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W. F. MACLEAN.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 15, 1884.

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England at a Crisis.

The Montreal Herald has for its English correspondent Mr. G. L. Holyoake, who has for a number of years been conspicuous as a liberal, a friend of the working classes, and a "secularist." Over the signature of "Observer," somebody, dating from Montreal, writes to our contemporary, charging Mr. Holyoake with a bit of inconsistency. For, whereas Mr. Holyoake some time ago pooh-poohed the apprehensions of those who thought that a time of trial was coming upon England, saying that "the coming convulsion will not come"—now he has changed his mind altogether, and sees things in quite another light. Under date of August 27 Mr. Holyoake thus wrote to the Herald:

"England has not been so hot for untold years as it has been of late, and John Bull has never been so busy with political meetings and demonstrations since 1832 as he is at this time. Every town and village, every public hall, valley and mountain side has been the scene of demonstration against the peers. Lord Carnarvon has just told us that the agitation against the lords has touched the slumbering conservatism of England. It has done more. It has touched the slumbering liberalism. Go where you will over the land, in the heart of Wales, or amid the mountains and floods of Scotland, where only curious tourists venture, the visitor finds a demonstration going on."

What we have heard by cable since the above was written shows that the reform agitation, so far from cooling down, is getting hotter and hotter all the time. The situation appears to be a very grave one, for England, and we may well fear that there is more of folly than of wisdom in the prevailing bent of the public mind.

On the continent of Europe an extraordinary spectacle is presented just now. Germany, which before scarcely knew what a colony was, or cared to have any colonies at all, is all at once seized with a burning desire to appropriate as much as possible of Western Africa; Austria, which has scarce a seaport, sends out five ships of war on a roving commission, to hunt up business for Austrian merchants in distant quarters of the globe. France, as if by a miracle, forgets for the time her long meditated revenge upon Germany, and concentrates all her hatred on "perfidious Albion" instead. The trouble in Egypt is the immediate occasion, but we must go deeper and farther back for the real cause. That cause lies in the old jealousy of England's commercial supremacy, which, on the continent generally, but in France most particularly, is now bursting out into flame.

Now, is it the part of wisdom for Englishmen, at this time, to give themselves up almost wholly to fighting among themselves over parliamentary reform? Did the Roman senate do well, debating questions of domestic privileges, when Hannibal was thundering at the gates? Scarcely, we should say. Admitting that all the parliamentary reform asked for, and more too, is desirable, is the present a good time to stimulate democratic fury at home, when the country's interests are or appear to be in imminent danger abroad? Would it not be advisable to let Birmingham, and Newcastle, and Edinburg, and Glasgow cool off for a while, in order that the government may be able to give proper attention to what is going on at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Constantinople? When all is quiet abroad, then is the right time to attend to domestic reform.

One man, chiefly, is doing it all. If Mr. Gladstone had not turned on the blast, the furnace of political agitation would not now be at its present heat. And if he did not keep the full blast on, as he is most unquestionably doing, the fierce heat would go down. But perhaps this is his way of making war on Bismarck. We may imagine him saying to Bismarck, not in words, but by acts, somewhat as follows: "You are egging France on to give us trouble in Egypt, and in China, and you would give us trouble in Southwestern Africa, too, if you could. Take care that we do not give Europe such a spectacle of democratic fireworks in England, as shall set Germany in a blaze. We know you put your trust in bayonets, but in these times 'even bayonets think'. Your German people may have no liking for a red revolution, after the manner of France, but the spectacle of English parliamentary government, placed in strong contrast with the military despotism under which they are held, may have a powerful effect upon them.

If this be Gladstone's strategy, it is intelligible enough; whether it be the height of wisdom or not is another matter. Meantime these two remarks may be hazarded. First, that a time of crisis has come for England, in consequence of the tacit league of continental powers against her commercial supremacy. And, second, that the existing military despotism of Germany stands in yearly increasing danger, by reason of the inevitable influence of the example of free England and free America upon the German people.

The French Language in English Schools.

The Montreal Witness endorses Sheriff Chauveau's remark made at the reception of the British association, that French is not properly taught in the English schools in Canada. Children do learn to read French in school, but when they leave school they cannot speak it. As the province of Quebec, and some more of the dominion besides, is destined to be a bilingual country, our contemporary thinks that some of the attention now bestowed upon Latin and other languages should be transferred to the French. It says that ignorance of the French language does more than anything else to weaken the English element politically in the lower province. It is nonsense, says the Witness, that half the time of the pupils in our superior schools should be spent at Latin, while the language of four fifths of the people of the province is almost ignored. There seems to be some force in all this.

The French language has come to stay, in Canada, and we may as well recognize this as a truth, and govern ourselves accordingly. The English townships, south of Montreal, are becoming more French every year, and the French race is crowding into the eastern counties of Ontario. Manitoba also, we may be sure, will continue to have a goodly proportion of French in her population. Such being the case, it appears to us that the Witness is right in demanding that the course of study at both high schools and colleges should be so altered as to make the acquirement of French essential. This seems to us to be a practical suggestion, and well worthy of consideration.

The Montreal Harbor Dues.

In June last the Montreal harbor board, with the consent of the dominion government, remitted all but a fraction of the harbor dues for three months—1st July to 1st September. The remission has expired by effluxion of time, the full dues are now collected as before, and the shipment of grain from Chicago to Montreal is checked in consequence. The Chicago Tribune says that the recent action of the Montreal board has shut off grain from that port. This is a most unfortunate result, and it is not easy to understand how it was allowed to happen.

The short period during which the lake trade had the advantage of half tolls on the canals and harbor dues at the minimum sufficed to show that with these advantages continued a very large business would be done. But now, just as the large volume of this year's harvest is pressing at Chicago for movement eastwards, the favorable conditions are withdrawn, and what promised to be a good trade for Canada comes to a standstill. We should be glad to hear that this was the first thing attended to by Sir John and his colleagues, on their reassembling the present week, as expected. It is certainly sound national policy to develop the use of our own great inland water route and our own seaports to the full, instead of diverting the traffic to building up New York and the Erie canal instead.

The present ought to prove a lively week in Toronto. The fair will undoubtedly be visited by thousands, the governor-general and suite will spend a few days with us, this afternoon is a half holiday, two theatres, two operas, and the Zoo are running, so that the multitude of visitors will have no trouble to find a place of amusement to patronize.

In England an "amateur maniac" has been trying his hand with the view of showing how easy it is to get sane people locked up in asylums on false pretences. Just now there is before the court in Montreal the case of a Mrs. Lynam, whose friends are trying to get her released from the asylum, while her husband is determined to keep her there, if he can. This asylum business requires some very strict and searching investigation, especially in the province of Quebec. For one thing, an efficient system of government examination is urgently called for. The responsibility involved is too great to be left either to private individuals or religious corporations. The way must not be left easy for interested and unscrupulous relations to lock up one whom it would be to their advantage to keep out of the way.

While people have been talking about the "coal ring" in Toronto it turns out that its local habitation is not here at all, but in Pennsylvania. So, at all events, Mr. Rogers says, and he ought to know. The five American railways running into the anthracite region control not only the price by wholesale to their customers, but they dictate also what the retail price shall be in this and the other locality. They have the whole supply in their hands, and outsiders are powerless to interfere. Any dealer refusing to do as they dictate would have his supplies promptly cut off, no matter what price he might be willing to pay. On which we would remark that the Canadian duty seems to have very little to do with making the price of coal, after all.

An alleged scientist down in Texas, yclept Holison, says that if the United States government advances him $3,000,000 he will find out whether the moon is inhabited or not. If we had that much money we would not bother about the moon.

To-morrow will be St. Oliver's day in the grit calendar, and will be generally observed by the faithful. We learn from the daily lives of the saints that Oliver was remarkable not so much for working miracles as for being himself that miracle of miracles, an honest lawyer. So great and potent was his sancity that when he made a pilgrimage to England the leading lawyers of that country became honest also, and compelled another member of their profession to disgorge an estate which he sought to keep out of the rightful possession of St. Oliver's votaries. Many benefits have been obtained by visits to St. Oliver's shrine, notably good situations and the like. Some of those who will keep his feast to-morrow have no doubt reason to believe that the good saint's power and gratitude are unexhausted. At any rate he may be depended upon to give their petitions his best consideration.

A Bad Practice.

Hon. John O'Connor is shelved as judge on the Ontario bench because the dominion government have no further use for him. He was of the administration because he happened to be a Roman catholic, not because he was a politician of account, or head of a department of ability. The catholics will now be able to say that they are "represented" on the bench, as the methodists were able to say on the appointment of Mr. Rose. Men ought to be made judges because they are good lawyers, irrespective of their religion or want of it.

Dull days have fallen upon the famous Limerick races, of which so much has been said and sung. The county magistrates have refused to grant permits for the erection of tents and other drinking booths, and the secretary therefore announces that the races are off, because in the absence of the alcoholic fixtures they would prove financial failures. There could be no diversion for a boy unable to "Go to a tent and spend half a crown, Then meet with a friend and for love knock him down."

How the Limerick racers must envy us the Macarthy act, Mr. Hill, and his temporary tavern!

United States insurance men estimate that $100,000,000 worth of property was wiped out by fires in that country last year. The origin of one-fourth of these fires is unknown, but it is known that hundreds of them were the work of incendiaries. There is a heap of wickedness represented by such figures.

The statement that a fatal accident has occurred on the Great Western railway grade at Copetown by the breaking loose of a car, which, acquiring momentum on the down grade, soon pelted into the rear of the train at headlong speed, reminds a correspondent of the fact that nearly thirty years ago two cars broke away from a train at Copetown, and running right through Dundas and Hamilton stations pulled up a long way past the ambitious city. The line was cleared for them by telegraph from Copetown, and the speed they acquired was something frightful, it is said.

Mr. Smiff, the Bobcaygeon patriot and philanthropist, has figured it out that by the decision of the privy council Mr. Mowat has secured eleven thousand acres of land for every soul now resident in this province. From what we infer to be modest motives, the Independent refrains from demanding an immediate dividend, but if his facts are pertinent that is what they mean. The allotment of a large estate to every citizen of Ontario would do far more to make Mr. Mowat popular with the population than any number of speechifyings, demonstrations and receptions can possibly do. When may we expect our deeds?

The frugal mindedness of Motrealers upon pleasure bent throws that of Mrs. Gilpin completely into the shade. It is no wonder that the receipts of the dominion exhibition fail to overlap the expenses when the holders of complimentary tickets were found handing their pasteboards to friends waiting on the outside, who made their way in to repeat the fraud. The British association should have secured some specimens of these primary formations of meanness.

Twice victorious at the polls, Dr. Dowling of South Renfrew, has been twice unfortunate in the courts. He is not the first man who has discovered that a political triumph may preface a series of annoyances and financial losses. Many a politician might have been saved from a life's failure by a sound beating at the outset of his career. Dr. Dowling will probably be elected again, but his three contests, with their incidental litigation will make his seat a costly one.

The placing of an additional tax upon a man's property because his relative was murdered in the district is an injustice so grotesque that we could not believe in it if the facts were not well authenticated. Mr. Smythe of Barbaville, Ireland, is placed in this position. His sister-in-law was killed by a shot intended for himself, and under the compensating clause of the crimes act he becomes a heavy contributor to the special tax levied for the benefit of the deceased woman's husband. Extraordinary laws generally work out some extraordinary results. The theory is that it has a repressive effect, by making it to the interest of property holders to prevent and expose deeds of violence, but it has very little influence with the criminal classes.

Dr. Sexton on Prayer.

To the Editor of The World.

SIR: I had the pleasure of hearing a lecture last evening by Dr. Sexton on the above subject, during the delivery of which he stated that if the cleverheaded world was canvassed ninety-nine out of every hundred would acknowledge their belief in the efficacy of prayer. In Luke xxii, 31, Jesus warned Peter that the Devil desired to shake his faith, at the same time Jesus gave Peter the comforting assurance that he had prayed for him that his faith might not fail when put to the test. In the same chapter, verses 55 to 60, it is related that Peter's faith failed notwithstanding that Jesus had made a special prayer that Satan's attack on Peter's faith might be inoperative. It may be said that Jesus knew and predicted Peter's failing faith. If so, the prayer was useless and misleading, as it was not intended to influence God and failed to strengthen Peter. Now, if the prayer of Jesus fails in its efficacy what reliance can the ninety-nine out of every hundred believers have that their prayers are heard and answered? As I had no opportunity of putting this question to the Dr., I ask you as a favor to put the question through your paper for the benefit of myself and also for the large number who I fear are under a delusion on this subject. W. B. COOK.

Olivetant Killer.

To the Editor of The World.

SIR: In your issue of to-day I see a letter headed "To Whom Honor is Due," which only have been written by one wished to air his rural ignorance. I call him this Mowat demonstration it being got up on account of a vision raised over Manitoba. Manitoba never had any right to the territory. It belonged to what is now Ontario ever since the conquest of Canada from the French by the British, and it is on account of this boundry ratified by the highest court to which we could appeal, when our tory government at Ottawa tried to rob us of it, that we are justly jubilant and as Mowat, David like, with sling and stone, has gone out and slain this Goliath, it is certainly the duty of every honest man, woman, and child in Ontario on his return to go out to meet him, "with sabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music."

CANADIAN.

Toronto, Sept. 1884.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

New York and Chicago Markets—The Erie Investigation—Railroad Earnings—The Trade Toronto—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

WEEK'S OFFICE, Sept. 12.

There was no change at either the Toronto or Montreal Stock Exchanges on Saturday.

At New York the general decline in stocks continued except some slight recovery of prices took place in reaction on the heavy drop of the previous day. Canada Southern stock declined from 52½ at which it stood at noon to 51. Chicago Burlington and Quincy declined from 120 to 122½. Delaware and Hudsons were 2½ lower than yesterday's opening and closed at 92. Erie seconds recovered 1½ of the yesterday drop and were 57½ at the close. Michigan Centrals were dealt in at 67, 66½ and 66. New York Centrals gained ¼ and closed 101. Central Pacific dropped 1½ from yesterday's opening price to 40. St. Paul, 84 at yesterday's closing, were 83¾, 83½, and finally 83¼. Western Unions yesterday closed at 66½, to-day at 66, though were as low as 65¾ in the middle of the day. Union Pacifics were dealt in to-day at 49½, 49¼, 48¾, and left off at 49½.

The following were the opening and closing prices respectively: Chicago to-day: Wheat—September 74½ and 73½, October 76 and 74½, November 77½ and 76½, December 79½ to 78½; this indicates a general decline, but some lower figures were noted during the day. September corn opened at 53½, and closed 54; October 50½, closed 51; November unaltered at 44½, and for the year 50 at the opening and 38 at the closing. Stember pork rose 50 cents to $17, October 75 cents to $16.75, while for the year it left off at 5 cents lower, $11.15 being the price. Lard was 7 cents lower all round.

The following is a despatch sent to Messrs. Cox & Co. from Chicago: "Wheat continues heavy in all marks, low grades going begging, for buyers do seem to be any bottom to it. Our market relatively the highest market in the world. Investors here are scarce. Cables weak, lower to buying, situation still decidedly weak, the price being the only bull argument, losing here, 74½ October. Clique brokers absorbed all offerings October corn, the toilers pretty we shaken out, local operators short, probably another squeeze is in order; long futures weak, weather splendid; closing 54½ October, 45 November corn."

ERIE.—Erie securities have, I see, says a writer in London Truth, risen, because one president is to succeed another. The Erie railroad has been the most successful bait with which American financiers ever angled for silly British fish. There is no more chance of its ever paying a dividend than there is of Peru paying 5 per cent. on her debt. The history of the company has been one long record of deliberate and impudent swindling, of false balance sheets and of robbery. Periodically, the company gets what is termed into difficulties. Then a select body of Englishmen come forward and "investigate." The investigation shows that money is wanted, and the committee manage to provide it from British pockets. Having been paid for this service, the committee retire and the money is absorbed by American financialists. The same results. Many respectable Americans warn investors on this side of the Atlantic to have nothing to do with this "widow and orphan" trap. No experience, no exposure, however, seems to have any effect. I see that there is a committee of English bondholders now in New York, and that this committee has promised to provide means to pay off the floating debt. Only a few years ago the company was reconstructed, the shares were assessed, and a new bonded debt was incurred. Since then, the balance sheets and reports of President Jewett (who has received £40,000 for his services) have painted everything *couleur de rose*. But the company is in a worse position than it was before this reconstruction. But what of that? So long as there as dupes in England, American directors and English committees will advise that more money should be poured into this bottomless pit. My opinion of an Erie director or of an Erie committee is this: I regard a burglar as a more reputable person. He, at least, does not add hypocrisy to the pursuit by which he makes his money.

Messrs. Powell and Westley, the Erie committee of investigation, have published their report in London, and it is said makes a floating debt of $11,300,000.

By cable to Messrs. Cox & Worts from London (England), Hudson Bay shares are quoted at 25½, being an advance of 1 since yesterday.

The Financial Chronicle reports the gross earnings of forty-nine railroads, from January 1 to August 31, as amounting to $18,629,547, as against $19,933,494 for the corresponding period last year, showing a decrease of $1,303,947, on a mileage for 1884 of 42,467 against a mileage of 40,058.

The imports of dry goods at the port of New York for the week were $2,839,279.

The following is Bradstreet's weekly commercial report:

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—Telegrams to Bradstreet's from the leading trade centres of the country indicate that the hot weather, which generally prevailed during the first half of the week, affected uninvariably the tendency to an increased distribution of goods. In spite of this, however, the usual autumn demand has had its effect in a generally increased movement. Reports of the progress of mercantile collections are unfavorable at numerous points. Most of the New England cotton mills, save those at Lowell and smaller ones here and there which have shut down indefinitely, are now running in consequence of the curtailment of production, prices are better maintained. Leading New England cotton manufacturers still continue at sea regarding the near future of business, and predictions given are quite contradictory. The Chicago correspondent of Bradstreet's reports that owing to the extremely low prices the effect of the big crop of wheat on the state of business at Chicago has not been so beneficial as expected. On the contrary, the effect has been rather dispiriting. The price of wheat has suffered a further decline, the September option at Chicago having touched 75 cents during the week. Foreign advices are still bearish as to wheat. A large portion of the corn crop is past injury from frost. The corn trade has developed no improvement and the same conclusion applies to the general industrial situation. There is a slightly firmer feeling in the Anthracite coal, owing to the curtailing of production during the first week in September. Special telegrams to Bradstreet's received yesterday from the cotton growing regions report good rains in the Carolinas and Florida and Louisiana, while Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Texas report continued dry and very hot weather, with here and there an insufficient local shower. Arkansas reports favorable weather. The complaint of shedding is increasing in various states. In several picking is becoming general. There has been a fair demand for wool and prices have ruled stronger in all descriptions.

There were 23 failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week as compared with 18 in the preceding week, and with 14, 22 and 15 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881.

In the United States there were 180 failures reported, against 173 in the preceding week and with 136, 139 and 88 respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881.

About 83 per cent were those of small traders whose capital was under $5000.

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