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London, Thursday, July 14.

SOME people have been kicking because Mr. Gladstone's majority in a constituency that was Conservative from time immemorial till he did battle in it was only a miserable 700 or so. It would not surprise us to find the same individuals grumbling because Hon. Edward Blake has only 2,000 votes to the good.

The raiding of opium joints in New York has, according to a local paper, brought up the question in that city once more. "Why should a man not smoke opium if he wishes to?" An opium smoker is quiet, he does not beat his wife, he makes no row on the street, nor, in the vast majority of cases, does the smoke do him any harm. Why is it that a Caucasian has a right to drink whisky and a Mongolian no right to take another nerve stimulant? This is a startling way in which to demonstrate the evil of intemperance, but it is most effective.

"No revision of the voters' lists this year," says the Montreal Star, "means that the graveyard vote will hold a balance of power at the bye-elections next spring." The dead men will not be alone, though. They will have hundreds of live associates, who, under the infamous provisions of the Franchise Act, will return from the United States and swamp the votes of genuine electors, while thousands of young Canadians, who are entitled to be on the lists, will be deprived of the opportunity of exercising their manhood rights. Is it not shameful?

SOUTH LONGFORD, for which Hon. Edward Blake will sit in the Parliament to assemble at Westminster on Aug. 4, is an important riding in the Province of Leinster, the very heart of Ireland. The soil is rich, underlaid by limestone and clay lead. There are valuable ores of iron and lead, but unwrought. Grazing farms are numerous and large quantities of butter are made. Linens and woollens are manufactured. Longford, the capital, with a population of 5,000, is 68 miles by railway from Dublin. The population is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

The town of Hyattsville has the own of all taxes on improvements, and will collect its civic revenues from land values only. An impetus to the building trade has already been given. Speculators have held land without improvements, while the neighboring owners built and added to the value of the vacant lots. Under the new system this will not be encouraged. The vacant lot owner will have to turn his property to account, or sell it to some one who will, or he will lose by the transaction. In Ottawa, Ex-Mayor McDougall and City Assessor Pratt favor this system, and the Board of Trade have received a favorable report on it. In all probability, the issue will be raised in the next municipal elections. There is this to be said in favor of the George system, its supporters have the courage of their convictions; they are aided by opponents who, in many cases, either ignorantly or by design, misrepresent the single tax on land values, only to be brought into humiliation when an honest investigator reads and thinks for himself. "Investigate!" is the watchword of the single tax men.

IN REPLY to an American correspondent, Prince Bismarck has talked quite freely about his recent severe criticism of the Emperor William. Many people outside of Germany have believed that Bismarck's language was so strongly condemnatory of the War Lord and his policy, and so calculated to cause dissatisfaction with his regime, that the Emperor would not fail to take action. Bismarck, however, says he has no fear; he knows, he asserts, that the German people and the German language are higher than the Emperor. This language, in itself, is, no doubt, viewed as treasonable by those who concede the Emperor's dictum that the first duty of the subject is to blindly obey the Emperor whithersoever he leadeth. Bismarck may not have thought of it, but he, one of the worst autocrats of them all while he was the right-hand man of the present Emperor's grandfather, has given an enormous impetus to democratic principles within the empire. He has a peculiar way of making his excuses for talking too frankly. "I am," he says, "criticized because I have spoken my mind, but my critics seem to forget or ignore the fact that it has always been my custom to speak frankly. And their objections extend to the manner in which I have expressed myself. Here, too, I can only regret the need of wording, but I have ever lived up to that line from our great Helms—you remember the words: 'Many I have scratched and not a few have been bitten by me. No, I never was a lamb.'"

HON. EDWARD BLAKE'S ELECTION.
The election of Hon. Edward Blake as M. P. for South Longford, by the enormous majority of 2,000, is an event fraught with the utmost importance, not only to Canadians, but to the people of Ireland and Great Britain as well.

It may be, let us hope it will be, that the hour of the distinguished Canadian statesman has come, and that in his new sphere he will be granted the opportunity to serve the land of his forefathers and advance the interest of the entire English-speaking world in such a manner as shall bring satisfaction to himself and pleasure to his hosts of admirers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr. Blake enters the British Parliament at a critical time. No matter how large the majority Mr. Gladstone may have behind him when the new Parliament assembles on Aug. 4, it is certain that the task which he has set before him cannot be completed without the exercise of the greatest prudence and, it may be, of another appeal to the electorate as a result of the determination of the House of Lords to thwart the wishes of the electorate as expressed at the polls.

This is a situation which will call for the exercise of wisdom, prudence, and judgment on the part of the Grand Old Man and his Parliamentary adherents. If there is one man who can give effective aid in the bringing to fruition of Gladstone's last great Parliamentary work that man is Edward Blake. The great question to be settled once and for all is whether Ireland shall or shall not have local self-government such as we in Ontario possess. The people at the polls have decided that the island shall be entrusted to manage her own local affairs, imperial business being left to the Parliament at Westminster. The details of the measure must be worked out by the Liberal statesmen before the act is presented to Parliament. Gladstone doubtless has the bill in skeleton. It must be perfected. Unnecessary criticism must be disarmed. The rights of all parties must be conserved. In this work the experience which Edward Blake has passed through in the Dominion will be of immense service to the great Liberal leader. Mr. Blake knows probably better than any other statesman now living the strength and the weakness of the system under which we now live, a modified form of which it is the intention to introduce in Ireland, and, if Mr. Blake has his way, in England and Scotland as well.

The experience of this distinguished Canadian exemplifies the truism that no work, however arduous, undertaken for the welfare of one's fellows is ever entirely fruitless. The harvest, though late, will come some time to the man of resource. For years Mr. Blake fought the battles of what he believed to be right, and was beaten despite the merits of his cause, by the most baneful of influences. No doubt there were many who thought that the failure to attain power meant a total loss to the honorable gentleman. That was far from being the case, and we believe that his career in the greatest representative body of the world will bear out our contention. His political schooling in Canada was the very thing necessary to his usefulness in his larger sphere.

WEALTH IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Census Office at Washington has completed a provisional estimate of the wealth of the United States, and the New York Sun makes an interesting comparison between it and the statistics of British progress compiled by Mr. Giffen, the English statistician. It may be premised that for 1890, as for 1880, the basis of the computation made by the United States census takers is the value assessed in the several States for taxation, which, except in Massachusetts, is very much below the true value. In 1880 the census office undertook to correct the assessed values, which made the wealth of the United States only \$16,902,000,000, and substituted the much larger figures, \$45,642,000,000. If the same correction factor is applied to the returns for 1890, the true value of all property represented in the census of the United States will be not \$24,651,000,000, as reported, but \$63,648,000,000. Even the latter estimate falls far short of the truth, because in about half of the United States railways are not included in the property taken account of by the census.

In the absence of exhaustive data, for the purpose of comparison it may be assumed that \$63,648,000,000 represents the aggregate wealth of the United States. Now in 1885 Mr. Giffen entered into an elaborate series of calculations, in pursuance of which he fixed the wealth of the United Kingdom at \$50,000,000,000, all railways and every other species of property being included. It follows that of the two countries the United States is the richer by more than \$13,000,000,000. The excess in favor of the States is really greater, because the value of the railways in some of the States is not reckoned. As Great Britain is universally acknowledged to be richer than any other European State, it is contended that the people of the United States are thus the richest in the world. This is to say, their aggregate wealth is greater; but if we accept provisionally the figures \$63,648,000,000 as correct, the United States wealth per head of population is less than that of the United Kingdom. Mr. Giffen reckoned that in the latter country at the date of his computations (1885) the divisible share of each person in the national wealth was \$1,350, whereas about \$1,000 would be the divisible share of each person in the

United States. It should be further noted that according to Mr. Giffen the wealth of the United Kingdom increased by \$130 per head in the ten years preceding 1885, while in the decade between the two last censuses the wealth of the United States increased at exactly the same rate.

When it is considered that Great Britain is an old country, with comparatively few natural resources, and the United States is a new land, possessing almost unbounded capabilities for wealth-getting, and a climate enabling the people to profitably produce almost any product to be found the world over, the growth of the motherland cannot but be regarded as satisfactory. In both countries, however, legislators have still need to apply themselves to an honest consideration of the problem of whether or not the laws are so operated that the wealth is fairly shared. There is plenty of work for the social and economical reformer before an ideal condition of society can be reached.

THE BURIED INDICTMENT.

The Toronto Week, an independent Conservative Journal, refers to the forthcoming "investigation" of the embezzled charges against Sir Adolphe Caron as "a sham trial," and adds:

"Assume Sir Richard Cartwright's charges to be true, or to have a substantial basis of truth, and what follows? That for the last ten years the Government of Canada has been sustained and its party majorities secured by a system of organized fraud; that the public funds have been systematically used in subsidizing railway promoters, manufacturers and other public works, not with reference solely to the needs of the country, but to promote the interests of the party in power; that in return for legislative and departmental favors conferred at the public expense, railway promoters, manufacturers and contractors have contributed large sums of money which have been used by the Government or its agents in bribing electors; that the constituencies have been outrageously 'gerrymandered' for the purpose of creating artificial Government majorities; that a Franchise Act has been passed and manipulated for the same purpose; that investigations demanded by the Opposition for the purpose of unveiling specific cases of corruption have been refused or turned aside by ineffective substitutes; and that, as a result of the persistent and systematic use of these and similar corrupt methods, the public conscience has become so deadened and debauched that the clearest evidence of the grossest corruption no longer avails to arouse popular indignation."

Mr. Edgar has solemnly affirmed that he can prove these charges to be true; he has expressed his readiness to furnish conclusive evidence to that effect, and the answer of the Ottawa authorities is that under no circumstances will he have the opportunity. Would not men conscious of their innocence gladly agree to an investigation? Mr. Laurier, when accused by innuendo of being a party to corrupt deals in Quebec Province, unreservedly offered to go before a committee named by his enemies. Sir John Thompson and Sir Adolphe Caron refused to have the charges made against them the last named investigated even by their friends. The public can draw their own conclusions.

OPINION: "ALL SORTS."

CANADA'S ALARMING DEBT.

(Toronto News, Conservative.)
In three years the interest charge on the public debt of the United States has been reduced from \$24,500,000 to less than \$25,000,000. To-day the republic, with over twelve times our population, is paying only a little more than double the sum that Canada is paying as interest on the national debt.

Under these circumstances it was little less than criminal to add to the Dominion's indebtedness by throwing away \$5,000,000 in subsidies to railways that are mainly intended as a reward for constituencies that have returned supporters of the Government.

STAND BY THE STEAL.

(Guelph Mercury.)
There is to be no revision of the Dominion Franchise Act this year, and, in spite of an amendment by the Opposition, the bogus names on the list are to be retained. It is perhaps as well to have the whole discreditable, deplorable proceedings of that London steal stand out in all their dishonor, unredeemed by a single righteous act on the part of the Government.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S BEAUTIFUL SCHEME.

(London Economist.)
Sir Charles deputed at great length upon the wheat-growing capacity of Canada, and on the wonderful agricultural development which the Dominion is destined to accomplish in the near future. But without stopping to inquire whether his glowing visions are or are not likely to be realized, we would suggest that on his own showing the realization is not in any way dependent upon the adoption of the policy he was seeking to support. That policy is based upon the assumption that, say, the Canadian wheat-growers would find a more profitable market for their produce here if foreign wheat were taxed than they find now when they have to compete on equal terms with foreign producers, and that the higher prices thus obtained would stimulate them to increased production. But this according to Sir Charles Tupper, is exactly what will not happen. "It seems impossible to doubt," he is reported to have said, "the practicability of producing within the borders of the empire all the food products required by Great Britain, and it is equally obvious that the competition between India, Australasia and Canada may be safely relied upon to prevent an increase in the cost of such commodities." In other words, as far as Canadian trade is concerned, the policy of fiscal discrimination which the league advocates would simply leave things as they are. The Canadians would derive no advantage from it, if, as Sir Charles Tupper says, the cost of wheat, grain, wheat, and other food products, to be before long in a position to supply us with all the food products we require; and, if that be so, why should we in the meantime quarrel with all our foreign customers, and expose all our foreign trade to the danger of fiscal reprisals in order to attain an end that will inevitably come of itself? It is hardly necessary to say that we are not endorsing Sir Charles Tupper's arguments. Taking them as they are put, however, it is not difficult to see how contradictory and self-destructive they are.

The Pope is in excellent health. In the House of Representatives the Free Silver Bill, which passed the Senate, was practically shelved by a vote of 136 to 129.

FRIDAY BARGAIN DAY. JULY 15.

In this space we enumerate a few of the many lines selected for our special Bargain Day. Bargain Day has been a great success wherever started, and it is going to be in London. The citizens are taking hold of it in right good earnest.

1st—Boys' Blue Serge Sailor Suits, a few left, regular price \$1 and \$1 25, Bargain Day 75c.

2nd—A few Linen Coats, gents' sizes, left from last Bargain Day, we clear them to-day at 39c.

3rd—Boys' Tweed Suits to-day \$1, cheap at \$2; about 50 left to select from.

4th—All-wool Challies worth 50c, 40c and 35c, your choice to-day only 25c; dark and light, small and large patterns.

5th—5 pieces striped Dress Goods, grey and fawn shades, high class goods, sold all season at 65c yd, your choice Bargain Day for 29c.

6th—16 pieces checked Dress Goods, Scotch make, worth 22c, to-day 12½c.

7th—Madras Muslin for Curtains, 40 and 45 inches wide, only 12½c, worth 25c and 30c yard.

8th—5 pieces twilled Sheetting, bleached, 29c, worth 40c.

9th—15 dozen all-linen Towels, 6c each, worth 10c.

10th—Now is your opportunity for Dress Trimmings, a few boxes left, Tinsel Trimming, to-day only 6c yard.

11th—5 dozen Leghorn Hats for children, worth \$1, for 25c. 20 dozen Ladies' Hats, trimmed and ready to wear, regular price \$1, to-day 25c.

12th—5 pieces Navy Blue Serge for boys' wear, to-day 24c.

13th—1 piece 36-inch floor Oil Cloth, slightly damaged, to-day 20c.

14th—9 pieces fine striped Flannelette and Ceylon Cloth, worth 15c and 18c, to-day 10c yard.

15th—7 pieces Lambskin Flannels, fawn and blue shades, regular price 14c, to-day 8½c.

16th—2 pieces Oxford Shirting, fine make, 9c to-day, worth 14c.

17th—Ladies' Jet Visites and Lace Shoulder Capes, the \$3 line for \$1 50, the \$4 line for \$2 and the \$5 line for \$2 50 and so on; all half price to-day.

18th—15 dozen Gents' Rubber Collars, to-day 5c, worth 12½c.

19th—11 dozen Cashmere Hose for ladies, light make, worth 50c, to-day only 35c.

20th—32 dozen Lisle Thread Hose, ladies' sizes, the 50c line for 25c, the 60c line for 30c, the 75c for 38c and the 90c line for 45c; prices for Bargain Day only.

21st—Ladies' Dress Caps, largely worn in England; some made entirely of cream lace, some with a little color mixed in; regular prices \$1 35 and \$1 75, to-day \$1 each.

And many other lines which we have not space to enumerate here. If you have not yet found your way to any of our Bargain Day Sales, we invite you to-day. Bring your friends with you. This is your day, and we will gladly show you through.

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