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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, AUG. 20, 1886

THE SITUATION.

When the organization and rules of the Knights of Labor were condemned at Rome, members of the order alleged that an appeal would be made against this decision with every hope of success. We pointed out, at the time, that success in this move was extremely improbable; and now a letter from Cardinal Simeoni, written in answer to enquiry made by Cardinal Taschereau, confirms the previous decision. No other result could have been expected. But the delusions which surround the subject die hard. Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, is given as authority for the statement that the decision of Rome, which is based on the organization and rules of the order, does not apply to the United States. How an exception can be made, in a matter of this kind, it is impossible to understand. At Rome, all secret societies are condemned, and this among the rest. It is easy to understand that the decision of Rome might not be pressed with the same energy in one country as in another. The Knights can escape this condemnation only by ceasing to be a secret society and altering their rules, in what way or to what extent does not appear. The decision of Rome may prove to be a boomerang, and may injure in about equal degrees the authority by which is given and the order against which it is directed.

A new obstacle is sought to be put in the way of the trade in fish between Canada and the United States. The Customs' authorities of Boston, by a special exercise of ingenuity, have discovered, what nobody suspected before, that canned mackerel is canned meat. The old distinction between fish and flesh is, by this discovery, abolished. The new local ruling of the Hub officials conflicts with that of the Washington authorities. Meanwhile, their new decision has the effect of legislation, by which the duty is raised from 25 to 100 per cent. The trade is thrown into confusion. On the new basis existing contracts become simply ruinous. An appeal to Washington for an authoritative decision there must be, in some form. It may be in the form of an appeal against the

local ruling, in a particular case, or may proceed upon a general statement of the facts. In the meantime, American importers of Canadian mackerel appear to be stunned and are at a loss what course to take.

At the annual convention of the American Association of Bankers, just held in Boston, the President, Mr. Lyman J. Gage, said banking in the States was necessarily carried on, for the most part, "without the advantages of a long preparatory training." And the case was made worse by the fact that "the many precedents and established usages which in other countries are looked to as a guide, do not here exist." In this state of matters it is surprising that more errors are not committed and disastrous results more frequently reached. If on the practical side of banking those defects exist, we may expect to find greater in the economic direction. As a rule, bankers are not political economists; a defect the necessity of curing which the President implied when he expressed the desire to see the organization made an "avenue through which should be poured the healthful influence of a better knowledge of the true laws of our politico-social-economic life." Every special interest has a right to be heard, though the final decision of the legislature should in all cases be in the general interest of the public.

Mr. Horton, of Ohio, though not a banker, was allowed to address the convention on the silver question. He showed the strength of his faith by declaring his belief that a bull movement of the governments would suffice to bring up the value of silver, now at about 40 per cent. discount, to par. Whether this could be done or not it is scarcely worth while to discuss, since combined action for the purpose cannot be obtained. Something might be effected, in this way, provided the requisite machinery could be set in motion. There is absolutely no hope of bringing silver to an equality with gold on the basis of the proportion that long ruled, and the sooner the delusion that this restoration can be accomplished is got rid of the better. The practical evil from which the United States is suffering is the excess of useless coined silver. That portion of it which is in circulation, through the proxy of the certificate, offers the greatest danger, because to that extent it displaces gold. Unless the coinage of silver cease, the descent of the nation to an inferior currency cannot be stopped; and ex-Secretary McCulloch is right in the opinion that to go on is to incur the certain danger of being driven to an exclusive silver standard.

On the whole, the protective service of the Canadian government, on the fishery coast, has until recently, been admitted to be reasonably effective. But the cruisers cannot be everywhere, and the poachers who are numerous have an advantage over the cruisers which are few. A Charlottetown journal, not likely to use wilful exaggeration, reports that seventy

sail of U. S. vessels were fishing off Mininagash, on two successive days, within the prohibited space, and no cruisers were in sight; also that forty sail were doing the same thing off West Point, with like impunity. If there be no doubt about the fact, depredation to this extent ought to be preventable and prevented. Similar statements are made regarding Nova Scotia, but in a way to create a suspicion of exaggeration. Still if half what is said be true, the preventative service is not so effective as it might be and ought to be. Experience will doubtless teach greater vigilance.

In this fishery embroglio, American as well as Canadian laws have sometimes been violated. Certain Canadian fishing boats have been registered in the United States as American bottoms. The American navigation laws do not sanction these transfers. In most cases, these changes of nationality are only colorable; appearances are saved, the assumed American bottom being placed in charge of an American citizen. In this way the sardine packers of Eastport get fish indispensable to their business which would not otherwise be within their reach. This trick has been resorted to principally by Canadian fishermen resident at Deer Island, Campobello and other adjacent islands. One violation of law suggests another; and since, the illegally transferred boats have not scrupled to smuggle goods into Canada from Eastport, in which venture they have at length been caught..

A discussion recently took place at a meeting of the Association of the Chambers of the United Kingdom on the problem of federating the chambers of commerce of Great Britain and Ireland with those of the colonies, "so as to be mutually helpful in all questions affecting their common interests." This, Mr. Sampson Lloyd suggested, might be done by the Colonial Chambers joining some body like the English Associated Chambers of Commerce. But he did not ignore the difficulty arising out of difference of tariffs, and the political and commercial circumstances under which Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade exist in the colonies. In the absence of federation, he thought more intimate communications between Chambers of Commerce in different parts of the Empire would lead to good results. Some fifteen years ago, the British Associated Chambers sought closer communication with the Chambers of the continent; but they found it impossible to reconcile interests diametrically opposed. The interference of tariffs was one great difficulty, and it exists, if in a less degree, between the colonies and the mother country. A committee was formed to take the question into consideration, so we may expect to hear of the subject again.

The London Chamber of Commerce has recently been made to understand, by the government, that there is a limit to the extent to which British consuls and ministers resident in foreign countries may go in