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TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1887

THE SITUATION.

The Central Farmers' Institute and the Manufacturers' Association have each made a deliverance on commercial union with the United States; the former for, and the latter against. Each regards the question from its own stand-point, and practically looks to the protection of its own interests. There can be no doubt about the representative character of the Manufacturers' Association; that the few farmers who met, under the name of the Central Farmers' Institute, are equally representative of the agriculturists of Ontario, may be open to question. This is a beginning of the discussion of commercial union by classes which consider themselves specially interested. So far the labor interest is silent on the subject; but at least one Board of Trade, the Toronto, will discuss it this evening. Others will perhaps demand a hearing before long, unless the discussion of the fishery question take a turn which seems entirely to preclude the idea of commercial union.

Two German naturalists, M. C. A. and J. A. Purpus, have been officially sent to Canada to explore British Columbia and "other regions which are comparatively little known." The result of their labors will be published not only in Germany, but also in Russia, Hungary and Belgium. The first three of these countries are specially interested in this expedition. These scientists propose to remain three years in the country. They will make a thorough examination of the natural products of the country, of which samples will be sent to Europe. These gentlemen will begin their labors without unnecessary delay; and no doubt the result will be of considerable value not only to Canada but to other parts of the world with which she is or may be connected by commerce.

To what extent building operations are likely to be interfered with in Toronto by strikes it is at present doubtful. The stone masons have gone out, and the carpenters are making claims which may lead to their following. The carpenters depend

on the masons; if masonry is not laid there will be little for carpenters to do. The master masons are confident of securing a victory. Should this happen, few other strikes in the building trade need be feared.

Mr. Wm. D. H. Washington, U. S. commercial agent, writes from London, Ontario, to the assistant Secretary of State that the effect of the interstate commerce law is proving disastrous to the trade between Canada and the United States. One complaint is that the Canadian railways cannot give a through-rate on their own and American lines; but why this should be so, when the charges on American railways are at the same rate for all distances, it is not easy to see. Such an arrangement ought to simplify matters instead of hopelessly complicating them. To Great Britain freights are known, and Canadians are increasing their trade with England. Incidentally Mr. Washington shows us what the argument from propinquity, used in favor of commercial union, is worth. Freights between Canada and New York and Canada and England he says are "near the same." Mr. Washington states that there are cases in which the increase of freights on American railways is from 25 to 100 per cent. since the interstate commerce law went into operation; but it remains to be shown whether the increase is a legitimate and necessary result of the law.

The Nova Scotia Government proposes to give exclusive right of manufacturing iron in the Province to any company which shall, within two years, build works capable of producing 25,000 tons of iron per annum, and which shall expend in the erection of works and the acquisition of mining rights \$800,000. It would be strange if the spectre of some nascent company, which is to do this and receive the benefit of the monopoly, was not close on the heels of Mr. Longly, the author of the bill. The acquisition of mining property may make some one who is relieved of it specially grateful. It would be very hard to justify the proposed monopoly. Mr. Longly founds his justification on the fact that, except at Londonderry nothing has been done in iron mining in the Province. We place no stress on the fact that Mr. Longly, a free trader, makes a complete surrender of his principles, when he goes to the extreme of absolute monopoly, which is to last for ten years. The circumstances which favor this bill would require to be very exceptional to amount to a justification of its adoption.

The apologists in Canada of Mr. O'Brien, the Irish Nationalist agitator, have overshoot the mark. No sooner had they announced that the object of his visit was to explain to benighted Canadians the Irish land question than Mr. O'Brien himself flatly contradicts them by avowing in effect, if not in exact terms, that his intention is, if possible, to drive Lord Lansdowne from the Governor-generalship of Canada. He says he will draw such a picture of this Irish landlord as will cause Canadians

to refuse to be governed by him, that is to refuse to tolerate his presence in the Governor-generalship. This only shows how greatly O'Brien overrates his own powers, and how little he knows of Canadians. The Earl of Lansdowne has performed his part in Canada as a constitutional governor; this is all that Canadians have a right to expect from him, and they are not going to set up as judges of the differences between him and his tenantry; it is none of their business; they are not seized of the facts of the case, and they will certainly refuse to take the facts from a rampant National Leaguer, who has set out on the errand of vituperation which brings Mr. O'Brien to Canada.

At length the Jesuits have got undisguised mastery in the Province of Quebec. Cardinal Taschereau and seven Bishops asked a postponement of the bill to incorporate the Jesuits, and M. Casgrain followed up this request by moving that the bill be read that day six months, the usual mode of getting rid of obnoxious measures; but the champions of the Jesuits, led by the Provincial premier opposed the motion and caused its defeat. The bill gives the Jesuits the right to hold property to an enormous extent, of which no doubt they will make good use. One of their objects is to set up a rival to Laval University, an enterprise in which they have hitherto been checked at Rome. It would be a curious thing to see the Jesuits pleading their rights under the statute law of Canada against the decrees of Rome. M. Mercier put the question as one of civil rights, and argued that the bill merely put the Jesuits on the same footing as the Oblats, the Sulpicians, the Dominicans, the Redemptorists and others; forgetting that the Jesuit order is a standing conspiracy against all governments, and that no weapon however foul comes amiss to its hand. Nothing but the interference of Rome can check the absolute ascendancy of the Jesuits, in Quebec; and the authority of Rome, though it may be exerted against them for a while, will be very likely, in the end, to give way to their persistence.

The iron interest is demanding from Parliament a more ample measure of protection. Mr. Bartlett, of Montreal, secretary of the Canadian Coal and Iron Association, being asked by an interviewer why he considered the iron industry so very important, replied: "Because it gives employment to so much labor and requires so much money, [\$15,000,000 is the sum which the coal and iron industry is said to represent] to begin and carry it on, and "it employs grown men who can support families." And what wages do the workmen engaged in the iron industry of the United States, one of the most highly protected industries in the world, receive? Mr. David A. Wells one of the best authorities on economic subjects in the Republic, recently showed that the average wages of this class of workers does not exceed a dollar a day. Doubtless many of them support families, but their scale of living cannot be so enviable a one as to justify this country in paying a heavy price for