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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, SEP. 11, 1885

### THE SITUATION.

Effective measures to crush out the small-pox in Montreal, and to prevent its spreading, have at last been taken. The first step was the appointment of a Provincial Board of Health, on the suggestion of the City of Montreal. The most decisive step taken in Montreal is a house-to-house vaccination, which can alone stamp out the scourge. All other measures are at best palliatives: for while the liability to take the small-pox existed, it would continue to spread. It is a singular fact that, on the occasion of the present outbreak, the only medical man who has advised resistance to vaccination is an Englishman named Dr. Ross. The heads of the Roman Catholic Church, now convinced of the true remedy, are doing all in their power to ensure its application. Bishop Fabre accepts the declaration of an assembly of medical men, that small-pox is essentially contagious, and that isolation of patients is of the first necessity. It will take some time to make vaccination universal, and in a percentage of instances no effect will follow, in which cases the subjects would probably be liable to take small-pox. But wherever vaccination has been general, a visitation of small-pox has ceased to be a thing to be dreaded.

The Madrid populace, in making hostile demonstrations before the German embassy did its best to bring about a rupture with Germany. But King Alfonso and his ministers are doing all they can, in opposition to the popular manifestations, to smooth down matters. An apology for the outrage to the German ambassador was promptly made. The opposition in Spain seems to be doing what it can to increase the popular fury, being willing apparently to get office at the risk of war. The Emperor William may be trusted to see that the incident of the seizure of Yap does not lead to war, if the passion of Spain will permit of the maintenance of peace. On the face of it, Germany was in the wrong in seizing Yap, though it would be difficult or impossible for Spain to prove a clear title to the whole of the islands; but Germany, as we understand it, declares the seizure to have been unauthorized. The logical course would be

for her to let go her hold; and this she is willing to do on two conditions; that Spain shall agree to arbitration, and not to occupy the disputed territory till the question of title can be settled. A year ago, Germany had not a foot of colonial territory; now she has colonial territory in several places, and is probably bent on getting all she can.

Never until recently did Parnell denounce agrarian outrages in Ireland; and now when he does raise his voice against them he is not obeyed. Perhaps it is too late; certain it is that there is an unruly element in the country beyond his power of control. He has at length been silently outbidden; and as always happens in such conflicts, the element of extreme violence gets the mastery. By breaking with this element Parnell shows where his weakness lay; to his silent pandering to it formerly it is now evident he owed his sway over the masses. If he cannot even enforce a truce, it is not probable that he will long remain the uncrowned king which he has been described to be; and a more unscrupulous leader will arise and will exercise his power under no other restriction than that imposed upon him by the necessity of not openly countenancing outrages. So long as Parnell pursued this course, so long as his silence sanctioned outrages, no limit was put to his power; but whenever he utters a command to the perpetrators of agrarian crimes to observe a truce, his powerlessness to enforce obedience becomes apparent.

The announcement recently made that the Salvation Army contemplates sending to Canada a large number of women who have been taken from the streets and undergone an alleged reforming process, has been received here in the only way in which it could have been received. The protest against it has been general. Canada is greatly in want of female servants; but she does not intend to take the risk of being supplied in this way. If any shipment of this class of females were to be made, it would have to be opposed. What has been done in the case of Chinese laborers, with little show of reason, would find emphatic justification in the case in question. In a word, the reception of these immigrants would have to be refused.

Reports say that the silver advocates in the United States Congress are too strong to permit the unconditional repeal or suspension of the silver purchase and silver coinage law, but that they are willing to consent to suspension of coinage on condition that provision be made for the deposit in the treasury of silver bullion. If all the silver advocates wanted was a place of deposit, a warehouse could be made to answer the purpose, and for proof of deposit a warehouse receipt would answer as well in the case of silver as of any other commodity. The fact that the national treasury is asked to be made a place of deposit is suspicious; and everything would hang on the question what sort of deposit certificates is to be given. If it were merely a deposit receipt giving the holder the right to the amount of silver mentioned, it would be harmless;

but if it arbitrarily fixed the price of silver and made the silver certificates a legal tender, then it would probably prove more mischievous than the present law which limits the coinage to two millions of dollars a month, for the amount of silver bullion going into circulation through the agency of deposit receipts would be unlimited. Such an arrangement could not be long in bringing the United States to a degraded silver standard. It is of course impossible to judge accurately of the measure, now said to be in preparation, until the precise nature of it is known.

The fishermen of Newfoundland, who carry on their operations on the banks have had a successful season so far. The catch varies of course. The exports of 1884, ending July 31, included 1,733,417 quintals of dry cod; and the total value of exported fish of all kinds was \$9,081,186, larger than any other year by \$1,000,000. As the St. John's Chamber of Commerce points out, the cholera may interfere with shipments to Spain, but the cholera will cease during winter when shipments will be made. The demand will only be diminished by any curtailing of the ability of Spain to buy. The number of young seals on the coast is said to be diminishing, but if so the diminution is not great. The Nova Scotian, Norwegian and French fishermen are said to have all had a successful season. The supply of this form of food is therefore likely to be plentiful; a circumstance that can scarcely fail to have an effect upon its price.

Dr. Covernton, chairman of the Ontario Board of Health, in his report on the outbreak of smallpox in Montreal, into which he has been examining, recommends strong precautionary measures by the Ontario Government, including the examination of all passengers by vessel or rail, together with the luggage, clothing, and freight, before being allowed to land, and that if any infected person be found on board he be sent to the isolation hospital; that no luggage or freight be allowed to be landed until it has been thoroughly disinfected; the prohibition to remove on their arrival in Ontario; "rags or clothing shipped by boat, rail-car, or other conveyance, as merchandise from Montreal or other infected locality," unless authenticated by a properly signed certificate from an Ontario health officer, that such articles were properly disinfected before shipment. In view of the recommendations of this report having been acted upon by the Ontario Government shippers of goods in infected places will do well to secure disinfection and the necessary certificate thereof. The inference from these recommendations is that after disinfection all danger passes away.

Nobody will be surprised at the unanimous decision of the Manitoba Court in the Riel case. It sweeps away all objections to the jurisdiction of the court by which the culprit was condemned and maintains the constitutionality of the law by which the court was constituted. Never was there a feebler criticism than that which takes ex-