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FDWD. TROUT. MANAGER.

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THE SITUATION.

The execution of Riel is a vindication of the law to which we have always looked forward with confidence. Though Riel was not accepted exactly as a representative French Canadian, much soreness is felt in Quebec at the event, on the assumption that the execution somehow marks the triumph of the English Province of Ontario over the French population of Quebec. The theory of insanity, it is now confessed, was set up as the only plea that could be urged in his favor, and an attempt was made to terrorize those who insisted that the law should take its course, by saying that Riel's execution would beget in the minds of the Metis of the North-West an unconquerable desire for vengeance and would put French Canada on its metal. Ontario was anxious for no triumph but that of justice; and if an English-speaking man had put himself in the place of Riel no human being would have asked his reprieve on the ground of his nationality. No sensible person in Ontario desires to humiliate the French race; but everyone refuses to allow that the fact of being a French Canadian should shield any one from the consequences of his acts, especially when they are of a highly criminal character.

A Free Trade Conference, held at Chicago, has urged that a beginning be made in the reform of the U. S. tariff laws, under which duties averaging 42 per cent. are payable on not less than 1,400 different articles. There were a majority and a minority report; the majority report being the more moderate of the two. The minority report asked for an immediate reduction of the tariff to the revenue point. The majority began by asking that the existing evil be not intensified by an increase of protective duties. The removal of duties from crude materials was advocated; the term crude materials being used in a sense large enough to cover partially manufactured articles. On the products of these raw materials no additional duties should be put. A bold demand for free ships, which the ship-builders will not like, was made; and the abolition of the navigation laws, a necessary corollary was called for. No doubt this is the only way to revive

the shipping industry of the nation; but the selfish interests which stand in the way may prevent this advance towards Free Trade being made for some time longer.

A conquest of the small-pox scourge in Montreal is gradually being brought about. In the week ending October 31, the number of deaths was 273, at the end of the next week the number had fallen to 210, and in week ending November 13, it was only 144. This great and steady decline gives hope; that the end of the trouble is approaching. In the suburbs, within the same time, there has been an increase; the figures having been 81, 94 and 91. The sanitary arrangements in the suburbs being inferior to those in the city, will go far towards accounting for the difference. Even in the city the disease may be expected to linger so long as there is material for it to feed upon. The decline of mortality there is due mainly to better isolation. Mayor Beaugrand has fought the battle nobly, and the Board of Health has done its share. But there must be no relaxation, either in vaccination or in isolation. In the suburbs, the authorities have failed in their duty, and have not carried out the instructions of the Provincial Board of Health. This defect must be remedied if the disease is to be speedily stamped out.

Mr. Mackasey has been figuring out the loss which the Nova Scotian fishermen will suffer this year by the termination of fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty. Taking an ascertained figure as the basis of his estimate, he says "that if the American duties had been imposed on the catch of last year, the loss would have been \$1,648,011." This conclusion requires consent to two assumptions: that the whole catch went to the United States, and that the producer, not the consumer, pays the duty. The latter assumption is protectionist doctrine, and of its truth, Mr. Mackasey ought to offer proof. That the whole catch of Nova Scotia does not go to the United States, is notorious. Mr. Mackasey's prognostications do not appear to have a well-founded basis.

Irish Home Rule meetings are strangely out of place in Canada. The local politicians who take part in them simply allow themselves to be used for a purpose by the Nationalists. To such a meeting, held in London, Mr. Meredith sent a letter saying that, while he was opposed to the dismemberment of the Empire, he favored local self-government for Ireland similar to that which obtains in Canada; forgetting that Ireland, as part of the centre of the empire, is adequately represented in the Imperial Parliament. The meeting adopted the cottigan resolutions passed by the House of Commons on the 21st April, 1882. Mr. Mills grounded the right of interference on the "love which men should bear to their fellowmen." The land bill he contended did not sufficiently protect the tenants; but he failed to explain how a meeting held in London, C.W., could help to obtain local self-government for Ireland, or bring about a change in the Irish land laws.

Governor Dewdney, in his speech at the opening of the North-West Council, touched on several important topics. He stated that as soon as the census now being taken is completed electoral districts will be erected. He was waiting Dominion authority to spend the handsome subsidy granted for school purposes, no less than sixty-five applications for the formation of school districts, only one of them for a separate school, having been made. Of this number thirty Protestant and eight Roman Catholic school districts have been proclaimed. In Wolsley, Calgary, Indian Head and Prince Albert municipal corporations have been established. Measures to check prairie fires were suggested. Governor Dewdney put the quantity of wheat available for export, this year, in the North-West at 5,000,000 bushels, of an average quality far exceeding that of previous years. The late disturbances tended to unsettle the Indians who took no part in them, but the Indians who took up arms did not do so of their own motion.

Lord Rosebery has thrown out a hint that the representative element in the House of Lords might advantageously be increased; and that among others colonial representatives might find a place there. Mr. Morley replies that colonial representatives would not care to sit in a house which did not control the business of the country. This caused Lord Rosebery to remark that he did not consider colonial representation in the House of Commons practicable. "I do not think," he said, "any representatives of the colonies would expect to sit in the house of Commons, with control of British finance, when they are not in any respect contributors to the income of this country; and, therefore, until the colonies become contributors to British finance—which I do not think it is very likely they will ever be in the ordinary sense of the word—I do not suppose that they will expect, or that they would wish, to sit in the Commons House of Parliament. Lord Rosebery's view of the case is one that will be accepted in Canada, so far as the House of Commons and the colonies contributing to British finances are concerned. The value of seats in the House of Lords for colonists is another matter; we confess that at first blush it does not appear to us to be great. Such an arrangement would minister to the ambition of individual colonists, but that it would be of any substantial benefit to the colonies is doubtful.

Lord Derby recently assured the Liverpool Reform Club that all parties to the present electoral contest, had agreed to postpone the question of the State Church and the question of the Second Chamber. He was not frightened at the proposal that municipalities should have the power to buy land in order to sell it again; such power, as he had recently found to his surprise, having been in existence half a century. He regretted that the phrase graduated taxation had been used, as it might lead to misconception; but if it meant the taxing of superfluities, it existed now. The house tax, the carriage tax, the probate duties,