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CONTENTS:

THE TIMES.
GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.
COMMUNISM IN DISGUISE.
PROTECTION VS. FREE TRADE.
PRACTICAL ECONOMY.
CANADA'S GREATEST WANT.
A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.

IRRESOLUTION.
CORRESPONDENCE.
THINGS IN GENERAL.
PRIZE QUESTIONS IN CANADIAN HISTORY.
TRADE, FINANCE, STATISTICS.
CHESS.
MUSICAL.

THE TIMES.

THE FREE TRADE FLY.

We live and rejoice in the light of a veritable "N. P.," the "disputations dire" notwithstanding of the dispossessed Free-traders, who have as yet failed to unfold any other method of raising the needed revenue, and still solemnly swear by "the fly on the wheel." Is the Free-trade mind incapable of inventing a possible path to actual Free-trade without deprivation of revenue? It seems to me—and many more—that the Canadian apostles of that school, instead of reviling the N. P. as they do, should set about the work of inventing some better thing than the N. P. or the worn-out theory of Customs tariff.

A high authority finds comfort in the fact that, under the working of the N. P. our imports from England are increasing, while our purchases from the United States are steadily on the decrease. The fact must fill all loyal hearts with a lively sense of satisfaction. But I find that there is some misgiving in the minds of sundry commercial men. They say, that a reason for this change in the courses of trade may, probably, be found in our liking for the long credit system. Credit is much in favour among many classes of our traders. The English are generally honest, trustful, and disposed to trust; but the American mind does not naturally incline to credit, and will not consent to the practice of the evil unless it becomes a matter of necessity. A revival of trade in the United States curtails terms of credit in Canada as promptly as dull trade, and over-production extend it. What we are denied in the States, we therefore seek in England; where possibly our credit is still too high for the general good of commerce. It is to be feared that the undue haste to be rich has only been "scotched" by recent experiences, and not killed.

It is said that Sir John A. Macdonald has not manifested a very eager desire to take over the North Shore Railroad from the Province of Quebec, and assume its debts. If M. Chapleau could effect this transfer, it would be the best possible thing, and from a Provincial standpoint the reasonableness of such a thing can be easily argued; but Sir John has to consider the whole Dominion, and it is quite possible—likely it may be said, that he will decline to saddle the other Provinces with Quebec's advantages.

IRISH TROUBLE SUBSIDING.

The storm in Ireland is blowing itself out, as it is the manner of all Irish storms to do. Mr. Parnell and some lesser men have sought and found notoriety at the expense of the poor people, and the English Government has an opportunity for displaying a watchful solicitude for its "brilliant" subjects in the Emerald Isle. But temporary employment for a few men, and a temporary loan to impoverished farmers, will only tide over the difficulty and make further trouble more certain. While the Irish in Ireland are always "agin the Government," they are also always disposed to depend over much upon what Government can do for them. A little more self-reliance would add greatly to their strength and comfort and general agreeableness. But

it appears as if Irishmen cannot, or will not, learn that in Ireland; and the best work on their behalf to which the English Government can set its hand would be that of emigration. Manitoba offers them such a home as they never can make of Ireland, and any money used for the purpose of finding them sea passage and a homestead would be money well spent.

I would commend the same practical and useful outlet for the generosity of the Irish in Canada. They are making a most praiseworthy effort to help their fellow-countrymen at home; but if they merely send their money to meet the present emergency, no permanent results will accrue; whereas if they should determine to entrust all sums collected to some prudent persons there in order that they may select thrifty families and send them over to this new world with a little money in hand to ensure them a good start, they would, by so much at any rate, lessen the chances of further trouble in Ireland, and help to fill up Canada with just the class of settlers we need. The famishing must have immediate food and succour, and that England is perfectly well able to give them, but something should be done as a provision for the future.

U. S. AND IRISH AGITATION.

The people of the United States are preparing to give Mr. Parnell a hearty welcome, and, by most manifest generosity, invite the tide of emigration to flow that way. The *New York Herald* says:—

"When Mr. Parnell comes and depicts with moving eloquence the wretched condition of his countrymen, let us be prepared to say to him:— 'We believe this; our people take a lively interest in Ireland, and our press keeps them fully informed; we have as early and copious Irish news as the newspapers of Dublin; we have not waited for your coming to stir our sympathies. Look around you! We are already collecting food and are about to send it by ship loads for the relief of your people. We invite your co-operation in infusing zeal into this movement and dissuading your countrymen in America from misdirected efforts. We will give you meetings for raising food as large as the famous meetings in the Tabernacle at the time of the great potato famine. In proportion to the degree of suffering we will do as much now as we did then, when seventy-three ships laden with provisions, the free gift of our people of all religions and nationalities, were sent to Ireland from American cities.'"

Mr. Edmund Yates seems to know pretty nearly everything, and one is lead to wonder where he learns it. The other day he astonished the natives of this Dominion by declaring that the Princess Louise had gone to England in order to promote Canadian Immigration; and now he gives another bit of highly satisfactory news, to the effect, that—

"Another and far more important reason for the Princess Louise's visit to England than the one alluded to last week is the gratifying prospect of an heir being born to the future Dukedom of Argyll."

It is too bad, however, that we should have to pick up such an interesting bit of information from an English paper. This is the second time the Governor-General has snubbed the Canadian Press.

Apropos of the Princess. A most nonsensical piece of sensationalism was played off upon the Montreal public a Sunday or two ago, by the announcement from a pulpit that "a member of the Royal family is about to become a pervert to the Romish Church"; and the Princess Louise was evidently that unfortunate and misguided "member." The preacher on being challenged afterward stated that "a well-known Romish priest" was the author of the statement, and that "two most reliable papers, whose editors would cut their hand off before they would pen a falsehood for sensation sake, gave a fact to the English public." It would have been just as well if the Rev. Mr. Ussher—the preacher—had given the public the names of those "most