

Echo de l'Ouest, 29 April 1885

“Do what you ought to do whatever may happen”

Demeules & Laramee, Proprietors; E.R. Dufresne, Editor

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L’Echo de L’Ouest begins today its third year of existence. We are very happy to take this occasion to thank cordially in the name of the proprietors and ourselves all friends of this paper, readers or others for their support, and benevolent patronage leading to the benefit of our enterprise, helping to overcome obstacles scattered along the way of our beginning. Let’s not forget the tests and dangers faced. It is the common rule, nothing stable is built in this world without struggle, without fighting, without trials. But, we dare to affirm today L’Echo de L’Ouest has passed those bad days, it’s time of formation and the future seems to promise its favor.

Our list of subscribers grows every day with new names and patronage coming from the commercial class of this city and causes us to put the brakes on some of our long term plans.

When we assumed direction of this paper a year ago, then the only one in French in this city, we frankly declared to preserve the true religious and social principles that all French-Canadians should profess; knowing also that the press has a mission to promote, in the sphere of action, the purely material interests of the people and that these interests properly expressed rest on peace, union and accord of all citizens among themselves. We have tried hard to make these ideas prevail among our French-Canadian population.

We have not that we know, since then, voluntarily abandoned this ground in the struggle,. We will continue then, in the future to march in the same direction, to inspire ourselves with the same principals, and make to prevail the same ideas, taking for our motto – “Fais ce que doit, Adrienne que pourra” (Do as you ought, whatever may happen”).

Local Markets

Prices in our local markets have remained firm with a tendency upwards owing to the

imminent war in Europe. Last Saturday wheat was 92 ½ cents. [Translator's Note: What war might have this been? I suspect it related to war-talk by Bonapartists about trying to avenge their defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870].

Doctor Thomas L. Laliberte has moved his offices to the splendid White Building above J.P. Gilmore's pharmacy at the corner of Central Avenue & 12th Street. The Doctor occupies rooms 1 and 2 on the 2nd floor. The Pharmacist at Gilmore's is T.F. Riviere.

Doctor Pineault of Red Lake Falls was recently named a member of the health council of Polk County. We congratulate Dr. Pineault for this merit of confidence and distinction.

City Council

Last Friday Evening at the meeting of the City Council, Mayor Pillsbury proceeded to nominate civic departmental officers for the current year. ... We see with pleasure that six of our compatriots figured in nomination of the police department; George Frenette, Martin Devereaux in the mounted police, Olivier Boisclair, James D. Brault in the regular police, Theophile Deslauriers and A. Laroque in the special police, covering the terrain of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul R.R.

We are also pleased to see the name of our compatriot Theodore F.X. Beaudet as enumerator for the 3rd District.

Last Sunday, the parish Notre Dame de Lourdes witnessed a beautiful and important religious solemnity: The Commemoration of the Patronage of St. Joseph, consequently the patron feast of the Society the Union St Joseph of this parish. This fete was celebrated with all possible pomp at Notre Dame de Lourdes. Also, there was inaugurated that day a new organ, all this lending to the solemnity of the circumstances to enhance again the splendor of the ceremony. The Union invited the members of the sister society, The Association of French-Canadian Women of Minneapolis. These at nearly full complement, entered the church, banners and fanfare in the lead, and took their places in the front of the choir. The members of the Union of St Joseph, equally dressed with their insignia and proceeded by their flags, went to occupy seats in the front of the grand nave. The organ choir, under the direction of Professor Parisseau and augmented recently with several excellent new voices, sang with great harmony and effect the beautiful mass by Batterman, previously rendered at Easter in the same church. The church was literally filled with the faithful.

At his last gospel reading, Rev. Fr. Dagneault, inspired by the circumstances where the two societies of Minneapolis Canadian's were united in mass at the same temple, made a sincere short speech on the merit, advantages and importance of union for all Canadians.

After the mass, members of The Union St Joseph formed ranks at the door and gave a salute of honor to the ladies of the Associations. The lovely fete will leave precious memories in the minds and hearts of those present.

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Miss Rose Saucier, French-Canadian sales lady, is always happy to serve her friends and public at the store.

Respectively, Seigelbaum Bros., corner of Nicollet and 3rd Street

Affairs in the Northwest

First Engagement of Troops and Rebels [Rebels under Louis Riel]

Battle of Traverse Batoche last Friday

General Middleton, leading the advance guard, encountered the insurgents 15 miles south of the Traverse de Batoche. The 200 savages and metis were hidden in a ravine and opened fire. The troops [Canadian Militia] suffered two killed and fifty wounded.

Dispatch Winnipeg 24 April

This latest dispatch says that the engagement began at 9:15 am. The rebels opened fire at the scouts commanded by Major Boulton. They responded and the insurgents fired again from ambush. General Middleton immediately deployed his troops in skirmish lines. Several fusillades from the canons produced no affect, the insurgents being hidden in the ravine, but a change of position permitted the artillery to demolish two houses where the enemy that its reserve.

Attack

The Indians, exasperated by the destructive effects of the artillery attacked the white soldiers. The 90th Battalion vigorously opposed them. It was then simply an Indian war. The redskins, sheltered behind trees and bushes fired with great precision. The Infantry School of Toronto made a flanking move around the rebels, who found themselves between two lines of fire. The engagement lasted two hours.

The bellicose Indians didn't cease their war cries. Toward midday they relaxed their fire and returned to the charge an hour later, having taken flight, the insurgents set fire to the prairie but a strong rain shower soon stopped the progress of the fire.

General Middleton had his hat pierced by a ball. Captain Wise, his aide-de-comp had his horse shot out from under him. The 10th Royal rushed to help in passing by the river.

[Translation Note: The final battle of the uprising will take place May 9-12, 1885. In his previous 1870 uprising, Riel was able to reach an agreement because the area was too distant for the government to send forces. But, by 1885, the rail lines were in service! His rebellion was doomed as we shall see.]