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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, SEP. 18, 1885

THE SITUATION.

By the application of an artificial stimulus it has been found possible, in some measure, to revive the Provincial Exhibition which, if it survives to next year, will round the half century. The new stimulus came in the form of a vote of \$10,000 by the Dominion Parliament. The attraction of additional prizes swelled the list of exhibitors to an unusual figure; and London being made the seat of the year's exhibition lent it all the aid which it was possible to derive from the advantage of locality, since Toronto decided that it could never again afford to accept the rotatory allotment of the Provincial. But in spite of all that could be done, we regret to learn that the show was not a financial success. The failure is in part due to a cause which reflects credit on the management, in rejecting extraneous sources of profit not in harmony with the prime objects of the Exhibition. If we must conclude that the day of the Provincial Exhibition is over, we can nevertheless look back with gratitude to the service it rendered and the pattern it set, departure from which is generally more amusing than improving.

From two opposite causes great damage to crops has been done in India; in the Deccan they have failed from drought, while in Bengal they have been ruined by an excess of wet, in some instances producing floods. The whole country around Calcutta is described as being submerged for some miles. To mitigate the horrors of the famine which this state of things makes inevitable, subscriptions have been started in the large towns. What effect these calamities will have on the surplus of wheat which India, in ordinary years, has for exportation is not stated; the estimates when they come, will be interesting. Should the effect be considerable, it will make itself felt in the world's supply of wheat and will prove a factor in regulating the price. Whether the crops destroyed be rice or wheat, the general effect is to lessen the food supplies, and the destruction of one would react upon the demand for the other.

M. Lessar sees no incongruity in putting a feather in his own cap and asking an ad-

miring world to do homage to successful Russian diplomacy in the case of the Afghan frontier. He has discovered, though late, that the Zulficar Pass, which goes to Afghanistan, along with Marun-chach, is of no strategic importance and that Russia deems herself well compensated for the loss of an inferior military stronghold by getting possession of the oasis of Penjdeh, her aspirations being purely bucolic. For once, both parties are satisfied; and when this happens what greater triumph is possible to diplomacy? Both did their best, and there is no reason for crowing on either side. Meanwhile military works are not neglected. Russia is taking measures to connect the military works in the Caucasus with those in Central Asia, and the defences of the Crimea are being greatly strengthened. But for the present the cloud of war has happily passed over.

From Chicago comes the report of a polo between the Canadian Pacific and the St. Paul and Minneapolis railways, "by which the latter agrees to cut off its St. Paul connections from the traffic between Canada points and Manitoba points and let the Canadian Pacific control the whole." A large share in this business has hitherto fallen to the North-Western Traffic Association roads, whose disappointment is reported to have been transmuted into exasperation, a state of mind in which schemes of retaliation find their natural hatching ground. Vengeance for what is called the treachery of the Manitoba line fills the air of Chicago. Opposition lines are projected or revived; but it is easier to project than to execute. Monopoly need not be counted on as a permanence, where the interests in favor of breaking it are so strong as they are here. All the great forces work for competition, and every day adds to their strength. The arrangement reported is therefore not likely to bring more than temporary advantages to the contracting parties. The public interest is an element which cannot be lost sight of.

Whatever may be the defects of the law of extradition, kidnapping as a mitigation of the evils caused by their defects cannot be allowed. One Brainerd, a fugitive Vermont banker, is alleged to have been kidnapped in Winnipeg by Boston officers and taken to Minneapolis. An eminent United States counsel no doubt correctly interprets the international obligation when he says that, if the facts be as alleged, it is the duty of the American government to surrender the fugitive. But at Minneapolis Brainerd was secretly taken from the hands of the kidnappers, while they were in the ticket office, by some of his own friends who, being informed of the facts, were in waiting for him; and he is very likely, in this way, to find safety once more on Canadian soil. Canada has no partiality for such visitors, but the right of asylum cannot be allowed to be violated even where it ought not to exist.

At last the figures of the Canadian "exodus" are to be revised. By counting all the passengers going one way and none

the other, United States statistics of Canadian emigration to the Republic became a marvel of inaccuracy. After years of blundering it occurred to the authorities to check the figures by taking the other side of the account, and when this was done it was found that the return of persons to Nova Scotia nearly equalled the outgoings from that Province. So unreliable have the figures been demonstrated to be that the authorities at Washington have resolved to suspend their publication. Those who found a melancholy pleasure in weeping over the sad story of the exodus may now dry their eyes with a good conscience. They may also find consolation in the facts that the circulation of population is sure to be active on a continent in different stages of advancement; that the barrier of language never restrained the ramblings of the French Canadians, and that Massachusetts has proved the mother of colonization in the "far west." It is useless to regret the natural and the inevitable.

Church finance is beginning to attract attention from a comprehensive point of view. If the professions of medicine and law are overcrowded, it is alleged, on the strength of statistics, that clergymen have outgrown in numbers the wants of the community; that in Ontario there is one church for every 539 Episcopalians, one for every 490 Presbyterians, one for every 274 Baptists, one for every 230 Congregationalists, one for every 249 Methodists, while the Roman Catholic Church gets along with one church for every 1,207 members. Some of the clergy, including Dr. Grant and M. Doudiet of Montreal think it is time to call a halt by some sort of an agreement among the Churches. The root of the evil is to be found in preparing too many young men for a calling that is already overcrowded. If the denominational colleges would consent to restrict the supply to the demand, a reform might be brought about; but this is about the last thing they would think of doing if it were proposed, much less can they be expected to initiate the reform. It is nevertheless one which ought to be undertaken.

Sir Charles Tupper has been to London and Toronto with the view of creating an interest in the Colonial and India Exhibition which is to take place in London next year. He made a favorable impression; and the Toronto Board of Trade recommended a good Canadian exhibition on the occasion. The space allotted to Canada is 54,000 square feet, and it occupies an entire transept, running from one end of the building to the other; no one who goes in at the principal entrance can fail to see the Canadian section.

—A Massachusetts merchant found out one day that his till had been robbed. He held his tongue, however, and waited until Time's whirligig tossed the culprit at his feet. This is how the culprit came: Three months afterward one of his customers said to him: "Did you ever find out who took the money out of your till?" The merchant replied: "I never have until now, but now I know it was you, as I have never told any one that I lost it." The man was compelled to pay back the money.