

Mercier is little more than a plea of not guilty, especially as at one time he went so far as to deny the receipt of the money. Not only did he do this, but when M. Trudel had communicated the fact in writing to a third party, M. Mercier drafted a letter which he tried through an intermediary to get him to sign, in which the letter M. Trudel was said to have written was denounced as a forgery resorted to for the purpose of propagating calumny. M. Trudel was not to be led into the trap, and the exposure followed. But M. Mercier is not the only one whom this enquiry has hit; for if he received a bribe, the opposing party paid it, and if he fell, his fall was due to the temptation of his political enemies.

AN unfounded attempt has been made to account for the criticism to which a late judicial appointment has been subjected. Mr. O'Connor, it has been said, has been objected to because he is a self-made man, who commenced at the lowest round of the ladder and worked his way to the position he now occupies. No person of sense would think of making such an objection, and so far as we are aware it has not been made. In this democratic country such an objection would bring under the social ban a very large number of people. In England Sugden was not the less valued as a judge because he was the son of a barber. A lady who made a great figure in the society of Montreal was once reminded by an English officer that he had met a wealthy tradesman at her house. "Oh," said Madame D. "you must not mind that; in this country we are most of us tradesmen." No: on the ground alleged, there is no objection to the appointment of Mr. O'Connor; the objection is that a selection should be made with the view of influencing the vote of a section of the population, which happens this time to be the Irish Roman Catholics. Had Mr. Rose been personally objectionable his appointment would have met the same criticism; but, being acceptable on the ground of fitness, nothing was said in the way of objection.

ONCE more the Dynamiters have called public attention to their existence, this time by striking a blow in the French-Canadian city of Quebec. The two explosions which, in different parts of the new legislative buildings, took place in rapid succession, show that there was some plan, perhaps worked out by machinery, for timing the explosions. The legislative buildings are in some sort an embodiment of the Province of Quebec, against which it is impossible to conceive that the Dynamiters could have had a grudge. The outrage is wanton, and so far as the victim is concerned utterly causeless. So unexpected was the blow that a warning said to have been given by letter was regarded as a hoax. In the person who sent the letter an incipient informer may lurk; and if so, the reward of four thousand five hundred dollars for the discovery of the perpetrator of the deed may bring the secret to light.

AGAIN Mr. Blake has levelled a passing objection at the coal and bread taxes. For these duties no valid excuse can be offered. But a few words of criticism uttered at a banquet in Montreal is much less likely to be effective than a well-directed movement for repeal in the House of Commons. No such movement has yet been made by either party. The truth is, the hope of capturing the Nova Scotia vote makes both parties willing that these duties should remain. The coal and bread taxes offer a fine opportunity for the Opposition to raise a distinct issue in Parliament, but so far it has failed to do so. Nothing is to be gained by party leaders growing eloquent against the coal duties in Montreal while they are silent on the subject in Nova Scotia and ignore the question in Parliament. Taxes on coal and bread deserve condemnation everywhere and at all times, and until the Opposition proposes their abolition in Parliament its inaction will continue to make it a sharer in the responsibility of their continuance.

THE distress which has overtaken the fishermen of Labrador, owing to the failure of the fishery on the coast, is a contingency which is at any time liable to happen. The economic conditions under which these poor men carry on their industry afford no guarantee against the consequences of the occasional failure of the fishery at a given point. They, like the fishermen of Newfoundland, receive advances each year to enable them to carry on their operations, and when the sea has yielded its harvest the product is already heavily mortgaged. The failure of the fishery, a calamity to which sedentary fishermen are peculiarly liable, leaves them without any resource to fall back upon. A recurrence of the evil cannot be prevented so long as the fishery is carried on at the risk of poor fishermen, without sufficient capital at their disposal to enable them to cover the losses sustained at one point by the profits of a widely extended enterprise. Dutch fishing companies, which formerly carried on the fishery in

Davis Strait on a large scale, continuously divided heavy profits for a whole century. Under this plan, whatever its general merits or demerits, the working fishermen were never reduced to the extremity of despair from want and hunger. By a systematic application of capital to the business of fishing, local famines among the fishermen of Labrador and Newfoundland could easily be prevented, and there is absolutely no other remedy.

MR. GEORGE HAGUE, of the Merchants' Bank, complaining of the competition of the Government Savings Banks for deposits, suggests that the rate paid by these institutions should be one per cent. less than the banks pay. When one person undertakes to advise another what he should or should not pay for any particular thing, especially if the dispenser of the advice be a rival in business, he is not likely to find a willing listener. The object of the advice is, of course, to cause a transfer of the deposits from the Government Savings Banks to the chartered banks. The theory of the Government appears to be that it may fairly allow on deposits the rate it has to pay on loans in the open market. Mr. Hague replies that the effect of this policy is to compel the banks to pay more than they otherwise would be required to pay for deposits, and that commerce suffers in consequence. It cannot be said that there is any real antagonism of interest; for the Government can have no object in borrowing in this form rather than in another. But it may have a theory about its duty to provide a place of deposit for the savings of persons who do not keep bank accounts. It may fairly be questioned whether these savings are put to the best use when, after being borrowed, they are treated as part of the revenue of the country, instead of being employed, through the medium of the banks, in commerce or reproduction. Revenue these receipts are not; they form additions to the floating debt; and, if they are to swell the public debt at all, the increase should be in the funded form.

HUNTINGTON, Oregon, has been the scene of an outrage which marks in a special manner the real cause of the Opposition to Chinese immigrants. The labourers of other nationalities resident in the town came to a resolution that no Chinamen should be employed there. To enforce this decree, resort to violence speedily followed. An attack was made upon the Chinese quarter of the town, houses were gutted, personal property destroyed, money stolen, and the Chinese driven away. Other acts of violence, including the burning of a school-house, were committed. The despatch which gives an account of the affair adds significantly that no arrests were made. The attack on these Chinese workmen was made for the purpose of getting rid of their competition in the labour market. The spirit which prompted this outrage and inspired Congress to prevent the immigration of Chinese labourers is attempting to apply the same exclusion at Canadian ports. The anti-Chinese cry is not confined to British Columbia, the only Province in which Chinese immigration has been felt; it is echoed in Ontario, where a Chinaman is seldom seen. The few that have come here are employed in laundries, where they fill a gap in the ranks of labour; and their earnings are not so inconsiderable as to make good the objection usually urged against them. Cheap labour from other countries is not more welcome to the Irish and other labourers against whom it brings competition than Chinese labour. Italian labourers excite the same jealousy and meet the same opposition. That labour market is not free which is not open to all. To exclude some for the benefit of others is prohibition in its worst form. When the prohibition of immigrants commences by an attack on one nationality, circumstances must determine how far the rule of exclusion shall be carried at some future time. To-day the Chinaman is locked out; to-morrow the Italian may be threatened; and the day may come when the Irishman, who now votes for exclusion, may find himself of less value to the politician than at present. When the agricultural lands are all occupied, the great field for the employment of new comers will not be able to afford room for so many additional labourers, and those whom it will be possible to employ will obtain less returns from a soil of which the original fertility will have been exhausted. When the struggle for existence becomes fiercer, how is the rule of exclusion which has been set up in the name of American labour likely to work? If there be a desire to maintain an artificial scale of wages when the soil yields diminished returns for the labour expended on it, the temptation to put a check on the increase of labourers will be much stronger than at present. Exclusion can scarcely be maintained against a single nation without extending to others: either it must be abandoned altogether or the danger of its extension must be encountered.

WHATEVER else may be said of Mr. Gladstone's administration it can hardly be said to have been fortunate. The superior magnitude of the difficulties in Egypt and in Ireland has diverted attention from that in