The Colonist.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1890.

CAPITAL ORGANIZING.

The strikes and labor combinations are having their natural effect in different parts of the world. Men of capital find that if they are to carry on their businesses without being exposed to numerous losses by the exactions of labor combinations they must themselves combine. We read of such combinations in Great Britain, the United States and Australia. The Shipping Federation of Great Britain is one of these combinations. It is said that this federation will exceed in magnitude anything ever before attempted in the way of organizing capital. The objects of the federation are stated in one of the resolutions agreed upon at the meeting by which it was formed. It is as follows:—

"That the objects of the federation are—(a) to deal with labor questions of all kinds, including conferences with labor organizations. (b) Indemnity to ship owners whose vessels are detained by the authority, or in consequence of the measures taken by the federation. (c) Legal proceedings when necessary in important test cases within the objects of the association, but not for ordinary breaches of discipline, etc. (d) The protection of officers, crews or servants of shipowners against intimidation on the part of trade's organizations or their members. (e) Proposed legislation affecting shipowners. (f) Counteracting the effects of agitators against the shipping interest, and to deal with cases of conspiracy."

The Federation has adopted as its motto "defense not defiance." Anyone who has observed at all closely the progress of the labor movement must have seen that capital must sooner or later combine in its own defence. Individual capitalists in dealing with not only one labor organization but with a combination of labor organizations find themselves overmatched. They cannot deal with labor combinations on equal terms. In order to be able to deal fragly and independently with those organizations the capitalists have found it necessary to follow the example of the workingmen and to organize. The most intelligent of the workingmen have long seen that this was inevitable and they are not at all appalled by the prospect. Mr. Tom Mann, a leader of the English workingmen, some time ago said that it would be better for both if employers should combine, and he went so far as to advise them to combine, declaring that it was easier for workingmen to deal with an organization of employers than to deal with a number of isolated individuals. What effect the combination of capitalists will have upon the consuming public it is difficult to say. Consumers have hitherto depended upon the working of unfettered competition to protect their interests. One man, or one set of men, could not long enjoy a good thing without competition. Others seeing that a new source of profit was opened up went into the business. The competition became keen. The profits diminished, and after a while the complaint was heard that the new business was overdone. The public benefits by this competition among capitalists. But if an era of combination has set in the probability is that the capitalists will not be so keen to cut down each other's profits as they are under the present system. If they combine to resist the exactions of organized labor, and to defend their own interests when they are attacked by the workingmen, they will most probably be disposed to act in concert to keep up prices.

This Shipping Federation and other combinations of capital will have the effect of teaching the labor combinations the virtue of moderation. They will find that they cannot present to the employer the alternative of concession or ruin. He, with a rich organization at his back, will be in a position to resist forms of coercion that are unfair and tyrannical. It will be to the interest of both labor and capital to come to agreements that are fair to both, and one of the consequences will most likely be the establishment of Courts of Arbitration, in which the claims of both parties will be carefully enquired into and impartially adjusted. Another result may be to make the workingmen free to join the union or to refrain from joining. It is said that many men in these days join labor unions because they are afraid to remain outside. The non-union man in many places is at a terrible disadvantage, and the odium of being considered a "scab" or a "blackleg" is, in every way, very hard to bear. It is said that the Shipping Federation will take non-union men under its protection and thus encourage liberty of action among workingmen, many of whom feel the yoke of the union to be exceedingly heavy.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS HENCE.

There are some nervous persons who are very solicitous about the future of the human race. They are terribly afraid that population will soon outgrow the food supply. What will the human race do when all the cultivatable land is cultivated, and when every country contains as many people as its resources can support? How long will it be before there is not standing room on the earth's surface left for a single new comer? The timid enquirers think that answers should be given to these questions and to others of similar import.

We are not sure that enquiries of this kind are very profitable. Why should men and women of this generation be so solicitous about the welfare of the earth's inhabitants at some indefinite period in the future? They may be pretty sure that the earth will not be greatly overcrowded in their time. The era of discovery has not yet passed. Large areas of the earth's surface are being continually explored which are almost wholly unoccupied. Dr. G. M. Dawson tells us that even in this Canada of ours there are 954,000 square miles exclusive of the inhospitable and detached Arctic regions that are for all practical purposes unknown. Mr. Stanley has discovered in Central Africa immense regions of fertile land which may almost be said to be uninhabited, and the work of exploration is still going on in Australia. The fact of the matter is men have even yet a very great deal to learn about the capabilities of the earth they inhabit.

Then, again, the science of agriculture is still in its infancy. What part of the earth produces all that it can be made to produce? Who knows what science has still in store for mankind? Who knows but that some puling infant may turn out to be a philosopher greater and infinitely more practical than Newton? He may be able to teach men how to grow not two blades of grass but a hundred where only one can be grown now. When the quantity of land yet to be reclaimed and made productive, and the possibilities of science are taken into consideration, who will take upon himself to place a limit to the productive capacity of the earth?

A Mr. Ravenstein, who read a paper before the British Association at Leeds the other day, has undertaken to satisfy the curiosity and to quiet the fears of those fearful souls who believe that before long the human race must either stop increasing or else starve to death. This savant has made a very nice calculation to find out when, at the present rate of increase the cultivatable land on the earth's surface will be fully occupied. His enquiries have led him to the conclusion that the whole area of the earth's surface is 46,000,000 of square miles. Of this about 28,000,000 are comparatively fertile. Then there are 14,000,000 square miles of low grass land or steppe, 4,180,000 miles of desert. He has calculated that there are now 101 human beings to the square mile in Europe, in North America there are 14, in South America 5, and in Australia 1½. He concludes that the earth can support 207 people to the square mile. This, he appears to consider quite a moderate allowance. In England there are 156 persons to the square mile, in India 175, in China 265, and in Japan 264. Mr. Ravenstein would, therefore, have the whole habitable world more thickly inhabited than England and India, but its population would not be so dense as that of China or Japan.

The population of the world is now estimated at 1,468 millions. Mr. Ravenstein calculates its average rate of increase to be 8 per cent. in every ten years. He considers the earth capable of sustaining a population of 5,994 millions. From these data it can be calculated that there will be in 182 years as many human beings on the earth as it can maintain. In the year 2072 the population of the earth, according to Mr. Ravenstein, will reach its utmost limit. There will be no food for the babe that is born in the year of Grace, 2073.

That year is not so very far off that, if the calculations of Mr. Ravenstein were certain to be mathematically correct, men now living could contemplate the condition that the world would then be in, with indifference. The struggle for existence is in many countries more than severe enough now, what will it be when the whole of it is more thickly peopled than India is at present? But arithmetic is not everything in a calculation of this kind. We have indicated conditions that are above and beyond mathematics, and there are others which lead us to believe that the calculations of the mere statistician are not to be implicitly depended upon. It is known that under certain conditions the increase of population ceases. The population of France has already come to a standstill. The population of Spain is in nearly the same position. The increase in Scandinavia is very small, and in Italy it is becoming less. A hundred years or so ago timid philosophers thought that mankind was increasing too rapidly, but the evil that they feared has not yet come upon the world, and who will venture to say that the inhabitants of Canada in 2073 will not smile at the calculations and predictions of the wise and learned men of 1890?

THE CORRECT VIEW.

The average American politician, whether member of a legislature or journalist, is in matters relating to trade and commerce, exceedingly narrow, and, if the truth must be told, not too well informed. It is the fashion with men of this class to make little of reciprocity with Canada. According to them, the gain of the last reciprocity treaty was all on the side of this country. If they are to be believed, Canada benefitted by that treaty and the United States lost. This is not true, but nine-tenths of those who take this position are not guilty of wilful misrepresentation, they simply do not know what they are talking about. They repeat what they have heard without taking the trouble to see for themselves whether it is accurate or not.

Men of this class disparage the trade with Canada, and try to make their countrymen believe that it is of little account. Here again they repeat parrot-like the representation of demagogues who are interested in deceiving the American voter on the subject. Canada is, according to its population, as good a customer as the United States has. Large quantities of American produce are consumed in Canada and the trades between the two countries is now, and always has been, mutually beneficial. The United States farmer and manufacturer benefit by it quite as much as do men of the same occupations on this side of the line. This is shown by the San Francisco News-Letter which, on the subject of trade, is more liberal and much more enlightened than the great majority of its American contemporaries. In an article on Reciprocity with Canada the News-Letter says:

"The altogether mistaken notion seems to have entered the average editorial mind that somehow or other Canada gets the better of the United States under existing arrangements; in other words, that she sells us much more than she buys. That, however, is very far from being the truth. The official figures of the United States for the year 1889 shows that Canada bought of us during that year to the amount of $50,029,419, while we took from her to the value of $42,738,074. The balance of trade in our favor amounted to the very handsome sum of $7,291,345. Even those highly favorable figures do not show all the truth. Only a small portion of our shipments into Canada by rail is ever included in the returns, because Congress blindly neglects to make provision for correct returns of the overland movement. The aggregates of exports are, therefore, much too small. But take them as they stand and they still show a large and important, a growing and a highly profitable trade with our northern neighbors. This more particularly appears when we consider what the things are which they purchase in our markets. Last year they paid us for flour $4,153,491; for corn, $3,398,278; for wheat, $1,673,406; for pork, bacon and lard; $4,820,088; for cheese, $1,027,765; for cotton, $3,023,842, and for tobacco leaf, $1,112,000. These figures possess a peculiar interest at this time. They show that friendly neighbors of our own race already supply us with that which Mr. Blaine thinks of paramount importance, namely, a market for barrels of flour and pork. With reciprocity that would be a material exchange of benefits, we should sell three times as much as we do to Canada.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

There are a good many who consider travesty of scripture both irreverent and in bad taste. It seems to us that political discussion can be carried on ably and effectually without either of the disputants resorting to the old and stale trick of parodying the language of the Bible. There are people, many of them most estimable, who regard the Bible as a sacred book, and who feel hurt and shocked when they see it imitated for the purpose of ridiculing and maligning a political opponent. We ask our contemporary The Times if it is worth while giving offence to these good people merely for the sake of making a point against the leader of the Government and the system of "daily marking." Can not some way of showing its disapproval of that detail of school management be found quite as effective as that resorted to by one of its editorial writers, who with singular inappropriateness signs himself "A Chronicler of Kings." It is not worth while replying to the sneers and the slanders which are put in a form so very objectionable. All that we wish to do is to point out that it is no sign of cleverness to attempt to imitate the style of the historical books of the Bible, that it is on the contrary strong evidence that the writer is wanting in both good taste and good feeling.

SHALL IT BE AN ORNAMENT?

We are pleased to learn that good progress is being made in obtaining subscriptions towards the erection of the Cathedral on Church Hill. As we expected a good deal of interest is taken in the structure and the desire of citizens of all denominations is that so prominent a building will be an ornament to the city. This we are quite sure it will be. The consciousness that so much depends upon the success of their efforts will no doubt stimulate the gentlemen who form the committee to raise the building fund by energetic and unremitting exertion, and we believe that citizens who have comfortable balances at their bankers will deem it a privilege to contribute towards the erection of an edifice which will remain for ages a monument of their liberality and their public spirit. Victorians should never lose sight of the fact that a handsome building in a conspicuous situation will be a credit, not only to the denomination to which it belongs, but to the whole city. We trust that this consideration will have the effect of causing many who are not members to aid in its erection. The building, when it is finished, will be, in a sense, theirs, whether they wish it or not. Will it not be well then for them to help to make it such that they and their children will feel proud of their share in its ownership? Would they not be pleased to hear of Victoria's Cathedral being spoken of, from the Pacific to the shores of the Atlantic, as a model of church architecture? This is what we all would like it to be. Why not then lend those that see building it a helping hand?

FOUND GUILTY.

Reginald Burchell has been convicted. Those who read the evidence before the magistrate who committed him for trial at all carefully must have seen that no other result was probable. The evidence against him was so strong as to preclude the possibility of a doubt. The murder was one of singular atrocity. Burchell and his victim were friends. He was in a sense young Benwell's guardian and protector. They were, it appeared, always on the most friendly terms. They lived in the one house; they ate at the same table; they were constantly together. Yet, while they were so intimate and in such confidential relations, Burchell coolly and deliberately planned the murder of the lad whom he was under every obligation to befriend. There are but few instances of such cold-blooded treachery. The motive, too, was a most sordid one. He had deceived Benwell and wanted to get rid of him, and by murdering him in cold blood he came into possession of poor Benwell's effects, which were not of any very great value.

It is evident from the manner in which Burchell conducted himself that he is one of those unfortunate beings who have no moral sense. His conduct from the day of his arrival in America is perfectly conscienceless. He assumed a false name and was, for a considerable period, a counterfeit lord. He was a systematic deceiver. It seemed easier for him to lie than to tell the truth, and he evidently enjoyed deceiving those with whom he came in contact. His conscience does not seem to have troubled him in the slightest degree, either before or after the murder. He was as gay as a lark on the day before he killed Benwell, and his high spirits and his easy manner surprised all who saw him even after his arrest. Up to the very day of his conviction, when an ordinary man would be unnerved by anxiety, he amused himself by reading novels and drawing sketches. He is certainly a moral monstrosity. Luckily, there are few such men. Even hardened criminals do not commit murder with a light heart, and, after its commission, they show by their words and their acts that they are conscious of having done wrong. To judge by appearances, Burchell had no more consciousness of wrongdoing than a lunatic. We are quite certain that the country in general will consider the verdict a righteous one.

ABSURDLY UNJUST.

It is not a little disgusting to observe how the American newspapers pander to the most unreasonable and the most anti-British of the Irish voters. There is nothing too foolish or too bitter for them to say if they believe that by saying it they will win or retain the votes of Irishmen who blindly hate Great Britain and everything British. The threatened famine is the latest pretext for abuse of the British Government. The San Francisco Chronicle goes so far as to assert that it is a "state-made famine." The absurdity of the accusation contained in this phrase must strike every intelligent and fair-minded American. It implies that the British Government is responsible for the potato disease in Ireland. The Chronicle is not altogether so superstitious as to believe that Mr. Balfour has dealings with malign spirits who have it in their power to blight the Irish potato crop or to dry up the milk in the udder of the Irish cow; but it does maintain that by some means or other, equally mysterious, the British Government influences the Irish peasant to place his whole dependence on his potato crop. To make the Government, which of all governments in the world meddles least with individual action, responsible for the tastes and prejudices and habits of Irish small farmers is the very extreme of unreason. The Chronicle might as well blame the British for oats being the staple crop of Scotland and the American Government for the big crop of mortgages that is produced in Kansas. To maintain, as the Chronicle does, that a country which depends for its maintenance almost wholly upon agriculture must necessarily be famine stricken is certainly a singular position for an American newspaper to take. Mr. Depew asserted a few days ago that the great majority of the breadwinners of the United States are farmers. Of those engaged in productive labor Mr. Depew declares the farmers outnumber all the others more than five to one. Does this great preponderance of men engaged in agriculture make the United States a starving country, or does it cause the farmers to be unskilful or improvident? Is the United States government responsible for the bad farming of American agriculturists? The injustice of the Chronicle's reproach is only equalled by its phenomenal stupidity. Our San Francisco contemporary must believe that hatred of Great Britain makes Irishmen in California intellectually blind when it publishes, in order to please them, such utter nonsense. The Irishman in America is intelligent and sharp-witted. He, no doubt, sees through the clumsy attempts that are made to humor him and coax him out of his votes, and heartily despises his abject flatterers.

THE WOLCOTT.

A great many reports have been raised as to the destination of the United States cutter Wolcott, most of them sensational and wholly devoid of truth. When it was found that her commander had orders to proceed to Alaska, conjectures were made as to why she was sent there, and what course the Government had determined to pursue. Those conjectures were given to the public as reliable information, embellished by quite a large amount of bellicose comment. This is how a great deal of the news that comes to us over the wires is manufactured, and it is by no means a matter of surprise that sensible and well-informed people refuse to believe it until it is confirmed.

The sensational reports were altogether unnecessary. Any shrewd journalist, when he was in possession of what are known to be undoubted facts, might have easily come to correct conclusions with respect to the Wolcott's mission north, without having heard a word from her commander or from the authorities at Washington. He had seen that the United States Government had abandoned the policy of treating British vessels found pursuing seals on the high seas as poachers. When he heard that vessels had left Victoria for the purpose of seal hunting after the ordinary season he might, without laying claim to the possession of any extraordinary amount of sagacity, have at once concluded that the Wolcott had been sent to the haunts of the seal to keep an eye on these vessels and to prevent them hunting seals within three miles of the shore. The British vessel that does this is really a poacher, and her crew deserves to be treated with the greatest severity. The sea for three miles from the coast of the mainland and islands of Alaska is as much United States territory as the land which it washes. British ships have no more right to pursue the seals within that limit than they have to drive them to the shore and kill them there. We do not think that any British Columbia sealers have the slightest intention of committing what is really a trespass, and if any of them are so unprincipled and so foolish as to hunt seals in a lawless way, it is to the interest of all who are interested in the seal fishery, both British and American, that they be caught and punished. We hope that the Wolcott will be able to pounce upon any vessel that is really poaching, whether she hails from Victoria or San Francisco. If the vessel seized flies the British flag, her owners will find that when once it is proved that she was seized seal-hunting within three miles from shore, that flag will be no protection to her, nor will her crew receive the least sympathy from British subjects anywhere.

GROSS MISREPRESENTATION.

The San Francisco Call repeats with approval what Mr. Nimmo says about the exclusion of American fishermen from the ports of Eastern Canada, and argues that as Americans do not refuse harbor accommodation to Canadian fishermen the Canadians are "brutal" because they refuse harbor accommodation to United States fishermen. Mr. Nimmo and the Call carefully keep out of sight the fact that there are no fishing grounds off the eastern coasts of the United States to which Canadian fishermen resort. Consequently the privilege of which they boast is not a privilege at all. There are no Canadians to avail themselves of it. There is another fact, and one of great importance, which those who complain of the inhospitality of Canadians neglect to mention, that is that the exclusion of American fishermen from the ports of Eastern Canada, except for purposes of shelter and taking in wood and water, is in accordance with the terms of a treaty which the Americans voluntarily entered into. In that treaty the Americans renounced fishing privileges which they had up to that time claimed, reserving only the rights we have mentioned. The terms of that treaty are so plain that it is impossible to misinterpret them. The inshore fisheries of Eastern Canada are very valuable, and it is to preserve them that American fishermen have been prevented from using Canadian harbors as if they were their own. The Call does not say that this exclusion is strictly confined to fishing vessels. Accommodation is freely extended to American trading ships and to every other kind of ship flying the stars and stripes. None of them have reason to complain of inhospitality. But the fishing vessels are specially excluded by treaty, and when the Americans are required to keep the bargain they have made, some of them complain of "brutality."

During the time that the reciprocity treaty was in force, American fishermen enjoyed all the privileges of British subjects in Canadian waters. The inshore fisheries were as free to them as they were to Canadians, and they made a much greater and a more profitable use of them. Under the Washington treaty, the Americans enjoyed the same privilege. There was no talk of inhospitality as long as it was in force, and, if the Americans had wished, the fishery clauses of that treaty would be still in operation. Canadians have never refused reciprocity in the matter of fishing to their American neighbors, and it was their own choice to fall back upon the treaty of 1818.

The Call must go to Behring's Sea for an example both of inhospitality and brutality. Although the sea is really a part of the Pacific Ocean, the United States drove British ships out of it. The sealers are not allowed harbor privileges. They dare not come near the land for fear of seizure by American cutters, and those cutters followed them out into the high seas, and there treated them as if they were outlaws. Does the Call remember the treatment which the crews of British sealers received in Alaska? Was that treatment humane or hospitable? Yet those sealers violated no law, they did not act in contravention of any treaty. It would be just as well if some American journalists, when they discuss this fishery question, would try to get some little knowledge of the subject.

Their First Entertainment.

After the disposal of the regular lodge business on Monday evening next, October 6th, a varied entertainment will be given in the hall of Milton Lodge, Sons of St. George. It will consist of a programme of good music, speeches, etc., and no doubt will prove a pleasure to those who are there to enjoy it.

At the Cathedral.

As announced from the pulpit by the Lord Bishop on Sunday last, the Harvest Festival of Christ Church Cathedral will be held to-morrow evening. The church is very prettily and tastefully decorated for the occasion, and a thoroughly good programme of music has been prepared.

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