

THE LAND QUESTION.

The land question in Britain is now looming up in a new quarter, and the Grand Old Man will be called upon for its solution so soon as he shall have coped with the difficulties which surround his measure for the land reform in Ireland. The tenant farmers of Wales have been long suffering, but they have now risen in their might and demand that measures for their relief from the usurious exactions of the landlords be taken by Parliament. In England, and the Lowlands of Scotland, the Saxon tenant farmers have not yet expressed themselves upon this land question, but that the Celtic populations are a unit upon it is evident from the fact that the crofters in Scotland, the peasants in Ireland, and the tenant farmers in Wales, are all agitating for land reforms, and the Welsh farmers are thoroughly in earnest in the matter.

With respect to Wales, a Mr. Gee has made public the results of a careful examination of the land question, which we copy, as there are many persons in this country who will be deeply interested in it.

"For the purpose of obtaining something like a true statement of the real circumstances of the malcontents, Mr. Gee issued to the agricultural constituencies a series of questions, direct in their character and comprehensive in their range. The general significance of the replies was unmistakably confirmatory of the belief that very real and pressing grievances existed. One of these had to do with tithes, which stood revealed as one of the heaviest or popular burdens. The collectors were most exacting both as to time of payment and amount of charges. As to rents, though since 1882 there had been some reduction, the claims in many cases were excessive. There were landlords, it was alleged, who received thirty shillings for land not worth more than twelve shillings an acre. Elsewhere the price was represented to be from five to ten shillings too dear. Again, in the great majority of cases, the lands were held under the old six-month notice systems, instead of under the Agricultural Holdings Act. Complaints of absenteeism on the part of landlords, of oppression on the part of agents, were frequent. Tenants were discouraged from doing the best with their land through the fear of increasing their rent. Many of the farmers in Radnorshire, Monmouthshire, and other counties were on the verge of bankruptcy. As might be expected, when Mr. Gee made known these facts, much sympathy was expressed with the sufferers. It was felt by not a few that the demand for redress had been deferred too long, and steps were at once taken to organize with the view to securing it. Leagues and unions have been formed, and politicians have not hesitated to turn these agencies to the advantage of their party. The agitation has become wide spread."

MAD DOGS.

It has been pointed out that mad dogs are always found to be in towns or cities, and the question has frequently been asked as to why this should be so. The only reason that can be advanced, is, that country dogs are petted, while those in the cities and towns frequently suffer ill-treatment at the hands of the street arabs, who, without seeming to consider the pain they are causing the poor dumb brutes, are always ready to fling at them any missile within their reach. Dogs are not the only animals that are driven mad by ill treatment. Cats have frequently been known to display symptoms of madness, and a cat bite under these circumstances is exceedingly dangerous. It will be remembered that it was the bite of a chained fox, excited by punishment, that killed the Duke of Richmond, one of old Canada's first Governors. These facts should be borne in mind by those who have in hand the training and education of our youth. Let our boys understand that kindness to animals displays a higher type of manliness, than pelting dumb brutes with stones, and they may be safely left to the influence of those manly aspirations which nature has planted in the heart of every true boy. Our ministers and Sunday and secular school teachers should impress upon their hearers and pupils the full meaning and force of that gospel, summed up in the one-word text Humanity.

A WONDERFUL WHEAT COUNTRY.

Scarcely a decade has passed since the experimental crop of wheat was sown in India, and yet she is already a formidable competitor of Canada and the United States in the wheat markets of Britain. The production of wheat in India last year reached 300,000,000 bushels, and there can be no doubt that as the railway and canal systems, which are now being so vigorously pushed, are still further extended, a much larger acreage will be placed under cultivation. It is estimated that at least 100,000 square miles of excellent wheat land are now lying idle, and this it is calculated at the present yield of 11 bushels to the acre will produce 704,000,000 bushels. It must be remembered that wheat growing in India is carried on in the most primitive manner. The agricultural implements used, would have astonished our grandfathers, while the use of manure and other fertilizers are quite disregarded. In addition to the advantage of being able to produce two crops annually, India has a great advantage over the wheat-growers of this continent in her cheap labor, the wages paid to laborers not exceeding six cents a day. India is also taking a front rank as a producer of corn, and America will probably find her as strong a competitor in the corn, as in the wheat markets. The yield of corn last year was 70,000,000 bushels, and the capabilities of its production are practically unlimited. Then, as the natives live entirely on rice and millet, the whole crop of wheat and corn, save that required for the European population, can be disposed of for export.

REPEAL, OR MARITIME UNION.

The repeal question, which the Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia proposes to place as a living issue before the people at the polls, was dead from the day that the Hon. Joseph Howe agreed on behalf of the repeal party to accept the situation. The revival of the repeal question at the present juncture can secure no good purpose, and so far as we can learn, the intelligence of the Province looks upon its revivification as simply a piece of political kite flying. As the issue is to be brought directly before the electors of Nova Scotia, it will be well for them to consider, first, what are the prospects of securing Maritime Union without the Dominion? Are New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island prepared to join issue with us in a repeal movement, and if so, will the Imperial Government sanction the dismemberment of the Confederation? Second, if New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island prefer to remain within the Dominion, is Nova Scotia again to be reduced to a position of isolation, similar to that of Newfoundland? Third, if Cape Breton desires to remain within the Dominion as a separate Province, will Nova Scotia's further isolation be satisfactory to the people? Fourth, will the revival of this repeal question aid in bringing about a Maritime Union, or secure a re-adjustment of the financial terms upon which Nova Scotia entered the confederation? These are the questions which the people are called upon to consider, calmly and dispassionately, these are the issues which the electors are called upon to decide at the coming elections. For ourselves we endorse the platform of Maritime Union with a re-adjustment of the financial terms of Confederation. This, we take it, is a platform which will be heartily endorsed by the common sense of the country. The party that will go to the country with this policy will, we believe, rally round its standard many Liberals as well as Tories. This policy has about it no element of uncertainty such as that of repeal, and with the right men at the helm we can feel confident that the lapse of years between its inauguration and consummation would be brief.

STRIKES.

Of late years the operation of the strike system has had an important and injurious influence upon the relation of employer and employed. Unions of operatives now recognize a strike as a contingency which they must provide for, not against. The dogged "I won't," and the less reasonable "no one else shall," are the means by which combinations of artisans seek to coerce their employers into granting their demands. The former may be justified by circumstances; it may be that the master exacts too much from the man: then the man has a right to seek employment elsewhere. More than that, a union of laborers may refuse to allow any of its members to take his place. But have they the right to say that any person outside their organization shall not accept the employer's terms? May their uniting for such a purpose as this not make them in turn the tyrants? Many an employer has been forced into terms which the condition of trade would not justify, and thus urged into the maelstrom of financial ruin by the organized action of his employees.

From a United States report of the strikes and lock-outs in the year 1880, we learn that, during the few years preceding that date, strikes were becoming less common; we doubt whether the same encouraging conclusion would result from a report of subsequent years. In 1880 there were 817 strikes in the United States. The results of 481 of them are given, shewing that in 35 per cent. the strikers gained their object, in 47 per cent. they failed, while in 18 per cent. a compromise was effected. In most cases it may safely be asserted that the strikers were the heaviest losers. The statistics given show the losses of 64,779 employees to have been \$3,711,097. The workman's expenses were in many cases partially paid by labor unions, out of funds previously paid in by the laborers.

Labor combinations do not always pursue the same methods. While many organizations and much agitation among workmen are due to the schemes of unscrupulous socialist adventurers, there are some combinations which discountenance strikes, boycotting, and other unwarrantable interferences with the natural course of trade. The American comic paper *Puck* crystallizes its ideas on the situation into a cartoon, representing a laborer, who really has a basket of tools on his back, and who is trying to climb a huge boulder. On the top of the rock are two leaders of a rational labor movement, drawing the workman up, and pointing to a road which leads to "arbitration." Among the rocks below are some fiendish-looking socialists clinging to the struggling artisan, and trying to drag him down.

Rev. Abram J. Ryan, the "Poet-priest of the South," died at Louisville, Ky., on April 22nd, aged 46. Some of Father Ryan's poems possess literary merit of a high order. The warm, impulsive, generous heart of a Southerner is heard beating in them all. Longfellow, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of Ryan's works presented him by a friend, said that he regarded them as deserving of a place in the high-class literature of the day, and that the author was not merely cultured, but was imbued with the true poetic spirit. As he had wished, he passed away in the sunny South which had oft inspired his muse.

A Tory contemporary says that there is not a respectable lawyer on the opposition side of the Canadian Commons. That statement could only be made by a hopelessly blinded political partizan. He is either ignorant or very dishonest that would deny the Hon. Edward Blake to be one of the most brilliant orators and one of the ablest jurists in America. Partizans that overlook such a patent fact do no good to their party; in politics, as in other matters, honesty is the best policy.