The Advertiser

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God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—[BROWNING.

London, Monday August 29.

THE TAX ON ESTATES.

Numerous inquiries have been made as to the act passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature for the collection of a succession duty from the estates of deceased persons which came into force on July 1 last. The ADVERTISER, therefore, supplies a synopsis of the provisions of the measure, which has been generally recognized as a very proper enactment.

The act does not apply (1) to any estate which after payment of debts and expenses of administration does not exceed in value $10,000; (2) to property given for religious, charitable or educational purposes, nor (3) to property passing to father, mother, husband, wife, child, grandchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of the deceased whose aggregate property does not exceed $100,000 in value. The act applies to all property of the deceased situate in Ontario, provided the deceased was domiciled in Ontario at any time within five years of his death, also to any such property voluntarily transferred in contemplation of death. When the estate passes in whole or part to persons named in exception (3) and exceeds $100,000 in value, the duty is $2 50 for every $100, and where the value exceeds $200,000 the duty is $5 for every $100. When the value of the estate exceeds $10,000 so much thereof as passes to grandfather, grandmother, brother or sister of deceased or their descendants or to brother or sister of father or mother of deceased or their descendants is subject to a duty of $5 for every $100 and so much thereof as passes to any other person in any other collateral degree of consanguinity or to any stranger in blood to the deceased is subject to a duty of 10 per cent. on the value, and it is provided as to such estates last named that where the whole value of any property passing to any one person does not exceed $200 it is exempt from duty.

Executors or administrators are required to file a sworn inventory of property and to give bonds for payment of duty. When the inventory is not considered satisfactory a valuation may be directed to be made by the sheriff, which is subject to appeal to the Surrogate judge. The duty is payable at the death of the deceased or within eighteen months thereafter, after which interest at 6 per cent. is payable—until paid the duty is a lien upon the property. The duty, however, on any estate or interest to take effect in the future shall not be payable nor interest begin to run thereon until the person or persons shall come into actual possession of the estate or interest. The time for payment may be extended by order of the Surrogate judge on its being shown that payment is impossible owing to causes over which the person liable to pay the duty has no control. Executors, administrators and trustees must deduct duty before delivering the property, and they have power to sell so much of it as may be necessary to pay the duty. The duty is payable to the Provincial Treasurer, or as he may appoint. The payment may be enforced by the order of the Surrogate judge, after notice to all the parties interested in the property liable to duty. Regulations are made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to carry out the provisions of the act.

The object of the act is declared by its preamble to be to provide a fund for defraying part of the Provincial expenditure for asylums for the insane and idiots, and for institutions for the blind, and for deaf mutes, and towards the support of hospitals and other charities, which expenditure has greatly increased of late years, and is expected to continue doing so.

THE OTHER BIG FAIR.

Toronto has the show of the east as London has the show of the west. The exhibitions are rivals, but rivals only in trying to excel in point of attractiveness. There is no jealousy in London and the west over the phenomenal success of the Toronto Fair in times gone by, and we are assured that the exhibition which opens in the rival city on Sept. 5 and continues till the 17th will be in every sense a success. Western people who desire to visit Toronto cannot do better than go during the time of the fair, which will be well worth the time spent in inspection. It will do them good to see the Toronto fair, and then contrast it with the fair of the west, which will be held in London from Sept. 19 to 24. They cannot miss the Western, but if they can find time and opportunity to see the fair of Toronto also so much the better.

"SOCIETY" AS IT IS.

Mrs. Amelia E. Barr, in the North American Review for September, has an interesting article on "Not in Society." She discourses somewhat severely on society people and their ways. "Every community," she says, "now has a goodly number of these social dissenters—men and women who are 'not in society,' and who are neither pained nor shamed by the fact, but rather avow it with the complaisance of clever people who have found out a fraud. These social dissenters are by no means from the unknown or unimportant classes. They are usually people of distinction, who live well, dress fashionably, pay their bills, are blameless in character, courteous, hospitable, and with no taint of cynicism in their nature; yet they 'save themselves' from their fellows, and, without explanations or regrets, refuse to add one more to the hundreds of persons leading a life that has no attraction for them. But as a rule there are few conditions in life which are not many-sided and capable of being defended on every side. And we must first notice that social secessionists are expecting society to be what society never purposes or wishes to be, and that therefore they might as justly complain that a man is a hedger or ditcher when he might be a poet or a preacher. Society never yet set itself to be good or great. It has no higher mission than to promote social pleasure and order, and the qualifications it requires are not piety or intellect but the ability to dress well, to say a great deal about nothing, to lead a dance, to keep every tittle of the rigid traditional law of uniformities, and in all disputed questions, or doubtful positions to imitate that truly great and wise man, the Levite, rather than the officious, demonstrative Samaritan. We must, of course, admit that this is a low moral and intellectual plane, but it is a plane which satisfies the aspirations and capabilities of the majority who tarry there; and all things in life are not equally happy and justifiable."

This is rather a sweeping assertion. There are, in every community, society people and society people. There are those of whom the pen-photograph given by the writer is correct in every particular. They are social busybodies, who do little else than talk about frivolous matters and dabble, as far as they can safely do it, in petty scandals. On the other hand, there are estimable men and women who mix freely with their fellows, and thoroughly enjoy social intercourse on the higher intellectual plane. They may not be so numerous as the class criticised by Mrs. Barr. "A saving remnant" may be the best title to apply to them. But who can doubt that their influence, properly exerted, is great? Happy the man who can find time and opportunity and disposition to enjoy social intercourse on this higher plane. It is in pleasant contrast to the life of the society moths and butterflies who misspend so much of their lifetime, while obtaining no lasting benefits from their trifling. That "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men" is a truism few will care to gainsay. What we need to strike is the happy medium. There is altogether too much trifling, squandering of valuable time, even in our methods of social enjoyment. We do not by any means make the most of our opportunities.

TOPICS OF TO-DAY.

The fiction in Harper's Magazine for September includes short stories by A. Conan Doyle and Margaret Sidney, and the continuation of the two serials, "Jane Field," by Mary E. Wilkins, and "The World of Chance," by William Dean Howells.

* * *

Harper's Weekly contains a complete set of illustrations from photographs of the riots in Tennessee and around Buffalo. There is also a graphic and entertaining description of Pekin, the capital of China, copiously illustrated. This is the seventh installment in the important series "The Capitals of the World." Among many other attractions in the same number there is an article on "Buffalo Bill in London," with a number of striking illustrations by Frederick Remington.

* * *

Hon. Chauncey F. Black, of Pennsylvania, has written for the September Forum a frank review of the trouble at Homestead, in which he makes an effort to point out a remedy for such conflicts. He proposes the incorporation of labor organizations on the same plan and plane with organizations of capital. David A. Wells will publish an explanation of the Real Meaning of a Tariff for Revenue, in which he sets forth the Democratic doctrine, in a style meant for a scholarly and thorough campaign document. Also there will appear in the September Forum two "Studies in Immigration"—one of the Scandinavians in the Northwest, by Prof. Kendric C. Babcock, of the University of Minnesota, who is writing a history of the Scandinavian Settlements in his States; and the other about "The Mine Laborers in Pennsylvania," by Henry Rood, who has made a special study of the social and civil life of these people from Southern Europe.

* * *

The ex-Empress Eugenie is at present at her beautiful English home in Farnborough. Her hair has become white as snow, and she can walk only with the aid of a stick. Passers by the entrance to the park are now confronted with the large board, inscribed "Trespassers will be prosecuted. These grounds are private." This notice has been found necessary, owing to the repeated intrusion of strangers at times when the Empress is herself walking in the gardens when she always wishes to obtain complete privacy. The public are courteously admitted at certain hours upon proper application being made, and, of course, the road to the Mausoleum is always accessible during the time that building is open to the public. Here again, however, the Empress has been obliged to more strictly regulate the visits of strangers, for only the other day some audacious individual had the impudence to steal her rosary off the desk in the chapel and flowers are repeatedly torn from the withered wreaths on the late Emperor's sarcophagus. When such acts occur, no wonder the people are deprived from many privileges they might otherwise enjoy. The Empress's seat and desk are now kept covered up, and the public are admitted four at a time only.

AN UNMITIGATED EVIL.

Hon. Adlai Stevenson Talks About the United States Tariff.

Protection a Delusion and a Snare for the Mechanic and Laborer,

And to the American Farmer a Hollow Mockery.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Aug. 28.—The Democratic national campaign in this State of Illinois was opened here yesterday with great enthusiasm. An immense crowd was present to hear Gen. Adlai Stevenson, the Vice-Presidential candidate; Senator John M. Palmer, Gen. Black and many noted Illinois Democratic leaders.

The tariff, said Gen. Stevenson in the course of his address, is the all-important issue of the campaign. The position of the two leading political parties upon that question cannot be misunderstood. The Republican party, as illustrated by its recent enactment of the McKinley law, stands for a high protective—in other words, a prohibitory tariff. The Democratic party, as emphasized by its utterances and its acts, is the advocate of tariff reform. The issue is squarely presented.

CLASS LEGISLATION.

After sketching the history of the high tariff, Mr. Stevenson said: The monopolists, growing year by year stronger and more powerful with the protection afforded them, demanded yet higher duties. In 1890 during the first session of the fifty-first Congress their demand was in substance for a prohibitory tariff. The response to this demand was the passage by a Republican Congress of the McKinley Bill. The avowed object of this bill was to check importation. Its purpose so to increase the rate of duties, as in many instances to exclude absolutely foreign goods from our markets, and thus by cutting off competition enable the home manufacturer without let or hindrance to fix the price of his wares. In a word, the McKinley law, by its prohibitory features, gave its beneficiaries a practical monopoly and enabled them, in fact, to levy an additional tax upon the consumer, to the extent that the duty had been increased. Was this legislation demanded by the people? Was it in their interest? Was it not class legislation of the most odious character—such legislation as enriches the few at the expense of the many?

It is worse than idle to speak of the benefits of the tariff to the American farmer. What he demands is both a foreign and a home market for the products of his farm. It is mockery to tell him he is protected against the corn and wheat products of the old world. While he is compelled to sell in the open markets of the world, he should be allowed the poor privilege of buying what his necessities require without paying a high tribute to the protected classes of his own country. To the mechanic and laborer no less than to the farmer protection has proved

A DELUSION AND A SNARE.

In no instance has it opened up to the farmer "additional market for a pound of meat or a bushel of grain." Has it in a single instance given to the mechanic or laborer increased wages? The present high tariff adds largely to the cost of articles necessary to the comfort of the wage earner. How has he been benefited? Has it increased his wages? Has it in any manner benefited his condition? Recent events connected with the most highly protected establishments of this country sadly attest the fact that a high protective tariff affords no protection to those who earn their bread by daily toil. It was never intended to benefit them. Long enough has the wage-earner been deluded by the cry that high tariff means high wages. Tariffs have no effect on wages, except to diminish their purchasing power. The higher the tariff the less the purchasing power of the wages. Wages are governed by the great law of supply and demand. If the claim of the protectionist is well founded why have not the wages increased as tariffs have increased? Why constant reduction of wages in the most highly protected establishments in the land?

ROBBERY OF THE POOR BY THE RICH.

In his great speech against the high tariff corn laws in the British Parliament in 1843, the matchless orator, Daniel O'Connell said: "But what is the meaning of protection? It means an additional sixpence for each loaf; that is the plain of it. If he had not the protection the loaf would sell for a shilling; but if he has protection it will sell for one and sixpence. Protection is the English for sixpence, and what is more, it is the English for an extorted sixpence. The real meaning of protection, therefore, is robbery—robbery of the poor by the rich."

I have shown that instead of a surplus of little less than $100,000,000 left by the Cleveland Administration, the treasury is now confronted by bankruptcy. This is the result in part of the reckless extravagance of a Republican Congress. It is in a large measure the

NECESSARY RESULT OF THE M'KINLEY TARIFF.

By that bill the treasury was deprived of $50,000,000 of revenue by repealing the sugar tax but, in order to compensate the sugar grower for this loss of the "protection" afforded him, $10,000,000 annually, for fifteen years, are to be paid him out of the treasury as a bounty. The consumer is to be deluded into the belief that he is the recipient of great benefits under the free sugar clause of this bill, while under another section of the same bill $10,000,000 are to be taken annually from the pockets of the taxpayers and given to the sugar growers. In addition to this, whatever benefit might come to the consumer by the free sugar clause of the bill is overbalanced many fold by the largely increased cost of woolen goods and of all other necessaries of life. The repeal of the sugar tax was simply intended to reconcile the consumer to the still greater taxes laid upon him. Heretofore, the persistent claim of the protectionist has been that tariff taxes are not paid by the consumer. Then why take so much credit to themselves for removing it? Is there not danger that the consumer may inquire, "If removing the tariff tax upon sugar lessens its cost, why would not the same blessed result follow a reduction of tariff taxes upon all the other necessaries of life?"

THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD.

The Democratic House of Representatives of the present Congress has passed a bill removing the increased duty imposed by the McKinley Bill upon tin plate, and providing that within a few years it shall go upon the free list. It has also passed the Free Wool and Cheap Clothing Bill, by which wool is admitted free of duty, and a large reduction sought to be effected in the tariff upon woolen goods of all descriptions. It has also removed the tariff upon binding twine. But for the hostility of a Republican Senate, these measures, so just, so beneficial to the people, would now be upon our statute books.

THE TAX ON RAW MATERIAL.

It is to the interest of manufacturer and consumer alike that in the main raw material be admitted free of duty. Working the raw material into the finished product would give employment to our skilled workmen. The reduction of tariff taxes to the minimum upon the necessaries of life is important to all of our people; it would prove of inestimable value to the millions who earn their bread by daily toil. To you the tariff is the all-important question. The question is not how much of your earnings shall be given to the support of the Government, but how much shall under the forms of law be seized by the favored—the "protected" classes.

The Democratic party wages no warfare on any business enterprise. We believe that the burdens of taxation should be equally distributed, and we oppose all legislation that enriches the few by taxing the many.

HEALTH OFFICER WANTED.

[Hamilton Times.]

Hamilton would be better prepared to fight a cholera invasion had it fewer cesspools and stinking inlets.

A FRIEND: SOME DEFINITIONS.

[London Tit Bits.]

This is the prize definition:

> The first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out.

The following are some of the best definitions submitted:

A bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help and love.

One who considers my need before my deservings.

The Triple Alliance of the three great powers, Love, Sympathy and Help.

One who understands our silence.

A jewel, whose luster the strong acids of poverty and misfortune cannot dim.

One who smiles on our fortunes, frowns on our faults, sympathizes with our sorrows, weeps at our bereavements and is a safe fortress at all times of trouble.

One who, having gained the top of the ladder, won't forget you if you remain at the bottom.

One who in prosperity does not ready you, in adversity assists you, in sickness nurses you and after your death marries your widow and provides for your children.

The holly of life, whose qualities are overshadowed in the summer of prosperity, but blossom forth in the winter of adversity.

He who does not adhere to the saying that No. 1 should come first.

A watch which beats true for all time and never "runs down."

An insurance against misanthropy.

An earthly minister of heavenly happiness.

A friend is like ivy—the greater the ruin, the closer he clings.

One who to himself is true, and therefore must be so to you.

The same to-day, the same to-morrow, either in prosperity, adversity or sorrow.

One who combines for you alike the pleasures and benefits of society and solitude.

One who acts as a balance in the see-saw of life.

One who guards another's interest as sacredly as his own and neither flatters nor deceives.

A nineteenth century rarity.

One who will tell you of your faults and follies in prosperity and assist you with his hand and heart in adversity.

One truer to me than I am to myself.

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