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Monday Morning, Jan. 7, 1884.

Abusing the Ballot. It is of far less consequence that one man should occupy the seat for Bothwell in preference to another, than that the right of the elector who marks his ballot properly should be absolutely secured to him.

All the ballots at one polling place in Bothwell were rejected by Mr. Justice Galt last week because they were numbered on the back by the deputy returning officer.

The plea on which these numbered ballots were thrown out was that the numbers made it possible to identify the ballots and thus to ascertain how each man voted.

Put in this way, the plea on which Mr. Justice Galt acted is unassailable. We do not wish to be regarded as questioning the soundness of his decision, however, as the election practice runs.

Europe is filled up and overflowing with people, while America is but sparsely settled as yet, and has vast regions still unoccupied.

Mr. Justice Galt acted in an unassailable manner. We do not wish to be regarded as questioning the soundness of his decision, however, as the election practice runs.

But see what such a state of the law makes possible in an election. It is bad enough that the mere blunder of a stupid deputy returning-officer should be the means of depriving hundreds of electors of the franchise.

This process could be repeated in as many subdivisions as may be necessary to secure the seat for the party in power, and if the man who has really got the majority of the votes cast attempts to obtain the seat the courts step in and prevent him.

This is no new scandal. Almost precisely the same thing happened in 1878 in East Hastings, in which case Mr. Justice Armour declared the seat vacant and ordered a new election.

There never was such a dull winter for the railways in the matter of freight. Very little business is offering, either through or local. The men are on reduced time in

many of the departments. A year ago Christmas 120 cars were handled at our local sheds; this Christmas not twenty were awaiting attention.

Farmers do not appear to be selling much produce, storekeepers are not buying heavily, imports are light, and the lumber trade is anything but brisk.

Someone ought to start a boom.

The Clergy Against the People.

It is very much to be regretted that so many of the most popular and influential clergymen, in both Canada and the United States, persist in advocating a policy which is calculated to rob our own people of the employment which rightfully belongs to them, and almost literally to take the bread out of their mouths.

Now, it is true enough that, if Canada is ever to become a great country, it must be largely through having our vast unoccupied regions filled up.

The difficulties between the two sections of French Catholics of the province of Quebec appear to have reached a critical stage. Both in religion and politics the liberal view is taken by the archbishop of Quebec, but not even his high authority prevails with the ultraconservative section.

On Christmas day the vicar-general of Quebec preached a sermon, which is believed to have been intended to set forth the archbishop's views, and directly afterward the latter and a number of his clergy formally withdrew from the Cercle Catholique, an association representing the other side.

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the proposed attack to furnish him with some documents for examination.

"Here it is!" said the other, as he drew a huge bundle of papers from his pocket.

"Here it is! Here are tickets in the Louisiana state lottery in which I have expended \$20,000, and I never drew a prize."

"We grumble often at the sparsity of our 'speeches from the throne,' but let us rejoice that they do not contain twenty or thirty thousand words, as did the messages recently sent by the governors to the assemblies of New York and Maryland.

The boys' home at Hamilton is in luck. Its list of Christmas donations, including flour, potatoes, meat, fowls and provisions of all kinds, takes up more than a column and a half of solid type in the Spectator.

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fully believe. Moreover, it is not as in the Globe states, that the conductor "does not say his orders were confusing."

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