



THE DAILY EXAMINER

OCTOBER 22, 1898.

THE MILITIA OF CANADA.

GENERAL HUTTON hopes that the militia of Canada will ere long be lifted out of the mire of politics and planted upon the firm bases of ability and nationality. In the course of a speech delivered by him before the Canadian Military Institute, a few days ago, he said:

"Having known that I was likely to come here for some length of time, I have been watching with great interest public opinion over here, and the views I formed before my arrival in Canada have been more than confirmed by what I have heard and seen, and discussed with prominent officers of the force since I arrived, and that is—we all of us have arrived, and we are now arriving, at this conclusion, that the time is coming, if it has not come, when the military force of Canada should be put upon a national basis, and as a national institution should in every respect be upon a higher plane than it is, should in every respect be above party questions of all kinds. A good army, a national army, must be one which is apart from politics, and which stinks all individual views be they political or religious, in the general welfare of the country. I think that is the feeling of the country, and I am quite certain it is the feeling of all of us soldiers and military men, that the time has arrived in Canada for that to be achieved. I only hope that it may turn out to be the case."

We believe that all disinterested men, whether Liberal or Conservative will agree with General Hutton and give their moral support to the measures required to the end he has in view.

WILL THEY PREVAIL ?

The good elements of the Liberal party, are striving to maintain Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere in the Cabinet; for if he should retire it is more than possible that Mr. Prefontaine will take his place. What is known as the Mercier wing of the Liberal party in Quebec has been plotting for the change. We are glad to note, that among others the Montreal Witness, an influential, independent Liberal newspaper, is outspokenly opposed to it. The Witness says:

"This may not be. The Mercier Government collapsed through the badness of its fibre, and Canada is not going to stand what Quebec could not. At least, Liberal Canada at all events will not do so. We can easily understand Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere's wanting to retire. He came forth from retirement to enter electoral campaign on behalf of a party which stood for good government, and contributed largely to a signal victory. He has nobly maintained the banner of rectitude ever since, and has held the fort against schemers."

We earnestly hope that the "Mercier wing" will not be successful in this regard, and that Sir Henri will continue to "hold the fort." Tarte has too much influence already. If he be relieved of the check afforded by Sir Henri and if he backed up in the Cabinet by Prefontaine our politics will be still further degraded and the country will certainly suffer loss.

MR. FORGET'S PROMOTION.

The extraordinary promotion of Mr. Forget from the civil service of Canada to the Governorship of the North West Territories is the cause of much comment. It is stated that Mr. Forget, while Indian Commissioner, was an active and offensive partisan of Mr. Sifton. It is said that he "arranged for the rewarding of partisans with fat Indian contracts and vacated Government offices to make room for old politicians, notably for Nolin and Lepine. The Winnipeg Telegram mentions an awkward mistake he made in connection with the Saskatchewan election. There were two Liberals in the field for the nomination—Davis and McPhail. Mr. Forget, the Indian Commissioner, was ordered north to buy Davis off. By mistake he went to a Mr. Davis who is a Conservative, and the entire business came out. Another paper remarks that the Government at the beginning of its career was busily engaged dismissing civil servants whom it alleged had been dabbling in politics: now it rewards political activity on the part of an official by giving the offender a Governorship."

—The Montreal Witness remarks that "it is notable, perhaps even significant, that officers who have commanded the Canadian militia, and who have had to retire on account of friction with the political side-pull of the machine at Ottawa, have invariably been promoted to positions of great trust and responsibility on their return to England. General Gascoigne is no exception to what appears to be the rule. He has been appointed to the command of the troops in China, the point where danger of a rupture appears most imminent. It is possibly an advantage to the Canadian Militia Department that failure to satisfy it is no bar to immediate and very eminent promotion. It is like the last page of a novel to have General Gascoigne passing through Canada to take a position of first class imperial responsibility."

MR. COURTENAY'S OPINION.

United States Will Continue to Hold Cuba and the Philippines.

LONDON, Oct 21.—The Right Hon. Leonard Henry Courtenay, former deputy speaker of the house of commons and now unionist member of parliament for the Bodmin division of Cornwall, speaking at Tidesford, Cornwall, last evening, said that one of the consequences of the war with Spain upon the American people had been to create a spirit which must in the near future lead to a great transformation of American character and policy.

"Instead of being a self-contained, industrious, peaceful and non-aggressive people" said Mr Courtenay, "the Americans, if they take sovereignty in Cuba, will have to keep a large naval and military force in order to make the influence of the United States felt. Although the American members of the peace commission have declared that the United States do not want Cuba or the Philippines, the history of our own country has shown that when once there was an occupation, the intention to leave after disorder has been righted has seldom been put into execution. The war emphasizes the necessity of the peace proposals of the Czar. It there had been an organized tribunal to settle international quarrels the Hispano-American conflict might have been averted even after passion had been aroused by the Maine disaster."

French Shore Question.

ST JOHN'S Nfld., October 21.—Admiral Friskine and Sir John Bramston, the royal commissioners now inquiring into the French shore question, are holding daily conferences with the colonial cabinet, with a view of arranging a basis of negotiation with France for a settlement of issues involved. The minister favors absolute removal of the French from Newfoundland soil or some interpretation of treaties which will prevent the few French fishermen now visiting the coast from interfering with the development of that large and valuable section of Newfoundland's coast lines. The commissioners will return to England next week.

The Anglo-American Alliance.

QUEENSTOWN, Oct 21.—The steamship Majestic, with the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain on board, arrived on the 18th. In a speech to the passengers, he said that an Anglo-American alliance was a matter to be settled in the near future. He returned to England, he said, with that object in mind, firmly believing that such an alliance will be consummated.

—Referring to a letter published by THE EXAMINER yesterday concerning the firm of Warburton & McKinnon, it is needless to say that the retention of the name of a retired partner is perfectly legitimate and is of common occurrence and no one is misled on that account. We regret the insertion of a letter containing any such inference.

—It will have been remarked that the latest trade returns show a falling off of Canadian exports and an increase of Canadian imports. This is not a satisfactory showing. The explanation of the reduced exports given by the Montreal Gazette is that "there has been a decrease in the demand from Europe for breadstuffs and both the quantity taken and the price is lower than a year ago." We have no doubt that this is true. But what about the increase of imports? It seems to us that Canadian importers and consumers ought to be careful this year.

Dr Primrose, who is medical attendant to Sir Oliver Mowat says that his health is improving very satisfactorily. He is able now to be about the house.

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