

operate with, and in that event be dumb as an oyster unless Mr. Higgins spoke. No doubt the Sheriff believes himself to be quite as great and capable a man as he was when—to use his own words—"me and Beaven ran the Government," and we are prepared to give the only and original fishery man credit for enough "savvy" to flatter the garrulous and self-important old sheriff of Westminster and make him believe that he was running the whole show and making it "hot for them Victoria fellows."

It was hinted the other day that Messrs. Wilmot and Armstrong had the idea that they were neglected on the 24th ult. when birthday honors were going, they having fully made up their minds that they were entitled to some distinction. Well, there is no doubt that there are some people who would not be averse to supplementing the address that was given them at Westminster by the presentation of a cap and bells and some other mark of appreciation of the fact that their folly, though in some sense it is natural, is something more. As for Mr. Higgins, we are not prepared to express an opinion of the value of the work done by him until we know whether or not that much-expected minority report was anything more than mere conjecture, based upon the well-known characteristics of the gentleman who could not bring himself to agree with the antiquated and preconceived notions of two of his colleagues who had made up their minds as to what to say before they had taken the trouble to make an inquiry into the facts.

#### IS BLAKE THE MAN FOR GALWAY?

The Irish Home Rulers have manifestly measured, weighed and appraised Hon. Edward Blake—who, by the way, was by no means a political success at home—and have offered to provide him with a seat in the Imperial House of Commons. Mr. Blake would, no doubt, be a second Parnell, if he could, and it is the idea of being an Irish leader—when he could not lead in Canada—that tickles his vanity. "Better to rule in hell than serve in heaven" is the verdict that has already been passed by some parties upon the departure which he is credited with having resolved to make. Whether an Irishman at least one remove from the old sod can do as well as one who is "to the manor born," has yet to be proved; but certain is it that among the objections to Mr. Blake in Canada has been a coldness and stiffness that is repulsive, particularly to the genuine, whole-souled sons of Erin. He can talk, but the question is, can he carry an Irish audience with him; he may argue and string out his flowing periods, but can he, after all, sway one single vote either in the House or at the hustings of an Irishman by ancestry as he may be, he will still be regarded as a foreigner, and it will be surprising if the son of William Hume Blake does not find out, "should he take the shilling," that he does not like the service. He will require to live down a certain amount of distrust and prejudice on the part of his new masters, for he will not be able to drive, even if eventually he shall succeed in cementing—as he possibly expects to do—and leading existing discord.

ant factions. If he does not, far better for him to have stayed at home. He cannot fall back upon the Gladstonian Liberals, for "a stranger will they not follow." The Liberal Unionists could not possibly afford to touch him with the record which he will have made, and besides they have plenty of first-class material, and the same may be said of the Tories, for whom, despite his declarations, his actions and bearing have shown that he has a sneaking regard. All things considered, it is within the bounds of reason to predict that the Hon. Edward Blake will not prove himself the ideal "Man for Galway."

#### BOARD OF TRADE CONGRESS.

Victoria may well be satisfied in having as its representative at the Imperial Board of Trade Congress in London Mr. Robert Ward, of this city, a gentleman who is thoroughly acquainted with all the commercial conditions of this province, and has, moreover, the courage of his convictions, which will enable him to contend for any point by which he consistently thinks we may be advantaged. At the same time he is not so restricted in his views as to demand and insist upon concessions or provisions, no matter the mischievous results their carrying out may cause elsewhere. We look forward to beneficial results to the Empire at large from this business convention, with the full expectation that our own case will be fairly and, in a sense, fully dealt with. We note that that commercial and political hermaphrodite, Ernestus Wiman, has, after much trying, succeeded in getting a delegate's commission to the convention, which, whatever else it may do, will give him a chance of getting off some of his played out platitudes on unrestricted reciprocity, annexation and that kind of thing.

#### REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

A leading wholesale dry goods merchant of this city, whose success entitles him to speak authoritatively on the subject, says that as the system of entering into partnerships is now conducted, it is utterly impossible for a wholesale firm to discover the personnel of the firm buying goods, that is if the latter are desirous of maintaining secrecy. Of course, the wholesaler can have recourse to the reports furnished by the mercantile agency, which, however, can only say that according to rumor such and such a man is believed to have an interest in the business. This shows the extreme desirability of a law being enacted that will enforce the registration of partnerships. Then the wholesale merchants could tell at once to whom they were selling goods, and whether or not they were doing business with a reliable firm. THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL is pleased to note that at least one Board of Trade in this province is moving in this matter, and we may therefore hope that before long our wholesale merchants will at least have the satisfaction of knowing their debtors, and not as heretofore find out when it was too late that the persons to whom they supposed they were selling goods were not in any way responsible.

#### CANADA'S PREVENTIVE SERVICE

There are various developments of economy—some of which are no economy at all. Among these latter, is to be found that kind of what is called a saving which reduces the equivalent for services already rendered, or to be rendered hereafter, to such a figure that the party rendering it at once begins to question whether or not it is worth doing at the price. It is observed by latest advices from Ottawa that the government has concluded not to allow officers of the inside customs service a share of the seizure fines and in other ways reduce the returns formerly made to officers for that description of service. There are many individuals who have made money and become wealthy in the discharge of this class of duty whose performance, it may be as well to remark, can never be properly done unless it is well paid for. At the best, it is a mean sort of business, whether for the regular official or for any outside assistant. Still the work must be done and if the contemplated changes should happen to cause any relaxation of effort to stop the trade in contraband articles, there will be considerable clamor raised. Experience has shown that this kind of work is never done for the love of the thing, and illicit whiskey, illicit opium and other articles that have never paid duty will be brought in to the disadvantage of honest merchants and manufacturers, unless, as has been before said, it be made worth the while of people to assume the role of informer or do the work of a seizing officer.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE prospects are excellent for a splendid display of the mineral resources of Canada at the World's Fair, all the Provinces having undertaken to co-operate heartily with the Dominion.

Two mining experts, of Montana, are now investigating Canadian gold mines at Marmora Ont., with the intention of proceeding to Nova Scotia from there. The attraction which Canadian gold ores now afford arises from the successful treatment of ores at Marmora and elsewhere by the new process of gold extraction by the Crawford mill, the North American control of which is in the hands of Erastus Wiman.

THE crop of tea grown in British India and Ceylon is, for the present season, estimated at about 210,000,000 lbs. Of this, Great Britain will consume about 170,000,000, and it is expected that a large portion of the remaining 40,000,000 lbs. will be bought by foreign countries. Last year, the amount of Indian and Ceylon tea sold in markets outside Britain was about 5,760,000 lbs; while Canada took 1,600,000 lbs, the United States 1,735,000 lbs, and Turkey 1,122,000 lbs. Respecting the consumption of British grown tea in Canada, a circular just issued by a prominent London wholesale tea firm says: "Canada is, perhaps one of the most promising outlets. The consumption of all teas is nearly 4 lbs. per head of population, and the percentage of this tea is already considerable—even though little systematic attempt has been made to open up this market."