

THE TRUE WITNESS

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY The Post Printing & Publishing Co., AT THREE OFFICES: 761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

Subscription rates: Single copy 10c, 3 months \$2.50, 6 months \$4.50, 1 year \$8.00. Advertisements: 10c per line per week.

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THE POST PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 1887

THE N. Y. Mail and Express objects to Commercial Union in the ground that it would impair the annexation sentiment in Canada.

The two party conventions will take place in Haldimand, Ont., next week. The Liberals meet in Cayuga on Monday, and the Conservatives in the same place on the following day.

The Producers Exchange and Citizens' Committee, of Toledo, O., has endorsed the proposal to establish unlimited reciprocity between Canada and the United States.

In the death of Senator Senechal this province loses an interesting citizen. As a politician his methods were not always commendable. He took care of the main chance however. But what is it to him now? De Mortuis nil nisi bona.

Our Ottawa Minister after another is being howled out of his seat by the courts, for bribery. When the men who are supposed, pre-eminently, to enforce the law are shown to be law breakers, where are we to look for justice in this Canada of ours?

It is to be hoped that Mr. Villeneuve will find pleasure in the result of the trial which resulted yesterday in his being unseated. At all events he has the satisfaction of knowing that if he had no previous record he has one now. He has also the satisfaction of paying the costs.

Several hundred Russians have entered Heral in the guise of merchants. This is the Russian way of advancing. It is different from the British method, which is to send missionaries first, then second and soldiers last. It would seem that in the race for "The Gate of India" Russia is ahead of England.

MR. PRÉFONTAINE, M.P. for Chambly, indignantly denies that there was any "saw-off" between him and Sir Hector Langevin in the matter of election petitions, or with any other Conservative whose seat was protested. He simply told them to go on with their protest, and the case ended, as our readers are aware, in his being confirmed in his seat.

THINGS have come to a pretty pass when charges may be trumped up against public men by men in mangers, without making direct allegations, and then detectives employed to dog their footsteps in search of evidence. Such is actually the case in Montreal to-day. The infamy of such proceedings is beyond characterization. But just wait a little longer.

THE order issued by the Inspector-General of Irish Constabulary, suspending the execution of the coroner's warrant for the arrest of the Mitchellstown murderers, is equivalent to saying that the law is not to be enforced against those who slaughter Irish Nationalists. Thus, there is no law in Ireland save the will of a policeman. Under such circumstances murderers will have to take their chances with Judge Lynch.

THE writ for a new election for the Commons in Colchester, N.S., has been issued. Nominations are fixed for the 20th of this month, polling on the 27th. We like this promptness. But why has no writ been issued for Yarmouth in the same province? That seat has been vacant for months, while Colchester has been vacant only a week. Is it because the Government has no available candidate in Yarmouth that the writ is delayed?

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT addressed a large meeting of his constituents in Ingersoll last Wednesday night. He discussed Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States, viewing the question from many standpoints, presenting its advantages, but also pointing out the difficulties in the way. He, however, said he had reached the conclusion that on the whole, if a fair and reasonable measure of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States could be obtained, it would be in the best interests of the people of Canada.

HON. HENRY STARNES appears to be a general favorite with all parties for the position of Lt.-Governor of this Province. He certainly fills the bill in all particulars, and the fact of his universal popularity ought to weigh with the Government. It is thought, however, that he may not get the appointment because it will create a vacancy in the Legislative Council and thus give Mr. Mercier an opportunity of securing a majority in that Chamber. We do not put much value on this objection. Mr. Mercier

will have a majority in the Council in good time, whether Mr. Starnes be appointed Lieutenant-Governor or not.

THE London Advertiser rebukes these papers which have been unnecessarily caustic in dealing with Lieut.-Gov. Campbell for his courtesy to Cardinal Taschereau. "The Cardinal is a distinguished Canadian," says the Advertiser, "and Protestants can, if of liberal mind, do him a certain amount of honor without in the slightest degree compromising themselves or their religious professions."

It is understood that Mr. J. J. Curran will be raised to the bench in a few weeks. Already the Conservatives of Montreal Centre are making their arrangements to bring out a candidate in his place for the Commons. The Liberals should lose no time in getting to work in the same direction. With proper organization and a good candidate the riding can be redeemed.

HON. WILLIAM ANNAND is no more. Nova Scotia never produced a better or truer upholder of Liberal principles and popular rights. He fought side by side with Joseph Howe, and when that leader joined hands with the Tories he refused to follow him, preferring to remain true to the principles of a lifetime. For many years past he lived in retirement in England, and now goes to his rest at the ripe age of eighty years with a reputation unimpaired and a character for fortitude and patriotism that may well be held up to the admiration of posterity.

A SOLEMN declaration has been made before a Magistrate by Mr. Thomas Tapp, of Virdean, Man., to the effect that fifteen acres on the farm of Mr. W. Dawson, in township 11, range 26, west of the 1st meridian, produced 770 bushels of wheat, an average of 51 bushels per acre. What a magnificent country for settlers Manitoba would be, and how liberal would be their purchases from Eastern Canadian manufacturers and merchants, but for the fact that the country is cursed with railway monopoly, land monopoly and high taxation.

Too much fuss altogether has been raised over the sale of decorations in France. The practice has long been in full swing on the continent. It is in fact a part of the regular business of European potentates. Not only decorations, but titles, such as baron, count, marquis, etc., can be purchased at regular tariff rates by anyone who desires to be so distinguished and is bold enough to pay good money for the luxury. The cross of the Legion of Honor is an Imperial Bonaparte decoration and should be relegated to oblivion with the rest of the gewgaws of the Empire.

NOVA SCOTIA may be said to have the fisheries question in her own hands. Sir Charles Tupper, commissioner; Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, legal adviser; and Mr. George Johnson, statistician, are all from Nova Scotia. Each of them is able and accomplished in the special role he is called upon to fill, and we can only hope their success will be commensurate with the ability and industry they will bring to bear on the problems before them. We fear, however, that they will find, as Sir John Macdonald found in the case of the High Joint Commission, the two British and three American commissioners too many for them.

A COMMISSION is to be appointed to go over the ground and report to the Government whether it is worth while to complete the Trent Valley Canal. A little more than \$700,000 has been expended, and to finish the job another million or two will be needed. The total distance from Georgian Bay to Bay Quinte by this route is 235 miles. Were the canal finished, grain could be carried from Chicago, Duluth or Port Arthur to the foot of Georgian Bay in large boats, and thence in barges to Montreal, instead of breaking bulk at Kingston as at present. The route is by no means direct, but it might compete with the railways or the still longer route by Detroit and the Welland Canal.

MR. POWDERLY has risen immensely in public estimation by his stand at the K. of L. Convention. He had not confounded socialism and anarchy, he said, but drew a wide line of distinction between the two. He took the ground that the assembly should pass a resolution demanding that every avowed anarchist be obliged to withdraw from the order or be expelled. The Knights, Mr. Powderly continued, have nothing to fear from the trade union, but everything to fear from the contaminating influence of the men who preach destruction in the name of the order, and who at the same time assert that they are socialists, yet giving the lie to every principle of socialism when they advocate violence of any kind. Mr. Powderly is keen-sighted enough to see that no class of men can hope to succeed in setting at defiance the laws of his country.

If we may believe the Ottawa Citizen, something very like a panic prevails at the Capital over the prospect of Mr. Fielding, Premier of Nova Scotia, impressing his ideas on the Inter-Provincial Conference. "The Dominion Exchequer," our contemporary declares, "will require to be guarded by Gatling guns." We never thought Mr. Fielding was so terrible a man. But when we come to think of the way the treasury has been robbed by those who are supposed to guard it, we fancy Gatling guns are more required against them than against the alleged pirate crew of Provincial Premiers led by so fierce a marauder as Mr. Fielding.

MR. J. B. LANE, Secretary of the National League, of this city has received information by telegraph that, on the return of Mr. Arthur O'Connor and Sir Grattan Esmond, from San Francisco, a Canadian tour will be arranged for them, probably some time in December, of which due notice will be given in THE POST OF THE distinguished Irish envoys, the Dublin Nation speaks thus: The services which Mr. Arthur O'Connor has rendered the Irish cause can be known only to those who have been his colleagues in Parliament during the past seven years. His sleepless energy and unflinching fortitude displayed through these long years of what often seemed a hopeless task won for him the admiration, alike of friend and foe. Cold, passive and emotionless as he seems to the casual observer, there is not a member of the Irish party

more aflame with patriotic love for the grand old people of Ireland than the senior representative for Queen's county. Sir Thomas Esmond needs no words of ours to recommend him to the people of America. The possessor of an illustrious name, the descendant of Grattan, and the grandson of a rebel of the dark and evil days of '93, Sir Thomas Esmond, though still on the threshold of life, has already won his way to the hearts of the Irish people. Like Mr. Parnell, he has cast aside the prejudices of his class and come forward to fight in the van of the present struggle. From the mission of these two remarkable men to our friends in America we anticipate the happiest results. Americans only need the opportunity to give practical shape to the sympathy which they feel for Ireland; and the mission of Sir Thomas Esmond and Mr. Arthur O'Connor will afford them an opportunity of sending material aid to those here who are struggling for the emancipation of a nation.

A VERY pretty instance of the tail trying to wag the dog is given by the Quebec Chronicle, which relates that "Mr. Lynch, Mr. Tailion, Dr. Ross, Mr. Tarte, Mr. Demers and Dr. Morin have been advising Sir John Macdonald to do some reconstruction. The Premier attended a conference called by these gentlemen and he was told just what to do. A programme we learn, was outlined and insisted on. How much all this reminds us of King James and the Barons. Said one of the party, after the meeting with the Premier, 'the effect of the proposed steps will be apparent ere long.' Could anything be plainer? It will now be in order to call an early meeting of the Cabinet, and reorganize things. One matter the Quebec statesmen did not go beyond peradventure, and it is this: Mr. Chapleau must not be appointed Lieut.-Governor!"

EVICIONS were resumed at Luggacurran, by order of Lansdowne, on the 29th September. There was a force of 80 constabulary and 20 emergency men. Three tenants were driven out of their homes during a drenching down-pour of rain. The first man evicted was James Mahon, of Whitefield, about three miles from the village of Luggacurran. The charge on which he was evicted was one year's rent, including the mythical "hanging gale." Mahon had built the house, from which he was driven with his family of seven children, at a cost of £300. Michael Cranly with his wife and 14 children, sub-tenants on the Kilbride farm, was the second eviction. On a window was posted a paper in which was written, "The Plan of Campaign defies Lansdowne and Trench, Long live Wm. O'Brien to defy the English Tory Government." Gerald Byrne was the third evicted. His rent was £92.7, and the value of the house £36. He had nine children, the youngest only two months old. He owned only six months' rent. Such is the humane, Christian proceedings now being carried on in Ireland by our Government-General! We will offer no comment, but we know that every man and woman in Canada, with a heart alive to the sufferings of the poor people and their helpless little ones must feel towards the author of such misery.

Some of our Ontario contemporaries have taken exception to the action of Lieut.-Governor Alexander Campbell in attending the banquet given at Toronto in honor of His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau. They are frightened by the old begy Popery, and even Grip joins the rabble, shouting "Shoot the hat!" Did it never occur to these wisecracks that the Cardinal is a Canadian gentleman who has risen to exalted rank in the oldest, the grandest, the holiest of all institutions ever known to man; and that, as a representative of a moral power transcending all earthly powers, he stands at the head of nearly one-half the population of the Dominion a living guarantee of peace, good order and obedience to the laws of the country? Men of sense ought to reflect, not let their childish prejudices in matters of religion carry them away.

THE announcement that several of the principal sugar refiners of the United States are forming an association representing about \$50,000,000 of capital for the protection of their mutual interests is causing not a little consternation among the retail dealers and consumers throughout the republic. The scheme contemplates one of the most gigantic monopolistic organizations for the control of trade ever found in America.

Of course the prime object of this trust is to increase the price of sugar to the consumers, since the refiners complain that there are too many refineries to permit of profitable production. In other words, those joining the trust do so with the intention of abolishing competition. There is, however, some doubt of this, being able to do so, though they certainly can limit competition very much. Mr. F. N. Barrett, editor of a leading journal devoted to the grocery trade, in an interview with a N. Y. Telegram reporter, said:—

"The Eastern refiners may combine, but there is a single refiner on the western coast of the United States who could compete with them. This single refiner now supplies the greater portion of the sugars of various grades consumed west of the Mississippi River. He might prove to be an important factor in the Eastern market as well. The coast region of California, as we are aware, is well adapted to the cultivation of the sugar beet, and the beet may yet to a considerable degree come into competition with the cane. From the history of the industry on the Pacific coast I learn that the lowest average of production is fifteen tons of beets per acre, with a yield of sugar that has varied from two tons per acre to as low as 2,850 pounds. Cuba is now the largest grower of cane sugar, exporting an average of 655,000 tons per year. Germany is first as a grower of the sugar beet. The sugar manufacturing industry of the United States has reached such immense proportions that no person need fear a scarcity of the product."

SIR CHARLES TUPPER has been selected by the Canadian Government to represent this country on the Fisheries Commission, Sir John Macdonald having, according to reports, requested him to take the position instead of himself. All things considered, the selection is about the best that could have been made. We may, however, be sure that only an acute sense of his own infirmities has induced the Premier to give way in so important a matter to his ambitious lieutenant. However that may be, the country will feel far more satisfied with the Canadian case in the hands of a man who is in the prime of life and looking forward to a great future than in those of one whose career is drawing to a close, and who, his best friends will admit, is no longer physically capable of undertaking arduous and protracted duties. Opposed though we may be to Sir Charles Tupper, and convinced as we

are of his impurity as a politician, we are nevertheless prepared to admit his eminent fitness for the position. He is thoroughly conversant with the subject, his intellect is of the keenest, he has had experience of late years in dealing with diplomat, he possesses untiring industry, he is a match for any American that can be named in the arts of management, he is not overburdened with samples, and, above all, we believe him to be thoroughly Canadian. It is his laudable ambition to become Premier and leader of the Conservative party of the Dominion, and this alone is a guarantee that he will exert all his great powers to establish by his work on the Commission a record and a reputation which will give him a claim upon the country hereafter which his opponents will be unable to dispute. For these reasons we hail the appointment of Sir Charles with satisfaction, and rest satisfied that he will do all that in him lies to secure the best possible terms for Canada.

IRISH bulls can be cultivated with success in England, as the London Times has proved to the great amusement of the Nationalists. That great opponent of the Irish cause, in an editorial recently, declared that publicity was the essence of the power of the Land League, and called upon the Government to suppress the papers which published the proceedings of the branches. In the very same issue of the Times which contained this article there appeared less than six columns of news from Ireland, including reports of the meetings of the National League to date! Thus it gave all the publicity it could to news which it demanded other papers should be suppressed for publishing. Unconsciously, the press works out its own mission against the small intellects that sometimes get control in the editorial room. And the Times must continue giving this news, or it will fall behind its contemporaries, and so publicity is secured in any case.

It is to be hoped that the sensible suggestion made by the Waterloo Advertiser, that the Liberals, French and English, of Sheffield should unite on an English Protestant candidate, will be accepted. Our contemporary puts the case very fairly:—

"The Mercier Government has no English-speaking supporter from the Townships. Mr. Mercier himself is anxious to increase his English following in the House. He would be favorable to the candidature of an English Liberal and would do everything in his power to secure his election. If such a candidate could be chosen with the hearty concurrence and support of the French Liberals there could be no doubt of his securing a handsome majority. There has never been a time yet when the French and English Liberals of Sheffield have not pulled together to secure a common triumph, and now is a time when continued harmony must result in a fresh victory. The French Liberals of Sheffield have always shown themselves to be broad-minded men, anxious to do good for the sake of their party and we fancy they will not be slow to make common cause calculated to place their English fellow-citizens, strengthen the hands of Mr. Mercier in the House and cement firmer than ever the bonds of good feeling between the two nationalities in Sheffield. The English will not be instrumental in putting any candidate in the field who is not of the confidence and support of the Liberals of all nationalities and creeds. The French Canadians are a majority in Sheffield, but we have yet to see them display an unfair spirit, or show a disposition inimical to the rights of the English minority. We believe that in this instance they will take a broad view of the situation and for the sake of their party and their leader give a hearty support to an English candidate pledged to follow the Mercier Government and assist in giving effect to Liberal principles in legislation."

In giving judgment Monday in the case of D. Wane vs. The Star newspaper, Judge Davidson laid down a principle of the utmost importance to the public, who look to the daily press for reports of what is going on before the courts. His Honor decided the case against the plaintiff with costs, on the ground that "It has come to be a well established doctrine, that proceedings before a court of justice, thoroughly and honestly reported, although occasionally proving injurious to individuals, were to be held privileged. Public policy and public convenience, continued the learned judge, were broadening, rather than restricting, the rule. In the absence of malice, the courts of justice were weary of putting legal handcuuffs upon publishers when reporting judicial proceedings." This common sense decision is as much a recognition of the right of the public to know what is going on in the courts as it is an act of justice to newspaper publishers. Under the antiquated law of libel publishers are constantly harassed by libel suits entered by all sorts of persons who fancy themselves injured by reports in the newspapers, which reports the newspapers must supply to meet the public demand and in the public interest. It is to be hoped that Judge Davidson's decision in this case will have a good effect in checking a sort of litigation which has been altogether too common and which serves no good purpose. The law ought to be amended, as it is in England, and the plaintiff compelled to show malice and give security for costs before being allowed to proceed with action for libel against a newspaper.

AN IRISH IMMIGRANTS' HOME.

Irish Catholics of this city have been shamefully neglected in not providing a refuge for poor, friendless immigrants of their own faith and nationality. The Scotch and English are not so lax; they have provided homes where their destitute countrymen and countrywomen can obtain shelter, advice and assistance on arriving in this, to them, strange, foreign land. The apathy of our Irish citizens is humiliating to contemplate. A meeting was called for last night to consider the subject of providing some system for the protection of the poor people thrown upon our shores under the very distressing circumstances that now exist in Ireland, but out of thirty representative Irishmen who should have been present only six attended. We do hope such will not be the case at the meeting called for next Tuesday evening, at St. Patrick's Hall, by Father Dowd and Mr. Denis Barry, President of St. Patrick's Society. The business to be brought before the meeting will be to inquire into and find out the legal provision made by the general and local Governments for the reception of the destitute class of immigrants landing at Montreal, and, if necessary, to supplement this provision by personal advice, and by other assistance. A committee may be appointed to correspond with the two Governments, if desirable, in the interests of the immigrants. No other matter that could divide the attention of the meeting will be proposed. We will say no more at present, save to urge

upon the Irish Catholic women of Montreal the necessity of their doing something to aid in the good work, for there is no class more needing kindly attention on their arrival here than the innocent Irish immigrant girls, who, under present circumstances, have no one to protect them from the snares of the vicious.

AMERICAN CURRENCY.

Perhaps the most important meeting that has been held this fall in the United States was that of the bankers, which assembled at Pittsburgh this week. From figures and statements laid before the meeting, we gather that the United States as a nation is doing business on a gold basis because a bimetallic basis is an ideal. There are about \$346,000,000 of paper, worth in absolute fact \$100,000,000 in gold plus the faith and credit of the government an indefinite sum. There are in gold something like \$600,000,000. Gold and paper make it \$946,000,000, with \$216,000,000 of this "faith and credit," but selling at par. Into this mass of par money have been projected about \$300,000,000 of silver coin, which is far below par and irredeemable. The latest quotation of silver is 44 1/2 pence an ounce, or 88 1/2 cents. The silver dollar has 371 grains; the ounce has 480 grains. The silver dollar, therefore, pays 371-480ths of 88 1/2 cents for a dollar in gold. This is close to 75 cents. Therefore the m. \$946,000,000, with \$246,000,000 of faith and credit in it, becomes \$1,246,000,000, with \$246,000,000 of faith and credit and \$75,000,000 of bonus. If sold at sheriff's account this \$1,246,000,000 might shrink to \$925,000,000, and would most surely go down to \$1,170,000,000, the amount of the bogus. The monetary figures of the United States currency are so large that \$75,000,000 play the part of only one-sixteenth. The par currency of the United States has been debased a little over 6 per cent. so far. It is all worth 94 in a batch. Three quarters of it is as good as gold. In addition there are about \$238,000,000 of national currency, redeemable in greenbacks, which need not figure in the calculation, as it would disappear in a time of trouble.

WILFUL MURDER.

A verdict of wilful murder has been returned by the coroner's jury in the Mitchellstown shooting case, and a warrant has accordingly been issued for the arrest of the constables who fired upon the people. Their names are Inspector Brownrigg, Sergeants Kerinan, Ryder and Brennan, and Constables Gavan and Doran. The facts of the crime for which these minions of a blood-thirsty government stand convicted by a coroner's jury are so well known that they need not be recapitulated here. More wanton and deliberate slaughter was never perpetrated, and the verdict is only a confirmation of the opinion of the civilized world. There was no attack on the police at the time of the shooting. They had, in fact, retired. The meeting had dispersed when Brownrigg and his fellows deliberately shot down their victims in cold blood from the safe vantage ground of the barracks. But, we suppose, as in former cases of a like character, the Crown will refuse to prosecute, and the murderers may be allowed to escape red-handed for the present. But—

"The great King of Kings hath in the table of his law commanded that thou shalt do no murder. Wit thou, then, frown his edict and fulfil a man's? Take heed! for He holds vengeance in His hand, to hurt upon their heads who break His law."

Last night's case reports likewise convey the news that a verdict of wilful murder was returned by the coroner's jury in the case of the old man Kinsella, who was shot down by emergency men employed by Captain Hamilton. The circumstances of this crime were even more atrocious than those of the Mitchellstown slaughter. The Rev. Dr. Dillon, of Arkelow, relates that on Wednesday, 23rd September, a large body of emergency men presented themselves at the house of Michael Kavanagh, Croghan, to seize upon several head of cattle. On reaching the farm six emergency men seized upon some cattle, but several people assembling, they relinquished the stock. Shortly afterwards the emergency body was reinforced to about 20 men, all armed with revolvers, and some with rifles. They were led by Freeman, the bailiff on the estate, who had selected the day, probably on account of its being fair day in August, when most of the men of the district were absent. The reinforced body of property defence men then came to the gate of Kavanagh's yard, within which the people had gathered all the cattle from the neighboring farms. One of the gang displayed a document, presumably a legal document of some kind, but on Kavanagh requesting to see it, the emergency man refused, putting it in his pocket. The whole gang then attacked the gate, but, although the number of men within did not amount to ten, with some women and children, the emergency heroes were beaten back. At this time Freeman was observed pointing his revolver, but no one anticipated his intention to discharge it. The emergency army, however, seeing themselves repulsed by the few people present, suddenly fired a volley of revolver and rifle shots, numbering over thirty. The fatal result of this dastardly fusillade was immediately perceived when the lifeless body of John Kinsella, pierced with bullets, was seen stretched upon the ground. John Kinsella was an aged man, over sixty years, who, during the heartless crusade of Captain Hamilton last July, was evicted from his holding of a few acres on the Brooke estate. He had obtained temporary shelter, with several other evicted tenants, in the yard of Mr. L. Kavanagh's farmhouse, and was known as a most peaceable, inoffensive man. Several others received shots, fortunately without serious consequences.

In the Mitchellstown case the shooting was done by the constabulary, who were acting under the orders of Crown officers, but, in the Coolgreany case, the murder was committed by a set of drunken ruffians in the private employ of an evicting landlord. It is bad enough surely to have a constabulary licensed to commit murder with impunity, without permitting landlords to commission bands of scoundrels to do the same. Yet the Government connives at and excuses these murders, clearly because they are part of the general policy of exasperation by which it is hoped the people may be driven into rebellion and thus furnish an excuse, as in '93, for slaughtering them wholesale. Civil war is what the Tory government desire above all things, but the Irish people will not gratify them. As United Ireland says:—"It takes two to have a war, and the Irish people are determined not to be one of the two

in this case. They are not going to accommodate Mr. Balfour by giving up the policy that he wants. They are not going to make with pitchforks and fowling pieces to assuage the temptation of providing Captain Plunkett with an opportunity for reading the Riot Act. They have a trick worth ten of that. They know their land, and those are the tactics of despair. Mr. Act and work it for all it is worth. He must prosecute and fill his jails or else throw up the job."

In all history there is no grander spectacle than that of the Irish people of to-day confronting their tyrants. Calm, immovable, determined, they stand shoulder to shoulder, realizing in all its majesty the attitude which the poet Shelley urged in flaming verse upon the "Men of England." Let the sabres drip red with innocent blood, let the deadly bullet stretch the hoary randsires bleeding on the sod, but still let the people stand defiant, trusting in God and the justice of their cause.

And these most righteous findings of the coroner's juries are atty by the brutal Kazzot "two sensational verdicts"! There was no mitigation in the murders. O, no! They were all right. Quite proper, in fact, since the persons murdered were only Irish Papist peasants! But times have changed, as the murder-convicting Kazzot will discover. These victims of a race-baiting Government represent not the Irish cause alone. For the first time in history the Irish cause is backed by the brain, heart and conscience of the British democracy, and its triumph, which cannot long be delayed, will be the first grand advance for the liberation of the whole British people from the hideous rule of an infamously oligarchy. This is where the terror lies for English Tories in the Irish struggle, and we may be sure they will fight it out to the last. But when defeat comes to them, as it must in the end, England will have just cause to inscribe the events of this year among the brightest pages of that history which records her advance towards perfect freedom. The Irish peasantry of to-day is indeed fighting for the preservation of the British Constitution, and the names of the murdered of Mitchellstown and Coolgreany will be enrolled hereafter with those of Pym and Hampden.

THE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

By the mass of Canadians the approaching Fisheries Conference is regarded with very little hope or apprehension. They feel that, however it may result, the interests of this country are sure to suffer. In this view they have the warrant of past experience, and the conviction has become settled in their minds that, if England can secure the friendship of the United States Government and a reasonable assurance of its neutrality in case of war, she is quite prepared, if not rather anxious, to sacrifice Canada. Although the Imperial policy has been to build up a Northern power on this continent to strengthen her when the inevitable struggle comes with Russia for the control of the East, she would willingly relinquish it; there by she could cement an alliance with the Americans. The fisheries dispute has furnished the British Government with a fair opportunity of bringing about this much desired understanding, and we may be certain that Government will not allow the negotiations to fail if by any possibility they can be made a success. The situation may be stated in simple terms:—

1st—England desires to put an end forever to all causes of dispute between the United States and herself.

2nd—The United States desires free access to the Canadian fisheries.

3rd—Canada desires to have the American markets opened to her products. The first proposition stands without question. It is simply a statement of fact. The second proposition is of the same nature. But what we come to the third we strike the difficulty of the situation, for there is good reason to fear that the feeling of the people of Canada is not shared by their government, and, therefore, that the result is not likely to be in harmony with their aspirations. Indeed, we believe we would make no mistake were we to say that the United States will obtain all they want about having, while Canada will get little or nothing in return. The only thing that may intervene to preserve our rights or secure us an equivalent for their inevitable surrender, will be the apprehension entertained by American statesmen that an injustice put upon Canada by the two high contracting powers for their mutual convenience would result in the consolidation of the Dominion into an independent power which would cease to submit its interests to tribunals where a decision adverse to them was a foregone conclusion.

But the United States in reality holds the key of the position. If, animated by a spirit of wise conciliation and true perception of the requirements of the future, the Washington Government were to offer an equitable measure of reciprocity, all difficulties would disappear. Mr. Chamberlain's utterances in opposition to commercial union are such as to condemn him in the eyes of all Canadians. Since he said that Canada "must be made to know that commercial union means a political separation from Great Britain," his fitness for the position of Chief Commissioner is regarded in this country with profound misgiving. The very fact that he has thus declared himself in advance casts serious doubt upon his judgment and capacity. In Canada we know nothing about Mr. Chamberlain, save that he is the somewhat erratic representative of a school of English politicians always regarded with dislike by our people, and considering the selfishness of both parties, Canadians would, perhaps, not be dissatisfied were the whole thing to end in failure, and a final settlement be relegated to the chapter of events. In fact they have no confidence in it. It ends in securing that which Mr. Chamberlain has condemned Canadians will not be satisfied. If it does not, it will not obtain the ratification of the Canadian Parliament. Feeling in this country is too strong on this subject to be trifled with. We are a loyal people. We have made many and great sacrifices to preserve our connection with the empire. Mr. Chamberlain may have acted on a high or from Ottawa in stating, as he did in the most naked manner, the Macdonaldite view of commercial union. His words have the color of threat and were probably intended as a check to the movement in Canada. But he and the Tories who inspired him, if he was inspired, misunderstand the situation sadly. While there is a deep attachment to the Empire among Canadian-born British birth and descent, there is not the remotest feeling that they should sacrifice their