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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1886

## THE SITUATION.

A false statement has been published that in consequence of the interference of the Imperial authorities, our government has resolved to relax the vigilance which it had previously shown in guarding the fisheries from encroachment. If one effect of this publication has not been to embolden American trespassers it has served as a pretext for their wrong-doing. The result is that three more fishing schooners have been seized for infraction of the law. All sorts of excuses are made by the captains of the vessels seized. One alleged that in failing to report at the Shelburne custom house, he was only doing what had been done for the last thirty years, as if impunity in wrong-doing created a right; another that the men he landed were Nova Scotians, as if that would make any difference. It is the flag, not the crew, that determines the respective rights of the parties in these waters. Infraction of the customs' laws is as much forbidden as a violation of the treaty of 1818, and the one is not more excusable than the other. The marine police of an extensive coast is difficult to keep up, and poachers will occasionally be successful, but success does not create a precedent which can be converted into a privilege.

In different seasons, the run of the fish varies greatly. Of late years, it was pretended by Americans that fishing within the three-mile limit was of very little value. But whatever degree of truth there may have been in this pretence, the contrary is true this year. The best fishing is within the three-mile limit, and the Americans who are excluded unless where they can snatch an opportunity to poach, in the absence of cruisers, are, except on the Prince Edward Island coast, making a poor catch; Canadian fishermen, to whom the cruisers ensure a practical monopoly, are doing exceptionally well on the Nova Scotia coast. But on so extensive a coast, as that presented by the Maritime Provinces, the cruisers can't be everywhere, and their absence is the opportunity of the poachers. The fishermen of Prince Edward Island complain bitterly of the encroachments of Americans, which are de-

scribed in a memorial to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as an "overwhelming invasion of our fishing grounds in Passamaquoddy and the neighboring waters by boat fishermen from the United States." They add that since the termination of the fishery clause of the Washington Treaty "our harbors have been swept by their big tuck-seines and our fishing boats crowded off our own fishing grounds." And more: "All our best weirs are controlled by Americans for sardine manufacture, and they refuse even to sell us bait except at a price impossible to pay." When the fish struck in on the island coast, the American fishermen were ahead of the cruisers and enabled to reap a forbidden harvest.

Poaching on the fishing grounds, with the chance of being pursued and captured, creates the sort of excitement in which lawless activity delights to revel. When the master of an American fishing vessel gets off safely with his contraband cargo, he thinks it one of the glories of his life to be able to boast that he caught the fish close in shore. But the best laid schemes of the poachers sometimes fail. A fishing steamer, which has been tried, has some advantages over the sailer; but she cannot carry much coal and leave room for an average catch of fish. This is why the fishing steamer "Novelty" of Portland put into Pictou for coal; the reason why she did not get any is that an American fishing vessel, under the treaty, is only entitled to wood. This is a fine point: coal is not wood, and strict construction is the order of the day. This is running quite as near to the wind as we should like to go.

Annexation of the suburbs to Toronto proceeds in a piecemeal fashion; some portions that offer being refused for one reason or another. Parkdale remains out, for the present, on a question connected with the Queen street subway. Rosedale comes in without liability on the part of the city for the bridges. Parkdale has both water and drainage, and is in no danger of suffering the penalty of an unsanitary condition. It will come in when the present obstruction to its entrance is removed; meanwhile it is not a source of danger to the city, except in the matter of fire. Seaton village, which suffers seriously from non-annexation, is to remain out because some neighboring spot is not ready to come in. The city council refused to extend annexation beyond Greenwood's side-line. Formerly, opposition to annexation came from the suburbs; now, it more frequently comes from the city. It seems to be impossible to proceed on any systematic plan. Meanwhile the city council cuts off the supply of water to outsiders; those who are not of the city may not share its benefits in this particular. Ottawa has refused to annex New Edinburgh, for reasons apparently political.

An infamous traffic in young French Canadian girls, for shipment to Chicago has been denounced by a petition to Congress against its continuance. The allegations in the petition seem to be sustained

after enquiry into the fact. Either the government of Quebec or that of the Dominion, or both, must have some duties in connection with such an abuse. The police of Montreal know or affect to know nothing about the matter. Instant steps should be taken to put a stop to the vile traffic.

In putting the breaks on striking, the Cleveland convention did a thing which is proving unpopular among the Knights of Labor. Freedom to strike is by many regarded as essential to a labor organization, if not the best reason for its existence. The placing the power of deciding whether a strike shall or shall not take place, in the hands of the general Executive Board, is regarded as the practical creation of a one-man power. One result of this resolution is that the increase in the number of members of the order has received a decided check.

At present, the outlook for university federation, in Ontario, is not good. At the convocation of Trinity College, this week, Principal Grant, who was present by invitation, once more repeated the opposition of Queen's, and if Chancellor Allan of Trinity was less outspoken, he put a special value on the freedom of isolation. Probably Trinity is open to conviction but the terms proposed hitherto have not been such as she has been willing to accept. In any case, Queen's will remain out of the federation of colleges, though it is not impossible that Trinity might be induced to join. Victoria is not unanimous, though the anti-federationists are probably still in a minority.

To the proposed Pan-American Congress Canada is not to be invited; but Senator Sherman says she might be admitted at her own request or that of Great Britain. In any case, Canada would not be likely to desire representation in this congress, which cannot possibly lead to any practical result. We can understand why she cannot be invited, and the reasons why she could not accept if invited are equally on the surface. If there are to be commercial treaties between the United States and the rest of the continent, they will have to be negotiated separately with the several countries whose interests are not identical; but at present commercial treaties are not in favor even in the United States. England has obtained a treaty with Spain, while the proposed treaty between the United States, on the one hand, and Spain, Cuba and Porto Rico, on the other, is an added egg, which not even a Pan-American Congress could vivify.

At a meeting of the British and Colonial Chambers of Commerce, a resolution in favor of the remonetization of silver was carried by a vote of 28 against 15. In the majority there was no one who could speak with greater authority than belongs to the opinions of practical men, including Mr. Gibbs, an ex-governor of the Bank of England. The scheme is brought forward as a means of relieving the depression of trade,