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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

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THE SITUATION.

Parnell proposes to raise a private fund, principally in America, by means of which he will reward, with annual stipends, his followers in Parliament provided they surrender their own wills to his bidding. This attempt to divert the source of the skir-mishing fund will scarcely suit O'Donovan Rossa. A branch of the National League has been started in Toronto, and contributions to the fund for turning the Irish Brigade into stipendiaries are promised. It is not likely that much will be subscribed; and certainly the object is not one that can be commended. The custodians of Irish political funds will generally bear a good deal of looking after. It was the proud boast of Burke that he would not be degraded into a delegate; but members of Parliament who take retainers from outsiders are not squeamish about the character in which they act. The Parnell men do not appear to be able to see any incongruity in the proposal that is to put foreign money into their pockets.

In the case of the Berthier Beet Root Sugar Company, the Privy Council has decided the right of the government to priority for unpaid duties. The machinery supplied by the Fives-Lille company, was allowed by the government to be entered without immediate payment of duties, amounting to \$27,000. After the failure of the Beet Sugar Company, the Belgians obtained a judgment for \$76,000 due on the machinery, and the property was sold by the sheriff. At this point, and before the transfer had been made, the government put in a claim for the amount owing for duties; whereupon the purchaser, Mr. Prevost, refused to carry out the purchase on the ground that the sheriff could not give a clear title, in which refusal he was sustained by the Court of Appeal. The Privy Council decided that even if Mr. Prevost had paid the amount of the purchase money he would not have been entitled to possession until he had paid the duties as well. In this way a question that was often cropping up has now been finally settled.

In Montreal and the adjacent villages, the small-pox scourge continues its deadly

march. The deaths in the city last week, rose to 245, and the suburbs added 75 more, making a total of 323. The city council evidently does not recognize the gravity of the situation, or it would not have cut down the grant for vaccination from \$5,000 to \$2,000. On Sunday, the French clergy in their sermons, favored vaccination; but this did not prevent an anti-vaccination riot on Monday. The people of the outside municipalities refuse to allow the city to establish small-pox hospitals within their limits, and threats to burn buildings selected for that purpose have been indulged in. And now it seems, when time is precious and immediate action necessary, delay must be submitted to till legal authority can be got, and a building erected outside the city. A religious procession held on Sunday, in the east part of the city, was eminently calculated to spread the disease, which still continues to be confined almost entirely to the French Canadians, there having been only seven deaths among the English speaking population during the week. The police do not always willingly assist the medical men against interference in the removal of patients. Altogether, the means taken to stamp out the scourge are not as energetic as they should be. At the latest date, however, vaccination is going on at the rate of a thousand a day, which gives hope of the final conquering of the scourge.

In the reconstructed ministry at Ottawa, Sir Alexander Campbell goes back to the Post-Office Department, and Mr. Carling becomes Minister of Agriculture. To get a new Minister of Justice, Sir John Macdonald, following the example of Mr. Blake when he induced Mr. Mowat to exchange the chancellorship for politics, draws upon the Bench, and Judge Thompson of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia becomes a member of the Ottawa cabinet. If to cause a judge to descend from the bench to take a part in politics be a sin, both parties have now made themselves guilty of it. The new arrangement is probably only provisional; for there is a strong conviction that either Sir A. Campbell or Mr. Carling will be made Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Of this office the only thing certain seems to be that the present occupant, who remains meanwhile, will not be re-appointed.

Mr. White, the new Minister of the Interior, on his arrival in Winnipeg was presented with an address by the Board of Trade. In this document the restriction which prevents new railways running south of the Canadian Pacific to the American frontier forms a subject of complaint; its exceptional nature is pointed out, and Manitoba is represented as deprived of rights which belong to her under the British North America Act. But it is not stated that Manitoba, through her legislature, consented to the restriction, in order to obtain what she must have deemed to be a greater good. Good faith demands that meanwhile the obligation be observed by the contracting parties. It is not to the credit of the Province that it has repeatedly passed railway charters in derogation of its own honor. But the Board of Trade

does not propose any violent procedure, and we heartily agree with it in the hope that it may soon be possible to remove a restriction which, considered by itself, is a serious disadvantage to Manitoba. But we are not permitted to forget that without this restriction, the Pacific Railway would not have been undertaken by the syndicate on the terms agreed upon.

While the Bankers' Convention at Chicago asked the unconditional repeal of the Bland Silver Act, indications were given of some of the obstacles which stand in the way of the action demanded. The question of making the silver money equivalent in value to gold, by an addition to its weight, came up. Wherever silver is made a legal tender in practically unlimited amounts, this is the only honest course to take. But even if the disposition existed the fixing of the equivalent would be an almost impossible task. This is in fact the only ground on which the silver men can hope to make an effective stand. If they insist on forcing silver on an unwilling public they are at least bound to give it in honest measure. There is a popular suspicion, in the United States, that the banks want to get rid of the silver in order to fill the void with a currency of their own. There may be some self-interest in the action of the banks; but we cannot think that it forms their ruling motive. The ablest economists in the country, in demanding the suspension of silver coinage, are not actuated by any consideration for the banks, but solely by a regard to the general welfare.

The other principal topic dealt with by the Bankers' Convention was a revision of the extradition treaties, with the view of making them, especially that with Great Britain which is the least stringent of all, more effective. The view of the convention on the subject was that of the class which the meeting represented. It is understood that some steps have been taken with a view of extending the provisions of the extradition treaty with Great Britain, but what progress has been made was not reported. No treaty that would endanger the safety of political refugees is likely to be made; but dynamitards have no claim to be regarded as political refugees. No one wants to get back Gabriel Dumont on any false pretence; and a charge of murder or robbery against him would very properly not be listened to by the United States as a ground of surrender. In non-political cases, there seems no good reason why the category of extraditable criminals should not be enlarged, and many why it should be; but the right of asylum in political cases is always a difficulty in framing comprehensive extradition treaties.

Imperial Federation has met support in an unexpected quarter. Lord Rosebery in a speech at Reigate on Tuesday night, said the Liberal programme, of which he is credited with speaking authoritatively, included, besides the planks of Mr. Gladstone's platform, the acquisition of land by tenants, free education and colonial federation. Free education is in vogue in America,