

THE MONTREAL HERALD.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 4.

"Business" and "Editorial" offices No. 11, First Floor, Waddell Building, St. John street.

NOTICE.

All correspondence for THE HERALD, except business letters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. JOHN LIVINGSTON, Business correspondence to be addressed to THE HERALD COMPANY, (Limited); Hon. PETER MURPHY, President; Mr. W. H. WHITE, Secretary-Treasurer.

MONEY FIERCE.

The Gazette has discovered that the appropriation of \$41,000,000 of the people's savings banks deposits by the Ottawa Government has nothing to do with the security of money. It admits that "the nine years (June 30, 1878, to September 30, 1887), the public deposits placed at the disposal of the Government and used in the construction of public works amounted to \$37,670,789," which, it confesses, "is undoubtedly a large sum to look up." It condemns, however, those who hold that it would have been better policy to have permitted these millions to go into the chartered banks, and that the latter in a position to secure cheap money with which to aid the wheels of commerce to revolve smoothly.

Well, the banks themselves differ from the Gazette. A prominent banker has directed attention to the fact that three-fourths of the \$41,000,000 deposits have been drawn from three small provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island—expended outside of their provinces, in brick and stone and mortar, in harbor making and building, and in war material in distant parts of the Dominion. He has shown that the Government of the country has been a competitor with the banks for the people's money, and has outbid the banks by paying higher interest than commercial principles would justify the banks in offering. It has been proved that the Government savings banks have been made use of as banking institutions, where tens of thousands of dollars could be deposited by the same person in a number of names; that note shavers have so used the banks; and that a banking business has been done under the eyes of the Government, whereas the original intent of the establishment of these banks was to encourage and give security to the savings of the poor. Whether the Government "firmness in the money market" in Canada is caused by the absorption by the Government of such enormous sums of money it would require an expert to determine, but the proposition does seem based on common sense. Possibly, too, the immense taxation to which the people of Canada are subjected has something to do with it. Six or seven millions of the people's money was expended on the rebellion in the North-West, bringing no financial return. Sir John's Finance Minister estimated a few years ago that \$22,000,000 a year was a large enough revenue for the Dominion to collect, whereas now we collect and expend \$36,000,000 a year or more; \$14,000,000 to \$16,000,000 a year over our actual necessities amounts in ten or twenty years to a sum that may well stagger financiers themselves. Then we have been going into debt at a fearful rate. The money lent to the Government is largely invested (or sunk, it may be) in a way that brings no return. All things considered, there would seem to be reason for saying that what with the conversion of the taxes and deposits into public buildings, bode railways, harbors that are not needed, unproductive canals, etc., etc., the draughts which the Government has been making upon the people are well calculated to make them poorer, and to make money in the commercial centres scarce.

GOOD CAUSE FOR DISTRESS.

Speaking of the International Commission the New York Tribune says:— "Indeed, so heavily weighted against American interests is this Commission that we are unable to understand why the Canadian journals are now distressing themselves over the results."

On this the Ottawa Evening Journal remarks:— "The 'Canadian journals' which are distressing themselves are only the limited few which are always distressed about Canada; which charge the majority of our people are corrupt, that the majority of us are bought and sold by politicians." The Journal is a Conservative newspaper published under the very shadow of the Upper tree. Therefore the pure, unrestricted light of truth does not always reach it. Its recitation of vices suffers from occasional prismatic glints. Were it otherwise, the Journal, instead of making light of the corruption that disgraces Canada in the eyes of the world, would lend it aid to cure the evil. No journal has said that the majority of Canadians are corrupt, but the courts of the Dominion have proved that some of the leading men in the country, Ministers of the Crown, law makers, and examples to humbler men by themselves or their agents secured their elections to parliament by the practice of corruption, and have been elected by the judges of the land. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. McLaughlin, two members of the Government, owed their return at the general elections to corruption, and were expelled by the courts. Sir John Macdonald's fate still hangs in the balance; so does that of Sir Abolphe Caron, another Minister, while Sir Hector Langevin stood in imminent danger had his case been pressed. Canadian journals do not charge that the "majority of our people" are corrupt, but they say, and have abundant proof of their assertion, that a large proportion of the present government at Ottawa is corrupt, and that Sir John Macdonald and his cabinet owe their position in Ottawa to having succeeded in buying up politicians, with timber grants, railway subsidies, mining leases, legal employment and other means, and of having done their utmost to buy and sell the people by regiments. The people of King's County, P. E. I., or Queen's County, N. B., form a considerable regiment, and they were sold by politicians to support Sir John Macdonald when they had decided to oppose him. The constituencies that have been offered railway branches, wharves, public buildings, and expenditure of public money generally in return for a Government supporter in Parliament, might be numbered by dozens, and the Journal might be well aware of this fact. It must also know that the practices of Sir John Mac-

donald have been such that the Parliament of Canada was openly spoken of in London at a meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway, as an institution too venal to be worthy of consideration, and that the ways of Sir John Macdonald have been denounced by an eminent man in his own party, as being a little capable of defence as those of the men of Sodom. If only those journals that usually distress themselves about the condition of Canada are now expressing fears about the result of the International Commission, it is because in their number are included all that are free from fear of the whip that Sir John cracks. It is because Canadian journalism is in the main divided on two party lines, and that those on the Conservative side dare not express opinions or desires contrary to those of the prophet whose religion they have embraced. The Ottawa Journal, professing to be independent, should encourage them to break these claims, should itself denounce the corruption which it well knows has been the prop and stay of Sir John and his associates, and instead of jeering at those who would cleanse our public life, should do what in it lies to bring the sinners to justice, or at least to hold them up to public reprobation. The Canadian journals that are distressed about the commission have good reason to be so. The Canadian people desire to make arrangements with the United States for unrestricted trade, and Sir John Macdonald desires to prevent it. A Chief Commissioner has been appointed by England who, before starting on his mission, declares that if Canada persists in her desire, she must leave the Empire. With their own Prime Minister against her, backed by the influence and declared decision of the Chief Commissioner from England, the Canadian people have good reason to feel anxious about the results of the Commission.

SOLICITOR TO THE C. P. R.

The appointment of Judge Clark, of Bourne, as chief solicitor of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is stated on good authority to have been made. Owing to the heavy demands upon his time, arising from his many public duties, Hon. J. C. Abbott deemed it necessary, some months ago, to resign the office of General Counsel of the Company, in connection with which the work had grown with the railway and had of late years become very arduous. Hence the necessity for the above appointment. Mr. Abbott's name has been prominent in the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway from its very beginning, and to him has fallen no unimportant part in the enterprise. He will not, however, entirely sever his connection from the Company, as it is understood that his name will be enrolled as one of its Directors at an early date.

Judge Clark, who enters forthwith upon his new duties, with office at Montreal, has resigned his judicial position in Ontario. For thirty years he has served upon the Bench, and of late years he has also been connected with arbitrations and investigations of the highest importance and responsibility. His name will be familiar as the Chairman of the Royal Commission of 1886, appointed to enquire into and report upon matters connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and as recently as Chairman of a like commission which was appointed to dispose of the claims arising out of the construction of the International Railway. As an arbitrator in many important cases where large amounts were at stake the Judge has been much sought after, and in all of these services have been recognized both by the Government and the public. The position was offered to Judge Clark some four or five weeks ago, but the acceptance of it was only decided upon by him in the past few days. From his long legal experience and his business ability, he is eminently qualified to fill his new position, and the appointment is looked upon as in every sense a suitable one.

THE COPYRIGHT LAW.

That Banquo's ghost, the question of international copyright, is again appearing. It seems like a truism to say that it ought to be settled, but although debate and discussion on the matter are usually met with an implied assurance that it will have the immediate attention of the Governments, yet nothing is done. The English author and his rights constitute the difficulty. But the English author does very little to commend himself to Canadian consideration. He usually sells the advance sheets of his book to an American publisher, and throws Canada in, as it were. He is not particular about Canada if he secures the American man. But by giving in Canada, Boston or Philadelphia, and ties the hands of Canadian publishers. Now if Canada is of such little account that it may be "chucked in" as a makeweight, it is not reasonable to complain of any Canadian arrangement designed to place Canadian publishers on an equal footing with those of the United States. Nevertheless the whole question is in a very unsatisfactory state and it is time, and more than time, that the Government attended to it. Unfortunately it carries but very few votes, and those in the main are already with the Government; so that the chances of action are small.

Our esteemed contemporary the Hamilton Times says: that drawing his salary "is the chief duty of the Governor-General now-a-days." Their are other social duties arising from this pleasing duty which the Governor-General of Canada have not been backward in performing and which our Hamilton friend seems to forget. But the question we should like to ask is, would the Times like to see the Governor-General's functions extended? And if not, is any good purpose secured by carrying at a state of things which is in accordance with the almost unanimous wish of the Canadian people?

The Ottawa Free Press, which presumably knows the truth concerning events in that city, says:—

On each occasion that Mr. Tasse was a candidate in Ottawa he polled the centenary vote sold by Tasse to support Sir John Macdonald when they had decided to oppose him. The constituencies that have been offered railway branches, wharves, public buildings, and expenditure of public money generally in return for a Government supporter in Parliament, might be numbered by dozens, and the Journal might be well aware of this fact. It must also know that the practices of Sir John Mac-

THE FRESH AIR MOVEMENT.

Rev. John Nichols, Chairman of the Fresh Air Fund Committee, has issued a report to the subscribers and friends of the Fund. The whole amount of cash received was \$4,885, and the total expenditure was \$4,825, the latter including the cost of furnishing the Varennes Home, and the Murray Bay Home, and of the equipment for the day excursions, costing in all \$1,603, but really worth \$1,900. One hundred and fifty-nine persons were under the Committee's care at Murray Bay during the season; 559 shared the benefits of the "Home" at Varennes, and a number of others were provided for in farm houses in the rural districts, some of them gratuitously by generous families. The weekly excursions by boat and rail gave not less than 5,537 persons a pleasant outing. That a great deal of good was accomplished by the fund is generally conceded, and that the efforts to improve the physical condition, as well as the moral, of the poor, are appreciated in the right quarter is evident from the statement in the report, that "letters, overflowing with gratitude for the many benefits received, have poured in to the Committee daily. Many who did not write came personally, and in most of these cases, the dimmed eye and quivering lip told the story which the faltering tongue could not tell. In these numerous cases of good and gratitude, the Committee has found an ample reward for all its labors."

Mention is made of the ladies and gentlemen who aided in the movement, and the Committee make special mention of Mr. Hugh Graham's valuable assistance and handsome contribution. We notice that the only reference to a continuance of the good work is to be found in the following paragraph:— "Before closing a report like this, it is necessary to call attention, not only to the extensive good that has been received, but to the fact that the work has not been prevented. This will furnish an argument both for the continuance and extension of the work in the future. The seed will continue as it will be long before the Sanitary Reformer has improved the dwellings of the poor. It is important, in the meantime, to keep the work going, and to allow them to remain, and multiply their ravages. The division of the city into districts, and the houses of visitation for the poor, the distribution of tickets, the Committee have brought to light localities and scenes of wretchedness and filth sufficient to make ordinary mortals shudder."

If there are these best places in our city it is well that they should be known and the facts published. The public are sometimes told that Montreal is the healthiest city in the world, and that it is a mistake to assert to the contrary, or to drag its supposed foulness before the light of day. The Rev. John Nichols and the Fresh Air Fund Committee appear to have found things anything but sweet and wholesome, and their testimony, drawn from personal investigation, is entitled to great weight, not only in regard to the unsanitary condition of the city, but in regard to the necessity for continuing the Fresh Air Fund. Should an appeal be again made to the public, the satisfactory experience of 1887 will operate powerfully, to call forth the best efforts of the city, both from individuals and laborers for another year.

CHARLES DICKENS, JUNIOR, IN THE

Mr. Charles Dickens, the eldest son of the celebrated novelist, is on a reading tour through the United States. His first appearance was made in Boston, and the Post of that city says in effect, in what has the appearance of being an impartial criticism, that his success, if he achieves it, will be due to his being the son of his father rather than to his own merits as a reader. The Post says:— "Mr. Dickens, on coming forward, was most kindly received by the audience. The principal part of the reading was devoted to the half-humorous, half-satirical voice. Although he is far from being a finished elocutionist, it is to his voice, we fancy, that he owes largely whatever success as a public reader he may have obtained. He reads with a low, even, unassuming voice, and his delivery is so simple and direct, and his manner so agreeable to hear. The first thing, indeed, that impressed one with regard to Mr. Dickens was his naturalness. 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