

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY... SEPTEMBER 14, 1887

The London correspondent of the New York Times uttered a rock-bottom truth when he wrote: "The English people do not care a continental about the Canadians, and would not be tempted into burning a drachm of powder for the whole blessed Dominion."

The St. John Globe mourns over the fact that two of the most prominent and irrepressible Tories of New Brunswick have joined the exodus and gone to settle in the States.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN did not appear to be tried yesterday as he was summoned, and the magistrates whom he treated with contempt have ordered his arrest.

NEWSPAPERS show lack of sense in attacking the Ottawa Government for appointing Mr. George Johnson to a fat office in the civic service. We think the appointment right and proper.

AND now will the Kozog leave off abusing "Ras" Wiman, as it calls him, and try its hand at getting up anti-commercial union demonstrations among the farmers.

TWO men were shot and killed by the constabulary at Mitchellstown, County Cork, yesterday. The conflict between the people and the police was caused by the latter interfering with the right of public meeting.

At the recent Democratic Convention in Iowa, the following demand for tariff reform was adopted as the second plank in the party platform:

We call upon Congress for the immediate revision of our tariff laws to a revenue basis to end that every industry and every section may enjoy perfect equality under the law, and we favor the retention of the internal revenue tax on intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and protest against its proposed reduction for the purpose of continuing the present high tariff on the necessities of life.

Even the Pennsylvania Democrats, who have always been out and out Protectionists, have gone so far as to embody these words in the first plank of their platform:

We demand with emphasis that the large surplus already in the treasury shall be used to pay the public debt, and that the current and unnecessary increase going on by way of the needs of government shall be immediately prevented by a wise and prudent reduction of internal taxation and of duties on imports.

Thus it appears that tariff reform is going to be the grand issue in the coming election campaign, should Congress not deal with the question satisfactorily in the meantime.

WHILE our esteemed friend and neighbor The Witness is bemoaning the decadence of "Sabbath observances," it might find some consolation in a letter, quoted by the Christian Advocate by the late William E. Dodge, in which the writer tells how President Sloan, of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, rebuked a Methodist minister.

Methodist ministers and others in charge of camp meetings: In some instances partnerships have been formed with railroad companies by which a percentage of their Sunday profits have been paid to the camp meeting management. It is a melancholy fact, to which we have had to refer several times, that the inconsistent conduct of many who are ostensibly promoting religion furnishes the "ungodly" with weapons with which to attack the institutions upon which religion itself depends.

ABOUT the best thing the Tory machine in England can do is accept the Pope's rumored offer to mediate for the settlement of the Irish question. That it is incapable of governing Ireland on sensible lines is amply demonstrated, and there is no power on earth whose good offices England needs more than the Vatican.

ACCORDING to Labouchere's Truth the British army is a disgrace to the financial good sense of the country. The effective force of the German army costs £19,380,000; the effective force of the British army costs £14,600,000. For her expenditure, Germany gets corps d'armee of 37,000 each.

It is expected that the Supreme Court of Illinois will render a decision adverse to the seven Chicago Anarchists convicted of murder more than a year ago. The whole country is awaiting the decision with deep interest, and the press has strongly pronounced the view that they ought to hang.

A NEW HISTORY OF CANADA.

We have received a prospectus from Mr. Kingsford, who is well known in this city, and who now has taken up his residence in Ottawa, in view of continuing his researches on the work on which he is engaged—the History of Canada. If he fulfils the promise given in his prospectus and writes an impartial and just view of French rule, in a readable form, he will perform no slight public service.

much which hitherto has not been easy of explanation.

The truth of this view is unassailable, and the success of the book will depend precisely on the mode in which these principles are carried out. The French Canadians have a remarkable history. The first year of their settlement they were a mere handful of men struggling against continual Iroquois attacks—while the Jesuit missionaries penetrated to the West to preach the gospel, for the most part to be tortured or killed, and the mission to be made, at that time, impossible.

It was not until 1685 that Canada became a Royal Province. Excepting about eight years of interval of peace before the Treaty of Utrecht, and after the peace—Aix-la-Chapelle—and the thirty years after the Treaty of Utrecht to the commencement of the war in 1743, there was constant war.

The final struggle lasted but ten years. The wars of Louis XIV. entirely exhausted France, and the gross misgovernment of the Regency and Louis XV., while it demoralized every grade of life to culminate in the revolution, weakened the national strength.

AMERICAN TARIFF REFORM AND ITS EFFECTS.

Tariff reform is now, it seems, engaging the attention of the Washington Cabinet, and it is said a measure will be brought forth as soon as Congress meets which will have the endorsement of the administration. It is further announced that the President, the Secretary of the Treasury and Speaker Carlisle have been considering the matter since Congress adjourned.

The New York Star, to which we are indebted for these intimations, believes it is likely that the reduction of the customs will be more sweeping than Mr. Randall, who leads the Protectionist wing of the Democratic party, would agree to, though it is hoped that the whole party can be brought to work together harmoniously.

There can be no doubt that a reduction of taxation on the necessities of life would be popular with the great mass of the people, and we may be sure that the President, who is looking forward and pulling the strings for nomination to a second term, would not venture on such hitherto volcanic ground as tariff reform were he not convinced that it is a wise as well as a winning movement.

Should the Bill become law, which is by no means improbable, the effect upon the Dominion will be far-reaching, and in some respects, perhaps, almost disastrous. Without enormous ever increasing debt, our excessive taxation and fraudulently oppressive fiscal system, it will be impossible for the confederation to exist as it is now.

Newspaper scribbles in the pay of the Ottawa machine may say that, in thus presenting the relative positions of the Republic and the Dominion, we are degrading the country. Let them say so. We speak truths patent to everybody, and unless there comes a radical change, of which there is but little hope at present, we see nothing to induce anyone to come to our country or persuade those who are here to remain.

THE GAZETTE AND MR. McSHANE.

When a journal of the pretensions of The Gazette pursues a public man with persistency and vindictiveness there must be some very strong reason for its doing so. Ever since Mr. McShane became a member of the Quebec Government it has never lost or hesitated to make an opportunity for assailing him. It has attacked him in its reports from its alleged special correspondents, it has striven to injure him with false statements in its local columns, it has loaded its editorial with reflections upon him as mean and cowardly as its truculent nature could accomplish.

In an alleged report of the proceedings at the nominations for Ottawa county, the chief organ seized an opportunity to discredit Mr. McShane by barefaced falsehood and misrepresentation. In the first place the Gazette must have known, unless it is the victim of invincible ignorance, that the government has not raised the timber dues for ground rent \$5. They proposed last session was to raise the rent from \$3 to \$5, an increase of \$2. But they have not to date done so.

Such conduct is a disgrace to journalism, and sufficient to stamp the paper that resorts to it as an unmitigated fraud. As to Mr. McShane's reception at Hull, nothing could be more enthusiastic or hearty. His appearance was greeted with round after round of applause and bursts of genuine enthusiasm.

But will the Gazette, since it has gone so far in its dirty work, dare to say that Mr. McShane is not a credit to the people who have placed him in the honorable and responsible position he occupies, and the duties of which he performs to the utmost satisfaction of his colleagues, the legislature and the province at large.

Strange to say, while the boodler organ constantly displays its eagerness to injure Mr. McShane and destroy his usefulness as the Irish Catholic representative in the Cabinet, it has been utterly unable to produce the slightest change against him. The public know how recklessly vindictive the Gazette is in dealing with political adversaries, and will set down its sneers, its falsehoods, its cowardly misrepresentations, at their true value.

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have strengthened Mr. McShane in public estimation, and his colleagues are not slow to see that the efforts to injure him are not made with the desire or intention of strengthening the Government. The Gazette doubtless thinks, if it could destroy the prestige and weaken the influence of the ablest and best Irish Catholic representative ever had in this province, it would inflict a deadly blow on the Government.

THE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

Organs of the Republican party in the United States are unanimous in repudiating the proposed Fisheries Commission. They deny the right of the President to enter into the engagement after the express, emphatic action of the Senate in refusing to entertain the proposition of an international commission; and declare that whatever result it may arrive at will be of no effect whatever.

THE COAL TRUST ROBBERY.

The stupendous system of robbery arrived at by the Anthracite Coal Trust in the United States has lately been shown up by the Chicago Herald. A "trust" we may premise is a new system by which the production and price of any article is regulated under the prevailing tariff protective tariff.

Facts like these disclose how extraordinary is the development of the system of public plunder carried on by combinations of men who have laid hold of the great national coal areas. They are not capitalists, they are simply robbers under business masks.

So Governor Cullom, of Illinois, thought when vetoing anti-truck legislation ill-gotten wealth everywhere repudiates the intervention of law for the protection of the wretched. Pursuing its exposure our Chicago contemporary shows that this "combine" exacted actual profit of \$4.20 on every ton of coal. Thus consumers, in paying this amount, a gross capital to be ascertained from total of \$138,600,000 profit. More every year the intrinsic value of the anthracite plant, in accordance with the amount of coal we chase. No wonder there are Socialists, Anarchists and Communists, and that the revolution. All this sort of thing must somewhere.

WHERE IS SAFETY TO BE FOUND.

This is a question which a workingman in a letter to the New York Telegram. There are hundreds of thousands of work people in America who are working hard day after day, earning little, but out of a little they continue to save a mite each week for safe-keeping in some savings institution. But, in the light of every day occurrences, we guarantee a depositor that a bank is as safe or is half as secure as his own pocket.

As it is in the States so is it in Canada. The opening of the safes in this city the other day Judge Baby referred to the fearful prevalence of the crime of unfaithfulness among those entrusted with the care of money in banks and other institutions. Surely there must be remedy. There is no use moaning over the decay of honesty, the growing degeneracy of society and the corruption of manners.

THE GREAT QUESTION OF THE DAY.

Unrestricted Reciprocity, or Commercial Union, as the great movement for closer relations with the United States is sometimes called, has taken a stronger hold on the people of this country than its opponents care to admit. Every week meetings are held in the rural districts, and everywhere the resolutions adopted are in favor of reciprocity.

Undoubtedly Parliament will have to consider the question. Dr. Platt, of Princeton, New Jersey, gave notice that he would before adjournment last session, and he will renew it first thing when the session opens. The Ministry and the rings of manufacturers and monopolists by which it is sustained may do their best to postpone or evade the issue, but their opposition will only increase the strength of the movement. It will also serve to emphasize another great fact with which the people are becoming painfully impressed, namely, that the real true sentiment of the country did not find expression at the last general election, that the free exercise of the franchise was overborne by a series of most audacious, unparalleled frauds, coupled with the most gigantic schemes of bribery and corruption ever conceived or carried out.

But this is a matter which we can well perceive members hoping for re-election cannot oppose or shrink even under the heaviest whip the ministry can wield. We may, therefore, prepare to see Sir John repeating his old tricks of procrastination, expediency, temporizing, pretension. He will endeavor to make believe that he is willing to fall in with the popular movement; but it will be the duty of those who on the Liberal side have taken up the banner of Unrestricted Reciprocity to expose his position and compel him to recede or defeat. We know that he would do neither; but we know that such an alternative, for he would not care to survive the exposures that must follow his expulsion from power. Rather than be driven from office he would pitch all pledges to the winds, adopt the programme laid down by Ernest Wiman and Goldwin Smith, and smash the "trusts" and monopolies that now surround and guard his throne. But again it will be the duty of the true friends of Canadian progress to prevent the sinister influences of Imperialism marring the scope and purpose of the move-