

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The motion of censure directed against the Gladstone Government on account of the fall of Khartoum was defeated by a majority of 14. Had it not been for the present position of the franchise and redistribution-of-seats measures it is certain that Gladstone would have resigned and left his critics free to shape their own policy in the Soudan. The appeal will be made to the country before many months have elapsed, but it will be to the new constituencies created by the above measures, not to the ones that have existed so long unchanged. What the result of such an appeal will be when it is made no man can confidently predict, but there need be little doubt that in the long run the new democracy will be against useless foreign wars, the one in the Soudan included. The desertion of Mr. Gladstone was by the Whigs, not the Radicals, and promptly came to Mr. Gochen from the Liberals of Edinburgh the message that they could no longer think of accepting him as their candidate. No doubt, Mr. Gochen expected this, but the very haste to give utterance to such an expression shows how strong a hold Gladstone has yet even on a city district which is far from Radical. If he consents to remain at the head of the Government when the appeal to the country is made, his name will prove a tower of strength to his friends. There is none so effective to conjure the rural voter with.

The New York *Tablet*, an Irish Catholic journal, stirred up a discussion the other day by calling Thomas Moore the "prince of snobs and butt of lords." Having been taken to task for its expression, the *Tablet* put in a very good defence if it did not make out its case. There are many facts connected with Moore's biography which go to show that he was not a high-minded man, but no one can deny that he wrote some very fair poetry, the sentiment of which belies much of his life. He aroused patriotism for Ireland without feeling much, or sacrificing much for her himself. He never allowed his love of the country in whose cause he sang to cost him any portion of the solid comfort he enjoyed in England. It is, no doubt, from this point of view that he is judged by the *Tablet*, and it is not an unfair one in the case of a man making Moore's pretensions to love of Ireland.

That a private member of Parliament may serve a good purpose by advancing the cause of social and political reform has frequently been shown in the English Parliament. The successful promotion of the Ballot Act by the late Mr. Grote and others is a case in point, Plimsoll's law pro-

tecting merchant seamen is another, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option movement is a third. It is strange that in this new country, with evils to correct that are less formidable to grapple with, there should be so little initiative in private members. Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, made a dash the other day, and made it so successfully as to cause one to wonder why he does not more frequently leave the beaten track of party strategy. The measure he introduced was one to protect employees from the hardship of bearing all their own loss from injuries when these are not caused by their own negligence. The principle aimed at is undoubtedly a just one, and while there may be differences of opinion as to the precise effect of some of the clauses of Mr. Meredith's bill, he is entitled to the credit of having been the first to call public attention to the need of legislation and, to secure from the Government a pledge that next year the matter would be dealt with in a Ministerial measure.

One of the arguments used against such measures is that they tend towards socialism, and this contention is quite correct. The term socialist has come in Europe to signify with some degree of definiteness those who believe in enlarging the sphere and functions of the state and narrowing those of the individual. The disposition of the socialists is to look to the state for the mitigation of all hardships, the redress of all grievances, the cure of all evils. A benevolent despotism is for them the best kind of government, provided the despotic government is one they can overthrow when they differ in opinion from it. Those who are at the opposite pole—followers of Herbert Spencer, for instance—think government interferes too much now, and that individuals would be better for having to depend more on themselves for protection against the inevitable troubles of life.

In Germany the socialists are very numerous and they have a considerable representation in Parliament. To such an extent have they instilled their ideas into the people that Bismarck has found it necessary to cultivate the latter by passing an Act in 1883 to insure workingmen against sickness, and one in 1884 to insure them against accidents. With the economic effects of these measures I am not now concerned. My object is to show the tendency of things in Germany, and to illustrate what is meant when a measure like Mr. Meredith's "employers' liability" bill is described as a socialistic measure. A similar tendency is observable in the speeches of some of the English public men, notably of Joseph Chamberlain and of the Marquis of Salisbury, who seem to be bidding against each other for the votes of the new democracy. This tendency is at the bottom of much of the land agitation in both Ireland and Scotland. How far it will be allowed to display itself will depend greatly on the extent to which the existing obstacles to free and cheap conveyance of land from seller to buyer are removed by legislation. One thing, at least, the working class are clearly entitled to demand—the repeal of all laws which place them under any disadvantage as compared with the rest of the community.

ONLOOKER.

General News.

CANADIAN.

Hon. Isaac Burpee, M.P. for St. John, N.B., died in New York, on Sunday, after a lingering illness.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Miller's successor as Attorney-General for Manitoba, was yesterday elected for South Winnipeg.

Professor George Buckland, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, died at about one o'clock on Saturday morning, at the Central Police Station.

Elections under the Canada Temperance Act will take place in Wellington County, on April 2nd. Returning officer, William White. In Chicoutimi, Que., on April 9th; returning officer, Sheriff Busse.

Mr. D. McCraney, M.P.P., for East Kent, and only surviving brother of William McCraney, M.P. for Halton, died at the residence of the latter, at Oakville, on Saturday morning.

The British Columbia Legislature by a vote of twenty-three to one re-enacted the Anti-Chinese Immigration Bill, passed last session and disallowed at Ottawa. The Bill imposes stringent penalties on any person bringing a Chinaman into the Province, and provides for a fine and imprisonment of all Chinamen who enter the country on any pretext whatever.