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THE SITUATION.

Disallowance has overtaken an Act of the Legislature of Manitoba, which touches the subject of land sales for taxes. A previous Manitoba Act made the rate of interest on overdue taxes ten per cent. Interest is one of the subjects which falls exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament; and the revised statutes make the rate of interest six per cent. in the absence of any special agreement as to what it shall be. Payment of the overplus of four per cent. was resisted by the present Governor of Manitoba, Dr. Shultz, and Chief Justice Taylor decided that the provincial statute exceeded the powers of the Legislature. Whereupon the Legislature passed another Act purporting to take from the Court of Queen's Bench jurisdiction to impeach any sale for arrears of taxes. This attempt to stop the wheels of justice has been frustrated by the disallowance of the disabling Act. Irregularities of the nature resisted by Dr. Shultz had been common in Ontario and perhaps in other provinces, the rate of interest charged on unpaid taxes having frequently exceeded the legal amount; and we are not sure that they have even now ceased to exist.

It is a good sign to see a wealthy English mining company seeking incorporation in Canada, with a view to the working of Canadian mines. Sir Henry Hussey Vivian, M.P. for Swansea, is president of the English company which is seeking incorporation here. A move of this kind means business: it will bring with it the necessary experience and capital to produce practical results. In England the company works iron mines, producing all forms of iron and steel; and it is its purpose to experiment in the same line in Canada, mineral lands near Sudbury having been purchased for that practical use. Its operations may in time also be extended to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This is just the sort of enterprise that is wanting to the development of our mineral resources. Practical men, with the knowledge of experts, are not likely to make more than the minimum of mistakes, and altogether the company

possesses the best guarantees for ensuring success.

Some friction is said to have arisen over the working of the Canadian Pacific's short line through the State of Maine. The company, it seems, applied to the Treasury Department at Washington for a bond guaranteeing it the enjoyment of the bonding privilege over its line. The solicitor to the Treasury conceived or found some technical objection to granting the request, but it is not true that the company came to the conclusion to stop traffic on this line. At present the bonding privilege exists under the law, and so long as the law is in force it will continue. There are contingencies connected with the Interstate committee which cannot be foreseen, but against which, if they should happen, no executive bond would be a valid or effective guarantee.

In the initiatory stage of a criminal trial in Ontario, certain facts have come out which point to the victimizing of young Englishmen who are sent out to Canada to learn farming. A London agency takes a large fee to cover this service, which is divided with some Canadian farmers who undertake to do the teaching. The materials are often incongruous, the young Englishmen being ill-suited, or wholly unsuited, for farm life; their dream is when they leave home of hunting in the wilds of Canada, while farming somehow is to supply their necessities. The actual Canadian farm life is very different from that painted by their imagination; they are probably in some conceivable if not typical cases treated no better than laborers would be, and disgust and disappointment are the natural result. If they have led a sober life in the Old Country, which is not always the case, they may take to whisky here; if they were sent out because they could not be controlled at home, they are not likely to reform after making an ocean passage. The payment of large fees to learn farming in Canada is a mistake, besides being pure waste, for it does not attain the object any better than it could be arrived at without any payment at all. But the chief wrong in connection with the system is done not by Canadians but by Englishmen in England. We fear that young Englishmen of good family sent to the North-West and left to themselves, are very apt to go astray. Nobody knows them, they argue, and they can do as they like, and they too often like to spend their time in drinking and idleness as long as their money lasts. They would do the same if sent to any other part of the world and left to themselves with a little money, generally not enough to give them a fair start.

It is now certain that the labor conference proposed by the Emperor of Germany will meet. In selecting M. Jules Simon for one of its delegates, the French government has made the best possible choice. M. Simon is of opinion that the young emperor, with the best intentions, has made an imprudent move, from which no substantial result can be expected; that nothing binding can be done till diplomatic action is taken as a second step, which he

thinks probable. The present conference is not likely to do anything beyond some agreement as to women and children. He sees that the enemy which social order will have to meet is Socialism, and he thinks that the German Emperor has made a mistake in appearing to make a concession to it. "The Emperor fancies," says M. Jules Simon, "in his inexperience, that by showing himself conciliatory and philanthropic, he will win the Socialists from their discontent, but he is mistaken." They will make new demands. When the final struggle comes, he thinks Europe will have to unite against a Socialistic army, which is itself already united. There is no guarantee that the same struggle will not come in America; on the contrary there are signs here, as well as in Europe, of its approach. How it will be met in the last stage, Anarchism, Chicago has not left doubtful.

On the 1st March nearly one-half the corn crop of last year in the United States, 45.9 per cent., amounting to 970,000,000 bushels, was still in the hands of the farmers, and of wheat nearly one-third, being 31 per cent., or 156,000,000 bushels. When the aggregate harvest of the world was figured up last autumn, the result was almost enough to cause a dread of scarcity, and a rise of price considerably above previous figures was thought certain. It is now evident that there was no ground for fear on this score, and on the return of spring prices are still low. It is probable that local speculation in the United States, by at times sending up the price of wheat beyond the figure at which exportation was possible, may result in a loss to the country. Farmers, too, appear to have been holding back for unattainable prices, above those at times artificially raised, and their speculation does not promise well. The fact that they have been able to hold on to so large a proportion of last year's crop, shows that they are in fairly good circumstances.

Mr. Fleming's report may be regarded as presenting the lumbermen's side of the saw-dust nuisance, since it was made at their instance. He admits that, in some cases, riparian owners, in the neighborhood of Ottawa, suffer damage from the lumberers' operations; that near the entrance of Rideau Canal navigation has been impeded by an accumulation of saw-dust, 10,000 cubic yards of which require to be removed to enable vessels to enter the canal at low water. In no other respect does Mr. Fleming think the navigation of the Ottawa river has been appreciably affected. If this be the whole extent of the damage, equity would seem to be to require the lumberers to do the necessary dredging so as to keep the navigation free from obstructions at all times. As they are the cause of the mischief, it would be only reasonable that they should be at the expense of the correction. On the other side, Mr. Fleming brings in some incidental facts which do not in any way interfere with the conclusion we have drawn. He points out that people who live between Ottawa and Grenville get an annual supply of fire wood from the waste of the lumber mills. Does this waste in no way interfere with the