

# Echo de l'Ouest, 4 March 1885

“Do what you ought to do whatever may happen”

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

**(Minneapolis French Newspaper, Published from 1885 to 1929.**

Translated by Bill Horn, Assisted by Kathy Horan-Grambsch.

Additional translators for this project would be appreciated.)

[Display Ads]

W.F. Scripture, furniture assures Canadians that they have a French speaking clerk, Frank Thibeault

W.C. Leber selling watches and jewelry

Big Boston, selling distressed apparel

Bardwell Robinson, maker of doors, frames and shutters. French Canadians are urged to shop here.

[Following is a list of 50 short entries for “compatriots” engaged in business in Minneapolis. These names appear with their trade or occupation and address]

G.E. Matile, J.B. Bottineau, T.L. Laliberté, Dr. P. Marchand, J.B. LeRoy, M.J.B. LeRoy, Louis Laramée, Demeules & Co., Elmina & Alice Blais, Charles Marchesseault, Caron Bros., Alphonse, Leblanc, T. F. Rivières, O. Lanetot, A. Lacroix, Theophile Davis, Raymond Bernard, P. Trepanier, Louis Desrosier, J.A. Pagé, B. Bloch, Paul Roy, Octave Leblanc, Cyrille Perras, Joseph Faubert, Peter Houle, L. Tuscany, Chs. Blanchette, Olivier Boisclair, Jos. Longtin, Geo. Frenet, L.A. Henault, F. Beaudoin, Frank Lanetot, Joseph Marcoux, Paul Mosseau, E. Thibodeau, Léandre Taillefer, A. C. Labrèche, John Larue, Marcel Guimond, Raymond Lussier, X. Larose, Archiles Bourget, M. Healy, Bernard Mousseau, Octave Duperré, Felix Blais, Solomon Cyrier

[Next follows four columns of a serialized romance “La Fille des Camelots”, author not given. A Camelot could be a street vender or a member of a militant royalist group. Your translator skipped this]

[Notice: These people are authorized to sell subscriptions to l’Echo in their localities]

M. Antoine Gelinias, Dayton, county of Hennepin, Minnesota.

M. George Gamache, Andover, county of Day, Dakota Territory.

M. Joseph Lachance, Ladington, Michigan.

M. Joseph Saucier, Osseo, Minn.

M. Joseph Sauvé, Rice’s Point, Duluth, Minn.

M. T.A. Gagnon, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

The efforts of general [retired] Washburn to increase the appropriation for the construction of a Post Office in Minneapolis to the amount of \$500,000 have been crowned with success. The Honorable Washburn’s proposal was approved Monday in both houses of congress and \$110,000 is made available for the immediate recommencing of the work on the construction.

We regret to learn that M. Joseph Davis, deputy customs collector in St. Vincent [French

island in the Caribbean] and brother-in-law of M. Louis Laramée, is dangerously ill. His brother M. John Davis of the city left yesterday to see him. [These two Davises were the great, great uncles of CGHSM member William Horn. Despite their Welch name, the Davis families had been in Montreal for many generations and were thoroughly French Canadian.]

Z. Demeules and Larence Tuscany recently bought four lots adjoining the property of Ste. Clotilde Church for \$3800. It is a very advantageous acquisition and we congratulate them.

The health of General Grant [president 1868-1872] declines rapidly. If one is to believe the latest reports, his days are numbered.

It is rumored that "dynamiters" [we would say anarchists or terrorists] from the U.S. under the famous O'Donovan Rossa, plan to raise five regiments to go into the service of the Mahdi combating the English in Africa. The English would probably not be upset to see them in the depths of the Sahara Desert. [The Mahdi was the leader of an Islamic regime in the Sudan warring against the Anglo-Egyptian government. The Mahdi was successful, but his successor's army was destroyed twenty years later by an Anglo-Egyptian force under General Kitchener. The remark about the English wishing the supposed O'Donovan Rossa force tied up in the Sahara probably meant "and out of their lair in Ireland". I doubt the force was ever organized and, of course, it was to be in the Sudan, not the Sahara.]

### **French-Canadian Democrat Club**

Last Sunday, members of the French-Canadian Democratic Club of this city assembled at 119 Nicollet Avenue to elect officers for the current year. The result was:

President, Joseph Faubert, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Aimé Provost, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., R. Narcisse Beaudette, Secretary, Felix Lambert, Asst. Sec., Joseph Hameli, Corresponding Sec. J.B. Botineau, Sergeant-of-Arms, Edmond Thibodeau.

After some remarks by the new officers, a vote of thanks was offered to M.J. Cousineau, retiring president of the club for skillful manner in which he fulfilled his assignment and the effective work he did in the last campaign.

Full of hope and confidence, the club will recommence to work in the interests of their political party.

We regret to learn of the premature death February 25 at Chambly Bassin, P.Q. Canada, of M.E.E. Scheffer, formerly of this city, and brother of our esteemed compatriot and assistant store keeper at Demeules & Co. ...

### **Grand Banquet and Gala**

The grand banquet at the West Hotel last Saturday offered by the citizens of Minneapolis for the members of the Minnesota legislature, was, we must say, not less than royally splendid. [West Hotel was on the southwest corner of Hennepin & 5<sup>th</sup> street and torn down in 1940.] The immense hotel, flooded with electric lights, flaunted with sumptuousness the richness of the decoration; the marvels of culinary art displayed in the dining room; the freshness and brilliance; the marvels of the ladies dress; the elegant crowd circulating in the golden corridors; the dancing to the chords of the orchestra Dantz; this atmosphere of joy serene and noise at the same time; presented an arresting sight, the most enchanting, the most magical to be seen.

The legislatures, all except twenty-eight members, Governor Hubbard at the head, the officials and the guests from neighboring towns, formed an attendance of 800 people,

composed by half by members of the fair sex.

At midnight the splendid Fête came to an end, all returned to silence at the West Hotel, its guests of the evening carrying the memory of the most brilliant reception one could ever see west of Chicago.

There was a proper soiree to make our legislators forget the cares of the present session and to request their strength and courage for the next one.

But the moral, one can't forget: it is that, in the future, they will turn their sweet eyes toward Minneapolis and not accord all to St. Paul ...

For example, it might no longer permit the good sister city St. Paul to extend its limits to the extreme west as they have just done, but will however, be able to give them full liberty to extend around Pigs Eye. [I'm unsure I have this territorial fight correct, but St. Paul apparently grabbed some area from what might have become eastern Minneapolis.]

Tickets for the concert of Les Dames Canadiennes Francaises on 19 March in the Market Hall are on sale at J.P. Gilmores, 105 Central Avenue.

### **Notice**

Next Monday at the usual hour and place, the French Canadian Association will hold its regular meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

A.H. Trepanier, Corresponding Secretary

The Literary Club of the young French-Canadians of Minneapolis ... [skipping entry about new procedures]. The public presentation for March and April will be "The Expiation", the moving and sensational play which promises your attraction and attention. M.J. L. Marcoux was named director and no one doubts we will have a brilliant success.

[Letter to the editor of Echo de l'Ouest from:]

### **Lake Linden, Michigan 23 Feb 1885**

Monsieur the Editor:

Your patriotism for all French-Canadians provides us, I hope, the pleasure of adding to your columns the election results for offices of the Society St. Jean Baptiste of Lake Linden for the next half year. [Results followed]

Editor acknowledges and his remarks include: that the group continues in their mission under the glorious banner of the great St. Jean Baptiste, that their union becomes closer, healthier, more powerful and that the rough combats of life in their country of adoption, become for them easier and more profitable.

### **Reception and Evening of Music**

On Monday, Mr and Mrs Charles Bennard gathered at their residence, 528 Nicollet Ave, about fifty of her friends and acquaintances to welcome Mr & Mrs Louis Laramée on their return last Thursday from a long sight-seeing trip in Canada and the western States. Her apartments, decorated with taste, with flowers, fine drapery and seasonal ornaments presented a ravishing sight and invited the most open gaiety. In the corner of the salon, a starred flag and the tricolor [French flag] enlaced, married agreeably the national colors of Washington and Lafayette, a delicate attention by the Bennards, provoking the approval and vivacious thanks of the guests.

One noted among others in attendance: Mr & Mrs W.H. Chamberlain; Mr & Mrs. William Bourret; Mrs & Miss F. Lavigne; Dr & Mrs J. Marcoux; Dr Rainey; M. Z. Demeules; Mr & Mrs Beauchamps; Mr & Mrs Rioux; Mr & Mrs P. A. Ginchereau; Mr & Mrs E.R. Dufresne; Miss

Marie Bennard, Emma & Alice Blais, Misses Florant, Katie Chamberlain, E. Marchand, Marie, Laura & A. Bessette, T. Rodgers, M. Dufresne, Katie Rockwell, Marie Robidoux, M.A. Marcoux, Eugénie Laramée, Bernadette Dufresne, A. Florant, E. Cryrier, M. Beauchamps; M.F. Lavinge, son ....

At 9 o'clock the musical program followed, which was applauded excessively:

1. Overture vocal: "Home again." Ordway Chorus, directed by Mrs. Bennard.
2. Duet: "Opera Martha," Gottschalk. M. Lavigne & Marie Bennard.
3. Vocal: "Ave Maria," Gounod, M. O. Lanctot.
4. Piano: "Il Trovatore," Sydney, Bernadette Dufresne,
5. Solo: "Si tu Savais," Balfe, M. Ginchereau.
6. Piano: "Le dernier suore," Wollenhaupt, Mamie Lavigne. Vocal: "La jeune Huronne," Miller, Alice Blais.
7. Flute: "La fille du Régiment," Donizetti, Frank Lavigne.
8. Piano: "Boute en Train," Ketterer, Bernadette Dufresne. Vocal: "Un Soir d'Eté," Doane, Elmina Blais.
9. "Home Sweet Home," Doane, Mamie Lavigne.

Several other pieces of music on the program were also executed to perfection by Miss E. Marchand, piano, Mr F and Miss Mamie Lavigne, violin and piano, songs by Misses Bessette and Florant, and above all a beautiful ballad by Miss Blais which literally lifted the audience. Miss Mamie Lavigne recited with great art a piece of light poetry in English.

[Translators Note: The guests of honor, Mr & Mrs Laramée were married in Quebec in 1870. They were my great-great grandparents.]

[The next item pertains to the problem of the Catholic Parish in Fall River. The bishop, called her the Swiss German, had refused Mass to certain French Canadians who insisted on a French speaking priest instead of the German speaker they were sent by said bishop. At this writing, the case is on appeal to Rome.]

It appears that the banishment on all by the Swiss-German at Fall River is to pervert the Canadians attention. Attention! Catholics don't let yourselves be fooled by cynicism; stay firm at your post. Your faith is exposed; watch for the wolves. If you suffer persecution for justice, prove that you merit sympathy in standing firm and always standing upright. Catholics forward brave people.

## **Deaths**

In this city, this month of March, Philippe, age two months, infant of Mr Arthur Demers.

## **The Dynamiters of Chicago**

Captain Mack, an inventor, affirms that Chicago is full of conspiring dynamiters. Canada is menaced as well as Canadian buildings in Chicago. [These were Irish Terrorists]

## **Alderman Election**

We are very happy to learn that there has been filed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward of Minneapolis a nomination for candidacy of our esteemed compatriot M. William Bourret for the post of alderman in the next municipal elections.

It is perfectly unnecessary to discuss the merits of his candidacy. M. Bournet is so well known here not only in the French-Canadian colony, but among the other nationalities. It is sufficient for us to recall that M. Bourret possesses all qualifications necessary for the task: longtime resident, honorable character, long business experience, an advantageous social position, possession of the confidence and esteem of his compatriots and other citizens of

foreign origin. Consider these qualifications, which everyone recognizes as do we, we are certain.

The present duty of the French-Canadians of Ward 3 is thus to account themselves, to organize their forces to assure success of this candidacy which will certainly succeed if we show ourselves as true French-Canadians. In past years, apathy, indifference or ignorance of the electoral system, the failure to go in a block at the fixed time to the caucuses where the nominations are made, has been prejudicial, fatal. For the moment we fail to nominate our candidate in the preliminaries, all is lost. Don't forget then when the time comes to get to the caucuses to assure the nomination of M. Bourret and then to vote in the general election so we can see the success of our candidate for alderman.

### **An Anti-Masonic Protest**

A protest against the permit given to Masonic Societies to take part in the dedication of the Washington Monument this February 21 has been received by the Congressional Commission in charge of the preparations.

The protest had 13,000 signatures. The protestors say that the Order of Free Masons has no more right to this distinction than the Hibernians [Irish Catholics] or any other society. They add that a Priest sent by the Pope and destined for the monument was assaulted and thrown into the Potomac.

They ask why the Catholics are scorned while Free Masons are honored. Masonry is denounced in no uncertain terms, their officials, laws and oaths. The protest unfortunately arrived too late.

### **Varieties**

A word from a Gascon ["Un mot de Gascon" - must have been an expression of the time]

A gascon fell gravely ill and was transported to the Hotel Dieu [This "Gods Hotel" means a hospital to the French]. A friend come to see him and says "Allow me to ask you if you are right with God". Answer: Apparently since he gave me a room in his hotel.

Someone asked Mme de V on presenting her to the very proud and haughty wife of a foreign minister: Who is that lady with the scornful air? Answer: You don't know her? She is Her Insolence the Marchioness of Z.

A vexed drunk says "That's just swell! When I drink everyone sees it ... and when I'm thirsty no one notices."

Part of a dialogue: "Would you believe it? It's now six months an idea has been on my mind." Answer: "How unfortunate. It must have been bored being all alone."