

faction as to the uncertainty which exists as to the true history of all that transpired at the Conference.

Under such circumstances it might have been expected that the Canadian Government would, of its own accord, have, at the earliest possible opportunity, obtained the consent of the British Government to lay the whole of the papers before Parliament, so that the House and the people should be in a position to judge as to whether the Canadian or American version of what transpired is the truthful version. Not only this, but that the House and the people should be enabled to determine whether the Canadian Government had displayed that sincerity and earnestness in their dealings with this question which might be expected from a Government specially entrusted with this particular duty. Further, in view of the general indifference or hostility manifested so generally by the press and politicians of the United States with respect to reciprocity with Canada, did the Canadian Government present to the conference such facts relating to the commerce between the two countries as, in their own judgment, previously justified them in appealing to the electors for authority to deal with the question and in assuring the people of a fair prospect of success? The production of the necessary papers, which it is to be hoped will not now be much longer delayed, will enable the country to judge whether the Government has performed its whole duty on this all-important subject with that zeal, ability and discretion which entitle them to claim the continued confidence of their supporters. A little tinkering with the tariff now will not absolve them from condemnation if it shall appear that they have proved incapable or remiss in the performance of the special duty with which they were intrusted and which they professed themselves to be capable of accomplishing. If, on the other hand, it shall be shown that the propositions for reciprocity submitted by the Canadian Government were of such a fair and reasonable character as might have been expected to meet with acceptance by the United States administration, but were rejected by the latter through an over-reaching or arrogant disposition to exact unreasonable concessions, the Government at Ottawa will undoubtedly not only confirm but greatly strengthen the very large measure of popular support which they now enjoy.

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PARIS LETTER.

The impression is, that unless death demands him, Dr. Herz will be extradited on the charge of swindling and receiving money for illegal purposes. He cannot plead politics, as the most curious circumstance about Panamism is, that the scandals benefit no political party, save the revolutionists, whom the police look after. Individual notorieties are hit, but the Assize court and the General elections will correct their misdeeds. The Republic will wash herself clear of all the filth, and be all the better after the operation; her confidence was misplaced, abused; she will change the scene and the men. Herz will have to show what work, labor, or value he gave for his millions; and the Bow Street magistrate will decide if the funds of a public company were to be accepted for the settlement of shady transactions. This must involve the production of the voucher

payments by the Canal Co., and the same class of documents by Dr. Herz, as to what he did with his pull at the millions.

The grand interest in the scandals has subsided: the main lines of the frauds are known: the chief culpables of the venalities are in the hands of justice, and the 650,000 victimized shareholders feel satisfied. Those who have disloyally aided to suck the Company's Cash box dry, must refund their swindlings, no matter how they may have arranged to place the loot. The negative result of the analyses of the remains of de Reinach, has not disappointed opinion: the chemists discovered no poison, but decline to say that he was not poisoned. However the six distinguished toxicologists during their researches discovered a wholly unknown poison, and one which is the product of death itself, as the same mysterious agent has been recognized in other corpses submitted to examination.

Deputy Pontois emits a very ingenious idea; for the completion of the Panama Canal; the founding of a Central Rural Bank for the use of Agricultural Syndicates; the providing of Pensions for Aged Labor, and succour for the victims of industry accidents. He proposes the constitution of a National Institute of Finance, with a capital of 5½ millions of francs, say in 10 million shares of 520 fr., each to be controlled, but not managed, by the State. The amount of the share to be collected during ten years, at the rate of one franc per week. One half the capital will be lodged with the State to feed the Pension Fund, and annually redeem the moiety of the shares, so that in one hundred years the Shares will be paid off. No persons will be allowed to have more than ten shares, as a rule, which must be held in their name so as to check speculation. None will be allocated to foreigners. The other moiety of the Capital will be manipulated by the Institute—500 millions for the Rural Bank; 600 millions to complete the Panama canal; the rest for cheap housings for the poor, the abolition of the fees of law courts—free justice; the redemption of the other half of the shares till their total extinction in a century, etc. The earnings of the Canal and the other industrial enterprises, will be divided between the shareholders, but in the case of Panama the victims will receive 40 per cent of the net profits till wholly indemnified. This combination of the Popular and the savings banks, would succeed if favored by the state, but not otherwise. The only dark spot in the movement for completing the Canal is, what role does the United States, if any, intend to fill toward an extension of the concession by the government of Colombia, to the old Company?

A fresh source of trouble in workshops and manufactories has been caused, due to the coming into operation of the new law limiting the hours and conditions of work for women and children. The amelioration is not unanimously accepted as a benefit, but the advocates of shorter hours welcome the law, as it will lessen the number of the unemployed. The law has necessitated the creation of a staff of inspectors, a new department, etc., involving an addition to the budget of 648,000 francs yearly. It is calculated, that the 22,000 women and children compelled to work less, and so submit to reduced earnings, would have their complaints nullified, were the 648,000 francs distributed for their relief.

Startling news for the pious and the pilgrims: as the enormous structure of the Cath-

edral of the Sacre Cœur, erected on Montmartre, approaches completion, the military authorities find it becomes too conspicuous an object for long range artillery, and would attract an enemy's fire with disastrous results in that important quarter of Paris. The free-thinkers urge the municipal council to purchase the building, convert it into an hospital, and fly the red cross flag from the steeple.

There is no more hard working and inefficient body of public servants in all France, than the national teachers. They abstain from all political and social complications. Imagine then the consternation of the schoolmasters of Finistère a short time ago, when a local journal accused them of being only an army of police spies; 227 teachers belonging to the region, at once took an action against the journal, which was fined 300 francs and costs, plus damages of 100 francs to each of the maligned. It is a most righteous judgment, as the reckless manner French newspapers calumniate, requires a check. The Panama scandal illustrate the extent of the iniquity.

Necessity is the mother of invention: a young man respectably dressed hailed a cab, and ordered to be driven to a railway terminus. After some time he called to the cabman to pull up; he got out, and entered an upholstery shop with a newspaper bundle in his arms. Odd, reasoned cabbie, my fare had no baggage when he jumped in; getting down, he glanced inside the vehicle, then rushed into the shop, and seized the young man by the collar; cause: ripping open the curtains, and packing up the hair to sell.

Quite a delightful change has taken place in the weather: the cold snap was excessively severe while it lasted. Never were the streets of Paris so long in an unwalkable condition: the snow, thaw, and frost, keep together like liberty, equality, and fraternity, so pick-axes, shovels, india-rubberscrapers, and brooms were useless. While the evil lasted it gave a good amount of day and night work to the unemployed—wages doubled for the latter. There is still a great deal of real misery, because the stagnation of business is very general. It is a curious fact that now, when so many firms have had to reduce hands, they are resolved for the future to keep to a smaller, but permanent volume of affairs, with diminished revenue, rather than be subjected to the periodical disturbing, and weary ebbs and flows in business.

Shakespeare is not wholly lost yet for France. A short time ago the suburb of Ar-genteuil, celebrated for its special brand of cholera producing wine, rooted up a discarded epitaph slab, containing the name of the immortal bard, they so concluded, because the deceased had the same name, only he was a soldier of the allies slain during the 1814-5 sieges of Paris. Now, however, a spirit or Theosophic periodical announces, the true Shakespeare has become a contributor to its columns, and that he is prepared to explain any puzzling passages in his dramas. If Robert Browning would only be as condescending, though he has but recently "crossed the bar?"

The picture-season endemic has opened: the first show of paintings includes only lady contributors. This is like placing women and children in front of the insurgents during a revolution. Be it so: the exhibits are next to wholly bad; all mechanical bread-earning work. A few days ago along with a friend, I looked into the public auction mart, to notice how paintings were bought up, for in hard times, these are the class of articles to be first sent to the hammer. For 1,000 francs you could purchase a cart load of oil paintings, whose rich framings alone, represented ten times that sum—What time and talent wasted! what life-careers wrecked! why not go in for a trade?