

THE TORONTO WORLD.

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About Ways and Means.

Perhaps Mr. Mowat is really anxious to get up the parliament buildings without delay, but fears to ask the house for money enough.

The opposition might be too good for the government, and might try to get to the country (or the province) on the question, too.

In such case let us suggest a certain proposal, which was the subject of conversation among real estate men last summer, and probably before.

Decide that the big farm now called the lunatic asylum grounds is to be sold off in city lots, and the institution moved west—say to Mimico, or thereabouts.

In the opinion of some who ought to be good judges, that sale would bring in money enough to put up splendid new parliament buildings, with half a million or a million dollars to spare.

As the money's worth would have been created out of the growth and expansion of Toronto, the county or municipalities would not easily be able to show where the plan that they had been plundered would go in.

Of course the asylum grounds could not be sold and the money realized in one year, or in five years, perhaps not in ten years.

But the government's credit is good; and it can afford to wait. If need be it can borrow money to two per cent less than it would be warranted by custom in charging to purchasers on time.

This is what will have to be done some day, and it looks as if the present might be a good time to do it.

"I Told You So."

Now that Gordon's mission to Khartoum has resulted in disaster, the prophets of "I told you so," are having their own time.

It comes out that King Leopold of Belgium wanted Gordon to go to Central Africa as head manager there for the International Association, in its dealings with the native tribes, chiefly along the Congo river.

Gordon himself was prepared to accept, and would even have resigned his commission in the British army but the war office overruled, and sent him to Khartoum instead, with the provision that he might take the Congo province afterwards.

So a recent cable despatch says, but still a very important point is not wholly cleared up. Did Gordon himself insist upon going to the Congo, and was he really "overruled" by the war office, or was the responsibility to be laid on the war office itself; though it may be said that Gordon might have refused to go at all.

Among the things which "might have been," let us suppose this. That a strong British position had been established in Cairo, also a good solid base of operations on the Red sea. In such case what could the mahdi have done, supposing him to have been very eager to do something? If he presented himself before Cairo, or Suakin, or Massawa, he would have got to make him with the mahdi stay in the desert, where he belongs. But by a British force going into the desert, to fight him on his own ground, he is given an immense advantage, which otherwise no act of his could have obtained. It will occur to many people to ask—why did ever Gordon go to Khartoum at all? But for Gordon's having been there, a hundred thousand Arab spearmen might have roved, and charged, and killed, and burnt, and burnt, without being able to kill a single British soldier, or to conquer Egyptian territory.

But it charged all that when a British officer trusted himself in a city of the desert, and when it became necessary to send an expedition to relieve him. Much interest now attaches to the question—did Gordon himself insist on going to Khartoum, or was it the war office that sent him there? The truth will come out by and by.

Catching Emigrants.

The London, England, correspondent of the Globe describes with much apparent satisfaction how the British centre of population are being littered with Canadian emigration literature, issued partly by the federal government and partly by the Canadian Pacific railway. If those documents are devoted to descriptions of Northwest lands, and truthful statements of the resources required by settlers there upon, well and good; but our knowledge of the world's style of the authors of such literature leaves us a little reason to hope that the case has been calmly and judiciously stated. In the present distressed condition of the English industrial classes, their minds are easily open to any suggestion of a change that may be made by them, and this one remedy placed before them by politicians and philanthropists, who were glad to be rid of the sight of the "emigration" to the colonies.

Under such circumstances Canadian pamphlets and posters may appeal strongly to the farmer and the capitalist, and the coming spring may see our dependent labor markets flooded with thousands of recruits to the already overcrowded ranks of labor.

The government should not spend another cent upon emigration literature until the time shall have taken a pronounced turn for the better.

The Province and the Census.

The Globe is right in demanding "dollar for dollar" for Ontario. The truth is that the lower provinces have their taxation and expenditure arranged on a bad basis, in consequence of which they are always coming to Ottawa and asking for more. Expenses that in Ontario are met by township and county taxation are down below paid out of provincial funds.

Let our fellow citizens down by the sea take themselves right at home, as we do, and the necessity for continued demands upon the dominion will cease.

M. Baldwin established in Ontario a municipal system of decentralization, the avowed object of which was to take from the province and to give to the county, as much as possible.

In pursuance of this idea, municipal liabilities were largely increased. The result was to relieve the general government of a great deal of expenditure, the people taxing themselves directly for it in their own counties. Of course the powers of the local bodies were largely increased too. And this was what Baldwin was driving at all the time. He wanted to make the county councils strong and self-reliant, in order that they might be the better able to resist irresponsible or arbitrary rule, should that at any time threaten the country from the centre.

It is beyond his power to apply this decentralization system to Lower Canada, but he did carry it out in Upper Canada to the farthest verge that he found practicable.

Now, the Ontario reformers of our time have gone back on Baldwin's principles, with a vengeance. The provincial government has seized upon appointments right and left, and has systematically robbed the municipalities of powers that Robert Baldwin made it the labor of the last years of his life to create for them. We say most emphatically that this is not reform. It is going backwards, and the best name for it is provincial tyranny.

Had there been a Baldwin in the lower provinces, they would have had such extension of municipal taxation and municipal control as Baldwin established for Upper Canada. Then, perhaps, local expenses that are now paid by provincial governments down by the sea, would have been paid by county taxation instead, and the cry for more subsidies would not have been heard at Ottawa. At all events it would have been very much weaker, that we may be sure of.

The situation in Upper Canada (Ontario) is now a most remarkable one. The local or county responsibility for expenditure, which Baldwin created, yet remains, and holds good. But the powers of local government, which the great reformer of forty years ago created, to balance the responsibilities, have been grabbed by Mr. Mowat. Mr. Mowat's war upon municipal rights is a historical fact which cannot be got over.

England, Italy and Turkey.

Somebody seems to be egging Turkey on to get into trouble over the Egyptian campaign. That somebody will by many be found in Biarritz, as the father of all diplomatic mischief, but it is quite possible that the emissaries of France and Russia have several fingers in the pie. It is a general rule that the ports should feel irritated and annoyed at the spectacle of England making war upon what is nominally Turkish territory, against the faithful followers of Mohammed.

Italy's intervention affords an excuse for the expression of that annoyance without openly quarrelling with an old-time friend and protector. Italy's position in Egypt is an anomalous one, superficially considered, but Garibaldi's reply to the port's protest makes it plain that what Italy has done has been done with England's knowledge and consent. A collision between Constantinople and Rome would be a source of great satisfaction in Berlin, Paris, Vienna and St. Petersburg, but England's influence, ought to prevent any such misfortune. Garibaldi quarantines the maintenance of Turkish supremacy in Egypt. Considering that that supremacy has for years been ignored by all the European powers, and that England practically rules the country, this assurance must have impressed the Sultan's representative as a very good thing of its kind.

Marrying and giving in marriage is one of the principal pursuits of the prolific house of Guelph. John Bull had liberally, though somewhat sulkily, dowered each one of the queen's many sons and daughters as they stood up in their turn before the altar to be wed, and was just congratulating himself that the last of the long list had been reached in the person of Beatrice, when the announcement was made that the first of the second crop was ripe; and that the Prince of Wales' eldest son had been betrothed to the eldest daughter of the king of Belgium. So John must soon pull out the old leather wallet again, and in spite of hard crops and idle machinery count down enough gold to set up another household. More than this, Albert Victor has a number of brothers and sisters fast approaching marriage and womanhood, for whom wedding bells will soon ring, at Mr. Bull's expense, of course. The old gentleman naturally asks himself where this sort of thing is going to stop.

A subscriber asks us to let him know why Gen. Wolsey took his expedition up the Nile instead of going by the Red sea, with Suakin or Massawa, or both for a base of operations. We can only say that the general himself best knows that. His choice of the Nile route has been vigorously attacked by military critics, and by recent advertisements the world seems to have the best of the Nile expedition.

It is, however, to be remembered that the Nile, in the opinion of the British, indicates that the plan of operating on the South from the Red sea has been definitely adopted, both governments

PEDRO IN NEW ORLEANS.

A LAST VISIT TO THE SHOW AND ADIEU TO THE CITY.

The Mexican Department—Advice to Incoming Visitors—Toronto the Queen of the West.

Editor World: I have paid my last visit to the exhibition and find the Mexican department complete. Egozo Ruiz, the gentleman in charge, went through it with us, explaining each article of manufacture. All are in special cases; these he unlocked in order that we could handle their contents. The dress of a Mexican well is rather costly. Fancy one of our King street, ladies, paying \$500 for his street rig? What a shot for the tailor, if he got the cash. The horse trappings were in the same order, nothing being too good or too showy. In China we have some very fanciful articles, except in price. I asked our guide the selling price of some China jugs and vases. He at once reminded me that they only exhibited and they had nothing for sale, nor did they intend to sell any one article. Still I wanted to know the price of the various articles. The Chinese man would charge the Mexican man \$1 for an exhibit, but in all interest, from one end of it to the other. The samples of hardware and their minerals are in splendid order, and the whole together made our party feel that they were in charge of the whole concern—the exhibit, the band and the company of artists. The living party are to visit the falls ere they return to their homes. I asked them to visit Toronto. We exchanged cards and if our guide comes here, if not others, will see our beautiful city. The Russian department is not yet complete.

Washingtonians are in full force with their water engines, and operate with a large pond of water. They send sprays to the top of the buildings. I paid another visit to the cattle and horse. Many have been removed, they say, to make room for sheep. The poultry show is very nice, and the carriage department is now in capital order, every style of vehicle and carriage that all the world meets will be complete ere the "Mardi Gras" is over.

Our friends tried to get us through the ticket at starting and at this critical moment a captain, who examines the two signatures. If a fraud he counts the tickets and hands you over to a constable, but he is locked at it. "You're all right," and off we went down the city to get our "good bye."

I took my ticket to be signed again by myself. It had to be presented at the railroad office in the building. You sign your name on the ticket at starting and at this critical moment a captain, who examines the two signatures. If a fraud he counts the tickets and hands you over to a constable, but he is locked at it. "You're all right," and off we went down the city to get our "good bye."

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The undersigned respectfully announce that we have been awarded the gold medal at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, 1876, and the gold medal at the International Exhibition in London, 1883, for our grand piano.

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