The Planet

8. STEPHENSON. Proprietor

INTEREST ON MONEY DECLINING.

The value of money is gradually decreasing, so that the person who is now getting four per cent on it is in luck. The future rate of interest on investments in Canada is at present. receiving some attention. Within twelve years the rate has fallen two per cent., and our leading financiers are of the opinion that within the next quarter of a century investors should not count on money being worth more than 21-2 to 3 per cent. per annum on the average. The money markets of the world are coming closer together, and rates will be affected by the enormous accumulations of private fortunes, public and private trusts, etc. With the leading mations at peace with one another such results are most likely. It is the greater similarity of rates for money in Ontario with those in Britain that led to the amalgamation of a number of loan companies in this province, and which is compelling these companies to ask for privileges extending their power of transacting business.

If the world remains at peace a few. years longer even the estimates of the capitalists about interest may turn out much too high. During times of peace nations pay off their debts, and other investments must be made for this money.

ANTI-CORRUPTION LEGISLATION.

Mr. Whitney's measure against electoral corruption is a comprehensive one, and ought to do much towards eradicating from the province the bribery evil. We think, however, Mr. Whitney has made the punishment altogether too moderate. Six months imprisonment for individual bribers is all right as a minimum sentence, but where criminals conspire to buy up elections, nothing short of the maximum Central Prison penalty ought to be their lot. A maximum penalty of two years would not be at all too much for the wholesale briber, conspirator, ballot-box-stuffer, perjurer, or all round election crook.

Then, again, the law should make it somebody's business to ferret out the election crooks in each riding and have them punished whether there is a protest of the election or not. Probably the best way this could be done would be to have the returning officer notify the county judget of the receipt of the writ of election and let the county judge appoint one or two election detectives in each municipality in the riding, who would be paid for investigating and prosecuting any cases which came or were brought under their notice, or which they in any way became cognizant of. A great deal might be done in this way to discourage corruption. If would-be bribers knew that they were liable to be such as murderers, forgers, thieves, incendiaries, etc., they would not care to take the risk. As it is now, it is nobody's business to enforce even the apology for an anti-corruption law that we have, and the only restraint put upon crookedness heretofore has been fear of a protest.

HOW ONTARIO HAS BEEN DE-CEIVED ON THE SURPLUS QUESTION.

The Toronto Globe, accuses the opposition of running down the credit of the province because it still insists that there is no such thing in existence as the Mowat-Hardy-Ross sur plus of six millions. The Globe says "The government appointed a royal

commission to investigate the finances of Ontario, Iti was composed of gentlemen of the highest financial stand-ing in the community. They reported the province has a surplus, over all liabilities, of \$1,900,000. But the op-position in the legislature are trying to make out that the report of these gentlemen is unworthy of public cre-dence. Col. Matheson, the financial critic of the Conservative opposition, appears to take the ground that the royal commissioners cooked the ac-counts, and contends that, far from showing a surplus Oftanic is in dalshowing a surplus, Ontario is in debt to the extent of several million dol-

The opposition, it seems to us, have good cause to harp on this matter. Even on the commissioners' own showing of \$1,900,000, Sir Oliver Mowat's government for years and years must have been deceiving the people or else was so incompetent it really didn't know what surplus it had. Hon. G.W. Ross himself, as far back as 1883, when he first ran for the legislature, claimed the surplus was \$5,000,000, and that in actual cash. Subsequently the amount was raised to six millions. Now the Ross Government is taking its stand on \$1,900,000. In doing so it practically admits either its own de-ceit or else its incompetency. either wilfully lied when it claimed six millions, or else it didn't know enough about the affairs of the country to give out a reliable financial statement. 1 5

It was hardly to be expected the British would take any laagers at a place with such a suggestive name as Driefontein.

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We have many reasons to mak us think so. The people who have

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Manitoba and the Liberal party eem to have no further use for one

Our Dresden correspondent tells of man in that town who had his leg broken in a "good-natured scuffled" It's awful to think what might have happened to that man if the scuffle had not thus been characterized by the best of good feeling.

A gentleman just in from Gretna, a Mennonite village near Winnipeg, says it was reported about the town that a few pro-Boer individuals in the district intended burning an effigy of ther Majesty. A number of loyal citizens armed themselves and gave the pro-Boers warning that if anything of the kind occurred them. the kind occurred there would be bloodshed. This settled the proposed disloyal demonstration. Similar dis-loyal talk in the Altoona district was effectually squelched.—Winnipeg De-

Is this the way these persecuted victims of the Autocrat of all the Russias repay the open-hearted assistance and generous freedom accorded them by this great section of the British

The opposition held that the expenditure of the province has exceeded the revenue since confederation. On page 6 of the commissioners' report that charge is disposed of, as the receipts and expenditure for every year since confederation down to the 31st of October last are given, showing an unexpended balance of \$596,878.96.— The Globe.

The Globe is mistaken. What the eration to the fall of John Sandfield Macdonald's government the province had accumulated a surplus of \$3,500,-000, which the Mowat government afterwards dissipated. If, as the Globe says, the commissioners could only find \$596,000 of that surplus left on October 31st last, it looks as if the charge were tolerably well-founded.

The small towns lose in taxes as follows through the scrap iron legislation passed by the Hardy-Ross Government in favor of the corporations in which the ministers of the province are so largely interested personally:

Sarnia,			\$1,5
Brantford,		v*	60
Peterboro,			3
Guelph,			3
Belleville,			2
St. Catharines;			2
Chatham,		_	2
Cornwall,			2
Port Hope,			1
Brockville,			1
Bowmanville,			
Whitby, j.			
And so on thro	ugh the	entire	list
municipalities.			

READY TO GIVE AWAY WHAT THEY DON'T WANT.

Detroit News. One reason why we have Christianity and civilization to give to the poor Filipinos is because we don't use much

IT LEAVES NO LOOPHOLES.

of them ourselves.

Hamilton, Herald. Mr. Whitney's election bill is a good piece of legislation. If the government measure which Mr. Gibson is about to introduce is along the same lines, all who desire clean, fair elections should be satisfied;

THE FRANKING ABUSE.

Montreal Gazette. Sir Richard Cartwright, during the wrangle in the House of Commons on the abuse of the franking privilege, occupied about as unenviable a posioccupied about as unenviable a posi-tion as a public man has been thrust into for a long time. After the close of the last session, during which he had sunk almost out of sight, he was invited to deliver an address at To-ronto. The result was a very good speech, putting out as effective an ex-cuse for the devious policy of the Laurier Government as could, prob-ably, be made. It was thought so much

of by the party that the fund supplied for the propagation of the faith by contractors and other beneficiaries of Laurierism was drawn on for an appropriation, and a large edition of the report of Sir Richard's words was printed for distribution. Either because the fund was low, or that it was being nursed for the bye-elections, it was not deemed wise to take from it the amount necessary to pay the postage on such part of the issue as was sent to its destinations through the mails; so the pamphlets were the mails; so the pamphlets were taken into Sir Richard Cartwright's department, marked with the initials (R. J. C., M. T. & C.," and Mr. Mulock a minions did the rest. The campaig a minions did the rest. The campaigniterature went free, in open violation of the law. Those who remember what Sir Richard Cartwright was bewhat Sir Richard Cartwright was before he got into a position where he could put his relatives into Government jobs, and warm his toes at the pleasant fires that burn in a minister's room, can imagine with what sort of language he would have denounced such action, had his opponents been guilty of it. It does not need the Cartwrighthian vocabulary, however, to show that the transaction was a scandalous one. It amounts simply to robbing the post office for the benefit of the Liberal party's campaign fund. Indeed, neither Mr. Mulock, Sir Wilfrid Laurier nor Sir Richard Cartwright attempted to say the thing was right. They could but allege that the Conservatives had done as bad or almost as bad. The late Conservative ministers, however, pointed out that they had knot within the letter of the almost as bad. The late Conservative ministers, however, pointed out that they had kept within the letter of the law, while Sir Richard Cartwright had violated both its letter and its spirit. The act was inexcusable, will still further reduce the public respect for the Government, and will strengthen the demand for the abolition of the franking system, except in regard to what are actually official letters to or from the departments. Anything be-yond this is abuse of a privilege that, many think, might profitably be abolished altogether.

HARD ON MRS. DEWEY.

Detroit Tribune. Mrs. Dewey, who is booming the admirat for the presidency, is quoted as. saying that he is a republican and she a democrat, but that the people irrea democrat, buy that the people irrespective of party would vote for him. What Mrs Dewey says might have been true when the admiral first came back from Manila, but that was before he married her and the John R. Mc-Lean family. Lean family.

THE ABSINTHE-MINDED BEGGAR.

Exchange.

When you've shouted "Mort au traitre," and you've sung out "Vige l'Armee.'

And have got back Alsace-Lorraine in your mind; When you've "Conspued les Juifs," have forgotten "Boulanger,"

And have washed the stains that Dreyfus left behind; Then you absinthe-minded beggar, in your muddle-headed pate,

Turn about for something fresh to kick and hit at. we'll give you timely warning, which, we hope, won't come too

late. That the British lion's not the chap to spit at. King's son, duke's son, son of a hun-

dred cooks; Hundred and fifty thousand men at The enemy far smaller, yet they struck you off the books, But did we laugh and jeer at you

When you fay besieged in Paris by the foeman's iron grasp, Starvation grim a-staring you in the face; Who was it gave you vittles, gave your hand a friendly class f Why, the British, whom you're try-

ing to disgrace. But, of course, it's all forgotten now the danger's past and gone, For the absinthe-minded beggar all

will find you, But if you go too far we must put the stopper on, And, by George, we'll take the trou-ble to remind you.

Cook's son, duke's son, son of an aristocrat; Son of a sea cook, son of a gun, old or young or gay; Each of them hunting about for him-self in search of a sewer rat, Wasn't it thus till we sent you help?

Now, say, say, say ? Though we visited your country in a friendly sort of way;
Though we've freely spent our cash in ev'ry town; Yet now you darkly murmur: Every

dog must have his day— Let's try and bite the Lion when he's down. You're an absinthe-minded beggar, or

by now you'd realize
That the British lion's far from be-You surely will regret it if when Leo steeping lies With impunity you think he can be

Cad's voice, sneak's voice, voice of a sniveling cur, True enough the adage runs: "Each dog must have his day."
But till yours dawns, wear asses' skins—don't covet the Lion's

and stay, stay, stay. you're anxious to revile us, why then, do so to our face, It's a method that we very much

Slink back to your kennel, quick

prefer, But for God's sake keep your insults from the Head of all our race, For we can't stand much of that applied to her.

You're an absinthe-minded beggar and

you may forget this, too,
hat you quickly left Trafalgar, not
to mention Waterloo,
In a hurry, with the British close

Cook's son, duke's son, son of a cuis-Though you make your country ring with shouts of "Vive l'Armee;" Empty boasts won't frighten us, in spite of your martial air,

Keep a civil tongue in your heads or you'll pay, pay, pay.

Friendship must be something else than a society for mutual improve-ment—indeed, it must only be that by the way—R. L.) Stevenson.

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Ve lum Cloth

Half Morocco

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