

The Planet

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30.

MR. TARTE AT THE SOO.

Mr. Tarte, who spoke at the Soo the other night, is reported as follows:
 "After alluding in a jocular manner to the fact that his colleagues had thrown him out of the Cabinet for his recent utterances on the tariff question, Mr. Tarte caused a small sensation by asking the Americans if they would mind his giving them a piece of his mind. Cries of 'No, no.' Mr. Tarte said he was going to strike from the shoulder and proceeded at once to do so. He said that the Americans had treated Canada unfairly. Canada had tried to negotiate a tariff, but our neighbors would not be friendly. We are closing up an epoch of apathy and indifference, and before long we may bring you to time by putting up our fence. That, I think, would have a good result. We are not as big as you, but you cannot swallow us in one mouthful. National pride is running high in Canada, and we are going to protect ourselves, and in doing so we will bring you to time. We have a country full of natural resources. We have iron, gold, lumber and magnificent fisheries. You want our iron and gold and lumber, don't you? You are joint owners with us in the great waterways, but we are sole owners of the St. Lawrence route. Our waterway from Chicago to Liverpool is 500 miles shorter than your route, and I think you will use our waterway when it is completed, although I don't care whether you do or not. There is a strong national sentiment on this subject."
 This sizes up the situation pretty well. Mr. Tarte may not be in the confidence of the Liberal Government, but he certainly is in the confidence of the Canadian people. The ex-Minister of Public Works is still a solid friend of the Dominion.—London News, Independent.

STRONG BUT TRUE.

The London News is an independent newspaper which has hitherto favored the Ross Government, but apparently the revelations of the rascality of the Grit machine in South Oxford have been too much for even the London News. The London News quotes an editorial article from the Mail and Empire on the South Oxford scandal and refers to it as follows:
 "This is strong talk, and it is from a strong Tory paper. However, the facts of the South Oxford case go to prove that the assertions of the Mail and Empire and the Woodstock Times are correct. Why is it that such dirt as the above persistently crops up on the Liberal side? Is it possible that the accusations of the Conservative party are thoroughly and absolutely true? Hitherto people of independent thought have chosen to believe that for the most part the statements of a portion of the Tory press were but the echo of unprincipled election methods—that molehills were magnified into mountains. But when dirt crops up on the Liberal side so regularly what are we to conclude but that the cries of the Tories should be listened to, and that the Government that tolerates such despicable political methods should be turned out? The language of Judge Street is not to be mistaken. His Honor made statements which are very plain. We do not expect that it is possible for the Ontario Government to keep in check all of its supporters who have crooked inclinations any more than do the Tories, but such deals as that brought to light in South Oxford speak of organized methods, and of countenance by those in authority. Cannot the Ross Government rid itself of the barnacles that are dragging it into the mire? Or is the Government satisfied with such methods, and prepared to stand or fall by such abuses? Which is it? If the first, the Government is im-

potent and unfit to legislate for the people; if the latter, then we may remark that a little of such Tammany Hall methods go a long way in Canada.

Better defeat in decency for the Ross Government, than the holding of power by such crying outrages as those brought to light in South Oxford.

GENERAL BOOTH.

General Booth is undoubtedly one of the world's grand old men, points out the Woodstock Express. Criticise the man and his methods as one may, there is still something in his remarkable personality, something in his wonderful work, something in his undoubted achievements that must command respect. The man may be described as an autocrat, his ways may be condemned as an affront to aesthetic religion, but his work and its results speak for themselves. That fulfillment has not always followed on promise may be admitted in his case as in the case of most men. To accomplish even a little we must attempt much, and no one can be said to have failed who has even a small measure of success to show for his labors. General Booth has attempted much and has done much, a great deal more than many people in this country properly understand. To appreciate the work he has done, one must know something about England, and particularly about London. If you do not like to accept General Booth's own statement, read the excellent tribute from the pen of the late Sir Walter Besant, the novelist, who knew London so well. One may not accept the "Army" lists of souls saved and lives reformed; but it is impossible to overlook the changed and improved conditions in the lives of so many of the lowly, which the General and his fellow-workers have been able to bring about. A tree is known by its fruit, and the Salvation Army in England, at least, has brought forth worthy of acceptance. If some of the methods are condemned as objectionable, the very good answer is that they are necessary. Something out of the ordinary was needed to reach the army of the submerged. That much experience showed. The church with its solemn ceremonies and cultured discourses did not penetrate the depths. The churches sang and preached and prayed, and the people still grovelled in sin and wretchedness. Something must be done to attract these people if they were to be saved, and so the drum and the cornet and the concertina and the blaring uniform were adopted. These succeeded where culture failed, and the results have more than justified the methods. Will the work endure? Who knows? One of the saddest pages in all history is that which records the efforts of the Jesuits among the Indians in North America. Greater zeal, stronger purpose, more genuine self-denial the world has hardly seen than was displayed by the Jesuits in their efforts to plant the cross among the redmen of this continent; yet what was left to show for it all? Little else than a list of Jesuit martyrs. On the other hand, Mormonism, founded as some say on fraud, and as others say on innocent self-deception, and propagated, as some people argue, by means far from holy, continues to flourish and spread and wax strong, even amid the most unfriendly surroundings. The history of religious movements teaches one to be careful in foretelling results; but whatever the history of the future may have to say of the Salvation Army, General Booth will be known to posterity, as an extraordinary man who attempted great things, and accomplished in his own time, at least, a good deal.

What

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CHARGES OF PLAGIARISM.

Two interesting charges of plagiarism are just now to the front in the United States, one in the newspapers, the other in the courts and newspapers both. The "allegators" apparently do not believe in the asseveration that great minds run in the same groove (or words to that effect). John W. Slayton, Socialist leader after the gubernatorial chair of Pennsylvania, declares that Divine Right Baer is a plagiarist. Mr. Slayton says Baer copied the words of King George III. when he wrote his celebrated letter.

Here is the parallel:
 King George III.—"The rights and interests of the American colonies will be looked after and cared for, not by the agitators and rebels, but by the kind Christian gentlemen whom I, as the direct representative of God, have appointed to look after my lands in the western world."

President Baer—"The rights and interests of the laboring man will be looked after and cared for, not by agitators, but by Christian men to whom I, in His infinite wisdom, has given the control of the property interests of the country."

Now the question is, did King George communicate by telepathy from the unknown country, or palace, or whatever state it is—one has got to die to find out—or was a spiritualistic medium in the vicinity, and was the spirit of the late lamented King guiding Baer's? Suppose Baer did go and dig up the history of over a hundred and twenty-five years ago to find out just how to express himself, in keeping with his convictions, what about it? Can such a busy man as Mr. Baer be expected to be thinking

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something new for every emergency! And then think of the trouble Mr. Slayton must have taken to find out that it was King George III. that Baer was copying. What does he gain—what does anybody gain by it? Seeing that King George is not here to claim copyright, no action can be taken.

The other case of alleged plagiarism, and which has been dragged before the courts, is a musical affair. A New York musical paper said Victor Herbert had used some of the same notes as Beethoven did. Victor sued the paper for \$50,000 damages, and just now the judges and lawyers are trying to get specific evidence that Herbert used the notes as alleged.

Seeing that all music is composed of five tones and two semitones, how can a man be expected to write a whole opera, and not use the same notes somebody else used? If Herbert happened to string a few notes together in the same order as Beethoven did, what's the odds? Beethoven had no perpetual patent on motives and measures and melodies and texts and notes and keys and themes anyway, and if a man turns up to-day with a think-tank somewhat similar, what right has a newspaper critic to charge him with copying the dead man's notes? Walter Damrosch comes to the rescue of Herbert, while Angus Vianosi and Buzzi Pecci are giving evidence against him. Were the case very complicated. Were the judge a good judge of music it would be an easy matter one would think, to arrive at a conclusion. Get an orchestra to play the disputed music in court and the thing could easily be decided. Judges, however, are seldom educated in classical music, and some of them can hardly tell "John Brown's" from "Old Black Joe" or "Hail Columbia." Hence the case is surrounded with difficulties, and the world will be kept in a state of anxiety until it is known whether Victor Herbert stole a stave or two from Beethoven and has to go "way back and be seated, or whether that musical paper will have to put up fifty thousand plunks to assuage "the wrath of the man who wrote "The Fortune Teller," "The Singing Girl," "The Hobo's Eye," and "The Wizard of the Nile," at which so many thousands of people have laughed time and again.

Vianosi was much disturbed in giving his evidence because Lawyer Palmer was not a musician. "You are not a musician at all," said the Signor. "What a peety eet ees zat I talk wiz a man who nevair knew the Nix," he exclaimed, to the unmusical lawyer. Buzzi Pecci and Damrosch defended Herbert; but the end is not yet.

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