

## LABOUCHERE ON THE IRISH LAND QUESTION

Mr. LaBouchere, in a cable letter to the N. Y. World, says:

"From the refusal of the Government to provide some means to meet the inability of many of the Irish tenants to pay their rents owing to the fall in the prices of produce, it is evident that two things are intended. First, to endeavor to keep up rents in order to carry out some scheme of land-purchase based upon excessive valuation; secondly, to create disorder in Ireland as an excuse for coercion. We are threatened with a raid upon the Imperial Exchequer for the benefit of the landlords, and the Irish are threatened with the suppression of their liberties. Against this both we and the Irish must struggle to the last. At the recent election the Tories and the Unionist Liberals vied with each other in denouncing any scheme of land-purchase involving either directly or indirectly any liability on the part of the Imperial taxpayer. Whatever may have been the verdict of the constituencies upon other matters, upon this matter it was undoubted. One plan which has been suggested is not without its merits. The Liberals in Parliament must declare that they will refuse to recognize any imperial obligations. The effect of this will be that the Irish landlords will be disinclined to part with their land for bonds, the validity of which will only continue so long as the Tories are at the head of the affairs. The fact is, the landocracy is aware that the prices of produce are likely to fall still further and wish to sell their land to the community before it ceases to have any value beyond a mere nominal one. They are wise in their generation, but we shall be fools if we allow ourselves to be robbed in this fashion. Agricultural land in Great Britain does not bring in, allowing for reductions of rent more than 15s per acre; of this 10s per acre represents the interest upon the buildings, improvements, etc., which have been paid for by the landlord. Land, therefore, in Great Britain is not worth more than 5s per acre at the present moment, and there is a strong probability that it will be worth very soon even less. In Ireland there are 15,000,000 acres of cultivated agricultural land. Its present rent is 8,000,000 pounds per annum, which would give a rental of about 11s per acre. Obviously, therefore if we were to accept this 11s per acre as the basis of state purchase we should be paying more than double the value of the land, assuming that Great Britain averages neither better, nor worse than land in Ireland.

"The judicial rents were, I suspect, estimated at too high a figure, but unquestionably they are too high now. Assuming that they were not fixed at too low a figure before 1884, since then I think it will be admitted that the price of produce from land has fallen 15 per cent. Now observe how this works out. Let us take a farm rented at 100 pounds per annum. The gross produce of such a farm ought to be 500 pounds per annum. Allow one-fifth of this to be consumed by the farmer and not sold, the fall would result in his receiving for his produce 60 pounds less than he did before 1884. If, therefore, £100 was estimated then as the margin between live and thrive, it seems to me to be a matter rather of figures than argument that this margin is now 40 pounds. Landlords make the mistake of regarding the rent as a first charge, the first being the amount of profit that enables the tenant to live and thrive. This was the basis of the Irish Land Act. This is why landlords are so frequent in their denunciations of that act.

"In Ireland most of the landlords have mortgaged their estates. They live on the margin rent which is in excess of the interest on the mortgages. This margin, however, has now disappeared, owing to the fall in prices. The question, therefore, really in its practical aspect is this: Shall the tenant live and thrive or shall the landlord live? Landlordism may be an excellent system, but pauper landlords must be a curse to any country. It is with pauper landlords that we have to deal in Ireland. There are three profits to be earned in Ireland out of the land—firstly, that of the mortgage, secondly, that of the landlord; thirdly, that of the tenant. I suspect that the land cannot support more than one-third, but most unquestionably cannot support the three. Admitting therefore, that the mortgage is to get his interest and the tenant is to live and thrive, the landlord must necessarily be squeezed out and, in fact, has been squeezed out already. We shall never settle the land question until we bring home to him this fact. What has happened in Ireland would have happened already in Great Britain were it not that the land here is not so heavily mortgaged as it is in Ireland. A slight further fall, however, in the price of produce will place our landlords in the position of the Irish landlords, while in both countries a substantial fall will ruin the mortgages also. What will happen then? Will agricultural land go out of cultivation? No; as has been the case in France it will gradually fall into the hands of the small occupiers, who will either purchase it for a trifle or will pay a nominal rent for it. These occupiers will be to a greater extent independent of the fall in prices, because they will not have to pay for farm labour. They and their families will consume a far greater proportion of the yield of their little farms. If there is, to my mind, one thing more absolutely certain than another it is that agricultural land in the United Kingdom; unless under exceptional circumstances, will before long be worth no more than the prairie lands in the West American States. The buildings, &c., upon it will only be worth the price of the plant and disadvantageously situated for money getting purposes. I preached this doctrine ten years ago

but no one believed me up to now. It looks as though I shall prove to have been in the right. Our present aim must be to see that the landlords neither in Great Britain nor in Ireland manage to shunt their land upon us at values based upon either the past or present prices of produce. It may suit them to sell on a falling market, but for this very reason it cannot suit us to buy.

### THE HUDSON BAY ROUTE.

Halifax, Oct. 11.—The steamer Albert arrived here yesterday afternoon from her final trip to Hudson's Bay region, bringing back with her all the observers and their instruments. The observers were found in good health, with the exception of Mr. Shaw, of Port Burwell, who has suffering very badly with scurvy, but he has since entirely recovered. At most places game of various kinds was so plentiful that the men rarely tasted salted or preserved beef, with which they were provided. Birds and fish abounded, and some of the men frequently killed more than they required. Respecting the navigability of the Hudson's Bay straits, Commander Gordon expressed the same opinion held by him on his return from last year's expedition. He regards the straits as navigable, under certain risks early in the season, from the beginning of July to the end of October, and the period may be extended half a month more. The risks to be encountered are at the opening of the season, when the ice is to be met, but these risks are not grave ones, and the strait may be reasonably considered as navigable for four months as stated. The Dundee whaling ship, Arctic, Captain Guy, which is bound up through Foxes Channel, passed Ashes Inlet, North Bluff, in the centre of the strait, on June 6th.

### YESTERDAY'S CABLE NEWS.

LONDON, Oct. 13.—An opinion here on the prospects in Bulgaria may be gathered from these three extracts. The Times says there is still a possibility of avoiding a resort to force. The Standard says throughout the continent the air smells of gunpowder, and an outbreak of hostilities is the probable contingency. The Daily News says it is possible that a peaceful solution of the difficulty may be found.

The Pall Mall Gazette to-day published a secret memorandum addressed to the Admiralty by Lord Charles Beresford the junior naval lord, in which he says he feels bound to put on record a protest against the entire unreadiness of England for war. He goes at great length into the lack of armament, defences and personnel, and he declares there is no plan of operations. In case of outside hostilities, unless a man be created by the need England would be face to face with an irreparable calamity.

Much amusement is provoked here in theatrical circles by the belief in New York that Hudson is burlesquing Irving in Claudian. The facts are that Hudson for some time was a member of the Lyceum company, being then at the commencement of his career. He took an impression of Irving's patent personally from which he has never quite freed himself. His peculiarities are the same in all parts. He believes Irving and Hudson are good friends. The same thing was noticed on the first night of Claudyn in London but without the slightest intention on Hudson's part.

### DARING ACT OF HEROISM

Miraculous Rescue of a Young Man From Being Swept Over the Falls.

Prospect House, Niagara Falls, Ont. Oct. 5.—The town is all excited over a thrilling accident that occurred here this evening. Charlie Robinson, 19 years of age, a resident of Niagara Falls, N. Y., left the Schlosser club house, on the river about two miles above here, in a small boat to come home. By some accident he lost his course and got into the rapids, where his boat capsize, and he was whirled into the angry torrent toward Bath Island, near the site where the Pettibone paper mill stood, together with its piers and water dams, since demolished by the Niagara State reservation. Fortunately there were some heavy iron drift bolts yet left undisturbed, and Robinson was dashed against one of these and grasped it. He managed by all the power he possessed to get his legs around it and hold himself fast.

The news of the accident was soon spread. Tom Conroy, Jack McCloy and John Haines, commonly known as "Sail or Jack," nothing daunted, volunteered to risk their lives to save that of a fellow being. They took a rope and waded out into the broken down piers and into the rapids above Goat Island bridge, where the water was shallow. After several attempts at casting a line some forty feet Robinson managed to get hold of it and fasten it around his body. He then let go his hold of the iron rod, the current swung him past the brave fellows who held the line, and he was quickly dragged to them. He was lifted from the water at 10 o'clock completely exhausted and carried safely to shore. Had it not been for the courage of the three stout men Robinson would in a short time have been swept over the Falls.

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feels her face wetted with this pure dew. By a prodigy of Thy goodness they flow as a balm to the suffering souls in that abyss from whence Thou hast not banished all hope. But of all, O my divine Master, the most precious are those of Ulrique, the faithful wife of one of the knights who fought in Thy cause. She shed them in silence in the monastery which served her as a refuge. Thou triest her, she blesses Thee; men betray her, and still she blesses Thee. In joy or in sorrow, for all that Thou sendest her she sings a hymn to Thy praise."

"Go," replied the voice, whose power revealed to me its divinity, "go and find Elroi, My faithful servant."

"The angel, who brow shone with the reflection of the rays from the immutable throne, disappeared in the azure fields. He hovered in a sweet, peaceful atmosphere; his wings made no noise in cleaving the luminous air. He arrived in the presence of the saint.

"My brother," said he, "there are some blessed tears."

"Children's tears change into sapphires," said the saint; "those of martyrs into rubies of a fiery color; and those of virgins into indolent opals. Those of Ulrique, O my brother, the Saviour commands to form into a priceless necklace."

"St. Elroi took the tears of fidelity, resignation and motherly love, when suddenly they glistened, united themselves, multiplied and became solid and of a crystalline splendor. The goldsmith of heaven joined the three rows of pearls with an emerald, engraved with the mysterious name of Christ, and returned the gems to the angel. This latter again descended to the earth, approached the trees under which I slept, raised my head, opened the casket, and shut up the necklace of tears within it. I awoke! it was broad daylight, and I thought with terror that at mid-day the fatal term expired, I hurried on, and arrived at the appointed hour. Your life is saved, and seeing in the sultan's hand a necklace like the one which during my dream the Angel of Tears enclosed in the casket, I saw and understood that heaven had worked a miracle in your favor."

"Let us humble ourselves before God," said Ludolphe, "never ceasing to praise His mercy."

By the sultan's orders horses and slaves were brought, and the presents were inclosed in boxes of precious wood. The knight might now quit Palestine. The Mussulman still held the necklace. The more he looked at it, the more he admired it, and felt his heart swell with compassion and generosity. The power of tears is so great that those of Ulrique though transformed, still softened this indomitable soul.

At length the sultan's approaching the knight, said: "Christian I cannot give the name of witchcraft to that which has just passed: a divine providence watches over you and I feel that I am not permitted to hurt a hair of your head. Return to your country take again your gold and this necklace without equal and offer it to your God and ask his mercy upon the infidel who knows your courage, admires your virtue and desires your friendship."

Ludolphe embraced the generous enemy and loaded with the treasures which the Mussulman forced him to accept went with his faithful page to the nearest port where a vessel bound for Europe took them on board and brought them safely to Marseilles.

At the news of his return Ludolphe's brother fled fearing the anger of the Emperor of Germany when he should hear of the felony of which the noble knight Ludolphe his friend, and in youth his companion in arms had been a victim. Three years later a magnificent church was erected in the place of the humble sanctuary dedicated to Saint Elroi and the holy face of the Madonna beamed upon the altar ornamented with the marvelous necklace of pearls. Henceforth the Angel of tears collected but tears of joy and gratitude from Ulriques eyes.

T. R. Colpitts of the Hudson Bay Studio has made a revolution in the price of Photos. He is now furnishing one dozen of his splendid Cabinets for \$1.50; Cards at from 50 cents to \$1.00, and other styles at corresponding rates.

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Vocal and Instrumental music will be rendered each evening of the week.

Other attractions are being arranged of which due notice will be given.

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2. Fancy Table—St. Mary's Table—Mrs. T. M. Quigley, N. Bawlf, D. Smith, Jos. Carey.
3. St. Joseph's Table—Mrs. Monchamp, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Guilmette, Mrs. Boucisse.

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