THE TORONTO WORLD

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FRIDAY MORNING, DEC 7, 1883.

Imported Prison Products.

It is a grievance with our workingmen that their free and tax-paying labor should be compelled to compete with convict labor to a greater or less extent. The existence of this grievance is admitted by all, save a few contractors who profit by it; but many urge in palliation the stern law of necessity, which requires that our prisoners shall not be supported in idleness. Granting that, let us hope that Canadian statesmanship has not so far forgotten its cunning as to be unable to devise any scheme whereby convicts may be subjected to the wholesome influence of industry without diminishing the size of the loaves of those who are too honest to steal, too proud to beg, and anxious to labor.

While Canadian statesmanship is pondering the above suggestion let us bring to its attention a kindred subject touching which prompt action is both urgent and possible. It is the importation from the United States of goods manufactured in the prisons of that country. Nothing can be urged in palliation of this system. We are under no obligation to keep the convicts of the United States from indulging in the vices of idleness. The contractors for the labor of prisoners in the States pay only about fifty cents per day for each man, sometimes less, and as they are allowed to pick their men they choose those sentenced for long terms, and being under no obligation to teach their human chattels a trade, they devote all their care to making them proficient in specific parts of a handicraft. Almost any man can readily pick up a single branch of a trade, and thus these "long-termers," as they are called, soon become profitable to their masters. Besides, the convict can be forced by threats of the lash, or other prison punishment, to exercise his productive powers to the utmost. In the face of these facts it is futile to assert, as has been asserted, that the advantage which prison labor possesses over free labor by its cheapness is counterbalanced by the superior productiveness of the latter.

That the work of convict labor in the United States is being imported into Canada is a plain fact that requires no demonstration. It is equally manifest that this importation ought to be stopped, and that it is for our manufacturers and workingmen to see to it. To this end something more than a protective duty is required. No protection designed to give our producing classes an advantage in their own markets as against legitimate competitors from abroad can suffice as against foreign convict competition. And the more convict labor in the United States is agitated against, as it is being agitated against now, the more the evil will be aggravated. Assailed at home by legitimate manufacturers, the foreign farmers of the criminal classes will feel constrained to avoid further offence by keeping up their prices as high as possible, but being compelled by the terms of contracts to pay for every day that their men are able to work, they cannot reduce their production, and so Canada is made a slaughter market for American convict cheap labor. To aid in this scheme a double price list is used, but even with an honest price the foreign convict contractor can undersell any Canadian who pays decent wages. We learn of one firm in St. Catharines who have been constrained to give their men notice of a reduction of wages because of this illegitimate competition, and it is quite certain that if something be not soon done to remedy the evil others must follow suit. Raising the tariff to any reasonable figure will not remedy it, and most certainly lowering the tariff will not.

This is a question which we earnestly commend to the attention of the government and the trades and labor organizations. It is of more importance to our people than most of the questions which the party organs labor to excite them about.

Courageous Chamberlain.

There can no longer be any doubt that Mr. Chamberlain is the coming man in British politics. Why? Because he adds to the ability to conceive the courage to utter.

Mr. Gladstone has not found it safe to repeat in office all he said in his Midlothian opposition campaign, or to realize the hopes then raised in the breasts of his radical followers. Sir Charles Dilke, erstwhile the fierce critic of royalty's expenses, has apologized to royalty and become a conventional politician. The tories go about lamenting the evil times that threaten the country and the constitution, and the whig aristocrats do not say them nay. Of all the men in England carrying the responsibilities of office and of leadership Mr. Chamberlain alone has the courage to speak out plainly, and to say that the reforms promised shall be made. We believe that his colleagues will have to come up to the line that he has chalked upon the party platform, but they can repudiate him if their fears suggest that course, and in that case his official life would not be worth an hour's purchase. The politician who takes his official life in his hand for reform's sake is a hero as politicians go. Such a one would find in Canada a wide field of virgin soil.

Nothing could be more dangerous or unusual for an English politician than the advocacy of an extended franchise for Ireland. Hitherto the Irish have never been permitted to share in the franchise reforms granted England and Scotland. The voter's qualification is and always has been much higher in Ireland than in Britain, and so potent is aristocratic prejudice that Ireland's best English and Scotch friends—and she has had some warm ones—have dreaded to deliver themselves into the hands of the tory enemy by taking a stand against this injustice. At length comes Chamberlain, who boldly declares that under such circumstances Irish disaffection is justified. Put in that plain way to the English masses this proposition cannot fail of acceptance by them. The English workingman takes no delight in the perpetuation of Irish grievances. He simply knows little or nothing of them, and the press and the politicians have labored long to intensify a political ignorance which they have found profitable to toryism and whiggery. When a liberal leader states the case as it is, the native sense of fair play which every Englishman possesses, if it can only be aroused, will do the rest. Mr. Mowat is a reformer, but his record upon the franchise question is in unfavorable contrast with Mr. Chamberlain's. Surely he should possess the courage to say as much for the young men of the cities and towns of his own province as Mr. Chamberlain has said for the householders of Ireland. A liberal should be above all things courageously progressive.

The Canada Presbyterian tells its denomination in effect that there has been a great waste of energy and money in maintaining so many colleges, and points to the good judgment of the baptists who have located a divinity school alongside the provincial university and have decided to do all their teaching there and devote all their energy to theology. Co-operation, not competition, is what will improve the status of the presbyterian colleges.

The Globe says that although West Middlesex, West Simcoe and Cardwell should all go conservative the Ontario government would still stand. It might—on its head. Why print such rank nonsense? We have no anticipation that they will all go that way, but if by any miracle they should, good-bye Mr. Mowat. Mr. Ross and the office that he fills are too important for his defeat not to be of the first moment in the present crisis. Mr. Mowat does not need Cardwell; he can survive the loss of West Simcoe; but the defeat of Mr. Ross would inflict upon him a wound almost "as wide as the church and as deep as the sea."

The evidence in the Flemming-Merriam case at Chicago shows that that notorious firm speculated largely in grain and provisions on margin and lost heavily. Perhaps if they had won as largely as they lost, their victims might have had some return for their money. Perhaps! But that is the theory of John Flemming's defence.

The contest for the legislature in West Middlesex promises to be a close one. The riding is a debatable one, and in such constituencies personality tells. Upon Mr. Johnston's side are the sympathy always felt for a man who has been elected and unseated, and that strength which comes of good nature and good fellowship, for which he has always enjoyed a reputation. Upon the side of Mr. Ross may be counted superior abilities, his temperance record, the prestige that always attaches to a member of the government, and the unwise violence of the Mail. When we find Mr. Johnston's home organ, the Strathroy Despatch, repudiating the Mail's personal attacks upon Mr. Ross, we are driven to the conclusion that the Toronto organ is bettering the latter's chances. The Mail does not do this for a purpose, or from "pure cussedness," but because it cannot help it. Violent writing is the easiest kind of writing, though it makes hard reading, and violence is the only style in which the Mail is at home. Mr. Ross can stand it if Mr. Johnston can, and his Strathroy friends say that he cannot.

Mayor Boswell said yesterday at the city hall that Sir Leonard Tilley would be in the city next week, when the minister will talk to aldermen and others about the establishment of smelt and iron works on the marsh lands situated in the southeastern part of the city. It is to be hoped that the conference will end in something more than talk and promises. There is no reason why Toronto should not take a leading position in the great industries of our country. It has enterprise, pluck and shrewd business men.

The Galt Beformer, the personal organ of Mr. James Young, M.P.P., announces that that gentleman is greatly improved in health, and will shortly be as good as new. We congratulate him. Health is more profitable than a cabinet position, and Mr. Young has made a good exchange.

When Theresa Sturla, a Chicago courtesan, shot her dissipated lover many sentimental souls, comprising members of her own class and of classes far removed from them took a gushing interest in her welfare, and she escaped with a very inadequate term of imprisonment. Since her release the pipes of the gush waterworks have been again laid on, and with the most nauseating results. Ladies have courted her company, reporters have striven for interviews with her, and her former associates have boasted that she will soon be among them again. All this has been shamelessly set forth in the Chicago papers, which is not to be marvelled at in view of their antecedents, but when a Toronto paper reproduces their pen pictures of this heroine of the prison and the brothel it carries its imitative democracy too far. Why on earth should Canadian families be supposed to take any interest in the return to her profession of one whose proper part is repentance in obscurity!

The New York Sun, a very influential but very outspoken organ of the democracy, thinks that if the election of Mr. Carlisle to the congressional speakership carries the construction that the free-traders put upon it New York, New Jersey and Connecticut must be counted out of the democratic column, which of course signifies disastrous defeat for the democrats. The south, too, is no longer the solid free trade section that it was before the war. Louisiana and Georgia are manufacturing their cotton where it grows, and are developing a strong protectionist interest. It was a free trade blunder that elected Garfield, and that is what makes the Sun so nervous. It is quite apparent that either Mr. Carlisle will have to eat crow or his party will have to masticate humble pie.

The London Times says: Mr. Matthew Arnold was invited to cross the Atlantic that he might personally inform Americans of their faults. "Americans have now," says the Times, "been trained to bear censure with good humor." It is true, Englishmen have said so many unpleasant things of their kin across the sea that the said kin have become not only indifferent to their remarks, but have also learnt to make both the sayers and the said food for their mirth. As to Mr. Matthew Arnold, before he returns to his native shores he will probably find that while he came to teach he has stayed to be taught.

Law Students and their Grievances.

To the Editor of the World.

SIR: I notice in your issue of to-day's date a letter signed by "H. B.," who professes to be a law student, referring to the condition of the law students of Toronto. Now, sir, I am a law student, also in a Toronto office where I have served under articles for the past five years, and I have met, and mingled intimately with, students of all classes and from nearly every office in Toronto, and I have found, invariably, that students of genius and energy are always pushed forward, and have raised to very responsible positions in the offices in which their lot is cast. The few whom I have met and who like "H. B.," complain of having "nothing to do" in their offices, I have in all cases found to be those who have made a great error in the choice of a profession and have missed their calling entirely, taking to the legal profession as a gentlemanly sort of occupation, without considering either their fitness for the profession, or the magnitude of the task of acquiring it.

"H. B." complains of getting no salary. Who's fault is this? In many of the Toronto offices students receive salaries commensurate with the duties devolving upon them, and this is no doubt the case with "H. B.," whose weightiest duties seem to be carrying his principal's lunch basket to Osgoode hall and swearing to affidavits, the contents of which are unknown to him as the deserts of Africa, thereby earning the well-deserved title of "my swearing machine." "H. B." tells this with great innocence, evidently unaware that by so doing he renders himself liable to the severe punishments which the law inflicts on those who are guilty of the heinous crime of perjury.

"H. B.'s" statement that there are nearly 200 students in Toronto in the same unhappy position as himself is worthy of as much credence as his affidavits, through making which he has earned the suggestive title of "my swearing machine."

But I must not be prolix. Let this be my last injunction to "H. B." and the very few others who are in the same position. Restrain your impatience. Borrow a book from the library at Osgoode hall, and, during your leisure moments in your office, of which you complain so bitterly, store your mind with the legal knowledge to be therein found. This your principals will appreciate, and will, no doubt, entrust to your care work, which you are now incapable of performing, and you will hen doubtless rise, ere being called to the bar, to the position of

MANAGING CLERK.

Toronto, December 6, 1883.

The Business Situation No. 4.

To the Editor of The World.

SIR: The principles that rule in modern trade had their origin in that eventful period, the revolution of 1688, and date from the establishment of the bank of England in 1694 by Montague, then chancellor of the exchequer, upon the model furnished by a Scottish merchant.

As Sunderland taught King William how to rule his cabinet and the nation by the constitutional action of party, so Paterson stepped forward and explained to the chancellor how to supply the government with the needful and the people with facilities to develop their industries.

England, with the rest of Europe, had long been dependent upon the Spanish colonies of America for its currency of the precious metals, when it at length occurred to the fertile brain of Paterson that a joint stock company with adequate capital might issue their due-bills, payable on demand, which would serve the purposes of the gold itself. About this same time another Scottish adventurer, John Law, performed a similar service to the French government. Dazed by the phenomenal power of credit issues, which they did not fully comprehend and could not control, both these enterprising gentlemen were hurried forward to a similar fate, by their wild theories of paper money, to the collapse of their fortunes in the Darien and also the Mississippi schemes. But the banks of both England and France became in time, by careful management, highly serviceable institutions.

Subsequent to credit issues, however, a new phenomenon began to loom upon the financial horizon, the "commercial crisis." The Bank of England came to grief more than once by accommodating the business public too freely with discounts unsupported by adequate reserves. These frequent revulsions of the money market led to special inquiry and to the act of 1844 by Sir Robert Peel increasing the reserves. His device, a "cast-iron" one, was to allow of an issue of notes by the bank equivalent to the debt due by the government, some fifteen million pounds, and above that sum to limit the issues by the reserves of gold. Ruling out the "other securities," £4,734,900 of the issue department, the bank shows at present £22,080,234 sterling reserves to £53,688,602 liabilities, or 42 per cent; while the banks of Canada have the proportion of 16 per cent to the liabilities! Since that period the bank has maintained a reputation for integrity and probity unparalleled by any other monetary institution. It is however a credit bank requiring a vast gold reserve, the annual interest upon which it must forego, though it is credited with cornering the gold market at times. It is fortunately backed up by a nation—an industrial company that never was owing one dollar of foreign-funded debt, and the balances of whose trade are uniformly favorable. The large reserves indicate the formidable competition of capital bearing on the money market, and securing to all the industries a low rate of interest, which enables the manufacturer, notwithstanding his having to import the raw cotton, wool, wood, provisions and breadstuffs, to monopolize the foreign markets for his goods.

The fiscal system of that country has for forty years presented to the world the triumph of the most liberal industrial principles—free markets with a laboring population untaxed, or nearly so.

If, after an exhaustive study of British trade and finance, a system of forms and ages, characterised by wisdom, justice and good faith; the would-be statesman should turn from it to the adoption of the shallow devices of a nation of yesterday, it can only prove the lack of taste for such inquiries and incapacity for such duties.

While the statesmen of the empire assiduously sought to increase the stability of trade, the managers of this colony laid violent hands upon the millions of the reserves of the banks they had chartered in good faith to transact the business of the country, leaving the perplexed shareholder the additional legacy of a double liability. The men who committed that act of vandalism against the banks are now the titled aristocracy of Canada!

Banks are only joint stock business companies, dealing in a different sort of goods from others. They risk the capital and are entitled to every cent of profit arising from the circulation. I only ask that they increase the reserves. INQUIRER.

Toronto, Dec. 1883.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

TORONTO, Thursday, Dec. 6.

There was a perceptible improvement in the tone of wholesale trade to-day. Grocers are receiving heavy orders for the Christmas trade, and dry goods houses are busy warehousing prints. The first lot of spring goods will come to hand early next week.

Toronto houses are importing rum direct from Jamaica, and supplying dealers in the Lower Provinces at prices which Montreal houses cannot quote.

A cable from London to Cox & Worts quotes Hudson Bay shares at 22½ and Northwest Land company at 6⅞.

The stock marked improved on its face yesterday. Federal went up a couple of points, for the reason that the bull clique found it cheaper to buy in the 100 or 500 shares offered than allow margins to be called up on perhaps the hundreds of thousands that are on the street.

A prominent wholesale merchant who ordered some investment to be sold yesterday, says that the travelers are bringing in discouraging reports, business is bad, credit is risky, and collections are not good.

The big lumber concern that was reported to be in trouble has tided over present difficulties by effecting a $150,000 loan, $100,000 from a Canadian bank and $50,000 from Scotland.

Toronto Stock Exchange.

MORNING SALES.—Ontario, 10 at 101, 16 at 101½, 10, 50, 100 at 105, 10 at 105½. Imperial 35 at 134 (after board). Federal 106 at 121, 10 at 121½, 10 at 122, 10 at 122½, 10 at 122, 20, 50, 10 at 122. Dominion 20 at 187½. Northwest Land Co. 25 at 63 (after board). London & Canada Land Asso. 100 at 137.

CLOSING BOARD.—Ontario, 106½ and 106¼; sales 105 at 107, 30 at 106½, 25 at 106¾, 20 at 106½. Federal 122 and 121½; sales 10 at 122½, 10, 20, 50 at 122. Dominion 190 and 189½; sales 20 at 188¾, 40, 50 at 189. Standard 115 and 113; sales 20 at 113. Northwest Land Co. 66 and 65; sales 50 at 65, 20 at 65½, 30, 100 at 66, 100 at 65½, 20 at 66.

Montreal Stock Exchange.

CLOSING BOARD.—Montreal 172¾ to 172½; sales 106 at 172, 175 at 172½. Ontario, 107½ to 106¾; sales 78 at 106, 50 at 106½, 75 at 107. Merchants, 107 to 106; sales 50 at 106, 50 at 105¾, 25 at 106½. Montreal Telegraph Company 117¼ to 117½; sales 85 at 117½. Richlieu 57½ to 55½; sales 5, 55, 50 at 55½. City Passenger Railway 110 to 109½; sales 3 at 109½, 200 at 109½. Montreal Gas Co., 166½ to 165½; sales 200 at 165½, 175 at 166, 75 at 165½.

Local Markets.

THE FARMER'S MARKET.—The Receipts of grain to day were heavier and prices steady. There were about 1000 bushels of wheat received, which sold at $1.5 to $1.12 for fall, at $1.10 for to $1.17 for spring, and at 85c to 87c for goose. Barley steady with sales of 5000 bushels at 55c to 63c, the bulk of it bringing 63c to 66c. Oats steady with sales of 400 bushels at 37c to 38c. Peas firm at 73c to 75½c for about 200 bushels. A load of rye sold at 63c. Hogs easier at $5.50 to $6. Hay plentiful and steady; some 60 loads sold at $6.50 to $9 for clover, and at $10 to $13 for timothy. Straw sold at $8 to $10 for about a dozen loads.

ST. LAWRENCE MARKET.—This market to-day was active and prices steady. Following are the prices at which produce is sold: Beef, roast, 10c to 14c; sirloin steak, 12c to 14c; round steak, 10c to 12c; mutton, legs and chops, 10c to 12c; inferior cuts, 8c to 10c; lamb, per pound, 8c to 12c; veal, best joints, 12c to 13c; inferior cuts, 8c to 10c; pork, chops and roasts, 9c to 10c; venison, carcase, $5 to $6; do. haunches $10 to $11; butter, pound rolls, 21c to 23c; large rolls, 18c to 21c; cooking, 16c to 17c; lard, 12c to 14c; cheese, 13c to 15c; bacon, 10c to 14c; eggs, 25c to 27c; turkeys, 75c to $1.50; chickens, per pair, 40c to 60c; geese, each, 40c to 60c; ducks, 45c to 70c; partridge, brace, 50c to 60c; potatoes, per bag, 85c to 90; cabbage, per doz., 50c to 80c; onions, per peck, 25c; parsnips, per peck, 20c; beets, per peck, 20c; carrots, per peck, 20c; beans, per peck, 25c to 30c.

Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Cotton weak and unchanged. Flour—Receipts 25,600 brls. buyer's favor; sales 17,000 brls.: common, etc., $3.45 to $4, good $4.05 to $6.75, St. Louis $3.45 to $6.25, others unchanged. Rye flour, steady and unchanged. Cornmeal steady at $3 to $3.30. Wheat—Receipts 20,000 bush. lower, sales 1,008,000 bush. future 143,000 bush. spot; exports 22,000 bush.: No. 2 Milwaukee $1.07, No. 2 red $1.11½ to $1.12, No. 1 red white state $1.18½, No. 2 red December $1.10½ to $1.11½, January $1.12 to $1.12½. Rye firm; state and Canada 71c to 75c. Barley steady, two rowed state 67c. Malt unchanged. Corn—Receipts 66,000 bush., higher; options lower; sales 2,720,000 bush. future 181,000 bush. spot; exports 83,000 bush.; No. 2 63½c, low, mixed 64c. No. 2 December 63½c to 64½c, January 64½c to 65c. Oats—Receipts 46,000 bush., higher; sales 985,000 bush. future and 85,000 bush. spot; mixed western 35½c to 38½c, white state 41c to 43c, No. 2 December 37½c to 37½c, January 38½c to 38¾c. Hay firm at 50c to 85c. Hops firm; Coffee dull and unchanged. Sugar firmer. Standard A 7 9-16 to 7¾c; others unchanged. Molasses weakat 38c to 56c. Rice firm. Petroleum unchanged. Tallow firmer at 7½c to 7 1-16c. Potatoes steady and unchanged. Eggs firm and unchanged. Pork at 14½c to 14½c. Beef steady. Cut meats firm; middles nominal at 7½c. Lard, stronger at $8.90. Butter firm and unchanged. Cheese steady at 9c to 13c.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—Flour dull, unchanged, regular. Wheat—Irregular; 85c to 96½c for December, 95½c to 97c for January, No. 2 spring 95c to 95½c. Corn—Excited; cash, December and January 57c to 57½c. Oats higher; 31½c to 31¾c for cash, 31½c to 31½c for December, 31½c to 32½c for January. Rye firmer at 57c. Barley quiet and unchanged. Pork unsettled; cash, $12.95 to $13 for old, $13.75 to $13.87½ for new, December $13, January $13.67½ to $13.87½. Lard in good demand; cash $8.55 to $8.60, December $8.50 to $8.62½, January $8.50 to $8.72½. Bulk meats—Shoulders $5.90, short rib $7, short clear $7.25. Whisky steady and unchanged. Receipts—Flour 15,000 bbls, wheat 158,000 bush, corn 144,000 bush, oats 88,000 bush, rye 20,000 bush, barley 63,000 bush. Shipments—Flour 23,000 bbls, wheat 35,000 bush, corn 62,000 bush, oats 71,000 bush, rye 1000 bush, barley 58,000 bush.

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