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EDWD. TROUT. MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, AUG. 27, 1886

THE SITUATION.

In consequence of the outbreak, at Point Levis, of pneumonia among cattle recently imported, it is said that the importation of cattle from the infected districts of the United Kingdom will be prohibited. Importers will be required to certify from what part of the country cattle has come. The order-in-council is expected to appear in to-morrow's *Gazette*.

To pre-emption purchasers, in Manitoba, an extension of time will be given for debts now due or that fall due before January next. Of payments due on the 7th July one-third must be paid before the 1st Jan., another third within two years, and the final payment "within three years of that date." Amounts accruing due any time within the present year, are divided into three payments, the last of which must be made within two years from the end of the present. Interest is not to be charged where residence has been continuous and the required improvements have been made; otherwise six per cent. must be paid for the whole period of extended payment.

The release of Cutting, the American editor, imprisoned in Mexico for libel, was judicial, the result of the decision of a Mexican court, and not political. That Secretary Bayard acted hastily and rashly in demanding the release of Cutting, cannot be denied. He did so without any independent statement of the facts before him, and in the absence of an opinion of the law department, on the legal aspect of the case. Cutting seems to be a literary border ruffian, who contrived to pass as a martyr; and if he can make the stirring up of ill-feelings between the two countries a paying operation, he may be relied on to continue his threatened lectures a long time.

If Russia was at the bottom of the intrigue by which Prince Alexander of Bulgaria was deposed, she has not made much by the venture. Already the counter-revolution is the controlling force in Bulgaria, though the situation is still surrounded with uncertainty.

The Canadian propeller "California," took on passengers at Cleveland, Ohio, for Windsor, Ontario, and on arriving there, gave then new tickets to Chicago. Acting Secretary Fairchild of the United States, being called on to say whether the transaction was legal, replied that as he did not find proof of a want of good faith in the landing of the passengers at Windsor, he could not give a negative reply. Everything of course depends upon the good faith with which the tickets were issued: the law cannot be evaded, if that were the purpose, by a device of this kind. The opinion of the United States Attorney General will be given on the case.

About sixty acres of the Asylum farm, in this city, is to be brought into the market by the government. Many persons object to the location of the Asylum where it is, on account of the alleged injury to the neighbourhood; but there is something to be said in favor of so large an open space. The question of moving the Asylum to some other site must be determined mainly by its suitability to its purpose, the patients being primarily considered. But the proposed sale of sixty acres of the land seems to point to a future removal. If the site, so near to the railways, be objectionable, the curtailing of the open space will make it more so. Before removal can take place the financial question which it raises must be solved: the solution will in part be found in the contemplated sale.

It is discovered, now that the land has been purchased and the foundations excavated, that the new Toronto Court House will cost considerably more than the \$200,000 which has been authorized. In this state of matters the mayor refuses to sign the contract. The Court House Committee of the city Council is in a state of perplexity, and pauses to ask the city Solicitor to define its position. Should the question of increased cost have to be submitted to the rate-payers, there will be some delay in the progress of the work. Doubtless the cost of building has somewhat increased, on account of the large number of buildings going up. Can the plans be altered so as to effect a saving of \$100,000, consistently with obtaining all the accommodation required? In some way, the work will have to be finished now that it has been taken in hand. There always remains the resource of taxation for any necessary additional cost, and it might not be wrong to rely upon it in this case.

A new competitor for the supply of meat has appeared in the field. Until recently the theory was accepted that the natural grasses would not grow in the Southern United States; a mistaken notion to which experience has given the death blow. Mississippi, besides raising cattle, has already established several creameries, with the prospect of a large increase in the near future. In Louisiana, where the first creamery has yet to be established, it is said that cattle can be raised at an extremely low cost. But so far, thoroughbred imported stock have been liable to take fever in that State; if this drawback can

be overcome, the cattle will be able to get on better without artificial shelter than they are in northern regions where the thermometer is liable to go 35° below zero. We shall find out in time what part of the Continent is best adapted to the raising of cattle.

The Irish land question is one on which great differences of opinion are expressed. The Archbishop of Dublin is for "fair rents;" Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M. P., takes the ground substantially that rent should be paid or withheld, at the convenience of the tenants; Mr. Parnell, contending that the judicial rents are too high, suggests a three instead of fifteen years' purchase, as the amount of compensation to be paid to the landlords for their property. Mr. Gladstone objects to the State paying the difference between judicial rents and the market or obtainable—in promises—rate. Mr. Parnell's objection to eviction means that the landlord who got no rent last year is to get none next year. Mr. Parnell speaks as if the lowering of prices were the sole cause why the judicial rents cannot be paid; but if the wants or the convenience of the tenants are to be the sole rule, there is no hope for the landlords. The tenants are notoriously improvident, especially in the matter of early marriages, and poverty is the inevitable consequence. If they would imitate the small Swiss landholders, in this respect, their lot would be made more easy. If rents were abolished, their condition would be very little if at all permanently improved.

The commissioners appointed to enquire the cause of and the future prevention of the inundation of Montreal, report that the construction of a levee would afford a certain means of protection. The estimated cost, including right of way, is \$120,000. For this sum 300 acres in the city and nearly an equal area in St. Gabriel could be protected from inundation. A single overflow might cost a larger sum in damages. So necessary a work cannot be long delayed.

Mr. John F. Hume, in the *North American Review*, contends that the Federal government ought to make good the repudiated obligations of the several States which have scaled their debts down to sixty and even fifty cents on the dollar. The general interest of the finances of the republic and the national security are given as reasons why this should be done: if the Republic could not borrow in the hour of danger she would be defenceless. Very true; nevertheless, separate States and not the Republic are the debtors. If the general government were to make good debts which Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi, have in part repudiated, she would soon have to do the same for other States; for the very fact of the general government intervening with its credit, would create imitators of the repudiating States, armed with the cry that a necessity for fiscal readjustment had been created by the favoritism shown to particular parts of the country.