

MANITOBA AND BETTER TERMS.

The *Winnipeg Times* publishes in a supplement six letters on "The Anomalous position of Manitoba." The letters contain a new plea for "better terms," once more. The writer modestly asks that the Province should have the public lands within its boundaries handed over to it free. He cannot imagine why the fact that Canada purchased and paid for these lands twice over,—first from the Hudson Bay Co. and next from the Indians—should give her any earthly title to them. He even denies the fact, alleging that the purchase money was paid for something else. The "right" of Manitoba to these lands is spoken of, as if the pretence contained the smallest grain of truth. The old provinces retain their public lands; therefore, argues the writer, Manitoba ought to get for nothing the public lands within her borders for which the whole country has paid. The whole argument is of this flimsy character, weak to grotesqueness. Perhaps the best joke of all is that which represents Manitoba as defraying the cost of the Pacific Railway, by an enforced gift of millions of acres of land and receiving "in return only the benefits of easy communication and increased settlement." So much for so little! The whole of this strange compound is flavored with a threat that emigration may possibly be driven back and that, as a last calamity to old mother Canada, secession may take place. Did it never occur to the writer that, in respect to the public lands, Manitoba is in precisely the same position as the States of the American Union? The grievance he airs is a child of the imagination, and a very very dull and unpromising youngster it is.

—The disastrous stoppage of the Mechanics National Bank of Newark, and the success of its cashier in having, by very transparent statements of its deposits with New York agents, hoodwinked the Treasury Department, is occasioning severe comment in the United States. It has at any rate drawn attention to the seemingly ineffectual manner in which inspection of national banks by the Government is carried out in that country. "The plain, undeniable fact is," says the *New York Times*, "that for a number of years back, the Bank Examiners have been deceived as to the real condition of the bank, by the misrepresentation of one or two assets, as to which the truth might have been ascertained at any moment quickly, easily, and accurately." It has been stated recently, that the deposits of this bank with its New York agent were as high as \$1,400,000. Such a deposit in New York with a single bank is an unusual one,

and it is but reasonable to say that it would have attracted the attention of a vigilant examiner. It could have been verified in an hour at any time by a telegram from the examiner, or by a personal inquiry at the New York bank. But such inquiry has ever been made. The journal quoted continues: "We shall not now recur to the negligence of the directors. That has been lamentable, but it is very common. What we wish to enforce on the attention of our readers is the immense responsibility assumed by the Government in the use of its substantially unlimited and discretionary powers of inspection. This inspection must be as constant, as searching, and as perfect as possible, or it is worse than useless. The existence of such inspection is, in any case, attended with grave inconvenience. It encourages over-confidence on the part of the public, and, what is worse, on the part of the Directors, the natural and special guardians, who are supposed to be on watch in the interest of shareholders and creditors."

FRENCH CANADIANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

"The Canadian French are the Chinese of the Eastern States; * * * They are a horde of industrial invaders." Such is the language of an official report made early in the present year by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics, upon the subject of the regulation of the hours of labor. The head of the Bureau, Mr. Wright, was careful to explain, however, to some indignant representatives of the Canadians, that this offensive language was not his; that it was not the opinion of the Bureau, but merely the individual opinion of some of the agents employed by it to report. It had been proposed, it seems, to reduce the number of working hours of a day to ten, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York were "investigated" by the Bureau to find what feeling prevailed on the subject. This by order of the Massachusetts Legislature of 1880.

Among the objections to the ten hours' movement, says the Report, is the presence of the Canadian French. "Wherever they appear, there their presence is urged as a reason why the hours of labor should not be reduced to ten. The reasons for this urgency are not far to find. With some exceptions, the Canadian French are the Chinese of the Eastern States. They care nothing for our institutions, civil, political or educational. They do not come to make a home among us, to dwell with us as citizens, and so become a part of us; but their purpose is merely to sojourn a few years as aliens, touching us only at a single point, that of work; and, when they have gathered out of us what will satisfy their ends, to get them away to whence they came, and bestow it there. They are a horde of industrial invaders, not a stream of stable settlers. Voting, with all that it implies, they care nothing about. Rarely does one of them become naturalized. They will

not send their children to school if they can help it, but endeavor to crowd them into the mills at the earliest possible age."

To so strong an indictment it is not surprising that the people accused objected. They first expressed their disapprobation by sending resolutions to the Legislature at Boston, last winter. These resolutions, it appears, were referred by the Legislature to the Labor Bureau without comment. It occurred to Col. Wright, however, that it would be well to hear what these "alien workers," these "Wandering Jews," this "horde of invaders" had to say for themselves. So he gave, a week ago, a hearing to representative French Canadians from the New England States and New York in regard to the condition of the French Canadian residents of those States. Nearly a hundred persons had responded to his circular. There were amongst these French clergymen, the editors of French newspapers, professional men and business men. A counsel or adviser was chosen in the person of Mr. D. Dubuque, of Fall River, a point in the state at which the French Canadians gather most thickly, and, says the *Boston Advertiser*, "the case was presented with ability and intelligence," which is not so bad for what the Bureau agents called "a horde of unnaturalized alien sojourners, the Chinese of New England, neglect of votes and enemies of schools."

"The hearing cannot fail," we are told by the journal named, "to be productive of much good." Statistics and reports in detail were presented from various parts of the States mentioned. Witnesses gave their testimony to the social and industrial condition of the objectionable race. These showed that the French were sober and industrious, that their children did attend schools, that churches and parochial day and evening schools were multiplying rapidly, and that the proportion of males who were naturalized and owned property was large when it was considered that the immigration had only extended over a few years.

The first witness called, who was a resident of Worcester, Mass., said that the French Canadians had never opposed a reduction of the hours of labour, and have never asked to have them increased. From statistics it was shown that in thirty-one cities and towns, with a population of 399,000, there are 92,500 French Canadians, representing about 10,000 families, and of these 2,000 families have homes of their own, and they are not the "Wandering Jews," mentioned in the report. In these thirty-one cities and towns, 15,990 of the 65,500 school children are French Canadian. Such statistics as these go to show how unjust the quoted parts of the Report must be, in the statements made and epithets used.

BAY OF CHALEURS FISHING.

The first number of the fifth volume of the Supreme Court Reports, which is as tardy as its predecessors in making its appearance, gives the judgment of that Court on one more Lower Province Fishery case. The suit is that of *McFee vs. Mowat*, being an action of trespass brought