

with an account of an incipient organization with headquarters at Montreal, and having for its object the independence of Canada, or as the promoters prefer to put it "the emancipation of the country." The organization is to be known as the Canadian Independence League. Its plan of campaign is to establish branch leagues in every constituency throughout the country and if possible in every town and village; to have an organ published in English, using for French Canadians the newspapers which have already declared for a Canadian republic; to freely disseminate independence literature; to endeavor to secure the moral influence of Universities and political clubs in the United States and Europe which favor the extension of democratic ideas and the triumph of democratic institutions; and to solicit the moral support of all the independent nations of both Americas in securing the independence of Canada. The date set before them as the one in which they hope to attain their goal is 1892, when "from free America the last vestige of monarchical and European rule shall be removed." This particular date is chosen because of its being the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. One hardly knows which to wonder at the more, the marvellous credulity of the American citizen who believes that such an event is among the possibilities, or the boundless egotism and brazen forehead of the few callow politicians who pretend to represent the political aspirations of the citizens of Canada. What if the Young Men's Liberal Clubs of Toronto and Montreal have declared for independence? Is Toronto Ontario, or Montreal Quebec? Though there may be difference of opinion as to the expediency of Mr. Mulock's loyalty resolution there can be no two opinions regarding it as an expression of the sentiment which dominates the Canadian heart towards her gracious Majesty. Still, for the relief of a long-suffering public, it is to be hoped the "emancipators" will proceed to carry out their scheme, for if ever dreamers were rudely awakened these youths will be, when they realize that what they supposed were facts are only the vagaries of their own overwrought imagination. In that case the land will have a respite until a fresh crop of politicians shall have had time to grow up.

England's proposal to establish a dry dock at Gibraltar is not viewed with favor by the authorities at Madrid. In the chamber of deputies the other day Senor Moya, Republican, supported the demand hitherto made that the government should give the House explicit information in regard to the projected new dock which it is reported the English Government is to build at Gibraltar. The minister of foreign affairs replied that what it was proposed to build was a dry dock, and that it was to be constructed within the port of Gibraltar, and consequently within British territory. Not quite assured of the explanation of the pacific intentions of the British, and regarding the movement as dangerous to their safety, several speakers expressed their opposition to the adoption of the project.

An important decision was rendered last week in the Court of Appeals in connection with a suit brought by the Temperance Colonization Society against Benjamin C. Fairfield of St. Catharines. Fairfield who was a member for a certain amount of the time, added to carry out his part of the contract, urging that the Society's allegations were false, that instead of 100,000 acres of lands they had only 10,000. The lower court had found in favor of Fairfield, when the appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals. The appeal was allowed and the judgment was reversed. The case was decided on the ground that the Society's allegations were false, and that the lands they had were only 10,000 acres. The lower court had found in favor of Fairfield, when the appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals. The appeal was allowed and the judgment was reversed. The case was decided on the ground that the Society's allegations were false, and that the lands they had were only 10,000 acres.

terrible railway catastrophe, and the loss of many precious lives, is no fault of the inhuman wretch who is at present held for trial at Simcoe, for an attempt at train wrecking. The place selected for the commission of the crime is about a mile east of Port Dover Junction at the end of an embankment about forty feet deep, and just where the railroad crosses a big creek. Here two large stones were rolled on the track, one of which weighed five hundred pounds. The express came rushing along at a high rate of speed and struck the stones, hurling one a distance of about fifty feet. Had the train gone over at this point it is difficult to see how any of the passengers could have escaped. It is some satisfaction to know that the villain, whose name is Duesling, and who has already been made acquainted with the interior of the Central Prison, has confessed to the crime. It is to be hoped now that punishment will be meted out commensurate with the enormity of the offense. Ample time should be given him for reflection and repentance behind the bars at Kingston. Society demands that he shall be restrained from endangering property and life in the future.

The blundering attempts of foreigners to master the peculiarities and intricacies of the English language, are a never-failing source of amusement to those acquainted with the English tongue. Considering the source whence they came, the following are worth remembering. The only distinctively scientific book yet written on the Congo River was recently published in Paris. It contains the announcement that the station of Kimpoko is occupied by the "Bishop's Taylor herself supporting American Mission." A Belgian newspaper the other day printed the advertisement of an English book which, it said, contained "thersy four illustrations. Price sex shellings." Our foreign contemporaries seem to have been studying that valuable treatise known as "English as She is Spoke."

At last the much discussed Orange bill is set at rest, and the Order so far as the Commons is concerned, by a vote of 86 to 63, has received the recognition of the Parliament of Canada. Naturally Mr. Clarke Wallace, father of the bill, is greatly elated over the result. His friends and the friends of the Order will congratulate him no doubt upon the success that has attended his efforts in the matter. There are many others, however, who, having no strong feelings for or against the Order, will rejoice especially in the fact that Parliament has on this occasion at least manifested a sense of fair play. Incorporating other societies, such as the Independent Order of Foresters and the Oblat Fathers they could not consistently withhold the same recognition from the Orange Order. It is gratifying to find that 86 out of 149 members who were present and voted, saw the matter in this light and gave it their support. And thus another disquieting and disturbing question has been disposed of.

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dismissed with costs. The judgment decides that the society has not and never had the lands contracted to be sold, nor had they any valid agreement with the Government for obtaining the same, that they only got 213,000 acres altogether to satisfy contracts for two millions. It is a pity for the pockets of some poor dupes who were induced to purchase the company's scrip that this verdict had not been rendered several years ago; for not knowing how the Courts might decide and fearing that to engage in litigation would be to throw good money after bad, they were led to compromise with the company and purchase their release by sacrificing any and all payments already made, as well as paying a handsome sum of "smart money" into the bargain.

The bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature, by the Hon. A. M. Ross respecting exemptions from municipal assessments, if carried, will go far towards settling the vexed and vexing question of tax exemptions. It will be remembered that during recess, the government adopted measures to obtain an expression of opinion on the subject from all the Boards of Trade, and County Councils throughout the country. The answers received were somewhat diverse, though the majority were in favor of considerable modification of the existing law. To meet the popular wish as expressed in these reports, the bill of the Provincial Treasurer has been framed. It provides as follows:

- (1) Land on which a place of worship is erected, and land used in connection with a place of worship, shall be liable to be assessed in the same way and to the same extent as other land, for local improvements hereafter made or to be made.
- (2) The stipends or salaries of clergymen and ministers of religion, and parsonages or dwellings occupied by them with the lands attached thereto, shall be liable to assessment for all municipal purposes in the same manner, and to the same extent, as the incomes, dwellings and property of other persons.
- (3) The buildings and grounds of and attached to a university, college or other incorporated seminary of learning, whether vested in a trustee or otherwise, shall be liable to be assessed in the same manner and to the same extent as other land is assessed for local improvements hereafter made or to be made. This section does not apply to schools which are maintained in whole or in part by a Legislative grant or school tax.
- (4) In the case of persons carrying on a mercantile or other business in a municipality, the Municipal Council of the municipality may pass by-laws substituting, in respect of any class or classes of mercantile business, a business tax for the taxes on so much of the personal property of the rate-payer as belongs to the business, provided that such business tax do not exceed seven and a half per cent. of the annual value of the premises in which the business is carried on.

The extreme opponents will, perhaps, object to this bill as a half-way measure and urge that it ought to have gone further in dealing with church property and stocks of merchants; and, as the Manitoba Legislature is proposing to do, abolish exemptions altogether. Unless the bill is calculated to give actual relief, though not so radical as some of the changes are proposed, it is the most objectionable part of the whole. It is the proverbial half loaf, and the want of events shall hereafter determine the necessity for a measure more radical. It is to be hoped that our members will grant the people's request.

In speaking of his bill to amend the Public and Separate School's Act, the Hon. G. W. Ross said: "The Government has not introduced the ballot into Separate School elections. It has not been considered well to do so. There has been no demand from the Separate Schools for the ballot, and as such

legislation has hitherto been given when applied for, the Government does not feel that it is its duty to force it on the Separate Schools. Moreover there is also great doubt whether the Government has the right to change the mode of voting which the separate schools enjoyed at the time of Confederation, when they were guaranteed the retention of all rights and privileges." As to the plea that the government has no power to interfere in the matter, this is a question not for laymen, but for constitutional lawyers to decide. The other argument, however, is open to popular criticism. The principle upon which it is based is, give the people what they want when they ask for it. Undoubtedly this is a wise policy, provided it be so carried out as not to convert the government into a mere machine, incapable of adjusting itself to diverse and varying circumstances. To say that a government shall never pass a measure for which a popular clamor has not been made, is to deprive the country of the benefit of all that knowledge of the country's needs which, from their peculiarly favorable position, the members of parliament may have acquired. Consequently, while no self-governing people could be expected to tamely submit to their representatives amusing themselves with passing laws which no one desires, or the other hand they do not wish their rulers to be such complete echoes that they will not anticipate the needs of the people in passing laws which, in their united judgment, they are convinced will tend to promote the public welfare. The Separate Schools have not asked for the ballot, it is true, nevertheless the subject is being vigorously discussed by them in several influential quarters, and is bound to go farther still. This circumstance, that the ballot is not a dead issue with the separate schools, coupled with the fact that the School Act is about to undergo modifications on those parts which relate the separate schools, renders the present an exceedingly fitting occasion for the introduction of a provision similar to that pertaining to public schools, which are granted the privilege of choosing between the open and secret vote. By inserting such a clause no school would have been forced to adopt the ballot, and hence no injustice would have been done to those schools which do not desire it, while it would have opened the way for any school which prefers the secret vote to adopt the method of its choice. Considering all the circumstances that have been made public concerning the recent Separate School troubles in this city and elsewhere on this very question, the present disposition of the matter will hardly save the Government from the suspicion, that "there's a nigger somewhere in the fence."

If matters go on much longer at the present rate it is likely that Detroit will experience some difficulty in keeping up the number of her police force. As a rule, men do not covet being made a target for desperadoes and cut throats. And this is how it has ended on several occasions in that city. The latest victim of the armed burglar is Patrolman Edward Schumaker, who, finding the rear door of a certain grocery store open the other night, entered and saw three burglars working on the safe. The burglars fled, followed by the patrolman, who fired at them. The three scoundrels returned the fire, and Schumaker was wounded in the abdomen. He has since died. A number of arrests were made. This is the fourth patrolman shot while on duty in Detroit in eight years.

The ambassador given by Lord Salisbury to the Brazilian Minister at the Court of St. James,