawning for the Roumanian Jews. The new Prime Minister, M. Stourza, has agreed to raise the percentage of Jewish pupils who may attend schools to twenty per cent, of the number attending, instead of the three per cent. hitherto allowed, while soldiers are to be permitted to rise in rank according to merit, a right hitherto denied, however meritorious the service rendered.

Japan is fast becoming a bold and pressing competitor in the cotton fabric of the world. Agencies for the Asiatic product are being rapidly established in the United States, crowding out the American article. The U. S. Congress is to be asked to appoint a commission to determine what means should be adopted to arrest the threatened injury to the home producers.

The Sun points out that though Mr. Laurier and the Liberal platform favor "free raw material," the Liberal candidate in Cape Breton stands ready to defend the coal duties. It may make Sir Charles Tupper's way easier now that he appears to have converted his opponent to a belief in a main feature of the national policy.

In parliament on Friday Hon. Mr. Foster stated that Sir Charles Tupper resigned the High Commissionership January 15th; he was re-appointed without salary, and is acting High Commissioner at present. Affairs in the office in London are carried on by the regular staff directed from Ottawa.

The production of gold for 1893 throughout the world exceeded that of any of the years succeeding discoveries of gold in California and Australia, and competent authorities estimate the gold production of 1895 at nearly thirty per cent. above that of 1893.

The St John Liberals are in search of a candidate to replace the late Mr. Welton. The Sun hints that Col. Tucker will probably be the choice of the convention. This will not please some of the aspiring young Liberals who have more brains than money.

The debate on the address on the reply to the speech from the throne was brought to a close Thursday night, and the address was carried without division.

A provincial Convention of prohibitionists will be held in Fredericton on Wednesday and Thursday, February 19th and 20th.

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T. McMaster, Kouchibouguac, Sept. 20-96
J. P. Breaux, Renaud's Mill, April 14-96
Wm. Parkhill, Kingston, Feb. 24-96
Sylvain Barriac, Acadieville, Jan. 1-97
J. Callendar, Kouchibouguac, Aug. 24-95
G. Raymond, Kouchibouguac, Aug. 24-96
B. Gorman, St. Louis, Dec. 13-96
Keady Lanigan, Kingston, Jan. 5-97
G. Carruthers, West Branch, Aug. 24-95
Wm. Rogers, Bathurst, Feb. 25-96
Chas. Thompson, Kingston, Aug. 20-94
Wm. Irving, " " Nov. 10-95
T. P. Harnett, West Line, Feb. 11-96
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Kingston. The members of Court Favourite, No. 1630 I. O. F. held a splendid meeting in the public hall, on Tuesday evening, last week, after hearing several very elaborate reports from the Chief Ranger and other officers, the following officers were installed for the ensuing year.—R. W. Mitchell, C. R.; A. B. Carson, V. C. R.; G. Dobson, R. S.; J. J. Stothart, F. S.; E. Bowser, Treas.; Rev. Wm. Hamilton, Chaplain; J. A. Cameron, Sr. W.; R. Lennox, Jr. W.; J. Weston, Sr. B.; J. McMurry, Jr. B.; Trustees, J. A. Cameron and A. B. Carson; Finance Committee, J. L. Hutchinson and J. A. Cameron; representatives to High Court, H. M. Ferguson and A. B. Carson; alternates J. L. Hutchinson and R. W. Mitchell, court deputy, H. M. Ferguson; court physician W. A. Ferguson, M. D., after which, some fine selections of music were given by some of the officers and members.

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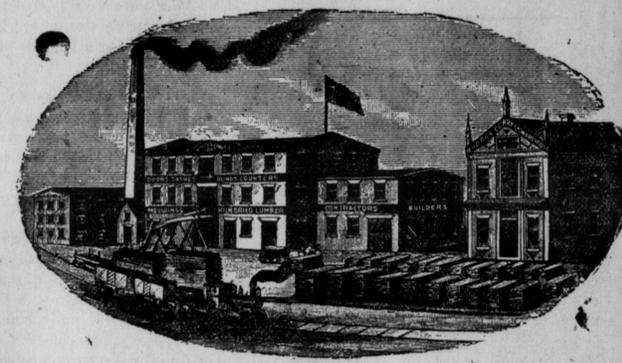
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