

The Colonist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1889.

CLERGYMEN IN POLITICS.

It is curious to see how the same questions come before the public in every civilized community and under every form of government. There is no exception in France. The clergy in that country claim a right to take part in the contest both as electors and advisers of the laity. The Bishop of Marseilles is the first to assert the rights of his order. He has issued a circular to his clergy telling them that the election of deputies is a matter in which they are concerned and that it is sinful to vote for a man whose principles they cannot approve.

It is by many considered unseemly for clergymen to make political speeches and to take part in a political canvass. For them to do so is a violation of those unwritten laws which are called the "proprieties." The calling of the clergyman to "sacred," and practical politics are perhaps improperly considered the province of sacred. The general opinion is that the political atmosphere is one which a clergyman who is not worldly-minded and who wishes to be considered devoted to his calling, ought not to breathe. Political practice are the "meat" which a minister of religion cannot touch without being defiled. This may be prejudice, but if it is, it is a prejudice which is very general in every country.

But we think that the chief reason why the action of clergymen in politics is so generally condemned is that it is regarded as unfair—as an improper use of the influence which they have gained and which they cannot but exercise as ministers of religion. It is quite true that a minister is a citizen and is entitled to all a citizen's rights and privileges. But the opponents of clerical influence contend that it is altogether impossible to separate the citizen from the clergyman. As a citizen the politician does not care a hoot about the clergyman's opinions on political matters. They may be sound or they may be unsound, and they are just as likely to be unsound as sound. But of the clergyman's influence as a voter and a political campaigner he cares a very great deal. What he says about politics, whether he intends it or not, carries with it the weight and the authority that properly attach to his utterance on religion. He speaks, and he cannot help speaking, "ex cathedra." Those who have a reverence for him as their religious teacher and who hear his instructions as such with respect, cannot throw off the habit when he gives utterance to his opinions and preferences regarding matters political. They receive his fallible, and it may be, foolish views on earthly subjects with the same devout attention and respect as they do his teachings and exhortations on spiritual matters. They have been taught to follow his advice implicitly in all things respecting faith and morals, and they naturally believe to be his duty to do as he tells them when he undertakes to advise them how they are to vote.

It is all very well to say that a clergyman has the same rights as every other man to exercise his political privileges, but every man who reflects can see how very easy it is for a religious instructor or the people to abuse his influence to attain non-religious but political ends. It is because this has been so frequently done, and because clergymen cannot take a part in political contests without, to a certain extent, doing it—whether intentionally or not—that their interference in political contests is looked upon with jealousy and distrust by politicians of all parties and in every country.

AN UNLUCKY CONSTITUENT. Haldimand is a most unfortunate country. It is certainly the worst county in the Dominion in which to run an election. There must be something in the air that surrounds it which is bad for candidates for legislative honors. It is very hard to get elected there, and it is harder still to keep the seat after the election is over. During the last election the victory was won by Haldimand with very little difficulty. Little devices which other candidates resort to in other constituencies were fatal when tried by the man who engineer elections in Haldimand. We will not do so say that the constituency of Haldimand is hopelessly corrupt, for that would offend a great many of its electors who would scorn to buy or sell

constituents could bear and that his resignation would be acceptable. Poor Tannor, no doubt, has the seal to carry out the policy of the government, and we wish such an ungrateful return, very reluctantly sent. The President's resignation. It is but fair to say that Corporal Tannor's integrity is not questioned. He is not a knave. He is, from a business point of view, simply a fool. His want of business capacity is said to be simply phenomenal.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

The Times makes an excellent and carefully guarded expression of opinion made by the Hon. Mr. Dewdney on the night of the banquet, the text of a by no means profound article on the relations that should exist between capital and labor. In that article our contemporary takes it for granted that it rests altogether with the man of capital who wages his employees such wages. According to it, all that the philanthropic man can do is to do when he starts his establishment is to say to his work people: "I will give you all high wages so that you may live in comfort and be able to save up something against a rainy day if you are at all careful." The Times tries to create the impression that the capitalist is master of the situation, and that he can as he chooses make wages high or low. It says: "Why should he (Mr. Dewdney) not say to capital, pay your employees well and be content with smaller profits yourself."

Now, let us think over this matter a little. We will assume that a man of capital starts a concern of some kind here in Victoria—a newspaper establishment. That will do as well as anything else. He spends his money in buying plant and equipping a first-class office. He, of course, expects some return for his money. We presume that the times require that he should get something for his labor and for the money he has invested. Can he run his new concern on philanthropic principles? Can he call the men he has employed and tell them: "I know how much each of you ought to get, and I will pay you what I consider liberal wages, without any regard to the rate given by other employers, and without considering what the public are willing to pay for my newspaper and for advertising therein. There is no man in town so foolish as to expect any man who wishes to make a living by one publishing a newspaper to let like this. They know that with regard to what he shall pay his men he has very little discretion. There are other newspaper concerns in the town, and he must, if he does not want to court ruin, be to a very great extent, in the management of his business, regulated by the way smaller establishments are conducted. He cannot charge more for his newspaper than other publishers. Being restricted in this way in the price of the article he deals in, he cannot, even if he is ever so willing, pay his employees more than his neighbors in the same line of business do. The employees must be paid periodically, say, every week, but he must wait for his money. They run no risks. Their pay is sure. He may at the end of the year find himself not only without interest on his money but without remuneration for his labor, and in debt besides. This is very often the case in the newspaper business, and it is a great many other enterprises.

How often it is seen that a company or an individual engages in some business in which they believe money to be made. They invest largely and spend much money in wages, but it turns out that they had miscalculated and they come out by heavy losses. The only man who gains by such projects are the wage earners. It is, we submit, foolish and wrong to attempt to lead workingmen to believe that the men of capital have the whole regulation of the price of labor in their own hands. Some men who do not reflect may believe those who misrepresent things in this way, and become discontented and "unreasonable." The workman who thinks that there are many who do—sees that business of kinds has its laws which cannot be broken. The man who puts his money in any business, no matter what it is, cannot manage it exactly as he likes. He finds himself restricted in a hundred ways. And if he does not want to lose his money he must bend to circumstances.

There are hardships and evils in society, every one knows. The fierce competition of the age we live in is felt by men of all classes, but the men of capital as well as by the men who have nothing to dispose of but the labor of their hands. Wise men said "good men are trying to find a remedy for these evils, but they have not yet found it, and as far as can be seen just now, are not likely soon to find it." But it is not hard to see that the evils which we all deplore are not to be remedied by setting capital against labor, and labor against capital. They are necessary to each other. If society is to keep together and men of all classes are to prosper, they must be co-operative, not antagonistic.

The Times says that capital should be content with smaller profits. Whether capital is content or not, its profits have been growing smaller and smaller of late years. Those who have observed the financial condition of all civilized nations would be surprised to find that it is now lower than ever it was. In the old and rich countries it is surprising how small a return capitalists expect for their money. It is only the other day that the British Chancellor of the Exchequer out-down the interest of the national debt from three per cent to two and three quarters and after three years it is only two and a half per cent. Any country or corporation which is solvent and has a fair prospect of remaining solvent, can now borrow money at a much lower rate than it could eight or ten years ago. The combined trusts that are being formed everywhere show that capital is dissatisfied with the returns it is getting and that it is trying to kill competition. The formation of these organizations shows that the men of capital are in places and that they are not feeling unfair and improper ways of avoiding the competition which

is general and so undiscriminating in its operation. We do not think that it is wise for the sake of making a political point to misrepresent the relations that exist between capital and labor. The question, which our contemporary raises, and as we think, handles so unwisely, is one of the greatest importance. It goes far deeper than any question of mere party politics, and it is simply a fool who quivers that he is not carefully and prudently discussed by all who undertake to advise and instruct the public.

WELL-FOUNDED COMPLAINTS.

We see by the Report of the Board of Trade that it has been impossible to obtain from the Dominion Government an explicit answer to the question: "Whether in the event of his being considered advisable to form a Harbor Trust for the Port of Victoria, to what extent would the Dominion Government be willing to guarantee the interest upon debentures for the purpose of acquiring by purchase the fore-shore rights and that of carrying out otherwise the purpose of the Trust?" The President very properly complains in his Report that "the Government has not deigned to furnish any reply beyond mere acknowledgments of the receipt of the communication." He calls attention to "the apparent apathy and want of courtesy with which this and other equally important enquiries have been received by the Heads of Departments at Ottawa."

CONTRADICTORY STORIES.

Fifty American working men and working women went to Europe early in the summer for the purpose of making observations on the state of industry in the Old World and on the condition of the laboring classes. They returned home a few days ago and the American newspapers make them say that everything they saw in Europe was inferior as regards material and workmanship to similar articles manufactured in the United States. They do not, however, account for the fact that the United States confessedly makes but a very poor show at the Paris Exhibition. As regards the condition of the work people, the returned tourists are represented as describing it as miserable—infinite worse than that of the hands who are so happy as to find employment in the factories, workshops and the mines of the Great West. In the American work people were, if their own papers tell the truth about them, rather diplomatic when they were entertained by their fellow-workmen in England. When they talked to English audiences they did not disparage everything European and brag about everything American. On the contrary, they were very modest as regards their own country, and they expressed their surprise at finding the English working classes so comfortable and so contented. This is what one of them, Mr. Norman Colman, said in Birmingham at a reception which was given to him and his fellow-travellers in that great manufacturing city:—"I had supposed that there would be more or less prejudices here toward the Americans. But I have found that the English are friendly and mutual interest. (Hear, hear.) He said that in the main the English are a better class of people than the Americans. They are more happily disposed in the condition of the working classes in this country, in their intelligence, in their physical strength, and in their moral and social status."

The telegrams from the East must lie atrociously, or Mr. Colman and his friends must tell a very different story in New York to that which they told in Birmingham. In New York they say nothing about being surprised at the comfortable condition in which they found the English work people. It is quite possible that they did not say a word of what the enterprising Yankee reporters have attributed to them. It was necessary that the testimony borne by the returned workingmen and working-women should tally with the declarations that are made at political meetings in the States about the pauper labor of Europe, and they who are in possession in making it tally with the statements that are made by Mr. Colman at that Birmingham reception. Mrs. Barry, a working-woman, also talked to her English entertainers. Here is an extract from her address:—"Mrs. Barry, on behalf of the ladies of the delegation, returned thanks for the kind and generous reception which she and her sister delegates had received from the noble organization, the Knights of Labor, which was the first labor organization to recognize the rights of women workers to consideration. (Cheers.) The day had gone by when the woman was relegated to the background, and kept in the shadows of the educational institutions and the professions were thrown open to her. One of the principal objects of the Knights of Labor was that women should be paid equally with men for the same work. They in America looked upon some of the privileges which their English sisters enjoyed—their shorter hours and the fact that they were not obliged to work long hours for a paltry wage. They hoped soon to enjoy like privileges themselves—for upon the condition of it was the prosperity of a nation rested. They were glad to see that the Knights of Labor taught that the strike and the boycott ought to be resorted to the dark ages to which they belonged, and that they ought to look to education, to legislation, and to co-operation to give every man the value of his labor. The delegates were a LITTLE DISAPPOINTED in the prosperous condition of the women of the Old World, but they had heard much of the pauper labor in England, and were more than pleased with the social condition of women in the United States. (Cheers.)"

The American reporter under Mrs. Barry told a very different story after she had landed on this side of the Atlantic. Here is the American report of her estimate of the condition of the women whom she visited when she was on her travels in Europe:—"Mrs. Leonarda Barry, who is the general organizer for women for the Knights of Labor, said: 'The condition of the female wage-workers in all the countries we visited is deplorable. In every branch of industry, except, perhaps, in clerical work, they are infinitely worse than our American women-workers. Their pay is in the same way as our women do, it would cost less to employ a woman in the same work, and to live in the same style, I saw women working at forges, making nails and chains. Among the working women there is not much to choose. We have the same kind of system and starvation wages. Women make shirts all by hand at 9d made to render their evasion of the law possible. It is to be remembered that corruption is a crime against the State, and not merely against a private party. For this reason the party should not be allowed to compromise it, this preventing the State from punishing it.'"

The consequence of the veteran Canadian party campaigner is undoubtedly very hard to reach, but the probability of his success in the penitentiary for twelve months, which he has been playing off his little tricks, is not to be wondered at, we think, comes him to the wickedness of being voted in and of intimidating electors to his true right. He might not report, but he would find it necessary to lead, politically, a new life. It is to be hoped that something

Public attention in the United States is again directed to the arch-sounder Henry A. Ives. He is certainly the most audacious thief that the century has produced. His plunder was railroads, and he counted his spoils by the million. When he was in the zenith of his fame, and before his recalcitancy was known to the world, some enthusiastic admirer conferred on him the title of the Napoleon of the railroads. Ives deserves to suffer name than robbery, and the wonder is how honest and prudent men of business allowed themselves to be swindled by a thief who took so little pains to disguise the real nature of his operations. Ives is a young man, not more than thirty. A very few years ago he was an humble employe, working for a dollar a day. He had been barely five years in business when he failed for twenty thousand dollars. He was then starting a railroad, and he was making way with the proceeds of the theft in this described in a late number of the Oregonian:—"Early in 1885 Ives and his partner, Stayer, scored the controlling interest in the Mineral Range railroad. Having the railroad stock in their hands, they elected themselves its officers. Ives being secretary and treasurer and Stayer president. They then set their offices to New York City, had its money deposited with the alleged banking firm of Henry S. Ives & Co., and used it in their purchases. They bought a stock of 1,200 shares of the road issued, but they proceeded to issue the same shares 4,000 shares (400,000 per cent) over and over again, and the legal limit. All the money thus obtained was used to buy stock in the Hamilton & Dayton railroad, a very valuable property. This scheme was successfully executed by the use of agents employed to pick all the live shares of the Mineral Range stock. The scheme was to get the stock of the Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and have the firm appointed fiscal agents, and use the railroad stock to buy the stock which they had bought—thus making the stolen property pay for the stock of the Hamilton & Dayton railroad. As far as the stock was purchased, it was pledged for a new loan, which was used to buy more stock. This raised the price of the stock and increased its borrowing power, but the Mineral Range over-issued did not sell so readily as expected, so a financial dupe and an auxiliary was found in the shape one Meyer, a rich manufacturer. Before the election of June, 1888, a majority of the stock had been secured by purchase, with loans made in New York, which were taken up by over issues of the Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and its resources fell into the hands of its self-appointed 'financial agents.' Ives and Stayer were now in a position that they could have done anything they pleased. They had five like the Count of Monte Cristo, for five years without earning a single honest dollar. His method of becoming a millionaire was to steal a railroad, spend all his cash, and then replenish its treasury by selling an issue of stock, and then rob again the treasury he had just filled."

Ives, by a scheme in which forgery is the principal feature, tried to get into his clutches the Meyer estate, valued at \$7,000,000. He was not skilful enough to carry out this scheme, and Meyer was found out and exposed, and he is in the hands of the law. It is said that this "master thief" devised do not exhibit any great amount of ingenuity. They were in their conception simple enough. The secret of the fallow's success was in his unparalleled audacity. He seems to have had unbounded faith in the blindness and gullibility of mankind in general. And the result appears to have justified his ex-

"A SURE CURE." Commenting upon the Haldimand election case and insisting upon the necessity of doing something to put down bribery and corruption, the Toronto Mail says:—"The present time is a very good time to put down bribery. The measures now in operation must be adopted. England says an example in this connection it might be well to follow. Bribery there has been as general as Canada, and perhaps more so. Milk and water legislation had been in vogue. Finally a good, stiff penalty—a year in the penitentiary—was fixed as the reward for corrupt acts. The first election trial after the adoption of this scale of punishment saw two election agents—one of them a lawyer—convicted of bribery and sent to the penitentiary for the prescribed twelve months. The pair served their term, and from that day to this there has been very little of any bribery in England. It is apparent that Canada must follow the course of English legislation in this matter. There must be a good penalty for bribery, and the option of a fine should be applied every time. Something the 'sawing off' process, efforts should be made to render that evasion of the law possible. It is to be remembered that corruption is a crime against the State, and not merely against a private party. For this reason the party should not be allowed to compromise it, this preventing the State from punishing it."

It is to be hoped that something will be done when Parliament meets next winter to make the way of the electioneering transgressor a good deal harder than it is.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The Hon. Samuel Prowse of King's county, Prince Edward Island, has been appointed Senator in place of the Hon. J. S. Carvell who is now Governor of the Island Province. Mr. Prowse is a man of a good deal more than ordinary ability, energetic and experienced. He has been a long time in public life and was at the time of his elevation to the Senate a member of the Provincial Government. His character, both public and private is above reproach. The Senate will have in Mr. Prowse a valuable acquisition.

The newspapers from the East are filled with accounts of the storm that ravaged the Atlantic coast. It was one of uncommon severity, and the damage it did must be enormous. Such a storm in September is very unusual. The gales that do damage to the shipping come later in the season, in October and November. It is not uncommon in those months to see the coast for miles strewn with wrecks. But the Eastern mariner regards September as a safe month. The storm raged most violently on the coast of the United States, and had spent itself before it reached the Dominion waters. It is considered by the Americans the most destructive storm ever known on the east coast of the United States. It was not a mere gale, lasting for a few hours, but a fierce storm, that raged for days. The injury done to the shipping of the New England coast was very great. One of its results was a tidal wave, which inundated some of the great American seaports. It did much damage to the summer hotels and cottages that are found all along the coast. We have seen no estimate of the number of lives lost or of property destroyed, but the destruction both of life and property must be very great.

The Truth of Westminster says that hereafter it will print no communication relating to a public question unless over the name of the writer. Our contemporary we hope will not think us impertinent if we question the wisdom of its decision. There is no reason that we can see why a man who discusses a public question in newspapers should publish his name. If his letter is sensible and well written the name at the end of it will not make it one whit better or any respect to the letter itself stupid and ungrammatical, the best name in the land will not make it bright and elegant. What the people want is intelligent discussion of public questions. It is nothing to them who they are that take part in it. Bill Stokes who sticks to the Truth office will be able to write a better letter than Joshua Stuekup, J. P., M. P., etc., who is the little great man of the village in which he lives. But if poor Bill were to sign his name at the end of his communication would you pay attention to it or think it comparable to Stuekup's very heavy prose. An anonymous communication is usually judged according to its merits, but there are many people who think that there is a great deal in a name when they see it at the end of a letter. It sometimes happens that the person who is best qualified to discuss a subject is in a position in which it would be very inconvenient to give his name to the public. Then our contemporary's ordinance shuts out the ladies altogether. Sometimes a lady wants to write to the newspaper. She screws up her courage to send the editor her name in confidence, but to have it printed in big capital letters at the end of her communication! Such a thing is not to be thought of. The editor of the Truth did not think of possible lady correspondents when in his haste excluded anonymous correspondents from his columns.

THE LATE DR. FRANK LIEBOWITZ. DR. F. J. BRIDGE, Organist, Westminster Abbey, London. HERR WILHELM HARTUNG, Director Royal Orchestral School, Weimar, Germany. MADAME ALBANI, the renowned Prima Donna, London, Sardinia, etc. C. S. JERVELL, Esq., St. James' Palace, London, Organist to Her Majesty, Charles Royal. DR. A. C. MACKENZIE, London, the eminent Composer of "The Rose of Sharon," etc., etc. DR. W. C. SHELLE, Organist in Ordinary to Her Majesty, Hampton Court Palace. FRANKLIN TAYLOR, Esq., Premier Prof. of the Piano-forte, Royal College of Music, London. HERR WILHELM GANZ, the well-known Composer and Pianist, London. HERR LEIDERTZ, Director of the Wagner Orchestra, London. JAS. FITZGERALD, Esq., F. R. S. G., Conductor Eldermeister Choral Society.

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As a premium, during the months of September, October, November and December, of the present year. EVERY PAID-UP SUBSCRIBER At the 1st of September, 1889, renewing for one year, will be entitled to a ticket. EVERY NEW SUBSCRIBER For One year is entitled to a ticket.

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