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TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1901.

THE SITUATION.

That anarchy tends to become ubiquitous we are unpleasantly reminded by the shooting of President McKinley. The latest phase of anarchy, which has arisen in Italy, discards the old policy of murdering the heads of States, but unhappily the improvement has not reached the United States, where anarchists feel themselves at liberty openly to preach murder. Czolgosz is said to have been inspired with the spirit of a murderer by a woman's lecture. If this be so, perhaps even the Republic will become convinced that murderous teaching is criminal, and must be treated as such; that the line between liberty and license is real and must be observed, if society is to be preserved. Regicide, as a doctrine, is not new; it has before now been preached by professed religious teachers; but it is a damnable thing, and must be dealt with before it is translated into act. This is one of the precautions against danger which it is necessary to take; if we wait till the anarchist has a pistol in his pocket, we increase the risk many fold. Guards proved of no use, though present at the side of President McKinley, to stay the assassin's hand; and it is to be feared that they never will prove entirely efficacious. In the anarchist, the best instincts of human nature are transformed into the most hideous passions. The man who becomes so penetrated with an idea that in the wild attempt, as a matter of supposed duty, to realize it, he himself goes to certain death, would seem to have been capable of heroic virtues, if his best instincts had not been perverted. He forfeits all title to bravery, and acts like a poltroon, when he attacks a man unawares and under circumstances which allow the victim no chance of defending himself. Czolgosz boasts of having done his duty in shooting Mr. McKinley; such a horrible perversion of the conception of duty is a most deplorable thing, the more so that conscientious ideas of duty to be performed are none too common among men.

Before the assassin delivered his, we hope, ineffectual blow, President McKinley had declared, in general terms, in favor of reciprocity with Canada. What this means may be better understood by recalling the fact when the highest protective tariff ever enacted at Washington was on the way, he prevented a treaty of reciprocity being agreed upon, though a Canadian agent had gone to Washington, on the express invitation of Secretary Blaine, to confer with the Washington authorities on the subject, Mr. McKinley, who could then prevent any agreement being made on the subject of reciprocity with Canada, could, by his countenance, render effective aid in the making of an agreement. This would require but a word from him. The President recognizes that the stage at which the industrial development of the United States has arrived requires a new policy. In a speech, delivered in Buffalo eight days ago, he said: "The period of exclusiveness is passed." He thinks that the tariff should now be used to promote foreign trade; as to the method, he named reciprocity as "the natural outgrowth of our wonderful industrial development." This seems clearly to indicate that the President recognizes the difference between the present and the past, and that now the reciprocity phase of commercial development has come. These are general terms of course; but they indicate that he is no longer, as he once was, opposed to reciprocity with Canada. We are however not sanguine that a satisfactory treaty can be made.

Mr. Tarte rejects, very properly it seems to us, the proposals of Mr. Wolvin and his associates in connection with the harbor of Montreal. These gentlemen asked the Canadian Government to lend them \$500,000 at five per cent. They proposed to build ten vessels for the Canadian trade, as part of their scheme, and they asked to have those vessels admitted to Canadian register free of duty. Mr. Tarte rejects both propositions, as unreasonable. These rejections are fatal to the whole scheme of these gentlemen. Out of the \$1,000,000 loan Mr. Tarte has already authorized the expenditure necessary to build one elevator, in the centre of the harbor, which will cost \$600,000. Speaking of the harbor of Montreal, Mr. Tarte says: "We have no permanent freight sheds, we have no cranes, we have no system of sidings and rails on the wharves, we have no terminal facilities." This is plain speaking; and he points out further that the city has lost much trade by want of proper facilities to do it. The Government loan of \$1,000,000 will almost certainly become a Government investment. The Minister of Public Works has by law the function of approving the plans for improvements. So far Government responsibility goes with Government money: in all such cases the control of the Government is the necessary accompaniment of its responsibility. If anything goes wrong, no one but the Government can be called to account. Mr. Wolvin has replied to Mr. Tarte, complaining that he has not been fairly treated; but the terms of his letter are not yet (Thursday) before us.

A grave scandal is seething in Montreal over a contract for electric lighting. In June, tenders were received for this service, one from the Royal naming \$95 per arc light for a year, and another from the St. Lawrence Power Company offering to do the same work for \$54.75. In September the city council, ignoring the lower tender, offered to give the Royal \$60 for what another thoroughly