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TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, OCT. 8, 1886

## THE SITUATION.

There is nothing new in Father O'Dowd's (St. Patrick's Church, Montreal,) condemnation of the Knights of Labor. It is merely a new promulgation of a decision of Rome, first pronounced two years ago and since repeated. To the question why the American bishops have not condemned the Knights, he has no answer to give. But he is quite clear that "it is the duty of all good Catholics in this province (Quebec) to shun the organization, and if they have joined it, to abandon it at once." The right of striking Father O'Dowd concedes, but he adds: "it is self-evident that such a course would be of no avail to enforce a demand for high wages, or whatever the claim may be, if others were allowed to take the places which the strikers had made vacant;" and to "prevent others from filling their places was unjust," and could only be accomplished by violence. "No man," Father O'Dowd told his flock, and truly, "had a right to say to his neighbor, 'I have given up my work, and though you and your family may starve, you shall not occupy the place I have left.'"

The Repeal agitation in Nova Scotia seems to flag, and it is worthy of notice that the most advanced Repealer in the province, a Mr. J. A. Fraser, of Guysboro, has written a letter to the Halifax papers, going back considerably on his previous record. The final result will be, as the MONETARY TIMES always predicted, a temporary agitation for political purposes, a gulled repeal party, and a final settling down to the inevitable. If Nova Scotia applied herself to work out her destiny, with one half the energy she puts into party politics, she would be one of the richest provinces of the Dominion within five years.

A formal opening of the Murray Canal took place on Wednesday, though there is still some work to be done. Next year, the canal will be open to the public. By this cut the Bay of Quinte is connected on the west with Lake Ontario. It will be possible for vessels to pass through the canal and the Bay, on their way from the west to Montreal; the navigation of the Bay is

smoother than that of the Lake, but the Bay route is circuitous, and would not be used where time was an object. To the county of Prince Edward, the canal will be valuable; in the general purposes of navigation, it is not likely to count for much.

An increase in a single year of \$10,841,278 in the assessed value of property, real and personal, in Toronto, is a great jump. The figures have gone up from \$72,715,588, last year, to \$83,556,811. Appeals may somewhat reduce this amount. The chief increase is in real estate, the figures having increased from \$60,695,505 to \$69,442,018. On income and personal property, the assessment of 1886 was little better than a farce. Real estate goes up by bounds, and this is a year of conspicuous activity. Personalty is put at \$8,849,018, against \$7,682,000, and income at \$5,265,585, against \$4,888,025. The value of the property exempted is \$8,472,800. Toronto is making great strides in population, business and manufactures.

The discouraging accounts of the Newfoundland fishery create an unpleasant prospect for the poor of the island, during the coming winter. The herring fishery of Labrador is described as a failure, and the cod fishery as being far below an average. Legislative aid will have to be granted to alleviate destitution among the fishermen. This is not a new experience in the island. It is not alleged that American poaching has been a potent factor in bringing about this state of things, though it must have been the reverse of helpful.

Are the three broad acres and the Jersey cow, promised to the agricultural labourers of England when they had votes to give, at last within sight? Lord Randolph Churchill promises that the government will introduce a measure "to enable farm laborers to obtain freehold allotments," but where the means of paying for them is to come from is a secret left to the future to reveal. A measure to cheapen the transfer of land will be introduced. The Torrens' system has for several years had the form of law in England: something beyond this would seem to be contemplated, whatever it may be. The question of tithes will be dealt with; but even the abolition of tithes could not put into the pockets of agricultural laborers the means of buying land. In Ireland, the same authority says there will be a change from what he calls double to single ownership of land, which probably means that the cultivator must become the sole owner. How the transformation is to be made is the puzzle which Lord Randolph Churchill will have to solve before he can carry out the design announced.

Among the prophets of evil appears M. Michael Léger, an old pilot, who professes to know more than most people about the water and the ice of the St. Lawrence river. He has a theory that the proposed levée will not save Montreal from inundation. The new bridge of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., at the head of the Lachine rapids will, he predicts, when finished, break the ice of the lake before the thaw

sets in opposite Montreal, and this ice being thrown on the de Boucherville islands will hem up the waters, which will overflow at Lachine and descend upon Montreal *par le travers*. But M. Léger does not despair. Means of prevention, he points out, are not wanting. His plan is to construct a number of caissons in the river, in front of Isle Dorval, and to connect them together by strong booms which would retain the floating ice in the spring till the thaw sets in opposite Montreal.

Subscriptions got in America have sustained a race of professional patriots in Ireland, who have no desire to exchange paying politics for any other calling. But the professional Irish patriot, whose home is in the United States, must live as well as his home-staying brother; and he begins to look with envy upon the large sums sent to Parnell and the Land League. Against Parnell's last appeal for money he is inclined to protest: he wants the skirmishing fund increased, since he and his fellows have control of it. He is willing that the evicted tenants should starve, and indeed the Land League has not hitherto helped them. Just now, Parnell's ostensible care is for the victims of eviction: here the dynamitards draw the line; with the humanitarian view they have no sympathy, and a split among the professional friends of Ireland in America is the consequence. It is an anomaly and a scandal that members of the British Parliament should be in the pay of foreigners; surely the acceptance of such a bribe, for it is nothing else, should make the receiver ineligible to sit in Parliament. No British subject, and no American citizen, can receive a foreign decoration, without leave of his government; but Irish members of Parliament ostentatiously receive foreign bribes, and are allowed to retain their seats. Is it not time that a move was made against the undue influence of the foreign bribe?

Against the anthracite coal combination Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania, has requested Attorney-General Cassidy to move in the courts. The ground taken is that the combination is illegal, and that the railway companies are acting in violation of the limitations and inhibitions of their charters. The railway companies are forbidden to enter into mining operations; but in spite of this inhibition, they have practically got the whole anthracite region of the State under their control. They regulate the distribution of the coal by apportionment among themselves. The government of Pennsylvania will have the hearty sympathy of the public in its onslaught upon the most injurious monopoly of the age.

The large majority against the Trunk sewer in this city would be somewhat appalling if it merely indicated an indisposition to vote the amount of money necessary to secure good drainage. But, rightly or wrongly, the notion that the proposed mode of disposing of the sewage was not the best, counted for much in the decision of the rate-payers. Many who opposed the by-law, declared themselves favorable to