SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1882. THE GREAT OUESTION.

Is the legislature of Ontario going monopoly? The people of this province way facilities, and they were to their proper place; measurably so in Great have competition. This latter has not Britain, and almost wholly so, we may say, two or three great corporations have "gob

the country bonus hunting, telling the people that they would give them new and

might find out all these things if it was set

street where a number of these transaction were consummated. Let no bill granting relief so any of th "consolidated" lines be passed till this in

formation is forthcoming. Millions of the peoples' money was sure ly not voted as grants to the Grand Trunk, the Syndicate, and the Northern

railway. Get the committee to work.

BACKBONE NEEDED.

Already the voice of the stump orator heard in the land. Evidently both grits and tories have made up their minds that there is nothing like getting ready for the the newspaper reports of the various meetings which are being held, in the hope of finding anything more than the old rehashes of charges and countercharges will be sadly disappointed. It is true that Mr. Edgar's speech at Yorkville is a gratifying exception to the usual sickening routine, but that one scintillation only serves to make the surrounding darkness

Yesterday the Globe had reports of meet ings of its friends held in Centre Wellington and South Oxford. At the latter meetday, but if the Globe's report be correct 178 and we may be sure it does not maerrate his effort his speech was the old threadbare rehash of the alleged history which the grit orator delights to serve up for the edification of the admiring faithful. Only his and nothing more. No promise of anything in the way of great measures, or even a hint at a plan of remedying alleged

wrongdeing by the tories. In Centre Wellington Mr. D. D. Hay and Mr. Donald Guthrie were the orators. Mr. Hay appears merely to have inflicted his recent speech on the address on his unfortunate audience. Mr. Guthrie first attempt. ed to prove that the N. P. was a terrible ill which is crushing the energies of the people, and then turned his attention to the Syndicate. For a time he appears to have got along fairly, retailing portions of the speeches made last winter in condemnation of the contract. One of the audience, however, evidently thinking that empty denunciation of a measure was. to say the least a little unpractical, demanded to know if nothing could be done by way of remedy. Mr. Guthrie promptly said there could, and declared that the remedy was to punish the government by defeating them at the polls. We don't know whether this answer satisfied the anxious enquirer, but to most sensible men, we will venture to say, this may be looked on as revenge. which it may be or may not be wise to take, but there is nothing of the nature of remedy about it.

We have pointed out over and over again that it is the heighth of absurdity to think to remedy the syndicate iniquity by scolding. Either the grits must declare their intention to repudiate the contract, while protecting the members of the company from all actual loss, or else allow the affair to rest, as something for which they know no remedy. The difficulty with Mr Guthrie and some others is, that they are lawyers with the lawyer's artifical conscience, which places law in the stead of right and attempts to square everything to it.

Mr. Guthrie has no hesitation in declar ing that the granting of the contract was of the nature of fraud, that the parliament that sanctioned it was never commissioned by the people for that purpose. And, unless he is using words without meaning, that if the agent of a private individual had acted as the parliamentary agents of the bind his principal. Yet Mr. Guthrie quiety admits that if his party were to cross the floor of the house, they could not meddle

a plain and obvious duty by talk about security. repudiation and drivel about the sacredness of contracts.

little backbone, and they must either get it example one per cent. or give way for men who have that neces-

THE FUTURE OF RAILWAYS. The railway system is growing at a tre-menduous rate, who shall control it in the future? Shall it be the government or

shall it be the corporations, nominally and on the books composed of many shareholders, but in reality controlled by two or three capitalists, or only one, as some well known instances seem to show? To say that this is a coming question is putting it rather far off. It is in fact a question of the present time, it is even now at our doors. Of all countries in the world its magnitude and importance are most apparent now in the United States, and undoubtedly Canada comes next. In the old world the powers of government have been strong nough to keep railway corporations in on the continent of Europe. On the continent the railways are practically under government control throughout; in Great Britain such railway despotism as exists is largely tempered by government inspection.

membered, is no farce in England, but a solid and searching reality. On this side the Atlantic a very different state of things prevails. In both Canada and the United states the theory of the liberty of the subject and of reducing government control to a minimum has so far seized upon the public mind that railway and telegraph corporations do, the Gulf of Mexico to its northern geographical counterpart of Hudson's Bay, actually enjoy and run riot in such extent of license as is allowed them nowhere else on the habitable globe. What they do in Canada and in the States they could not do in France or Germany, no, nor in England

either, for all the liberty of the subject that there prevails. No private individual powers in railways or telegraphs, such as are possessed by Jay Gould, Vanderbilt, and the Canadian Pacific railway syndicate, could exist in Europe. The old world governments would not tolerate them; they would be rivals too near the throne. Why then are they tolerated by these Anglo-American democracies—the United States and Canada? The question is rapidly diate and urgent pressure if we look acros the border. Let us get hold of this fact, and fasten our attention upon it-that nowhere else in the wide world does the des potism of railway and telegraph corpora-

countries par excellence. Our neighbors south of the lakes are now ruminating over certain extraordinary facts, which may somewhat shake the popular belief in America as a free country. The American national government entrols say vernment and of Mr. Gould are not so widely apart as might be desirable. But REST AND COMFORT TO THE SUFFERING

tions go to such lengths as in the United

its own words:

"America is pre-eminently the country in which the sovereign rights and privileges of private enterprise are acknowledged. Unfortunately, it is also pre-eminently the country of monopolies—oftentimes bold, unrestrained and damaging monopolies. That railway enterprise is drifting with alarming rapidity in this direction is an evident fact. No one will question the soundness of the doctrine that government should possess powers and resources unrivaled by, and inapproachably superior to, any corporation powers and resources unrivated by, and in-approachably superior to, any corporation or private institution. Otherwise his own existence is precarious. Although it may not be strictly correct to say that our rail-ways are all monopolies, the principle just enunciated is nevertheless applicable to them. When one thinks of it, their them. When one thinks of it, their vast development in wealth and power during the last twenty years is something both marvelous and threstening. If there are railway men and corporations in this country who have acquired fifty or a hundred million, possibly more, during so short a period, it may reasonably be expected that the next score of years will pected that the next score of years will

pected that the next score of years will further build these vast and apparently indestructible fortunes into hundreds of millions. Caution for public welfare would lead us to enquire whether the day may not be near at hand when government itself may be defied. Well managed wealth accumulates in geometrical progression, Mr. Jay Gould is virtually at the head of an army of 50,000 amployes at the present army of 50,000 employes at the present time. If, as is alleged, the policy of our government is shaped by the patronage of 100,000 offices, it will be seen that the powers of the federal government and those of Mr. Gould are not so widely apart

All this is but stating the problem; what is to be done towards its solution cannot too earnestly engage the attention of the public, both in Canada and the United

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT LAW.

The Globe claims to be the leading reform organ of Canada, but the Globe is never by any chance the first to advocate a genuine reform. It has now come out in favor of a reform in the landlord and tenant law, and copies exactly the suggestions made by the World. In our case we claimed no originality as to the suggestions were just what have been on several different occasions pressed on the local government by delegations. On behalf of the present system it is urged that if landords were not given a preference over other credit -Canadian people had, his action would not ors; it they were forced to take the same chances of payment as the grocer and dry goods man, they would be forced to raise their rents. This assumes that they now take less than they could obtain in consider-We repeat that if this is the case there is ation of the greater security which the preno reason for changing rulers on the sent law gives them. We fancy it will be syndicate question. We do not despair that a little difficult to get anyone to awallow syndicate question. We do not despair that in their own time and in their own way the Canadian people will choose a set of rulers who will deal with the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will the syndicate as it deserves to be dealt with; rulers who will stand the test of a little dimenut to get anyone to swellow this story. But let us see how the argument with story with a story not be frightened from the performance o lower rents than if he had not this extra allowance for old machines than the American firms. More Wanzer machines are

repudiation and drivel about the sacredness of contracts.

Change the law and place him in the same position as to security on the grocer, and the would have to faise his rents, say for ittle backbone, and they must either get it.

ist again raise his rents one per cent. Now change the law again by repealing will be reduced one per cent., and of cours to change it again back to the first position would be to reduce rents again one per cent. or back to their original figure. Now if this reasoning is correct, wha has the grocer been doing all this time ?

As the law stands his security is not as good as that of the landlord, therefore he is compelled to, and does, charge one per cent. more for his groceries than he would but for his interior security.

Naturally he is just as fair and reasonable

as the landlord. We suppose this will

Make the first change above suggested put him on a par with the landlord as to security and he will of course reduce the price of his groceries as the landlord raises his rents.

The second change enhancing his security of course reduces the price of his grocerie another one per cent. Of course this is all absurd. Competi tion settles and fixes prices, and the ques

tion of security has little or nothing to do

As a strict matter of justice-and that is the way in which the matter should be viewed landlords should stand just as other creditors stand. Class legislation in any form is an iniquity, and the sooner we get rid of this glaring instance of it the

THE EDITOR OF THE MAIL says that Mr. Dawson, M.P., Sir John Macdonald and his own modest self are the only three people in Ontario who know anything about the boundary question. This is richness. By the way there were some speeches in the Mail on that question said to have been delivered by some people called Meredith, Morris, Lauder and White, and one was promised which it was said had been delivered by a young Montreal gentleman named, if we recollect rightly, McMaster. Were these speeches then delivered in ignorance of the question? The Mail's excessive modesty makes the position of its political friends a little und

AT THE conservative convention held at Cookstown, Thursday, Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt received the nomination for the co mons, to fill the vacancy caused by the leath of the late member, Mr. Little There were nineteen candidates in all, each anxious to sacrifice himself on the altar of States and Canada, both professedly free country and party. Mr. N. F. Davin's name was among the candidates, but he was not resent. All the other candidates made speeches.

IT was very wrong, so it was, to intro duce the N. P. into the local house. And 100,000 officers; Jay Gorld, personally or no wonder both sides are highly indignant through subordinates, controls 50,000. And that it should have been done. Strange the Peroit Evening tNews rightly that they can't make out how the disturb-

part of what our contemporary of the western straits says had better be given in its own words:

"America is pre-eminently the country in which the sovereign rights and privileges of private enterprise are acknowledged. Unfortunately, it is also pre-eminently the country of monopolies—oftentimes bold, unrestrained and damaging monopolies. That railway enterprise is drifting with alarming rapidity in this direction is an evident fact. No one will question the soundness of the doctrine that government—should possess powers and resources unrivaled by, and inapproachably superior to, any corporation or private institution. Otherwise his own

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Funny, but it's true, even the ontario legislature are going to adjourn and visit Patience at the Grand in a body Monday night.

—Deserving of praise.—Too much ca not be said in favor of that unsurpassed remedy for coughs, colds, asthma, croup, sore throat, and all lung complaints. If you suffer from neglected colds, try Hagyard's Pectoral

-If you are desirous of patronizing a good meal, try Wilkinson's, 187 Yonge street. Dirner from full bill of fare 25 cents, including all the delicacies of the

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example one per cent.

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