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MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 7, 1884.

Abusing the Ballot. 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. There has been so much straining after secrecy in the manner of voting that we stand constantly in danger of just such outrages as the seating of minority candidates in Bothwell and East Hastings by partizan returning officers.

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. This is equivalent to saying that by the act of an official over whom they had no control some scores of electors were deprived of the franchise. It is evident on the face of it that a system under which such an occurrence is possible is radically defective and that the sooner there is an. amendment of the law the better.

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. Assuming this to be true, is that a good reason for disfranchising a whole district, even under the law as it is? To maintain this is to assume that secrecy of voting is the main purpose of the ballot, and that the disfranchisement of duly qualified electors is a smaller political evil than is the possibility of finding out for which candidate they voted.

Put in this way, the plea on which Mr. Justice Galt acted is unspeakably absurd. We do not wish to be regarded as questioning the soundness of his decision, however, as the election practice runs. He guided, by precedents. The theory of the inviolable secrecy of the ballot is a piece of political nonsense which our legislatures and courts have imported from England, and the remedy for the evil must now be found in a change of the election act.

The ballot is useful in voting only for the purpose of enabling a voter to prevent others from knowing how he votes, if he wishes to do so. Secrecy of voting is only a means to an end, and the end is to pre vent intimidation-not to prevent bribery. The ballot is a protection to those who choose under cover of it to vote contrary to the wish of those who are in a position to coerce them. The most that can happen from the identification of the vote is the revival of intimidation, and no one who calmly considers the matter will seriously maintain that this is as great an evil as the disfranchisement of a whole batch of voters who have strictly carried out the law in so far as they are personally concerned.

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; it is infinitely worse that the deliberate act of a scoundrel should be the means of sending a minority candidate to represent a constituency. Suppose a district is closely divided politically as Bothwell happened to be at the last election. One subdivision has a large majority in it of sympathisers with one party, the returning-officer is a partisan and selects for his deputy in that subdivision a man who is willing to put some mark on all the the ballots, as for instance numbers or initials. In this way the whole vote of the subdivision is hidden, but some party loses far more heavily than the other.

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. Mr. Mills is counted in in Bothwell; he might have been counted out had one or two more subdivisions been disfranchised by the stupidity of deputy returning offi-

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 or. dered a new election. One would naturally expect a political leader like Mr. Blake, who would scorn to be a party to such devices as the law makes possible, to set about amending it, but he does not appear to have ever thought of doing it yet. Perhaps Mr. Mills, if he succeeds in keeping the seat for Bothwell, may take the matter up and press for what would be a real reform. The aim of the election law should be to give the seat to the man who is the deliberate choice of the people, and if any provision stands in the way of this consummation it must go.

Dull For the Railways. There never was such a dull winter for

nas 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.

It is very much to be regretted that 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 he acknowledges to having sold? the bread out of their mouths. Scarcely does a protestant preacher of any note touch the Chinese question without telling us that it is our christian duty to invite the heathen to flock in, no matter whether our own poor be left to starve. Over the border Henry Ward Beecher teaches that it is a christian duty to abolish duties on imported goods, to the end that work may be made for the poor of Europe. And now our own Dr. Wild says that we should velcome into this land the overflowing millions of the old world, and that the

country cannot have too many of them. Now, it is true enough that, if Canada be largely through having our vast unoccupied regions filled up. With only five millions of people so far, we have built railways and canals, on a scale suitten times that number. And in turn we would say, with Dr. Wild, let immigrants come in at the rate of millions a year, pro vided only that they settle on the land and become farmers. But if instead of that they flock into the cities, and towns, and villages, to take what work there is away from mechanics and laborers for whom there is already little enough of it, then we do not want them at all. A thousand bona fide farmers coming into the country make an appreciable addition to the demand for labor; they create employment for others. But a thousand laborers or mechanics, coming here without means, either take away so much of

the employment already existing or come upon our charities for support. Between the two kinds of immigration there is all the difference in the world. The former adds to the country's wealth. the latter to its poverty. To advocate the kind of immigration which further impoverishes our own poor is neither christianity nor philanthropy, but mischief and wickedness. And it is a sorrowful thing that such mischief and wickedness should be preached from the pulpit.

Europe is filled up and overflowing with was guided, as our judges are generally it is argued that the new world should find room for the surplus population of the old. All right, we reply, only stick to that ground, and don't budge from it. Let Europe's surplus population come here by thousands or by millions, if only they will go on the unoccupied land, which we all wish to see filled up. But do not bring Europe's poor over here on pretence o settling on the land, while the design is to dump them in upon the cities instead. We do not want immigrants brought in on false always open to short letters on any subject

We wonder whether Dr. Wild and other preachers holding his views on immigration expect to fill their churches with working men by teaching, in effect, that 'cheap labor" is a national blessing. Only judgment. The corrupt charges against bring in poor immigrants enough, and the labor for which a dollar is paid would come down to fifty cents. If the preachers understand this, and still continue in such strain as Dr. Wild, they are really devis- uninitialed ballots should have been ing evil against the poor of our own land, which is something that they will scarcely find a warrant for in scripture. If they do not understand this, they are in the dark on the matter in question, and had better leave it severely alone.

The trades council has done well to resolve that no strike be authorized on less than a two-thirds vote. And it does well also in keeping arbitration in view as the right way of settling trade disputes. All this is getting on the right track. Now let the council, while discouraging strikes as much as possible, except where necessity leaves no other resort, give its attention more and more to the greatest of all sources of trouble-assisted immigration. This will be immensely better for the men than strikes; it will be to strike on the right spot. Let the council and all the unions in connection with it, do their utmost to keep up the agitation against this giant evil, which threatens to fill Canadian cities with paupers. The newspapers and public men in every representative capacity, should be asked to declare hemselves on this vital question. Every village or town councillor, every city alderman, and every M.P.P., and every M.P., should be made to understand that his course on this question is eagerly observed and taken notice of by his constituents. If he is really in favor of bringing in pauper immigrants for the purpose of bringing down the wages of labor let the fact be brought to light before the whole public so that he shall no longer receive workingmen's votes on false pretences Our advice to the trades council is: let! there be fewer strikes, and more concen tration of effort on the pressing necessity of putting a stop to the assisted immigration of mechanics and laborers. That, we say, will be striking on the right spot.

It is easily to be seen, remarks a Chicago contemporary, how the Louisiana lottery company "controls more ready money than any institution in the state, not excepting the state treasury." An anecdote will tell the story. There was some talk, recently, the railways in the matter of freight. Very about making a fight against the company, little business is offering, either through or and a seedy, poverty-stricken, dejected,

car, is, I submit, a clear case. Then, if it squandered \$20,000, and I never drew a prize." After this it appears very small to hear that one man in this city spent \$80 in the Guelph swindle and never drew a prize. By the way, will the Wellington county crown attorney, Mr. Peterson, tell us why he prosecuted J. L. Murphy only the county crown attorney in the crown at the county crown attorney in the county crown attorney in the county crown attorney in the crown at the crown attorney in the crown at the crown at the crown attorney in the crown attorney in the crown at the crown at the crown at the crown attorney in the crown at the cr county crown attorney, Mr. Peterson, tell us why he prosecuted J. L. Murphy only on a single charge and secured him one paltry fine of \$20 instead of that amount on each of the sixty thousand odd tickets

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 ecently sent by the governors to the asmblies of New York and Maryland. We want but little of governor's speeches, nor want that little long.

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. Looking over the list one would fancy that is ever to become a great country, it must a storehouse of considerable size would be required to hold all the articles men-

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 ultramontane section On Christmas day the vicar-general of Quebec preached a sermon, which it is believed was 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. Monsignor Smelduers, who is now in Canada, having been sent here on a special mission by the pope, has certainly no very easy task before him if his mission be as is generally believed, to settle the present dissensions within the church.

The syndicate monopoly in the Northwest has seventeen years to run.

A Montreal paper suggests that government should at once inaugurate a national system of telegraphy beginning with three wires between the capital and the main towns of the provinces and then extending the same as rapidly as the treasury would permit. It is not the thing to have Jay Gould controlling our telegraph lines people, while America is but sparsely any more than he should control our post-settled as yet, and has vast regions still office. Both are institutions for the transunoccupied. This is the ground upon which it is argued that the new world should find ent parts of the country and both ought. When I saw the fire burning in that direc-

We have received a long letter from correspondent in Peterboro protesting against what he terms a bargaining between Roman catholics and the Ontario government in the matter of the registrarship of that county. If the letter were shorter and more definite in its statement of facts we would publish it. We are

The Bothwell election contest between Hon, David Mills and Mr. J.-J. Hawkins remains undecided till Saturday next, when Mr. Justice Galt will deliver final Mr. Mills were gone into on Saturday. They were wholly unsubstantiated. The points for decision relate to the recount, and include the question whether certain included.

Transfer of Insurance.

To the Editor of The World. SIR: Surely such cases as Dr. Hennessy's reported in your paper, ought to lead to the abolition of the transfer of life insurance so as to prevent sickly men being used for the dishonest acquirement of

to pay debts is not a square transaction. Generally speaking, life insurance is understood to be a provision for a man's family, when his business position is uncertain. To allow creditors to rob them of this provision—if of moderate amount, such as a man's business position would justify—is what the law should not allow. Temption to evil the law should prevent as much as possible, and there is no easier one than life insurance. OBSERVER.

Toronto, Jan. 5, 1884.

How to Avoid Collisions.

To the Editor of The World. SIR: If a train was attached to an en gine by a rather long wire rope, there might be disadvantages in such a connec tion, but it would have the effect of averting the consequences of concussion of trains from all but the locomotive. The cars would escape and the people in them. I fear, however, those counterbalancing "disadvantages," and only throw out the suggestion as an exercise of thought. But suggestion as an exercise of thought. But unquestionably, if there were prevalent any proper estimates of the risks that are daily run on single-line railways, especially from the occasional reports of conductors, linemen and telegraph operators there would be a sturdier attempt to provide

and a seedy, poverty-stricken, dejected, admits it. But that the system under these let to the sporn, let to the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the to the sporn let to the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in which he worked was the primal cause I to describe the leaders in the leaders

the proposed attack to furnish him with fully believe. Moreover, it is not true your documents," said the latter. not say his orders were confusing." His "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

> their services and not overworked.
>
> Moreover, one man should never have the responsibility of a train resting solely upon him. There should always be a back and the responsibility divided divided. upon him. There should always be a check and the responsibility divided. Any one man is liable to forget at the moment, as this conductor did, who says

moment, as this conductor did, who says he had another train in his mind and overlooked the fatal one.

Surely it may be hoped that government will now assume the responsibility of seeing that railway companies work under a system of rules which will ensure, as far as possible, a proper care for the lives of the public under their charge.

Toronto, Jan. 5, 1883. PUBLICO.

A SMART SALESMAN.

As the train slowed up at a station commercial looking man, who had been noticed in earnest conversation with another party of the same general appearance,

was heard to remark: "Smart? He's the smartest drumme you ever met anywhere. Why, he's smart enough to sell suspenders to a dog."

The other commercial-looking man nodded his head at this very happy illus-tration, and everybody thought the contration, and everybody thought the conversation was ended, when a lonesom ooking individual on the opposite side

the car remarked: "It doesn't take a very smart man to spenders to a dog. Even the sleepy passengers aroused at this startling remark by the lonesome-look-ing individual, and the commercial man asked in some surprise:

"Why not?" "Because it doesn't."
"What would a dog want with sus "To keep up his pants," softly mur nured the lonesome-looking individual

heavy damages for injury to passengers, be cause it is their business to carry them sufely

So it is every man's business to carry his fam

ily safely through the period of their depend-

ence, and to trifle with interests so sacred, by

putting them to unnecessary hazard, it is to

incur a very grave responsibility. When a man does his best there still remains risks

enough; but woe unto him who neglects a

are well known.

easonable precaution against dangers that

When one goes on board a steamboat and sees the fire-buckets and axes, the life-boats

dom there is any occasion to use them, it seems

Thousands of passengers are carried every year and not one of them uses a life-preserver, the

life-boats rot at the davits; but who would wish

to travel on a steamboat that neglected to pro

vide such things? The truth is, when such things are needed it is a matter of life or death and the people realize that it is better to pro-

vide them ten thousand times where they may

But no large company of persons journey

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New York

Montreal and

gazing out across the snow-swept waste with a far-away look in his voice. IT WOULDN'T BURN.

Story Dear to the Heart of Every Married "Understand that you had a fire at your house yesterday?" said a gentleman to his friend Colonel Snagwell. danger out of all proportion to the danger

"Yes, house caught fire." "Suppose the firemen did effective work?" "No, they didn't get there in time."

"You threw water very promptly on the flames, eh?"
"No, didn't use any water." "How did you put it out?" 'Went out.'

prove unnecessary than to be without then once when they need them. "That's singular."
"Not at all. The other day I bought a through the world long before some of then feel the need of life insurance. Every year the shadows of death fall upon the homes and hearts of more or less. It is only reasonable precaution for all to insure. The cost of insuring is not so great that it deserves to be compared with the sad results to the families of those who die uninsured. tion I felt pretty safe, and I was not disappointed, for when it reached the kind-

After the battle of Kashgate, Soudan, the heads of the staif officers were shown to the prisoners and then fixed over the gate of El Obeid. The Arabs resolved to build a tomb over Hicks Pasha in recognition of his splendid courage. He was the last of the staff, which all fell in one group, to die. The Mahdi ordered that no wounded men should be injured:

TRADE AND FINANCE.

TORONTO, Saturday, Jan. 5. Dry goods travelers are now out with general spring samples. A few orders have been received for English prints, but apart from that there is nothing doing. There is a moderate enquiry for eggs for the

Buy and sell on commission for cash margin all securities doubt in on the export trade. Prices remain unchanged at to 27c for ordinary stock, and 30c for Toronto, strictly fresh. The grocery trade is dull. In sugars no in provement is expected; granulated is quoted STOCK EXCHANGES

at 81c to 85c, and yellows at 61c to 75c. Nuts of all kinds are scarce. Tea is active, with fair enquiry for low grades of Japans. Greens are in better demand, with limited sales. The petroleum market is weak, and price have declined to per gallon during the week. Car lots are now quoted at 141c, and a shade lower is expected.

The hardware trade is stagnant, and low grade irons can find no market. The lates advices from England report the iron trade de noralized, which is fully borne out by the re ent failures, Four Rough-cast Cottages, Nos.135, 137, 139, 141 Front Street East, south side, corner Sherbourne Street, with city water and covered out-buildings. Apply to

nake 30 days their longest line of credit, preferring to take a small margin than tak

Cheese has advanced in Liverpool 1s 6d per

to-day is earnest confidence in the future, but no one predicts that the volume of trade will equal that of the past few years. Canadian sheep dressed bring 42c. per lb. in New York.

Hops are dull at 20c to 25c, with growers holding back in anticipation of better prices.

A shipment of 36 casks of tallow were for varded by Grand Trunk to-day, consigned to Liverpool parties. Apples are scarce, with a light demand for

export. Five car loads were forwarded to day to London, Eng. Cable to Cox & Worts quote Hudson Bay at £223, and Northwest Land at 66s 3d. Toronto Stock Exchange.

CLOSING BOARD.—Imperial 131 to 129½, sales 20 at 130. Northwest Land 66 to 64½; sales 100 at 65, 100 at 64½. Canada Permanent 216 sellers, 2-2 at 214. British Loan Association 100 sellers sales 35 at 100.

Montreal Stock Exchange. CLOSING BOARD.—Montreal 177½ to 176½; s. 0 at 176½. Ontario 101 sellers, sales 20 at Union 67½ to 67, sales 20 at 67½. Local Markets.

would be a sturdier attempt to provide remedies for this frightful state of things. As things are the companies will not incur any extra expense for purposes of safety. The plan might easily be adopted of a collapsible or spring car next the engine, in which steel springs, adding to each other resisting force, would act in a mighty accumulation of buffer-power, for the entire length of a car. This ought certainly to be tried at once. A single car of firewood interposed has been known to save a train. Yours, etc.,

The Conductor and the Accident.

To the Editor of the World.

Sir: I commend your rebuke of the Globe's judgment of the conductor. That he was the immediate cause of the accident there can be no doubt. He himself admits it. But that the system urder the conductor in the conductor of the conductor admits it. But that the system urder the conductor in the conductor in the conductor in the conductor in the conductor. That the conductor is a conductor in the conductor in the conductor in the conductor in the conductor. That is the conductor in the conduct Hard & Soft Coal CUT AND UNCUT, at LOWEST RATES. Coal delivered in bags if required.

GRAND XMAS SALE Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Cotton firm, uplands 10%, Flour—Receipts 16,000 brls, weak, sales 19,000 brls, No 2 \$2 to \$3,0 superfine, western and state \$2.50 to \$3.35, common to good extra \$3.25 to \$3.75, good to choice \$3.30 to \$6.50, common to choice white wheat \$6.25 to \$6.50, common to choice white wheat \$6.25 to \$6.50, common to choice extra \$5. Louis \$3.30 to \$6.25, common to choice extra \$6.50 to \$6.50, common to choice extra \$6.50 to \$6.55, common to choice extra \$6.00 to \$6.55, common to choice extra \$6.00 to \$6.25, patent Minnesota extra good to prime \$5.75 to \$6.75, choice to double extra \$6.50 to \$6.57, to \$6.75, choice to double extra \$6.50 to \$6.87. Rye flour \$3.35 to \$3.75. Cornmed \$5.75 to \$6.75, choice to double extra \$6.00 to \$9.00 bush, good, firm: sales \$4.40,000 bush., futures 159.000 bush. spot 127,000 bush.; exports No. 2 \$1.07, No. 2 red \$1.10, No. 2 red and white state \$1.184, No. 2 red January \$1.09\$ to \$1.10\$. February \$1.11\frac{1}{2}\$ to \$2.200 bush, firm; sales \$1.055,000 bush. future 28,000 bush, firm; sales \$1.055,000 bush, firm; sales \$50.000 bush, firm; sales \$60.000 bush,

NOVELTIES

In Satchels, Purses, Plain and Fancy Silk Handkerchiefs, Linen Handkerchiefs, Lace Handkerchiefs, Ladies' Silk Ties, Lace Ties, Lace Colars, Lace Fichus, Jabets, Cascades and every novelty in Lace Neckwear; Ladies Fine French Kod Glover, 3 4, and 6 buttons; Mousgetaire and Gauntlets, all the newest shades, dressed and u dressed; Cashmere Gloves, Hosiery, Ladies' and Gents' Underwear, Corsets, Kibbon, Laces, Dress Buttons and Trimmings, Mantle Trimmings, Wool Goods, Clouds, Breakfast Shaws, Ladies' Cashmere Jerseys, plain and braided.

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firm. Cheese firm at 95c to 134c.

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.— Flour unchanged.

Wheat quiet, January 94c to 94c. February 95c to 95dc, spring 94c to 94c. No. 2 red 97c to 98c. Corn quiet at 576c to 57dc, January 37c to 57dc, February 56gc to 57dc, Cats steady at 33dc to 33dc, Are steady at 56dc. Pork \$14.50 to \$14.57 under February 33c to 34c. Rye steady at 56dc. Pork \$14.50 to \$14.55, January \$14.55 to \$14.57 under February prices, February \$8.90 to \$8.92 February \$8.80 to \$8.97 bulk meats, steady—Shoulders \$6.15, short rib \$7.55, short clear \$7.85. Recepts—Flour 12,000 bbls, wheat 39,000 bush, corn 90,000 bush, oats 31,000 bush, frye 12,000 bush, barley 22,000 bush, Shipments—Flour 11,000 bbls, wheat 19,000 bush, oats 33,000 bush, rye 1000 bush, oats 33,000 bush, rye 1000 bush, barley 21,000 bush. SGRANTON

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