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TORONTO, CAN. FRIDAY, OCT. 17, 1890

THE SITUATION.

A modicum of reciprocity was held out to Canada by the new American tariff, adverse as it is to our commerce in its general scope and effect. It contained a proposal to reduce the duties on certain kinds of Canadian timber and lumber on condition that Canada should remove its export duty on logs. This condition has now been complied with by the Canadian Government, the necessary proclamation removing the duty on logs having been issued. This was the only course open to Canada, and the wonder is that there should have been any hesitation about taking it. The facts are well suited to create in the American mind the impression that the way to deal with Canada is to use the coercion of high duties, with an alternative such as was offered as a means of getting rid of the export duty on logs. If a false impression has been produced, the repealed duty must bear the blame. It would be difficult to show that this duty justified itself, by subserving Canadian interests, while it was in force. Now that it has gone, Canadian lumberers will have freer play. Another question arises in this connection. The Ontario Government recently made a sale of timber berths, on condition that the purchasers were not to export logs to the United States. The motives that prompted this restraint on exportation have probably passed away with the export duty on logs. The matter seems to require reconsideration, under existing circumstances. To prevent the possibility of any question of the constitutionality of this restriction arising, would it not be well for the Ontario Government, taking the altered circumstances into account, to remove this restriction?

Canada is henceforth to have the benefit of parcel post with Japan, an arrangement for that purpose having been made by our Postal Department with the Government of that country. Our trade with Japan, now in its infancy, is likely to grow. Five pound parcels conveyed between the two countries at the rate of 25 cents a pound, will serve its most useful purpose in the passing of samples. A little assorting can

also be done in that way. The arrangement is timely and is sure to be availed of at once. Taken in connection with the Canadian Pacific steamers, direct and speedy conveyance of parcels is assured. The American Government has not yet obtained similar facilities.

Probing the wounds of a forgotten war, and calling on school children to witness the spectacle in mirthful glee, as was done in Toronto on Monday, is but a sorry performance. The celebration of the anniversaries of battles with a neighboring country had better be foregone; the recalling of such struggles is more likely to create animosity between kindred peoples than to feed the flame of pure patriotism. It is to be regretted that the Minister of Education gave his sanction to a proceeding which is intended solely for the glorification of militarism. Put the school boys through military drill, if you like, but fill not their hearts with hatred of their neighbors.

In connection with the potato disease in Ireland, the London correspondent of the New York *Herald* admits that "there is no famine, and is not likely to be one." The last famine in Ireland the proprietor of that journal went to great personal expense to relieve. This fact being borne in mind, we may be sure that the present statement is not made without full enquiry. There is no doubt a partial failure of the potato crop, but it is believed that adequate steps have been taken by the authorities to relieve the distress which this would naturally occasion. The Government, acting on the authority of an Act of last session, has advanced £400,000 sterling to the Great Western Railway Company of Ireland, to enable it to build lines of railway from the coast to the distressed districts inland. This will afford plenty of employment for the men who have the misfortune to suffer in their potato crop. Meanwhile, an appeal will probably be made by Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien to the United States for money, on the assumption that famine exists, and can be relieved in no other way. "These patriots," says Mr. Smalley, the famous American journalist in a cable to the N. Y. *Tribune*, "induced hundreds of their countrymen in Tipperary to defy the law, to sacrifice their property, to defraud their creditors, and to risk all the legal penalties of these acts." Now they abandon their dupes by running away from the police. With such credentials as these the fugitive delegates may find some difficulty in playing either the patriotic or the heroic role.

If we are to believe the inventor himself, who is of course not disinterested, liquefied gas is henceforth to take the place of steam and other motive powers. It is not quite certain Mr. Gifford is yet ready to apply the new substance as a motor. What he seems to have done is to show its value as an explosive. The French Government is said to have purchased the right to use it for the army rifle, and Colts have bought the patent right, presumably in the United States, for \$1,000,000. Mr.

Gifford's experiments were made in the Paris Gas Works, where they have been carried on for nearly twenty years. A single drop of liquefied gas in an army rifle, it is claimed, will produce a force equal to a pressure of 500 lbs. to the square inch, and that the discharge is noiseless, smokeless and is followed by no recoil. It is besides a marvel of cheapness, sufficient liquefied gas for from 250 to 300 shots costing only two cents. But allowing that all this can really be accomplished, the difference between an explosive and a motive power remains. Is the former interchangeable into the latter? There is nothing improbable in the supposition that the energy engendered by liquefied gas should be capable of assuming the two forms, or serving two purposes so distinct as that of an explosive and a controllable motive power. Gas can be used as a motive power, by explosion, as the gas engines prove; the doubt is whether this could be done on a large scale, where great power is needed.

An extension of the tithe system has been decreed by one of the Roman Catholic bishops of Quebec. Tithes on grain in that Province are authorized by law, and now an attempt is made to extend them to hay, by a simple exertion of episcopal authority, backed by the last argument of the Church, refusal of the sacraments for disobedience. The bishop pleads financial necessity for the new departure, arising out of the change from grain growing to pasturage. Perhaps the tithe on grain from which hay was free, had something to do with the transition from grain to hay, growing. The important point is to know whether an extension of the tithe system can be effected by mere episcopal volition. At no time could this have been done in France or England.

Under shelter of the Canadian tariff, combination still goes on, in spite of the law passed for its suppression. Efforts are being made to bring all the grey cotton mills under a single management. There are two sides to this project. A better division of the lines of production, could be made and a saving of cost would result. One estimate puts the saving at 25 per cent. On the other side, if all these mills were under one control, the public would be at their mercy, and far from benefiting by the reduced cost of production, might be compelled to pay more. If imports were free, the proposed combination might be permissible, since its operations would be checked by the natural play of competition. But to shut out or greatly restrict competition, by a high tariff, and then to place the public at the mercy of a combination, would be in the last degree detrimental to the commonweal. If the public got liberty to buy where it liked, without restriction, manufacturers and others might perhaps be allowed to combine.

Owing chiefly to the large amounts withdrawn for the payment of duties last week, the specie in the New York banks decreased \$8,717,800, and the deposits \$6,278,700. There was besides an increase of \$4,954,100 in the loans. But even after