

unproductively, if at all, to the great economic detriment of society. Much of what individual land-owners apply to reproduction, it would spend unproductively. The country would be the loser, and would yearly become relatively poorer. This would happen even if there were no corruption in the overgrown and artificial expenditure. It is probable that capital would cease to accumulate, under the heavy unproductive expenditure of the government and the discouragement inflicted on the cultivator.

The minor class of confiscators is composed of those who would secure to government the "unearned increment" of the land. Events have proved the failure of this plan, without even the formality of a trial. Of this proposal the late John Stuart Mill was the author. His plan was that government should purchase all the land. He assumed that land, being limited in quantity, would, in the three islands, at any rate, continue to go up in price. When he wrote, no one believed that the English agriculturist would ever have to meet the competition which he has now to face, from foreign countries. The transportation of live cattle and even dead meat, long distances by sea, was till recently not dreamed of. In many parts of the world, new areas of soil are being brought under cultivation, and most of them are coming into competition with English, Irish and Scotch farms. As a natural consequence, the price of land in Great Britain and Ireland, has fallen greatly. If the Government had acted on the advice of Mill, instead of the promised increment, it would have had to face the unpleasant fact of a ruinous decrement.

But "why" asks Dr. Smith, "is property in land thus singled out for forfeiture; and why are its holders selected for robbery and denunciation? Because, say the Nationalizers, the land is the gift of God to mankind, and ought not to be appropriated by any individual owner." This, he shows, would equally exclude the appropriation of any natural agent, which labor alone could never produce. "Land," Dr. Smith adds, "is worth nothing, it is worth no more than the same extent of sea, till it is brought under cultivation by labor, which must be that of particular men." Land receives value from the labor bestowed upon it; and this value was never more recognized than at the present time. The recent Irish land laws, much as they interfered with the rights of the owners, admit that all permanent improvements add to the value of the land: what is paid for, in such cases, is not the land, but the labor bestowed upon it. You cannot separate the land from the value which labor has given it; and to confiscate the results of labor put upon land would authorize the confiscation of the result of any other form of labor. If we admit that property in land may be confiscated, we must be prepared to admit the French socialists' doctrine, *la propriété, c'est le vol*, and proclaim that all property is robbery.

**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BANK**—The shareholders of this institution no doubt feel grateful at the progress the bank has made during the past year. It has fully shared in the improved condition of business noticed in the directors' report in which we

read that "the wealth of the [neighboring] country may be judged of by the fact that the total deposits, not including Government deposits of any kind, on the 15th May last, when the books were closed amounted to to \$2,154,745.88, of which \$1,766,115.64 was on interest. Compare this with some years ago, when the total deposits were under half a million dollars, and the advance in wealth will seem surprising." That the bank has taken advantage of this improved condition of business is evident from the fact that it has increased its profits, during the past year, nearly \$40,000, and they now reach the sum of \$188,751. The shareholders have been contented with their usual seven per cent. dividend, and as they are not too much elated over the bank's success, nor too sanguine as to this continued prosperity in business, the directors have wisely decided to increase the reserve by the substantial sum of \$80,000. It now reaches \$350,000. Besides this a balance of \$14,000 is carried forward.

—The Central Bank of Canada is one of the first of the three banks chartered last session to come before the public. Next week investors will be invited to subscribe to its stock. The question will then be frequently asked, what are its prospects? Is there room for another bank in this city? Can its funds be profitably employed? etc. The one general answer to these questions must be that much will depend upon the management. No doubt the volume of business, in Canada, has increased during the past three years, in much greater proportions than the banking capital. And if the funds of the new bank be properly handled, the result should be satisfactory to the shareholders. To do this requires a thorough knowledge of the business—good executive ability—not amateur banking. Among the list of Provisional Directors, which we publish elsewhere, are the names of some good men; though it would have been better if it had contained a larger mercantile representation. The proposed manager is industrious and prudent, and has made the best possible use of his opportunities; and if the Directors be content to proceed slowly they are not likely to have cause to regret it.

—The farmers in the neighborhood of Kingston complain that owners of iron mines are not taxed on the output. The land is taxed as farm property; and the county council intends to petition the government to make a change in the mode of assessing iron mines. The farmer forgets that he is not taxed on what he produces any more than the miner, but only on the assumed capacity of production. A tax on the output of the mines would be a most unequal and oppressive tax. The cost of working a mine is often enormous, and such a tax might be in the nature of confiscation. A powerful interest, like the farmers' wielding great political influence, in asking to shift the burthen of taxation to an interest numerically weak, often has the means of doing grave injustice. In a country where the power of taxation is liable to be played with, for political ends, the danger is doubly great. Of any new tax, the justice should

be fully apparent. The first government of Ontario, by exacting a royalty on the silver mines of Lake Superior, made the success of silver mining impossible. Now an attempt is to be made to do a like disservice to iron mining. But if the product of the mine is to be taxed, will the product of the factory long escape? The reasons for taxing the two products would be equally strong and equally weak. This new movement of taxation should be carefully watched.

—The withdrawal of the Michigan Central Railway Co. from the Grand Trunk connection is confirmed. The change will probably not much inconvenience the public; though some substitute will have to be found for the Pullman sleepers, in the west, which are to be withdrawn. Between Toronto and Montreal a rapid Express will be run, at a saving of three or four hours, in time. The withdrawal of the Michigan Central must decrease the traffic of the Grand Trunk; and the question is whether the loss can be made up, in some other way.

—The Emerson and Northwestern railway charter has been dropped in the Legislature of Manitoba. An embarrassing question has thus, for the time, been settled itself. But it is a generic question, liable to appear under many forms; and we may be sure that both the Legislature of Manitoba and the Government of Ottawa will again make its acquaintance.

#### DIVORCE.

An interesting judgment on the law of divorce has just been rendered by Chief Justice Boyd, of the Chancery Division. The suit was one instituted by a wife against her husband to compel him to pay alimony, that is to say an allowance for her separate support. From the evidence it appeared that the defendant was a Canadian by birth; that he had, while under age, gone to the United States to seek his fortunes, and there, for a number of years, passed from place to place, employed sometimes in one business and sometimes in another. His marriage with the plaintiff took place in Detroit, while he was engaged in a business that kept him travelling through different parts of the country; but had, as he states, his headquarters at St. Louis, Missouri. After his marriage, his wife accompanied him on his travels for the first year. Subsequently, at his instance, she went to live with his father, in Ontario, where she remained during the second year of the marriage. She again accompanied him on his travels for a year or two, and then returned to Ontario and lived in a house rented by her husband.

Two children of the marriage were born in Ontario, and after their birth the defendant took up house in St. Louis, Missouri, where he and his wife resided together for a year. It transpired afterwards, that the removal to St. Louis had taken place in order that the defendant might be able to place himself in a position to apply, under the laws of that State, for a divorce. After this year had expired, his wife was removed out of the State; and then the Bill for divorce was filed, the reason alleged being the wife's desertion. Judgment of divorce was duly obtained by default, after process having been served upon the plaintiff personally, and shortly afterwards the defendant married a second time.

The husband, in due course of time, returned to Canada and took up his residence here.