The Weekly Mail

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 1880.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS. How is it that the political reaction, of which we have heard so much, hangs fire whenever it is put to a practical test? It is now two years since the country declared itself in favour of the National Policy; and up to this moment, although a number of bye-elections have been held in different provinces, the Opposition, instead of gaining ground in the Commons. has lost considerably. We venture to affirm that no such phenomenon ever occurred before, especially where there has been any real and substantial defection from the dominant party. So soon as the real character of Mr. Mackenzie's good one any day." Sir Richard Carry Wright has always been pleased to say that the country was mad at that time, once made itself manifest in the loss of seat after seat, until somewhere in the neighbourhood of twenty had peen won in the Parliament of 1873. The ex-Premier professes to be an admirer of Mr. GLADSTONE, we believe, but he knew better than to follow that gentleman's ing on till the ment, hoping for something to turn up to the advantage of his party. Utterly forgetful of his fatal tenacity when in power, the member for Lambton was heard clamouring for a dissolution during the West Toronto canvass, because of the all over the country. And yet what were the facts? The House is not yet two years old, and so far from the Reform party having gained ground they have absolutely lost it. The so-called reaction is a mere figment of the imagination, as will be clearly demonstrated in the There surely never was an Opposition which had less ground for demanding a general election than that nominally led by Mr. Blake. The clamour for dissolution had one strong point, and only one, in its favour: The defeated party would perhaps not suffer so much as they will in 1883, a consideration which can

bring but scant comfort to it.

In West Toronto after West Toronto, after all Reform coasts of success, they only reduced the Conservative majority, which is no difficult task to do in a large city, where public opinion always fluctuates considerably. It suited them to talk of a moral victory; yet no one knows better than they that the defeat they suffered on the 28th ult. was as crushing to their hopes as if the majority had been 500. Anything like a substantial reaction must have completely destroyed the candidate who ventured to appear as champion of the National Policy yet he was triumphantly elected. In North Ontario the Opposition felt sure that the reaction would display itself in an unmistakable form. The farmers were almost ripe for rebellion, so exasperated did they feel at the perfidy of the gay deceiver who now presides over the Dominion Governnow presides over the Dominion Govern-ment. And yet what did the result prove Clearly and distinctly that there was no rection amongst the agriculturists at all. By appealing to popular sympathy Mr.
Wheles attracted some of the loose fish,
and so added to his majority; but even
then he only won by 158 votes in a constituency of over six thousand electors. As we showed on Saturday, the farmers of North Ontario had nothing to do with the success of the Reform candidate. The village of Uxbridge, in which he resides, gave him 112 of his majority, and Port Perry afforded him more than the balance of his majority. Where was the evidence

And now arises the splendid victory lkirk. Mr. DONALD A. SMITH, the unpatriotic Minnesota railway man, who de-eated the How. Mr. Morris by a majority ain Scorr in the very heart of Man So far from there being any ion there, the boot is on the reaction there, the boot is on other leg, and the Government score another splendid victory. is the first opportunity the p have had of pronouncing upon the Railway policy of the Administration, and the re-sult is emineutly successful. There is evi-dently no reaction there any more than in Ontario. And now comes Brome, in which Mr. CHANDLER was elected, in 1878, by a majority of 236. There, if our infortion be correct a received in the correct and the correct Opposition. Mr. Manson has, of course an uphill task before him, and if the elector

THE NEW REVIVAL Ir circumstances ever combined satir cally to annoy and injure a political party, they are combining this year to inflict a last, and we think fatal, injury on the Reform party. There was never a period in

The business of the country had increased

been gradually eased. The credit of the country was good. The revenue had proved so plenteous that ten millions of surpluses had been recorded in the public accounts. And strong in the confidence of Parliament and the country, the Government of the country was good. The revenue had proved so plenteous that ten millions of about the puffing and the clamour about "shop" as you please; but it is by the emulation aroused here that inventive genius is set to work. In textile fabrics ernment was preparing to enter on a still more active programme of public advancement, by building the Pacific railway and developing the North-West. The conditions under which the new and great work were being undertaken were quite favourable. As we have said, internally the country was prosperous and progressive. Externally the conditions were as good. Capital was cheap and plentiful. Railway building had become a far-sighted mania, so to speak. More ready to "put their money up" on the Pacific railway enterprise. The terms on which they were ready to go to work were very favourable. If the work had gone on the country would have been greatly the But, as our readers know, a took place, under circumstances peculiarly discreditable to the Reform party. And from that day to 1878 there were never again as fair conditions for the great work. A grand opportunity hadbeen lost. It is all perfectly clear now, all that Canada lost by the action of the Reform party in 1873. Five or six years of progress in railway building, in develop-ment, in rapid increase of our population, were totally lost to us. And not was there a loss of time, but there was a loss of money, a loss of confidence, a loss of capital, a loss of golden opportunities. And now, seven years later, the very best hope of people of Canada in regard to the Pacific railway lies in the revival, under Sir John

MacDonald's new administration, of the

project which was propounded in 1871 and stroyed by treachery in 1873. It is the same in trade matters. year 1873 was the high water mark of business prosperity. The business of the year, had been enormous. The revenue had been large. The trade of the country had been brisk. We have heard a workman graphically describe the general business by saying, "In 1873 I could have given up a job on one side of the street and suffice for the satisfaction of the people who suffered from those mistakes. his predecessor, he was compelled to alter the public accounts, to exaggerate Sir LEONARD TILLEY'S estimates, and to actually court disaster in trade. The way in which slaughtering was permitted when the Americans began to feel the pressure the revenue, and it was manifestly sufficient to account for the distress of our own business men. A more judicious readjustment of the tariff in 1874, or 1875, or 1876, would have made the \$3,500,000 which, in all, Sir RICHARD demanded from Parliament in the way of extra taxation seem as light as a feather; and would have largely, if not altogether, saved Canada from the worst of the suf-ferings inflicted on it by bad government and inimical rivalry under unfair conditions of trade. But everything and to labour. In the name of " sumer" the country was robbed-for it was in those five years that the seven years later, the best hope of consumer" as well as of the capitalist the conditions of 1873. We have good reasons for believing that in regard to revenue and the volume of public business the present year will present almost as favourable conditions as in 1873. If the prosperity does not penetrate as deep as it had penetrated in 1873, that is not unaccountable. The most miraculous prosperity cannot be expected to recoup the country for the losses of five years. what prosperity we have induces us to be-lieve that before the Parliamentary term closes the Government of Sir John Mac DONALD will be able to present to the peo ple the great gift of a prosperity spread and permanent, from which, after is resignation in 1873, the country was Time and events are on the side of the statesman who honestly devoted

THE UTILITY OF EXHIBITIONS THE people of Canada are beginning to ealize the substantial benefits conferred upon them by agricultural and industrial exhibitions. The time is not so far back when the annual gathering under the auspices of the Provincial Agricultural Association was looked upon simply as a show. It was the centre of attraction for sightseers from town and country, and the prize-winner was simply a lucky man who could manage to enjoy himself for a few days without drawing upon his little hoard. For many years these exhibitions were simply the tentative efforts of a young population, displayed much as schoolboy used to parade specimens of their penman ship on the eve of vacation. Yet they were not merely "shows," even in those days, since they begat the spirit of healthy rivalry and competition of which the fruits are visible to-day. Most of us are too much in the habit of despising the day of small things, yet in point of time, as well as in reason, it must precede and accelerate the dawn of the brighter day which brings

imself to the welfare of the people in a

practical fashion, and who was not, like his rivals, the dupe of impracticable theories and the victim of insufferable

with it what is great and noticeable. the race—the benefits which have flowed from the exhibition system are incalculable There are farmers now living The St. John Telegraph mound over the exodus of three useful citizens from Victoria, also what sort of stock-raising seemed possible in the bygone days. It is sometimes the fashion, or used to be, agriculturist as the least

impressionable of men. The superstition was that he was settled in his groove, and owed it as determinedly as he ran a row with his plough. So far as the ent generation is concerned there is no dation for this reproach. Perhaps no class of men are more sensitive to the form party. There was never a period in the history of Canada when the people had more reason to feel safe in the possession of prosperity, and confident in the future of the country. Everything had combined to render the year 1873 forever memorable in our annals. All the great difficulties of government had been overcome. The country had been enlarged and consolidated politically. The last had been seen of disaffection to the Union. The husiness of the country had increased. ton, Guelph, or London is a stimulant of the healthiest sort, and the lessons he enormously. The rate of taxation had carries away with him fructify in the

he progress made within the last two years is almost marvellous, as anybody must have marked who has attended the Toronto Expositions or hereafter may attend those which are to follow. There is a "hum" everywhere, and each class of toilers seems to show how to meet at once the new and more exigent requirements of the rest. There are no class interests in practical life, whatever there may be in political theory. The farmer and the manufacturer, the mechanic and the artist, are bound one to another by chains of reciprocal interest which cannot be broken. Each shares with his brother Canadian in the common prosperity, and all together are working out the future of their country. Every one of these exhibitions is a spur to exertion and improvement, and the more of them there are the better. A provincial exhibition is still useful, and may be made an eclectic display of the best products of industry all over Ontario. But we have advanced too far to be satisfied with one such "show," and when the Association, as sometimes occurs, pitches its tent in out of the way places, the exhibition ceases to be general, and is only provincial in name. There need be no jealousy as between localities; there is room for all, and, for our part, we heartily wish the fairs to come an equal measure of success with that which has fallen to the lot of Toronto.

THE RELIGION OF THE MASSES. In calculating what the probable effect would be upon morality were the sanctions and restraints of religion taken away, it is important not to omit a single factor. Let it be granted, for argument's sake, that the élite of agnosticism may live irreproachable lives after abandoning the faith, and we have yet to face the terrible problem, what would be the effect of irreligion upon mankind in general. The habit of looking at the example of a few prominent men of sceptical views as an index to uniwe consider for a moment how these views statement is by no means overdrawn. have arisen, and secondly, to what extent the masses, if such a thing should ever happen, could be said to adopt them at all. Doubt pen, could be said to adopt them at all. Doubt or absolute negation in religious matters, as it exists in our day, is either philosophical or scientific. In the one case, as well as in the other, the reasons for unbelief are absolutely hidden from the vast majority of mankind. The speculative or scientific atheist is certainly wandering out of the range of his studies when he ventures to declare that there is no God, no soul, no immortal life beyond the grave. no soul, no immortal life beyond the grave Nor does it help matters at all to call himself an agnostic, since things of which man can have no cognizance are to him as they had no existence. It is quite as possible to live an orderly, pure, and sober life after adopting these negations as before, since the morality upon which so much stress is laid in in-dividual cases is not the outcome of unbelief, but a survival from the faith now intellectually abandoned. A mere change of opinion in the mind, where the mental power is vigorous, would naturally enforce well-regulated living upon the agnostic by way of compensation, if from no other cause. There is nothing at all surprising, therefore, in the vaunted phenomenon of ntellectual doubt-reasoned carefully out by what must needs be a painful process ng coupled with a strict and even ascetic morality. Indeed, one would expect it to be so. When the eye is darkened, other senses, whether of the body or soul,

pecome more, acute. But all this is true of those only who acquire their unbelief--if such a phrase may be used of mere negation-at hand. To justify themselves and their noscreed before the world they are constrained to be moral. We do not say that that alone prompts to good living in these cases : far from it. But it is quite certain that it would suffice with the individual though not with the race. It is when we do scend to those who think little, and reflect less, that the appalling nature of the peril realized. It is quite certain that if mere indifference to religion—ever comes to be adopted by mankind at large, not one in a thousand will have thought the matter out, or faced its terrible consequences for himself. With the breaking restraints which have heretofore operated ipon the masses, what guarantee can be offered for general morality? We have only to notice the effect of practical godness—the result of no settled convic-

ion—to answer the question. The moment you convince a man that he is sufficient for himself, and that above him there is nothing else except the mailed hand of society, on what ground can you insist upon his living a good life? You tell him that "enlightened self-interest" is the best guide in matters of conduct; how can his view of self-interest be enlightened who is without enlightenment himself? Is it not inevitable that he will prefer self to others, the enjoyment of the present to the satisfaction of the future? You have taught him to believe that nothing but what he can see, hear, or touch is real, and you may be sure that, as sense s his tutor, he will surrender himself to the pleasures of sense. You have told him to prefer that which is seen and temporal to that which is unseen and eternal; is it likely that he will fail to improve upon the lesson which frees him from a sense of responsibility, as it deomes of faith? Years ago we remember nearing a song, the refrain of which was: "So now the devil is dead, "we may all do just as we like." There, in crude form, would be found crystallized the morality of the masses when agnosticism had destroyed for them Gob, immortality, and the Gos-pel. It is not intellectual unbelief which will destroy the well-being of the race; so long as it remains a mental product it is comparatively harmless, because for the great body of mankind it can never be intellectual. Translated into the thoughts

of the million, it comes to mean freedor om restraint, emancipation from con-dence, self-indulgence, conflict, chaos. An English journal refers to an artisan's ife as saying that some of her husband's sillow workmen were coming to believe that "when we're dead, we're done for." that "when we're dead, we're done for."
What is the corollary from that proposition but this: "Let us eat and drink, for "to-morrow we die"? On the other hand, the religion of Christs is pre-eminently the Gospel of the masses. It is the glad tidings of human equality in the Divine sight; it holds forth a hope that in another life, where all is settled, not by human caprice, chance, or fate, but by Divine justice, what is amiss here will be set right. It "gives to every pinch of human dust one "even measure of immortal hope;" and, above all, it enforces personal, as well as social, morality by proposing an unerring above all, it enforces personal, as well as social, morality by proposing an unerring standard, instead of that fluctuating principle which points to duty as the pleasurable policy, and cannot urge one single ground for personal obligation. Man's responsibility to his Maker is the only sure basis, therefore, upon which to rest general morality now and henceforth.

THE DISTRESS IN KANSAS.

THE Dominion Opposition has, for the

ast two years, been engaged in the patrio-

tic work of extolling Kansas and Texas at

the expense of the Canadian North-West. The former has quite recently been gratui-

tously advertised by the Reform leader. Now the truth is that almost all the available

lands of the Western State in question

have long since been taken up. The only

open territory lies towards Colorado, and there the soil is poor and barren. The famine which has broken out in Western Kansas is greatly to be deplored by all Kansas is greatly to be deplored by all humane persons on both sides of the line, and the call for help will surely not be heard in vain. The victims in this case are people who have been deceived by the shameless mendacity of the state government and other interested parties, unfortunately assisted by the Opposition books and journals of this country. The American people never disparage the value of their own wares; on the contrary, they always executed it. the contrary, they always exaggerate it, whether interested in their sale or not. A patriot on the other side may be an untruthful braggart, yet, after all, he never runs dewn his own state or country. That particular odious form of cosmopolitanism is the peculiar gift of the Canadian Re-former whenever he finds himself in Opposition. It is a standing maxim of his that the country had better perish rather than be ruled by any party but his own. So Mr. MACKENZIE suddenly discovered a Paradise in Texas, whilst Mr. Blake, in an imaginary mood. fixed the site of Eden in starving Kansas.

From the Kansas City Journal we learn that, according to a report prepared by the Secretary of the State Aid Association there are more destitute persons in West-ern Kansas than there were in 1875, when contributions were taken up all over the Union; and that, far from diminishing, wersal results, should their opinions prevail. is not only fallacious, but dangerous in the extreme. This will be evident if with the number needing aid, and the number of the whole population; from these we may select a few. In Decatur, with a population of 2,564, there are 1,000 destitute; in Ness, population 3,486, destitute 1,600, in Hodgaman, population 1,738, destitute 1,000; in Sheridan, population 1,668, destitute 1,000; in Pratt, population 2,080, destitute 1,000, and so Such is the Canadian Reformers efuge for the victims of the Nati Policy in this country. We only hop they like the picture, and will at once send nd the hat in aid of a fund to bring back the unhappy people they have de luded into emigration thither. Cosmopol-itanism has no heart, but it ought, in com-

> party rage and chagrin, EDITORIAL NOTES.

mon prudence, to assist in repairing the mischief it has wrought in moments of

Brome is the next battle-field; but 'the Re form press has lost confidence in the reaction. In 1871, Mr. Smith had 300 majority Selkirk; in 1872, 250; in 1874, 110; in 1878, 9; and now he is defeated by 131. The reaction in his case was like the rathe gods.

How do those who talk of the great Reform reaction account for the fact that the Government has not only not lost a seat, but ted Charlevoix, Argenteuil, and Selkirl rom its opponents?

Niagara, East Hastings, Charlevoix, Argen euil, and Selkirk were held by free-traders on the 18th September, 1878; to-day they are represented by protectionists. The other side of the ledger is blank. Will some Opposition paper strike a balance, and show us the Reform reaction. orm reaction, or even a

An ingenious method of supplying the want of small change of a character to be easily transmitted by mail has been propose by an official of the United States Treasury He suggests that the backs of American greenbacks should be divided by lines into greenbacks should be divided by lines into four sections, showing where they can be cut up into quarters. Parties would thus be enabled to make change at their convenience by the simple operation of cutting up the bill.

Kingston Whig :-"Cadet Davis, of Aylmer, who graduated fifth in the class of 1880, has gone to Chicago, where he will enter the lists as a Civil The Whig defended the Kingston Military Col lege theother day; does it think it right that we should spend \$50,000 in educating young mer

to fill professional positions in the S Mr. Mowat, on being blamed for keepin each the Provincial Accounts and other public records, held that a Government ought not to publish them to the country until they had been submitted to the Legislature, and the Reform press approved of that doctrine. Yet now the same papers are asking the Dominion Premier to let the world know all about the details of the Pacific railway nego-

The Walkerton Telescope, once sound in the old Reform doctrine that the Local and Dominion Governments should not "hunt in couples," but remain strictly neutral, now says:—"It is the veriest nonsense to find fault with the members of the Local Government for taking part in a Dominion election. They have a perfect right to do so, and every one knows what their political principles are. Why, therefore, all this nonsense?"

It is stated that gold has been discovered the Fiji Islands. If the statement be correct there will doubtless be a rush of adenturers to that as yet little appreciated lony, which may be the means of attracting permanent settlers and developing it, as the gold fever built up Australia and California. The search for gold is a lottery, in which one succeeds while a hundred fail; but though the pursuit generally results disastrously to individuals, the region is benefitted by the opening up of more permanent and profitable in-

Troublesome Reformers are being appear by being appointed bailiffs and clerks under the Division Court bill of last session. One of the last appointments was that of a bailiff for South Simcoe. The appointee, it ap-pears, stumped the riding in favour of the Reform candidate, and as North York is an uncertain constituency it is doubtless deemed wise policy to keep influential men who can control half a dozen votes in good humour.

There are now eleven millions more on de posit in the chartered banks of the Dominion than there were twelve months ago. There than there were twelve months ago. There is a decided influx of foreign capital into the country—a sure sign of confidence and prosperity. Only a few Reformers now talk about "commercial depression," and they can scarcely keep up the pretence of hard times. The only complaint left to them is that prosperity did not come on the day after the adoption of the National Policy.

The Seaforth Expositor, after an article or two assailing the Government land regulations, and alleging that they are hampering the settlement of the country, has a local item to the effect that the Greenway-Patterson party left London for Manitoba on Tuesday evening last. There were seven passenger coaches in the train, containing over 200 passengers. This shows that the exodus, instead of dying out, is gaining strength. A much larger party is expected next month.

A number of exchanges strongly favour the adoption of the lash as a means of punishment in cases of brutal crime, and more esment in cases of brutal crime, and more especially wife-beating. The sentiment on the question, so far as it has been expressed, is apparently almost unanimous. It is to be hoped that at next session of Parliament legislation providing for the flogging of this class of criminals will be introduced, for the present penalties seem utterly inadequate to check the evil.

The continued emigration from Germany, principally to the United States, is causing a good deal of uneasiness in the former coungood deal of uneasiness in the former country. During the first six months of the year the outflow by way of Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, and Stettin has comprised 50,422 persons, against 16,099 during the same period of last year, 13,844 in 1878, and 12,021 in 1877. The cause of the exodus is doubtless the improved condition of American industry and the desire to escape the dreaded conscription.

A striking proof of the severity of the Irish famine is presented by the marriage returns for 1879, which give the number of marriages at 23,313, or 3,596 less than the average number for the twelve preceding years, and 149 less than the total for Scotland, where the population is less by two-millions. The Irish are a people who marry early as a rule, and are not usually restrained by prudential considerations, so that the falling off is in their case more significant of hardship than among an Anglo-Saxon people.

Hon. D. A. Smith, the rejected of Selkirk, made a violent effort to secure his election Early in the canvass he found that Reform doctrines were unpalatable, and before polling day he dropped the last vestige of them. His recent speeches, according to a Winnipeg journal, contained no arguments against pro-tection or against any of the leading features of the Government's policy. He is reported to have even gone the length of offering to cive Sir John Macdonald a moderate converve Sir John Macdonald a moderate su But this political wriggling was of no avail, as the Conservative candidate ran in by a

The German Reform organ of Berlin gained new light on the benefits of the N. P. nce its editor, Herr Motz, has been elected mayor of that flourishing town. Civic pride has proved too strong for party prejudice, and a statement published in its columns as the result of a detailed canvass shows no less than forty manufacturing establishments, more than half of which have been started during the last two years. These factories em over 700 people and pay a weekly wages of \$4,059. This is an excellent showing Berlin, and it is no wonder that such figure make an impression upon the most obdurate theoretical opponents of the tariff.

Reform journals have fallen into the error of supposing that the election of Mr. Wheler in North Ontario means an expression of the opinion of the farmers against the National Policy. The very reverse is the case. The farmers, by an enormous majority, voted to support the Conservative candidate and the N. P. Mr. Wheler is entirely indebted to the villages of Uxbridge and Port Perry for his majority. The village of Uxbridge gave him a majority of 112 and Port Perry gave him a majority of 47. These make a total of 159; but Mr. Wheler's majority was only 150; the two villages are the part of the two villages. 158, that is, one less than the

The adage " murder will out " has prove true in connection with the Annapolis, N.S., tragedy. The man who committed the crime concocted a clever scheme. He took the girl to a comparatively isolated spot, and murdered her. The fire would have soon obliterated all traces of her remains; or the body would have lain crumbling away gradually, and, in all probability, undisturbed. But the very neans which the man took to conceal dences of his crime revealed it. The men who went to the meadow—and whose going there at that time was accidental-say fire, undertook to put it out, and the whole thing was discovered.

A correspondent of the Barrie Advance tells a story about Mr. H. H. Cook, M.P.P. which we hope is untrue. It says that one of the employes of Messrs. Hughes Bros., of this city, took an active part in the West Toronto election in behalf of Mr. Beaty, and that at the close of the contest Mr. Cook asked the Messrs. Hughes to dismiss him, which they very properly refused to do, saying their employes had full control over their own actions when off duty. The story speaks well for the Messrs. Hughes, but it puts Mr. Cook in a bad light, and he should deny it if he conscientiously can.

The Americans have a canal building craze They are resolved to build an inter-oceanic ditch at Nicaragua, if the funds are forthcoming. They are seriously discussing the propriety of deepening the Erie waterway. A little project in New England has, however, got ahead of this larger scheme. The Cape Cod canal will be started in a few weeks. One thousand labourers are engaged, connect the waters of Buzzards and chusetts Bays, and so shorten the distan that a steamer leaving Boston at 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening will reach New York early The canal will be nine miles long, will need no locks, but there will be a current of about two and one-half miles an hour. It will save eight or ten hours for Atlantic steamers arriving at Boston.

Liberals in England as well as in Canada pose as purists. The rôle is entirely unsuited to their capacity, and there is much merriment over their pretence of electoral virtue. Bribery was almost general at the last elec-tion, and the trials of petitions have shown that the Liberals were the greatest offenders. A dozen out of the score of seats made vacant through the decisions upon the election peti tions are not to be filled up just yet, if at all These are the bad cases, in which new write have been withheld pending inquiries as to have been withheld pending the delinquent of those twelve seats seven are Liberal and five (
servative, the number of constituencies be
eight—an unusually large

extensively prevailed. They are Macclesfield, Chester, Boston, Gloucester, Knaresbo Canterbury, Oxford, and Sandwich.

The Halifax correspondent of that sturdy free trade journal the St. John Telegraph

"The business condition of the city is gradually improving. The high tariff is a great drawback to the interests of commercial men, but in spite of this needless burden, the trade of the port is increasing. Improved crops, better freights, fair fishing, etc., have made a change. There is not so much stringency as there was a few years are people. gency as there was a few years ago. People are able to pay their debts."

If "people are able to pay their debts," it is more than they were able to do under the old régime; and does not harmonize with the assertion that the Maritime Provinces are being ruined, and are so greatly exasperated that they are anxious to break up the Union.

The explosion at Seaham colliery, as recorded in our telegraphic despatches, affords another instance of criminal carelessness on the part of miners. Probably some two hundred will lose their lives, and the disaster will rank among the most terrible in mining records. At Cymner, near Pontypridd, in Wales, in July, 1856, 114 men were sacrifice wates, in July, 1856, 114 men were sacrificed to the reckless practice of testing headings supposed to be dangerous by approaching them with lighted candles. At Risca colliery, in December, 1860, 142 miners were slain by an explosion caused by one of their number uncovering his lamp to light his pipe. Constant danger must attend the working of collieries of enormous depth such as is com-mon in England, but about half of the terrible catastrophes reported are due to the foolhardiness of miners themselves.

The migration of a large body of Jesuits from France to Jersey has proved unfortunate. The inhabitants have determined to resist the establishment of the order and its institution in the island. By a strange coincidence, the instrument to be used by the Jerseyites against the Jesuits is one similar to that employed by the French Government against the same parties. It has been found that there is still in existence an unrepealed statute of George the Third of like purport to that existing in France, and the Jersey Par-liament is to be moved to have its enactments put in force. If this should be carried, what will the Imperial Parliament do shout it? will the Imperial Parliament do about it

The last Ontario Gazette contains applications for the incorporation of the Fonthill Canning and Fruit Drying Company, with a caning and Fruit Drying Company, with a capital of \$10,000, and of the Desert Lake Iron Company, with a capital of \$50,000, a notice of partnership of a new firm of woollen manufacturers at Almonte, and applications for the incorporation of the Essex Dunn Manufacturing Company, with a capital of \$20,000; of the St. Lawrence Foundry Company of Toronto, with a capital of \$100,000; of the Roberts Iron Company of Frontenac, with a capital of \$100,000; and of the Virginia Tobacco Company of Toronto, with a ginia Tobacco Company of Toronto, with a capital of \$200,000. A large number of the applicants in the iron companies are Ameri-

The Globe has excelled itself on the Pacific railway question. In 1870 it urged its immediate construction; then when Sir John Macdonald took it up it was a mad scheme; in 1873, under Mr. Mackenzie, it was once more a great and patriotic work; in 1874 the plan of building it out of the lands was eminently statesmanlike; in 1878 the British Columbia section was an indispensable link; in 1879 the whole scheme began once again to be a mad one; in 1880 the British Columbia branch was a monstrous undertaking; then it would be nothing short of an outrage to build the road out of the lands; later on, it was perfectly absurd for our Ministers to go to England, for no English statesman or capitalist would deal with envoys of their foul reputation; then the scheme had failed, the failure being "complete, disastrous, crushing;" and the latest phase is that Ministers have succeeded, but as no details are given no criticism is possible, but that it will be an outrageous swindle on the Canadian people goes without saving.

Last session Mr. Mackenzie was compelled to admit that a great reduction had been effected by Sir Charles Tupper in working the Intercolonial railway. The only set-off pleaded was that this had been accomplished in a large measure, by allowing the roadway and rolling stock to fall into bad condition. This was proved to be fallacious. The Moncton Times says:—"A run over the Inadoncton Times says:—A run over the intercolonial will convince any one of the falsity of the Grit charge that the railway is running down for lack of necessary repairs. One sees, almost everywhere, ballasting, the renewal of sleepers, the cleaning up of the roadbed by the removal of grass and weeds, and other great iron highway." It is gratifying to find that while the running expenses are decreasing, and the condition of the road being maintained, the receipts from traffic ar steadily advancing.

Either drunkenness has very much increased in the British metropolis of late years, or the police are more strict in making arrests, for according to a statement in the Pall Mall Gazette the number of persons arrested last year for being drunk and dis orderly was 33,892, against 21,625, the num ber ten years ago, an increase of nearly 57 per cent. The augmentation in the number of women arrested for this offence is especially noticeable. Of the total number "pulled" in 1879, 15,612 were women, as ompared with 10,378 in 1870. It would accorrect to infer from these details that this vice is on the increase, for recently published statistics show that the amount of liquor con-sumed has considerably declined. Either the police are performing their duty more efficient-ly, or the increased moderation on the part of a large class, as shown by the decline in consumption, is offset by greater recklessness on the part of those who still continue to drink excessively—a state of things not improbable when we consider the hard times. The very cause which has induced greater sobriety and caution on the part of the more intelligent, namely, the difficulty of making both ends meet, has doubtless driven others to desperation and made them confirmed drunkards

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

THE Hastings Land Purchasing Associa tion has taken up 33,600 acres of land on the line of the Manitoba and South-Western rail-road, 155 miles from Winnipeg.

The Peterborough Review wants an explans tion as to how it is, if the N. P. does the farmer no good, that Canada No. 2 spring is worth from twelve to thirteen cents per oushel more in the Montreal market tha American spring wheat of the same quality or how is it that Canadian spring wheat i worth nearly as much in Peterborough as American in Montreal? The Review had better ask an easy one. The Reform press

The exhibits in the dairy building on th Exhibition grounds undoubtedly that Ontario can produce splendid butter, How comes it, then, that the exported article How comes it, then, that the exported article proves a failure, and that the trade with England does not develop? Care in selection and packing seems to be the requisite lacking. The latest English journals declare that if the colonists would turn their attention to making a better quality of butter for exportation they would find the business a profitable one. Australians are sending over good butter, some of which reconstituted for profitable one. Austranans are supposed butter, some of which recently sold for is. 8d. per lb. in England. American oleomargarine sells readily at 16c to 18c., but the British buyer will have the genuine dairy

land Agricultural Society, held at Worcester Mass., Dr. Loring, president of the society Mass., Dr. Loring, president of the society, delivered an eloquent address on free trade and protection. He pointed out that ninety per cent. of the farm products of the United States were consumed there, thanks to the vast home market which the protective tariff had established. Since 1860 the clip of wool had risen from 60,000,000 to 250,000,000 pounds, and 50,170 square miles are now devoted to wheat; 80,610 to corn; 20,500 to oats; 42,080 to have 80,610 to corn; 20,500 to oats; 42,080 to hay, and 2,635 to potatoes. "It is for our own market," said the speaker, "which consumes ninety per cent. of all this, that our Govern

nent exercises a fostering care; shall this nome market be destroyed to propitiate those who consume the remaining ten per cent? Apropos of the Upton bush fire, the New York Herald draws attention to the fact that no such fires ever occur in Europe, although forests there are often of great extent. The reason for this is the attention paid to wooded lands. Underbrush is cut and kept down, and fallen trees and boughs are promptly removed, so that there is nothing for a running fire to feed upon. The Herald thinks that in addition to the safety secured by these precautions, the work—which could be performed in the winter—would pay by increasing the yield of valuable timber. The advice ing the yield of variance and the more thickly is doubtless good as regards the more thickly settled portions of the country, where the proportion of bush to cultivated land is not large,

these forest fires break out The British law of landlord and tenant can se converted into an instrument of torture to the poor. Take the recent Leckmelon evictions as a case in point. The story can best be told in the words of the landlord himself, Mr. Perie. This gentleman lately purchased Leckmelon, an estate in Scotland. He found the estate covered with small farmers paying rents of £4 or £5 a year; he disapproved of the same, and gave them all notice to quit at Martinmas—the beginning of the Highland winter. He has offered to allow the young, hardy men to remain on his estate as day labourers; but they appear to have declined the offer, and are leaving for America. The attention of the Home Secretary was called the those swinting but he declared that the to these evictions, but he declared that they were an exercise of the summum jus of property, with which, unfortunately, the Government could not interfere. Is there any

out is altogether inapplicable to the heavily imbered backwoods regions, where most of

wonder that land reform is a popular cry London Advertiser :-"Now that such a large portion of the fer-tile belt in the North-West is to be handed over to a company, what is practically an in-dependent empire will be set up there. The company will be monarchs of all that is surveyed for them, and in a position to dictate their own terms to the settlers who find their way to the territory. The empire will need way to the territory. The empire will need a standard or ensign. Let us suggest a device:—A fertile plain, to which an emigrant seeks admittance, but is deterred by the spectacle of Miss Canada struggling with a huge anaconda, which envelopes her in its folds, and the motto, 'Tout est pris.'"

Will our contemporary tell us what would become of an empire without a people, and what would become of the company without settlers? The great landed proprietors who hold their estates from generation to generation, and refuse to part with a rood, are land monopolists in a sense; but the highest in-terest and ambition of this Pacific syndicate will be to dispose of its lands on terms that will attract a large foreign immigration.

railway freight discriminations such as have been long endured by Canadians, although practised by lines aided from the public Parliament has been called to the Imperial Parliament has been called to the fact that agricultural produce coming from America by way of Liverpool to London was carried more cheaply than similar home produce; and it was asked whether, at a time when the English and Scotch farmers had enough to do. lish and Scotch farmers had enough to do to keep their heads above water, it was fair that American meat sent from Glasgow to London should be charged 60s. a ton, while the carriage of meat from the neighbourhood of Glasgow to London was 70s., and if at the company's risk, 77s. a ton. It is being urged that foreign produce should be charged with full rates, while those of home producers should be reduced. This may be interpreted to mean that the Railway Commissioners, whose powers are to be extracted will not support the company of the compa tect home interests, while the rates charged on Canadian and American produce may be fixed on a scale which will afford incidental protection to the home grower. The Old Country farmer feels he must have protection somehow, even if he theoretically believes in free trade.

The harvest has proved a failure in Russia, and instead of her being able to supply a considerable portion of the wheat demand of Western Europe as usual, she will be obliged, for the first time in her history, to depend upon foreign sources to supply her own peoe with bread. The arrival of two wh den American vessels at Revel is noted The Moscow correspondent of the Cologne

Fazette says :--"It was always believed in Russia that the empire was at least sure never to require any corn from abroad, whatever its other necessicorn from abroad, whatever its other necessities might be; but the agriculture and industry of the country have fallen so low, that what was thought to be impossible has now occurred. The warnings of the press, which has long pointed out that the exportation of corn from Russia was seriously diminishing overy year, have remained fruitless; and the old superstition that Russia was the granary of Europe lulled the agricultural classes into a fatal security. It is now certain that the production of corn in Northern and Central Russia does not suffice for the requirements of the population, whose poverty is increasing to such an extent that the country is threat This unexpected demand from this quarter

cannot fail to have an important effect in keeping up the price of wheat on this contiment, which threatened to fall very low, is consequence of the fruitful harvest and the ncrease of the acreage devoted to grain. The American people have long boasted of

their inexhaustible domain, which has popularly been supposed sufficient to supply all emigrants desiring to take up land with omesteads for generations to come. Those more correctly informed are beginning to realize that they have about reached the end of their tether. Land there is yet in abundance, but what is not already taken up is mainly unproductive and sterile, owing to conditions of climate and soil which cannot be continuate to the results. The New York fun concludes that the Western limit of rofitable agriculture has profitable agriculture has been reached in Western Kansas, as shown by the demands of the famine-stricken farmers of that section. The causes which operate to produce the continued drought in the western portion of Kansas and throughout Colorado are equally potent in Nebraska and Dakota up to 46 degrees of latitude. The rivers which flow through this barren region have only occasionally sufficient water to irrigate their own valleys. Irrigawater to irrigate their own valleys. Irrigation by means of artesian wells is regarded as impracticable, and the prevailing winds, being from the west, discharge all their moisture before crossing the mountain ranges. Under these circumstances, the flow of European immigration must soon be turned northward, and the Saskatchewan valley will become the destination of the vast and increasing influx which can no longer find free homesteads under the Stars and Stripes. When the true facts as to the relative capacity of the United States and Canada for absorbing immigration become fairly undersorbing immigration become fairly unstood in Europe, the necessity of puthrough the Pacific railway scheme as rai as possible will be appreciated by all have Canadian interests at heart.

THE ANGLICAN CHU

Proceedings in the vincial Synod.

THE CHURCH'S OFFICIAL

A Long Debate on the Ou of Lay Readers.

THE ELECTION OF METROPO

MONTBEAL, Sept. 11.—The Synod of the Church of England THE CHURCH'S TITLE.

The Hon. Mr. VAIL pr the committee recommittee of the Church to England in Canada, were advised to get ocal Legislatures to legalize The report was adopted u

THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL. Chief Justice ALLEN submitted th ing report :"The Committee appointed at the

laffecting the election and to report whether in first, the agreement between t been rescinded; and, second, been rescinded; rescinded, what, patent appointing the Bish will be the title, status, the future Bishops of Monte port as follows:—That they have that owing to differences of opin members of the committee upon th bmitted for their consideration unable to give any satisfactory answer t

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA. The report of the committee appo the last provincial Synod to consi position of the diocese of Algoma wa making a number of important sugg It was resolved that the report be and distributed among the members a cussed in order at a future sitting.

LAY READERS. The objections of the Upper House t The objections of the Upper House to port on lay readers were considered, following message embodies the alte demanded by their lordships:

"That the report on lay readers s by the Lower House be adopted by this of Bishops with the following alter viz:—On page 39 and line 138, aft words "the cally" investigation. words 'the only,' insert 'at present able;' and on the same page, at I strike out the words 'request of the under whom they are labouring,' and tute for them the words 'discretion

bishop."

Rev. Canon DART moved that aftwords "at the request," etc., be add words, "the reasons for whic quest must be stated in with the said that in this cas rector would demand the remor a lay reader on frivolous grounds. Het this decision would overcome the objethe bishops, and it was necessary the rector be left with some discretion, for reader in his parish with whom he dis would not be likely to effect any good. Rev. Mr. Darling objected to agree the changes suggested by the bishop ing held by any body of compell maintenance of a connection between and an assistant against his own will. Mr. Walken thought that the sugge dismissed simply at the request of the The lay readers were licensed by the and it would be putting them in awkward position if they were dismi

their clergymen without signed.
Mr. Plumb, M.P., acknowledged that was force in Mr. Walkem's remarks, I held that nothing would necessitate th tinuance of a lay reader's services he was no longer in accord with his c man. He advocated, therefore, an a ment providing that, although the serv a lay reader might be dispensed with clergyman, yet his license as a reader revoked, but simply suspended ununderstanding should be stablished, it between the reader and the rector.

Mr. D. Reid said that it was utter possible for a clergyman to submit continuance of a license held by a lay in open feud with him, but he believed

compromise could be arranged with The Rev. Mr. Roberts thought the disposal of the license should be entir the hands of the bishops, but the assign left in the hands of the clergymen, and lieved that the suggested ame bishops allowed all this. Mr. L. H. Davidson held that the c

was an important one, and that a principle was at stake, not less that of the autonomy of the par The question concerned the powe the clergy in their own parishes, and which their rights there should be recognize licenses entirely at the discretion Bishop, for it cut out entirely the clery from the management of their own gr It was surely sufficient guard to the reader in this matter, as far as his clery was concerned, that any request to ha dismissed should be made to the Bis writing, and with the reasons there tached.

At the suggestion of the Prolocutor. Prof. Rok here moved in amendmen main motion, and with a view to eco-time, that the consent of the Bish asked to a conference on the subject, w pper House, with a small delegati the Lower House.

The amendment was put and carried

MONTREAL, Sept. 13.—The Provincia nod of the Church of England in Cana assembled this morning. LAY READERS.

The PROLOCUTOR, Rev. Professor reported that the committee appoint confer with the House of Bishops on the ject of lay readers had arrived at a prosolution of the question, and that the sol would probably be embodied in the form canon, which would be sent down from Upper House. SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS IN THE

Mr. FENNINGS TAYLOR moved the su of the rules of order to enable ! bring forward a motion to the effect tioint address of the two Houses of the Society for the Protion of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to enthe earness ding the services of the Church of En

or the large number of immigrants in North-West Territory.

The Rev. J. M. ARMSTRONG suggested the Church Missionary Society had long attimately connected with the work in North-West, and that Society should all pplied to. He moved an amendment to fleet.

The amendment was accepted by the m The amendment of the main motion.

The Rev. John Langrey, of Torothought they should not go further merely preparing an address, and that a gation should be appointed to proceed the control of the control of England and urge the matter before the So ops of the Church of England

and Protocuron pointed out that surch Missionary Society's efforts tected entirely among the heathen. The Rev. Mr. Armstrong explained entally that the Society also works