

# The Hamilton Agents

## FOR THE WORLD

### ARE ROBINSON BROS.

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The Toronto World.

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 1882.

Persons leaving town for the season, and summer travellers, can have The World mailed to them for 25 cents per month, the address being changed as often as desired.

#### PROPOSAL ON GOLDWIN SMITH AND IRELAND.

The decision of Mr. Goldwin Smith's Brighton address on the conduct of England to Ireland, has been revived by the publication of Mr. Smith's statement of his opinion in Saturday's World. In reply to what Mr. B. Lynch said in his letter, which appeared in yesterday's World, we have first of all to submit that he does great injustice to Mr. Smith in charging him with seeking out a reporter at once on his arrival, and before the rocking of the vessel was out of his imagination proceeding to impart all his prejudices to a newspaper without any reserve. Mr. Smith was sought out by our reporter, he being our daily morning newspaper to gain the earliest intelligence of all interesting matter for our clients, the public, a duty which on more than one late occasion the staff of The World has performed in a way to set an example to the rest of the daily press in Canada. We considered Mr. Goldwin Smith's opinion well worth ascertaining in the interests of our readers, not only on account of that great writer's acknowledged ability, but because he has been at the very seat and source of information, where England's greatest statesman, a personal friend of Mr. Smith's, is sitting with his finger on the pulse of the liberal ranks, has exceptional opportunities for forming an opinion. For Mr. Lynch to tell us that Mr. Smith should have gone to Ireland for information is childish. For him to represent Gladstone as Ireland's enemy is ill-tempered childishness. In his public writings Mr. Smith has shown himself the friend of Irish liberty: in the Byrland he has more than once advocated a moderate measure of home rule. With his disgust at the terrorism of the Fenians who murder and mutilate unrebuked by Irish public opinion, even portions of such a supreme atrocity on the Park tragedy being unrebuked in all we can say is that Mr. Smith has given voice to the feelings which all must sympathize, who respect morality and uphold civilization. Mr. Lynch, reasoning, also, that the Parnellists did not obstruct Gladstone's Irish legislation, or that their agitation in any other form than Mr. Gladstone's and liberal England's sense of justice, seems to be a misreading of the plainest facts in the history of the last four years. Nothing is less likely to win than reckless hitting out with a shillelagh of misrepresentation. Very different and keener weapons are needed. No battles are won by the tactics of Donnybrook fair.

#### A BLOW AT GRAM GAMBLING.

The St. Louis arbitrators have named 1.12 1/2 (instead of 1.34 1/2, which was the closing price on June 30) as a basis for the settlement of the defaulted June wheat deal. Technically, this decision might be dismissed as "a victory for the shorts," which it has been correctly called; yet it is particularly a good deal more than that. It is hard to see how it can prove anything less than a death blow, so far as the St. Louis grain market is concerned, to the pernicious commercial vice of dealing in "futures." In other words, the trade tribunal of St. Louis has at length joined the courts in pronouncing grain gambling unlawful and refuses any longer to exert its authority or apply its code of honor for the enforcement of gambling contracts. With this result, it is to be believed, no thoughtful observer will be disposed to quarrel. The country would, no doubt, be largely the gainer if the similar trade organizations at all other speculative centers should follow the example of the St. Louis arbitrators. There seems to be no other way to stop or to curtail the growing evils of "corner" combinations which now menace the consumers of various products and all legitimate and conservative dealers. Legislatures and courts have proved incapable of dealing with the problem. Probably public sentiment, operating through the mercantile organizations and tribunals, by such decisions as that of the St. Louis arbitrators, can deal with it. The absolute suppression of speculation is certainly not desirable. A certain amount even of unmitigated gambling in the staple of trade might be tolerated. Yet public policy and the welfare of society require that formidable combinations of capital and rogues be given to understand that they are liable at any moment to reach a point where the very agencies which they seek to use will revolt against their conspiracy. The St. Louis decision will tend to put a brake on the "corner" business in the grain and provision markets, and will, therefore, be welcomed by all classes except the Jesse Jameses of trade.

#### REFORM INSTEAD OF PUNISHMENT.

Imprisonment for crime does not seriously punish the criminal after the first shock of its degradation has made him go with the habitual enemies of society. Imprisonment involves no further penalty than restraint, often made bearable enough by good food and the health resulting from enforced wholesome habits. It does not punish, but it does degrade, and confirms the prisoner as an enemy to the law whose sentence he sees no great reason to dread. As imprisonment, the heaviest penalty which modern ideas will tolerate, does not punish or restrain, why not try reformation? Reformatory prisons have been successful; that of Valencia in Spain has reduced the commitments from 70 per cent to nearly zero! Sir Walter Crofton's plan in Dublin and the method of Norfolk in England have had the same marvellous result. The main features of the Crofton system are separation of the prisoners at night into three distinct classes: 1. First offenders. 2. Those for drunkenness and venial offences while drunk. 3. Old hardened offenders. Further it includes kinder intercourse with prisoners by those in charge of them, considerable reduction of sentence in proportion to good conduct, and the influence of religion, the Sunday school and the library. Our Ontario prisons and the penitentiary are we believe admirably conducted, but we need trial of a system which when introduced elsewhere has actually reduced the numbers of the criminal class.

#### THE AMERICAN FREIGHT HANDLER.

Railway corporations were chartered and endowed with valuable privileges for the good of the country's trade, not to enrich the corporation at the expense of justice. An illustration of this is seen in the result of the strike of the freight handlers employed in the various trunk lines terminating at New York. Business at that and other trade centres has been paralyzed, and the depots are full of freight which, contrary to their covenant with the public, the companies refuse to forward. Like other monopolist capital holders, they ground their refusal of increased pay to the freight handlers on a professed inability which no one believes. But in this contest with capital labor is backed by a power which may be in the end too strong, even for the gigantic railway monopolies, the power of the law. It is a principle of the American constitution that contracts must always be enforced. The working of this principle was seen in a decision by Judge Callan the other day, in forcing the Long Island railroad to carry out a contract for a particular train being regularly run, although it was proved that the company lost by carrying out their contract. This is a question specially interesting to us in Canada, threatened as we are with two vast railway monopolies, which will seek by all means to enrich their English stockholders at the expense of the people and the trade of this dominion.

#### THE LATE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.

Those who object to our children being subjected to the tender mercies of the examining system in which self-advancing schools or collegiate institutions over-work unfortunate scholars in their perditionary rivalry, have reason to hope that the minister of education will carry out what in a letter he has partially indicated, the reducing of the intermediate to a mere test of fitness to enter the collegiate institutions. This and lengthening the normal schools term would be a great benefit to future teachers. And we consider that too difficult examination papers are much to be disapproved of. The classical papers as the late examination was far too hard, it was full of catch questions rather than test questions, it was too long and would take a boy an hour merely to copy its contents. Papers are not meant to show off what the examiner knows, but to get at the knowledge, not the ignorance of the student.

#### THE BY-ELECTIONS.

Over half a dozen seats in the Ontario legislature were vacated by reason of the members holding them becoming candidates in the recent dominion elections, and the question now is will by-elections be held to fill their places, or will they be allowed to go by default for the one session that remains of the present legislature, should the government determine not to dissolve it before its legal expiration. There is quite a general feeling throughout the country that even if another session is held it will be just as well not to have the vacancies filled but let them go by default as the general election will certainly be on before six or eight months.

#### THE REASON OF IT.

The other day the Mail held up to ridicule a political circular which had been issued, so it said, by Mr. Mowat and his colleagues, and sent to the reformers all over Ontario. Since then, it has been learned that the circular was issued by Mr. Blake, and that there is nothing objectionable in it. It was purely a party concern to gain information as to the cause of the recent liberal defeat throughout the dominion and especially in Ontario. We hear now that the answers to these circulars are being sent. In one large constituency to the question, "What do you consider were the reasons for the recent defeat?" the point blank answer given is that the Globe and its unjustifiable attitude in the matter of the tariff was principally the cause. Answers like this may be expected from nearly every constituency in the province.

#### THE WINNIPEG POST OFFICE.

We continue to receive complaints from our Winnipeg subscribers of non-delivery of papers. The postal authorities have not perfected the Winnipeg service yet.

#### THE BY-LAW OF LAND SPECULATION IN THE NORTHWEST.

BY R. W. PHIPPS.

As we have opened out, quite regardless of expense, a speculator's paradise in the Northwest for the benefit of the English capitalist, the American capitalist, and such Canadian capitalists as possess or can borrow enough to preserve, on a representation of another, a good slice of land from going cheaply into the hands of the poor settlers, it may be well to point out what this sort of operation results in, and into what state it reduced older Canada in days gone by. For this purpose I will copy from the "Canadian Portrait Gallery," a large and very valuable work, compiled by Mr. John Charles Dent, of Toronto, which every Canadian who can by any means afford would do well to purchase, a few extracts relative to former days. Let me say in reference to this book that the numerous biographical sketches form a Canadian history of the highest order, and a history far more accurate than that of any other kind. The numerous and faithful portraits of all our leading men are priceless in themselves to most people, who otherwise would not know what many of the gentlemen they hear so much about look like at all. It is odd, but not untrue to nature, to observe that the more peaceful the individual, the less so his expression. General Brock and Colonel Talbot, dervailed both by family and by habit, look gentle as the mildest lambs of the flock, while on the contrary, several renowned bishops and learned lawyers would, if they could but get out of the page, certainly do you a mischief.

Under this system of land management, as Mr. Robert Gourlay, who came here in 1817 with the intention of operating as a land agent, and to endeavor to set on foot a gigantic scheme of emigration from Great Britain to Canada.

"He found the management of the crown lands and the clergy reserves in the hands of a selfish and grasping oligarchy, who cared very little for the advancement of the country, and whose attention was chiefly directed to enriching themselves at the public expense. There was corruption everywhere, and some of the officials did not even deem it necessary to veil their unscrupulousness. As we have seen, he had obtained much useful information from Mr. Bidwell. With a view to supplementing this knowledge, and making the condition of the upper province known to the world, he addressed a series of thirty-one questions to the principal inhabitants of each township. Looking over these questions at this distance of time, the reader will be amazed to think that the seeking of information should have been regarded by any one as a crime. The result of the answers, taken collectively, formed a photograph of the state of the country, which could not readily have been obtained by any other means. They relate to the date of settlement, the number of families, the number of people and inhabited houses, the number of churches, meeting-houses, schools, stores and mills; the general character of the soil and surface, the various kinds and quantities of timber and minerals; the value of wages; the cost of clearing the land; the quality of pasture; the extent of public highways; quantity and condition of wild lands; etc., etc. It will be observed that the questions relating to such matters as of the utmost importance to the public, and more especially to persons in Great Britain who were desirous of emigrating to Canada, were not pointed out by Mr. Gourlay had no direct bearing on politics. The stinger, however, was the thirty-first question, which ran in the following words: 'What, in your opinion, retards the improvement of your township, particularly, or the province in general, and what would most conduce to the same?' Readers of 'Little Dorcy' cannot have forgotten the dread and horrible denunciations of the 'Little Dorcy' of the circumference of the world. Mr. Gourlay 'wanted to know, you know, what retards the improvement of your township, particularly, or the province in general, and what would most conduce to the same?' Readers of 'Little Dorcy' cannot have forgotten the dread and horrible denunciations of the 'Little Dorcy' of the circumference of the world. Mr. Gourlay 'wanted to know, you know, what retards the improvement of your township, particularly, or the province in general, and what would most conduce to the same?' Readers of 'Little Dorcy' cannot have forgotten the dread and horrible denunciations of the 'Little Dorcy' of the circumference of the world. Mr. Gourlay 'wanted to know, you know, what retards the improvement of your township, particularly, or the province in general, and what would most conduce to the same?' 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