

THE TORONTO WORLD

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ADDRESS THE WORLD, TORONTO.

The Toronto World. FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 24, 1882

THE NEW EASTERN OUTLET.

It is really astonishing to see the zeal displayed by some railway men in promoting new lines of rails west of Toronto, while they remain all the time indifferent or hostile to what is most wanted of all—a new outlet to the east. West of Toronto we have already the Grand Trunk, the Great Western, the Canada Southern and the Credit Valley, all east and west roads, covering considerable distances; also the Northern and Northwestern, and the Toronto, Grey and Bruce, running more north and south. Looking eastwards, however, what do we find? Only one road, the Grand Trunk ; for, if everybody says to be true, the Midland combination is practically a part of the same system. It has come to this, that Toronto is now the small end of the railway funnel, with the wide end westwards, many roads converging here from the west, north and south, but with only one eastern outlet. Any man of common sense who will give the matter five minutes' consideration ought to see this at once. Of course there is the lake route open in summer, but that does not "fill the bill." The truth is that railways, both here and in the states, are so managed as to interpose between the public interest and the proper use of the water highways. Whenever you go inland the railways have the ground, they are in possession, and they work their advantages so as to "freeze out" the water lines as much as possible. The temperatures of winter does only a part of the business; the freezing operation goes on even under the burning sun of July. To say this is not to pronounce our canal system useless, but may serve to show what is required to supplement it. Two roads eastward from Toronto are wanted, in winter as well as in summer, and the Quebec and Ontario is to be the new eastern outlet.

In the strife over proposed new roads west of this point, the one thing really needful—the other line going east—has not occupied much of the public attention. No application for a charter in its behalf is pending, nor is there any agitation for bonuses. It is nevertheless as clear as anything in Euclid that this new eastern outlet is the thing that the western peninsula wants, more than anything else in railroads. Traffic is choked here at the small end of the funnel. Looking eastwards, there is only one control and no competition. This will not be always so, soon we shall have the Quebec and Ontario, giving us another highway through to deep water. And this brings us to what the public require to be reminded of. In any particular section of the western or northern country, people need not calculate and consider as if the Grand Trunk was their only resource, east of Toronto. We are not to look for "six Richmonds in the field," but one more will make a world of difference. The Quebec and Ontario will change the situation most materially. A point already made in these columns there is, which cannot be too frequently repeated, or too strongly insisted on. It is that for us to have one through road will make an immense difference. It is not a little local road here or there that will make the big difference, but the additional through road. And this preservation of the separate identity and independence of the Great Western is to be advocated on this main ground—that it gives us one more road.

So far the railway legislation now pending appears to be mostly of the nature of attacks on the Great Western, inasmuch as the ground covered by the charters asked for lies westward. But it might occur to the assembled wisdom of Ontario to consider the eastern as well as the western aspect of these attacks. Are they made merely with the view of seizing ground west, or should we look more than we have been doing to the interior design of holding ground to the east? Supposing western feeders seized by the Grand Trunk, can we not foresee the consequences? This is where people on superficial view miss the real point at issue. Can our legislators open their eyes to the fact that certain new roads, professedly wanted to make competition westwards, are really parts of the scheme for continuing monopoly to the eastward? Also that it is eastward and not westward that competition is wanted! Here is the point of present importance before the house. The Quebec and Ontario will have, without doubt, and very much good it will do the country, or ought to do, fair play allowed. But the house is asked to answer several hills, touching the country west of Toronto, and, with what design? This answer may be most emphatically made—with the design that the new eastern outlet shall do the western peninsula as little good as possible. If our legislators fail to see the point, they do not capably represent the interests of this province.

JUSTICE LONG DEFERRED.

An injustice is often done in a day which takes upon years of patient labor to undo. Such an injustice was the branding of the poet Burns as a drunkard, by the Scotch clergy whose hypocrisy he lashed with a whip of scorpions in such undying verses as those on the Holy Fair. It is only within the last few months that justice has been done to the memory of the greatest lyric poet of all time. A Mr. McFadzean obtained permission from the government to overhaul the papers of the inland revenue office at Dumfries, and the result of long continued and patient labor is the complete vindication of the poet's character as a sober man, that is, for those days. It must be remembered that when Burns lived drunkenness was a fashionable vice. In the houses of people of quality a boy in buttons was in constant attendance at the convivial board, his duty being to loosen the neckcloths of the guests, after they had fallen on the floor, preparatory to their being carried to bed. The poet lived in a day when grand dames would go off on a drunken spree for days together, when the clergymen counted not by glasses, nor yet by tumblers, but by bottles. This man in hidden grey was thrown suddenly into this whirlpool of fashionable dissipation and preserved his character, unlike poor Thom, his brother poet. Those of the biographers of Burns who took the clergy's condemnation for the truth usually ascribe the worst convivial period of the poet's life to his residence in Dumfries, where he was a gauger. Mr. McFadzean has discovered that the official record of Burns was *opposite* to the best and immeasurably ahead of the great majority of his fellow officials. Not one word in any where said of drunkenness, while there is hardly one of the others against whom there is not some charge of dissipation. Burns when he died was a surveyor and the record shews that it was in contemplation to make him a collector. That Burns wrote in glorification of whisky was because it was the fashion of the time—as it is now to sing the praises of cold water.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Canada First, the new weekly journal of Montreal is striking out boldly in favor of Canadian independence, and the remarks it advances are incontrovertible, though they have all been advanced before. The advanced wing of the liberal papers are all coming out more or less in favor of the movement, though of course they are guarded at present in their statements. As Le Monde of Montreal points out, the Montreal Herald and Witness and the Toronto Globe which are all of a decidedly conservative tendency oppose the movement or at least have nothing good to say in its favor. How far the liberal leaders can afford to indentify themselves with the question is another matter. It appears that the club national of Montreal intend holding a grand banquet shortly, and that they propose inviting the Hon. Mr. Blake to speak thereat. Canada First hoped that he will upon that occasion come out in favor of Canadian independence, and make it a main plank in the liberal platform at the next election. Whether as we said before he can afford to do this is another question which we will not attempt to answer, but there is no doubt of the fact that a couple of years ago hardly a single journal dared to express itself in favor of complete nationality, how they can be numbered by the score in this province alone, and there has been a corresponding increase in the number of individuals who sympathize with them.

COLORED SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.

The latest adherent to the Irish cause is a colored clergyman who, at the Grattan centenary in New Haven, Conn., delivered a stirring speech, during which he predicted an uprising of the British colonies against the motherland for the redress of Ireland's wrongs. This has been predicted enough, and is therefore no novelty; but the Rev. Mr. Chambers informs the world that in that uprising will be men of the same anthropological status as himself, which would be a novelty. The colored men in America did not have enough to achieve their own liberty, so if there is any fighting to be done on behalf of Ireland it is not likely that the breeders will be found much in advance of the baggage. The colored men are good citizens and will find better employment in attending to their business than in vapouring about the wrongs of a people who have never specially interested themselves in the colored race.

A TRAMP ABROAD.

The latest report on the bench before Mr. Justice Ferguson went on the bench yesterday morning before Mr. Dalton and Chambers on a motion—*in the reference in a heavy administration suit from Golericke to Toronto, on the ground that the master in the chancery division at the former place is incapacitated to act in it.* After making it, and the court would be more convenient, the motion was vigorously opposed, and it was stated that the master was both willing and able to take the reference. About \$50,000 is in question in the suit. After much discussion an adjournment was effected to examine one of the defendants on his affidavit.

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