Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1886.

FREE TRADE VS. PROTECTION.

Professor A. L. Perry lately delivered, at Concord, N. H., a highly instructive and exhaustive address upon the pernicious effects which the policy of a tariff that aimed not merely at the production of a revenue but at the conservation internal trade interests, had upon the Americans as a people. He says that taxes on imports have the same effect that that taxes on exports would have; and that there is no use in carrying surplus goods out of a country if pay cannot be taken back for them—"for buy and selling are simply the exchange of goods for other goods." "Such a tariff says to people who want to trade, 'you shall not trade; stop it. It is profitable certainly, but we want that certain men shall trade at a greater advantage than they now trade." Professor Perry claimed that every prosective tariff that was ever enacted said, in substance, that unprofitable branches of industry were more profitable than profitable branches, which theory thus reduced proclaimed its own absurdity. The system of protection was suicidal to the general prosperity of a country, and iniquitous because it fostered monopoly in home manufactures. As an illustration he quoted from a speech delivered by Mr. Chamberlain to his constituents, at Birmingham, in which that gentleman told how a few years ago representatives of the Providence screw company in the United States waited upon his firm and said:

"We are making 100 per cent. on our capital every year, and you send your screws into the United States. We can undersell you if we want to, but that would not be for your interest or for ours. If you will stop sending any screws into our market, we will keep the price of our screws where it is, enabling us to double our capital yearly, and we will pay you $50,000 annually for so doing."

"Very well," said Mr. Chamberlain, "we made that bargain, and for several years they paid us this sum, until the duty on screws imported into the United States was raised to such a figure that we could not send our screws there, and then they ceased to pay us this sum."

Where, the lecturer asked, did that $50,000 come from, and answered it himself by saying that the citizens of the United States paid it to keep competition out of the American market; and while doing so got no better or cheaper article in return for such an enormous expenditure. He said that there were to-day 1,500,000 men in the United States alone who were in a state of enforced idleness, with poverty staring them in the face simply because the markets for their country's products had been cut off; that the mills and factories, if running at full time four months out of the year, would supply the whole domestic demand and all the foreign demand that is possible under the present circumstances, and that the state of things was getting worse every year.

The problem of international commercial relations is one which it would be presumption for any person to declare himself able to solve. The solution can only come by experiment, though to this end the interchange of views is necessarily advantageous. We are of opinion, with many others, that were free trade universal—that is to say were all duties abolished except those sufficient to bring in an honest revenue—it would be found that while working favorably to all the nations, it would be more especially advantageous to their working classes, which reap less benefit from protection than any others. But as it seems almost impossible to obtain the concurrence necessary on the part of so many countries to establish universal free trade, the next best policy is deserving of adoption—fair trade. A country that has adopted a free trade policy, while compelled to deal with those whose tariff is protective, places itself at a disadvantage that cannot be ultimately withstood. This has been recognized in the case of England, where the free traders will have to give way to the fair traders. The necessity of international reciprocity is an obligation upon which the prosperous commerce of a nation, to be lasting, largely depends. This has been shewn in various phases—in England, where free trade had to compete with protection; and in the states, whose heavy protective duties tend chiefly to harass her trade with other countries, and to a certain extent aid monopoly amongst her own manufacturers:—though this latter evil admits of remedy by internal competition. At a propitious moment for its appearance, there comes upon the scene, fair trade—which means (its advocates explain) free trade with those countries that adopt free trade, and protection of home manufactures against the products of a country that follows the policy of protection. Foreign trade conducted upon such an equitable basis surely must be beneficial to those countries engaging in it.

POLITICAL RE-ACTION IN QUEBEC.

As those unbiased by party political considerations foresaw from the first, the final decision of the Dominion government on the Riel question was the one that would command and ensure their return to power at the next general election. The first indication of the fulfilment of this has already appeared in Quebec, where, as indeed all over the country, a remarkable change of opinion regarding the execution of the sentence upon Riel has taken place. Deliberation has wrought with wonderful effect upon those followers of Chapleau who seceded from him in the heat of their first impulses; and who are now returning to his standard with a confidence in the government that is strengthened by the firm stand it took when it refused to give its countenance to a question of justice being made a question of politics. So general does the revulsion of feeling appear to have become that several of the conservative members who noisily renounced their allegiance to their party have since interviewed the French ministers asking that some resolution should be passed which would enable them to go back to their constituents still in the light of conservative members. But the same firmness which these members so blatantly denounced when it was applied to the agitation in Riel's behalf, they are now themselves experiencing; for their offers were refused in a manner that left no doubt of its sincerity. The cabinet, it is said, does not anticipate any serious defection amongst the French members and have good reason to believe that for every conservative vote that is lost a reform vote will be gained, and also that not more than ten or twelve votes at the most will be lost to the government. With this feeling of confidence the government will meet the house, postponing the election until after the session.

THE GOVERNMENT SALE.

Last evening the Times in a lengthy and frothy article attempted to cover up its wilful mis-statements concerning the government sale of English Bay lots. With regard to the list of names of purchasers published in *The Colonist* of yesterday, our evening contemporary mentions that of Mr. Wm. Dalby as being a non-purchaser. The name was taken from the auctioneer's record book and should have read Mr. John Dalby, a clerical error merely, and a very slim foundation for the mare's nest discovered by the Times. However, very little groundwork is necessary for that journal's "figgerer" to make an array of foolish assertions and glaring fabrications, but in this case he cuts but a sorry "figger." The conspiracy of the Times in its attempt to defeat the government sale in the interest of Coal Harbor speculators having been frustrated by the successful result attained, it is but natural that it should show its chagrin, and to this extent is to be excused for its angry words. So far as we are concerned, enough words have been wasted on the matter.

XMAS number of S. F. News Letter at HIBBEN & CO.'S.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Yesterday, for the first time in twenty-four years, or since the death of the Prince consort in 1861, Her Majesty the Queen opened the Imperial parliament in person. There was great rejoicing on the part of the people, and the pageant is described as brilliant and imposing. The speech dashes to the ground the hopes of the Irish party. Not only is home rule refused, but coercion is threatened as a remedy for existing disloyalty. Parnell and his "merry men" have been "dished" by the conservatives, and must either accept the plan of local government held out to them by the government or vote with the liberals, when they would find themselves in the same plight as the fish that leaped from the frying pan and fell into the fire. The conservatives, apparently, anticipate defeat, and with good reason.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Her Majesty Opens the Imperial Parliament To-Day in Person.

LONDON, Jan 21.—The weather to-day is inauspicious for the reappearance of the Queen in public. It was dull and heavy all day, and the streets are covered with snow and slush. Promptly at 11:30 a. m. the royal party left Buckingham palace for the house of lords. The route of the royal party had been covered with gravel. This prevented the horses from falling and enabled a more rapid progress to be made. Her majesty rode in an open carriage drawn by eight horses. The household cavalry acted as an escort to the Queen. A large crowd lined the streets through which the royal procession passed, and her majesty was greeted with hearty cheers all along. The scene in the house of lords was very brilliant. The peers and peeresses, judges, ministers and bishops, were present in large numbers, in full court dress. Gas light was used in the chamber, owing to the absence of the sun. This enhanced the beauty of the scene, showing more fully the brilliancy of the jewels and the splendor of the dresses worn by those present. The Queen looked as if she was suffering from cold.

Her Majesty in her speech said her relations with the other powers continue friendly. The differences with Russia regarding the Afghanistan boundary have been satisfactorily adjusted. She trusts that the work of the Russo-English frontier demarcation commission has already been far advanced and may tend to secure a continuance of peace in Central Asia. Referring to the rising in Eastern Roumelia her majesty said the object in the negotiations which followed the outbreak have been to bring the inhabitants of that country, according to their wish, under the prince of Bulgaria's rule, while maintaining unimpaired the essential rights of the sultan. The Queen regrets that she has been compelled to declare war against King Thebaw, of Burmah, owing to acts of hostility by himself and subjects. The gallantry of the forces under General Pendergast had rapidly overthrown the Burmese forces, and she had decided that the most certain method of ensuring peace was to be found in a permanent incorporation of Burmah with her empire. Negotiations respecting the rights of the French on the coast of Newfoundland have been satisfactorily concluded. With Spain also an agreement had been reached giving the British the same commercial rights as the Germans in the Caroline Islands. Parliament would be asked to adopt certain measures rendered necessary by the convention relative to international copyright to which the Queen has agreed.

Turning to internal affairs the Queen said:

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons, My Lords and Gentlemen:—I regret to say that no material improvement can be noted in the condition of trade or agriculture. I feel the deepest sympathy for the great number of persons, in many avocations of life, who are suffering under the pressure which, I trust, will prove transient. I have seen with deep sorrow a renewal, since I last addressed you, of the attempt to excite the people of Ireland to hostility against legislative union between that country and Great Britain. I am resolutely opposed to any disturbance of that fundamental law, and in resisting it I am convinced that I shall be heartily supported by my parliament and my people. The social, no less than the material condition of that country engages my anxious attention. Although there has been during the last year no marked increase of serious crime, there is in many places a concerted resistance of enforcement of legal obligations, and I regret that the practice of organized intimidation still continues to exist. I have caused every exertion to be used for the detection and punishment of these crimes, and no effort will be spared on the part of my government to protect my Irish subjects in the exercise of their legal rights, and in the enforcement of individual liberty. If, as my information leads me to apprehend, the existing provisions of laws should prove to be inadequate to cope with those growing evils, I shall look with confidence to your willingness to invest my government with all necessary powers. Bills will be submitted for transferring to representative councils in counties of Great Britain local business which is now transacted by the court of quarter sessions and other authorities. The measure for the reform of county government in Ireland is also in preparation. These measures will involve the consideration of the present incidence of local burdens. A bill for facilitating the sale of glebe lands in a manner adapted to the wants of the rural population, will also be introduced. Bills for removing the difficulties which prevent an easy and cheap transfer of land, for mitigating the distressed condition of the poorer classes in the western highlands of Ireland and Scotland, for the more effectual prevention of accidents in mines, for extending the powers of the railway commission in respect to the regulation of rates, and for the codification of criminal law, will also be considered. A prompt and effective dispatch of important business, which in ever-growing proportion falls to you to transact, will, I doubt not, occupy your attention. In these and in all other matters pertaining to your high functions, I earnestly commend you to the keeping and guidance of Almighty God.

THE LORDS.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—In the house of lords the Duke of Abercorn moved an address in reply to the speech from the throne. He spoke of the grave responsibilities of those who directed the affairs of the government, and said that a cloud hung over the empire, and that was the state of Ireland. He mentioned a number of duties which the government must perform in relation to that country, among which were the maintenance of union, the suppression of persecutions, of which he said the National league was guilty, and the defence of the loyal Irish minority. He said no statesman, whoever he might be, would sacrifice the interests of the country. Earl of Scarborough seconded the motion of the Duke of Abercorn. Lord Granville congratulated Salisbury, prime minister, on his possession of two such eloquent supporters.

THE COMMONS.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—In the house of commons, Donnelly, nationalist member for Longford, gave notice that he would ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the Irish land act. This announcement was received with loud cheers from the home rule members.

FINANCIAL.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—Consols opened 100 1-16, for both money and account. Bank of England has reduced rate of discount from 4 to 3 per cent.

AYER'S Hair Vigor improves the beauty of the hair and promotes its growth. It imparts an attractive appearance, a delightful and lasting perfume. While it stimulates the roots, cleanses the scalp, and adds elegance to luxuriance, its effects are enduring; and thus it proves itself to be the best and cheapest article for toilet use. dw

CANADIAN ALMANACS at HIBBEN & CO.'S.

CHINATOWN.

A Walk Through its Highways and Byeways.

The Destitution of its Inhabitants.

Yesterday afternoon a reporter of *The Colonist*, under the guidance of Sanitary Officer Flewin, made a tour of the streets and slums of Chinatown. The first thing that attracted attention was the

NUMBER OF SHIVERING CHINAMEN

who were huddled in groups against the front of the stores of their more fortunate countrymen on Cormorant street, or gathered around some itinerant peddler of unreliable provisions. One of these had, exposed for sale, several dozen of crabs and a quantity of small fish, caught from the wharves. Curious to ascertain the price at which he was vending his wares, he was asked what he charged for the shell fish. John, evidently thinking there was a

CHANCE FOR A HAUL ON A SMALL SCALE,

immediately replied: "One bittee each," and in almost the same breath parted with five of them for the same sum to a countryman. The longing looks cast upon the purchase by those who did not possess the same means wherewith to buy would have excited pity in the hearts of those most bitterly opposed to this people's immigration. Down a back alum leading from from Store street to the old broken-down wharf in the rear, went the visitors. In the passages which led to rooms occupied by the poorest class of Chinese, the strong odor, which must be overpowering in the summer, was present to the olfactory nerves despite the subduing effect of the cold weather. Opening the door of one of the rooms the usual articles of Chinese domestic furniture, though rather scarce in number and unpretentious in quality, were observable. Strips of matting spread upon bunks formed the couches, and for covering a few rags, including one or two blankets, had to answer the purpose. Several of the Chinese who were trying to

KEEP WARM BY STAYING IN BED,

looked up as the visitors entered and gazed steadily at them, but without the appearance of any active curiosity. Two others were crouched in front of a small stove which apparently refused to keep alight; and were alternately blowing the few flames into greater ardor, or endeavoring to catch what little heat the fire was emitting. The passage itself was a sheet of ice, and also gave unmistakeable evidence that lodgers thereabout could go farther with more decency and respect for sanitary conditions. Each room was a more or less faithful counterpart of the other, what few distinctions there were existing in the number of occupants and their facilities for warmth and the visible quantity and nature of their food. Sometimes upon opening a door a querulous

"WHAT YOU WANT?"

would be uttered by one or more of the inmates,—an enquiry that was generally ignored, and which either from policy or apathy was seldom repeated. As the number of tenements visited increased, it became perceptible that the inmates, as a rule, shared alike amongst themselves. For instance in one cabin five Chinamen, whose fire was a decided failure from lack of supply, sat around it looking as disconsolate as if they were perishing somewhere near the North Pole, and certainly they looked as cold as one might imagine persons exposed in that region would be. Upon opening the door of the next cabin, however, comfort that was great in comparison, prevailed.

THE DENSE SMOKE

at first prevented a clear view; but as the eyes became accustomed to the darkness of the interior, aided by the draught coming through the open door (which was not welcome to those inside) the occupants, to the number of nine adults and a lad, could be seen variously engaged and disengaged. Hot water in half a coal oil can was boiling on the stove, and near by one of the men was being shaven by a companion. Another was smoking a pipe, several were lying covered up on the matting, and two were actually laughing when their privacy was first intruded upon. One of these, a good tempered and rather intelligent looking fellow said pleasantly, "How you do?" and nodded equally pleasantly in recognition of the response. Down to an old tumbledown shanty (at the foot of the Johnson street ravine) and at whose entrance, in place of a door, was hung some matting, next went the tourists. On the earthen floor in the first apartment were two Chinese wrapped up about the heads and ears as though they were in the open air—which they might nearly as well have been. Their chief care, also, seemed to be the fire, which in their case was being coaxed in a co al oil tin lying on its side and with a hole cut in the upper side on which an old pot was partly placed, while the smoke had to do the best or worst it could. Their culinary operations were confined to the boiling of two crabs which they exhibited with something akin to triumph, having caught them that morning. Lifting an *impromptu* curtain, the forms of seven more Chinese revealed themselves. One of these explained that they had

"NO MORE CHOW-CHOW,"

while another, whose general dropsical appearance had extended to his head until it was as swollen as the proverbial condition of the cranium of a man who has been "keeping it up" all night, dragged himself round from the vantage position in front of the stove, and looked mournfully on. This poor wretch, one of the Chinamen who caught the crabs explained, has been "fatsick" for three months past, cannot eat (which his comrades at present find convenient) and cannot live very long.

A LARGE BLOCK OF TENEMENTS

between Cormorant and Fisgard, and leased and sub-leased until it would be difficult to find a responsible landlord in confiection with any breach of sanitation, was next made the point of observation. On each door was stencilled the information "licensed to hold four persons," but necessity which knows no law evidenced their capacity of holding in many cases three times that number. Among these, though there were signs of poverty, there was no indication of absolute destitution; but one could not fail to be struck with the petty, the "picayune" nature—if the expression be allowed—of their operations. As examples: A Chinaman, outside his door, was chopping wood, in quantity about enough to keep an ordinary grate fire liberally going for a quarter of an hour; yet he apparently

TREASURED EVERY CHIP

as carefully as he would a stick of the wood under less straitened circumstances. Over a small fire inside a room a Chinaman was frying seven small fish, each about two inches long, while eight Chinamen were surveying the process with an interest that was incited by appetite. A room close by contained more striking signs of affluence in the presence of a sack of flour and half a mat of rice. Eleven Chinese were scattered around, and some, who at a table were playing dominoes, showed that as they were somewhat easy in mind they also probably were in their interior economy. Passing four rooms severally rented and nightly slept in by four

CHINESE COOKS IN WHITE FAMILIES,

the door of the next room or compartment was thrown open by the officer, and disclosed the inside of an opium den, presided over by a Chinaman, and who at that moment was enjoying the company of four white men, three of whom were smoking the drug which once partaken of will contend successfully with the strongest resolution to discontinue its use. The fourth white man was making a cigarette, while the Celestial was frying a quantity of fish that looked small enough to be whitebait. Disturbed at their avocation, two of the men, reclining, half arose.

ONE OF THEM

putting on his hat and as he moved outside, addressing the officer in a deprecatory manner, said: "I am sorry you should have caught me here, sir!" "Then why do you come, Howard, and run the chances?" enquired the prosecutor. The individual addressed, "Well," was the evasive answer, "if ever you catch me again, take a club to me." In reply to this the officer briefly remarking that he would at that rate be engaged all the time, moved off, adding to the reporter, "He didn't recognize you, and was giving that deal for your benefit, so that you might imagine it was the first or nearly the first time he has been to a den." The reporter replied that in several rounds of the dens he had made with the police he had seen the same man similarly engaged, and knew him to be a confirmed opium smoker. The other three men are equally well known to all the reporters and police of the city, though in this instance their names are not published. It would be well for them to apply for a license to smoke the drug or else discontinue their visits.

OTHER PLACES VISITED

showed the existence of a greater degree of want—the most extreme instance being in one shanty where, on the table, three light-colored lately caught rats were laid out for skinning and cooking; the Mongol who was officiating explaining that they were "welly good." Sooner than ascertain by practical experience the visitors were willing to take their informant's word for it, and presuming that he had been in France, left him to his "ruminations." In yet another shanty eight Chinese were huddled and looked in a very angry manner at the intruders, whose query as to their condition was sulkily answered. Upon another question being put one of them got up and

ATTEMPTED TO SHUT THE DOOR

in the faces of their guests who immediately kicked it back and entered. Seeing they were *expected* to answer, one replied they had little or no food, and allowanced themselves to such an extent that upon concluding a repast they were "hungry all samee as before." Their good temper was in some measure accounted for by the cold draught which swept around the apartment in a way that must be remarkably refreshing in summer, and also from the fact that upon returning lately from a week's wood-cutting they had found that one of their number whom, from sickness, they had been compelled to leave behind,

WAS DEAD—STARVED TO DEATH!

Another similar case occurred last month. The number of Chinese crowded together in these shanties and rooms is in defiance of the cubic air bylaw, but while the cold weather lasts such offers no particular opportunity to an epidemic, and it is the only means by which some of the unfortunates have of retaining a modicum of bodily warmth. They live for the most part on small fish and crabs, which some catch and others are able to buy, and upon rice when they can get it. Their cost of living at present is not more than four or five dollars per month, and those who have regularly dealt at certain Chinese stores are, and have been, able to get credit to various small amounts. Their credit of course has a limit, and those who have exhausted it find themselves in a hopeless predicament. A moderate estimate of those Chinese in the city who now every morning wake up hungry, fixes them at the round number of one thousand.

"EARL RUSSELL."

A Noble Guest of Count Smith who Declines to be Interviewed.

On Saturday last, Count Smith, the accomplished chief clerk of the Palace, was receiving his guests just arrived by the overland, and consigning each, with a gracious wave of the hand, to the tender mercies of a bell-boy, his eye met the entry upon the register, "Earl Russell, London."

The Count at first, somewhat startled at finding himself confronted by a peer of the realm, soon regained his composure, and, passing a silk handkerchief defly over his every-day diamond, to add if possible, to its fourteen-candle power lustre, he quickly secured upon a fresh blotter the "Earl's" autograph, to be placed among his already large collection of signatures of notables.

"Would my lord like a suite of sunny rooms on the first floor, with bath, and breakfast and servants' rooms?" inquired the clerk as he proceeded to write down a line of numbers opposite the "Earl's" name.

"What are your rates?" modestly inquired the "Earl."

Count Smith readjusted his glasses, and surveying his noble guest found him to be a flaxen-haired youth of about 25, dressed in a well-worn suit of tweed, and wearing a slouch hat. Between his lips was a briarwood pipe that had seen much service on the city side of the great British metropolis, and from this curled clouds of smoke.

The Count did not hesitate a moment, and although his countenance bore the air of one both injured and grieved, he pressed the button of the electric bell with such a determination that a bell-boy reached the counter within five minutes. With a wave of the hand which conveyed a benediction, he said simply. "Show the gentleman to 4,444, eighth floor.

Count Smith's new guest has caused some stir in his progress westward. The Eastern papers insisted upon referring to him as "Earl Russell, Esq.," and "Mr. Earl Russell," and declared after much patient investigation, that "Earl" was his christian name. An Omaha paper, however, claims to have discovered that Mr. Russell is a British peer, son of the former Lord John Russell. Mr. Russell last night declined to be interviewed, and the questions of the antecedents and political opinions of Count Smith's noble guest are for that reason withheld.—S. F. Call.

ACTOR VERSUS MANAGER.

Lively Fracas in a Pennsylvania Town.

Result of an Agent's Ignorance.

CARBONDALE, Pa., Jan. 8.—Geo. C. Milne, the clergyman-actor, was severely beaten here last night. It appears that a telegram his agent sent from a southern city, directed to the manager of the opera house, Carbondale, went into the hands of Manager O'Hearn, proprietor of one Opera house, while a letter from the agent went to Manager Nealon of another. The agent did not know that there were two opera houses in the city, and the company played at Nealon's. After the performance O'Hearn asked Milne for $25 damages, and Milne told him that he could do nothing for him. O'Hearn said he would attach the company's baggage. Milne thereupon went to the Opera house and had the baggage loaded upon a dray, directing the driver to take the load to the depot. O'Hearn and several of his friends came up and Milne got upon the dray, intending to see the baggage safely transported. He was immediately struck upon the head with the butt end of a cart whip,

SUSTAINING A SERIOUS WOUND,

and the blood flowed freely. The blow was followed up by others, and Milne became covered with blood. Then he was seized by the legs and pulled from the dray. He wrested the whip from his assailant and drove him off, as well as several others who were tempted to take a hand in the onslaught. Then he mounted the waggon and drove to the depot. A constable met him there and levied on the baggage. Milne furnished bonds and left this afternoon. He will take legal action in the matter.

WINNIPEG AND PORT SIMPSON.

The Latest Overland Railway Scheme.

The North Canada Pacific.

The following letter signed "W. J. M." appears in the Toronto Mail:

SIR:—Application having been made to parliament for a charter for the North Canadian Pacific railway, it may be well to give a short outline of the country through which this line will pass, premising that the proposed railway would be in no way antagonistic to the Canada Pacific, but, on the contrary, would prove an important feeder at Winnipeg, and would also be of vast benefit to the Dominion at large in opening out to settlement an immense stretch of country in the immediate vicinity of the line, whilst it would, by connecting with the navigable waters of the western lakes, Manitoba, Winnipegoosis, or the North Saskatchewan, the Lesser Slave lake, the Athabasca river, and last, though not least, the great Peace river, an additional territory of almost unlimited extent would be brought within available reach of commerce, while in the possible contingency of the

STRAITS OF FUCA

being closed, or rather exposed, owing to difficulties with our southern neighbors, a safe and equally convenient harbor on the Pacific would be had at Port Simpson. From the vicinity of Winnipeg in a northwesterly direction, for a distance of about 70 miles, alternating woodland and prairie are the general characteristics of the country. Some wet land, is, however, to be met with, in one case running into a bog about three miles in width, but drainage of this would not be difficult, as there is a good easterly fall. For the next 50 miles the country is not so low, being elevated about 40 feet above the level of Lake Manitoba, and is generally wooded with scrub oak and good sized poplars. Patches of wet land are frequent, but can be drained and converted into valuable meadow land. For about 12 miles further, up to the Narrows of Lake Manitoba, the land is generally low, being in some spots but little raised above the high water level of the lake. After passing the "Narrows" the land continues low for some 15 miles, but for the next 150 miles, when the Swan river is reached.

The natural drainage is excellent, excepting close to Lake Winnipegoosis, where muskegs are numerous, but reported generally to have firm clay bottoms and not to be difficult of drainage. All along this extensive region of country, extending from the lake region to the Swan river, the soil may be generally called productive, and this may especially be said to be the case of the Swan river district, a tract of land some 60 miles in length by about 20 in width, where the soil is exceptionally rich. From Swan river and Fort a la Corne, on the North Saskatchewan, the country is largely composed of undulated prairie, with fertile soil, and occasionally small lakes, while there is also a sufficiency of wood for general purposes. There are, however, one or two ridges of sandy, gravelly soil, covered with spruce. One of these sandy strips, about a mile in width, reaches close to the fort, but a short distance back from the river; "the soil is fully equal to, if not superior to, that in the vicinity of Prince Albert." West of Fort a la Corne the country has been but very partially explored, but it is said to comprise

WIDE STRETCHES OF PRAIRIE,

with low wooded hills, and here and there small marshy lakes, till the Beaver river is reached, on which the first few miles are wooded with small poplar and Banksian pine, succeeded by much open prairie, with good soil, till Lac la Biche is approached. From Lac la Biche, proceeding westerly along the north side of Lesser Slave lake, in an air line, is about 175 miles; a great portion of the country appears to be wooded with pine and, poplar, and there also there is a copse of willow. The Lesser Slave lake is an extensive sheet of water, being about 75 miles long by from six to nine miles wide. The soil in the vicinity of the lake is chiefly of excellent quality, vegetables of various kinds being raised at the Hudson's Bay post, while there is luxuriant pasture for many miles along the southern and western shores, the wild hay, chiefly blue joint, growing to a greater height than a man's head. Many plants common to western Ontario are found here, but none of an Artic or sub-Arctic type. The north shore of the lake is bolder than the southern one, and presents a fine appearance. Coal of good quality is also found in the banks of some of the streams tributary to this lake, which empties itself by the Lesser Slave river into the Athabasca river, a navigable stream, which the North Canadian crosses some miles to the east, and which will open means of communication with the great Lake Athabasca to the north, and the rich mineral and grazing regions said to exist in that direction. In my next, with your permission, I will follow the course of the proposed line to the mountains, merely adding that the information here given has been condensed from the reports of Hind, Butler, the geological reports, and the reports of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Married Folk Would be Happier.

If expenses were proportioned to receipts.

If home troubles were never told to a neighbor.

If they tred to be as agreeable as in courtship days.

If each would try to be a support and comfort to the other.

If each remembered the other was a human being, not an angel.

If fuel and provisions were laid in during the high-tide of summer work.

If men were as thoughtful of their wives as they were of their sweethearts

If both parties remembered that they married for worse as well as for better.

If there were fewer silk and velvet street costumes and more plain, tidy house dresses.

If there were fewer "please darlings" in public and more common manners in private.

If masculine bills for Havana and feminine ditto for rare lace were turned into the general fund until such time as they could be incurred without risk.

THE WEATHER.—Since Thursday last the "cold snap" has continued, with wind from north-west. On Monday night last the coldest weather this winter was experienced, water freezing in the houses. The wind changed in the afternoon and last evening at 7 snow commenced falling, and there is everything in favor of good sleighing to-day, unless the weather rapidly changes to rain. Skating at Swan lake yesterday was excellent, and several hundred were participating in this merry sport.

FIRE UNDERWRITERS.—At a meeting of the fire underwriters in Mr. H. F. Heisterman's office yesterday afternoon the following gentlemen were appointed the board for the ensuing year: H. F. Heisterman, R. P. Rithet, Robert Ward, C. E. Renouf, and R. Hall.

GRANITE CREEK.—A letter received from Mr. Julius Adler, who is now at Granite Creek, states that the weather at time of writing was 10 degrees below zero. He also acknowledged the receipt of a plum pudding sent by express. This was immensely enjoyed by a few friends.

CORRECTION.—It was the two firemen who remained at their posts on the Pilot with the first and second officers, when it was thought that she would break up, and not the two engineers, as previously stated.

THE WOES OF IRELAND.

Her Hope of Home Rule Far from Realization.

Evictions by the Hundred.

Coercion Likely to be Re-established with Gen. Wolseley as Ruler of the Country—Famine and Crime Again at Large.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—The World's cablegram says: The great bulk of the English people, and a great number of both British political parties, are literally howling for the renewal of the coercion act in Ireland, for the suppression of the national league as a body of conspirators, and for the punishment of the leaders as traitors. Your correspondent has had an interview with Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Charles Dilke, Lord Hartington, Mr. George Otto Trevelyan, and a majority of the other liberal and radical leaders, and while he has found that there is a wide divergence between the views entertained by the average liberals and radicals, he is convinced that the leaders believe that British public opinion will demand the renewal of coercion in Ireland, and the ruthless stamping out of the national spirit.

The Army and Navy Gazette denounces the project of employing the military in any Irish land war. It says that "officers now on service in Ireland are disgusted with the work of enforcing legal processes with the bayonet."

You will perhaps be surprised to learn that one of the bitterest letter-writers against the Parnellite movement is your countryman, Henry M. Stanley. He publishes a letter over his own name in which he expresses his horror at Parnellism in the words: "Had we of the North listened to the South as England now listens to Irish separatists, where would the American Union be? We didn't listen; we fought."

FROM THE "FREEMAN'S JOURNAL."

The Dublin Freeman's Journal to-day has a powerful article on the cabinet resolve. It fears the worst and says: "It would be idle for the Irish people to disguise from themselves the necessity for calmly preparing for catastrophe. Concession of our claim for self-government is inevitable. If the Irish people cannot be driven peaceably they will be driven by force from their present lawful, peaceful and constitutional but determined attitude. England before now has, in a similar situation, resorted to the horrible expedient of deliberately driving our people to despair for the purpose of maintaining its rule. In the face of the utterances of the English press, in the face of rumors everywhere rife, in the face of the threat that Lord Wolseley will be sent over to dragoon the country, and in the face of our own knowledge of the utter want of principle of some members of the administration, we cannot forbear discussing possibilities, the inevitable result of which would be of a character that no one having the feelings of a human being could contemplate without horror."

EVICTIONS BY THE HUNDRED.

Meanwhile, with one accord, the judges in the south and west of Ireland are signing writs by the hundreds. There is apparently more destitution than since the awful winter of 1879, the tenants having spent most of their little store of ready money in going into delusive land courts, and laborers having had no work whatever. Already famine and scenes of violence are beginning to be reported. Mobs of starving men are breaking up meetings of poor-law guardians with demands for food, and dead bodies are being found on roadsides, wasted to the bone. It is at such times as this that a single judge at Kilkenny issues over 200 writs of eviction in one day, involving the tearing off of roofs from over the heads of at least 1000 human beings. And this is a sample of what is going on in fifteen counties.

WOLSELEY TO RULE WITH AN IRON HAND.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—A Times cablegram says: "Crowds of rumors, confessedly emanating from tory sources, meanwhile impute to government the most sinister intentions in regard to coercion in Ireland. The commonest of these is that Lord Wolseley will be sent over with a dictator's power, to put the whole of the Island under martial law. People who profess to be in his confidence assert to-night that he is ready to assume the task. If he went, it would not be as viceroy, which office has not been left vacant, but as a sort of Cromwell, in the commission of the landlords of Ireland, whose marplot lackeys in Ulster are energetically plowing the land for this expected harvest of bayonets. If the winter does not end in terrible bloodshed it will be no fault of theirs."

Referring to the volunteer force that has been raised in Ulster county to enforce evictions, the correspondent continues: "The gravest peril of the situation is the fact that agitation, now fomenting in Ulster will be an invitation to just such ruffians to go over and precipitate the disturbance which the landlords so much desire. Then there will be a loud shout for Lord Wolseley and an army corps. One may well shudder to think what will follow."

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway)

HALIFAX, Jan. 11.—Bennett Smith, one of the largest ship owners in Nova Scotia, died at Windsor this morning. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature many years ago, and probably the richest man in the province.

Neil McKay has been arrested as the man who shot Allan Cameron and Allan McKinnon during a druken quarrel on New Year's day. Cameron is believed to be fatally wounded; McKinnon seriously. The perpetrator fled after committing the crime.

A Gypsy pair abandoned their little children, who were sick with scarlet fever, and the neighbors discovered them in time to prevent them being frozen to death. They were in an old shanty in the suburbs, and were removed to the hospital. Their ages ranged from 4 to 12.

Mr. Gunn, M. P., has sold his silver mine in Colorado for £50,000.

PORT ARTHUR, Jan. 12.—A party of thirty of our chief townsmen have just returned from a two days' visit to five of the working silver mines on the Lake Superior district. It included the mayor elect and councillors, the editors of the Sentinel and Herald here and Nor'-West Farmer, Winnipeg. All were much surprised at the progress made, and at the resources of this section of the Northwest, which have hitherto been almost unknown.

NEWMARKET, Jan. 12.—The Conservatives of North York yesterday passed a resolution highly approving of the action of the Government in the Riel matter. They were addressed afterwards by the Minister of the Interior.

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—Counterfeit five-dollar British North American bank bills are circulating here.

The Toronto Presbytery to-day discussed the matter of Sabbath desecration by railway companies, arising out of a question by one of its members as to whether railway employés who worked on the Sabbath could enter into full communion with the church. A committee was appointed to gather facts on the subject and report.

The lady voters held a thanksgiving and prayer meeting yesterday for the success of Mr. Howland in the mayoralty contest, and that he might be strengthened to perform the duties of his high office satisfactorily. The meeting was largely attended.

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—The customs returns indicate that California is largely supplying the Canadian market with raisins. Until recently European countries had control of the trade.

Intelligence reached this city to-day from North Bay of the drowning of Charles Sereney, of the firm of Fraser & Sereney, lumber merchants.

The annual report of the Board of Trade just issued shows that the business of last year was fairly prosperous in Montreal, the produce trade being in most respects the exception. The number of sea-going vessels arriving in port amounted to 628, with a tonnage of 683,854, against 626 with a tonnage of 669,374 in 1884. The merchandise exported amounted to $25,274,589, against $27,145,417 in 1884. The importations were $37,415,250, against $42,366,795 in 1884. The smallpox epidemic inflicted much injury, the wholesale dry-goods merchants being the special sufferers.

It is estimated that there are 10,000 operatives thrown out of work by the flooding of the mills and factories. The loss is estimated at $500,000 per day.

GRAVENHURST, Jan. 12.—Early this morning a boarding house at Germania was discovered to be on fire. The inmates, 17 men, were asleep upstairs. When they were awakened by the roar of the flames three men dashed down the stairs, before it fell, while the others got out through a window about two feet square. All were more or less burned. They did not save a single article of clothing, some having even the shirts burned off their backs, escaping in a nude state, while the mercury stood at 20 degrees below zero. They fled to a neighbor's house, where they now lie, some in a critical condition. The most seriously injured are Joseph Hewitt, of Kincardine, soles of feet completely burned off, and whole body more or less burned, particularly the face.

NIAGARA FALLS, Jan. 12.—During last year 3,383,205 dozen eggs were imported into the United States from Canada through the Suspension Bridge customs officers alone.

KINGSTON, Jan. 13.—Yesterday Rev. B. Jackson come out strongly against Madame Ravell's minstrels, which showed in Kingston recently, and denounced the person who brought them here, and who, when the Opera house was refused them, vouched for their morality. As an employé of the School Board is alleged to be mixed up in the affair the board will hold an investigation.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 14.—Mr. Ham, the Mail's correspondent, writes from Dunmore giving an interview with Lieut.-Gov. Dewdney. Mr. Dewdney discredits the view that an Indian outbreak is imminent.

TORONTO, Jan. 14.—It is reported on the streets that Mayor-elect Howland cannot qualify. He gave notice that he would qualify on his wife's property, but it is now stated that the Married Woman's Property act does away with the clause in the Municipal act permitting a man to qualify on his wife's property, and it is stated that the matter will be tested in the courts.

John Dowie, the 14-year old son of Wallace Dowie, stole five hundred dollars from his father and cleared out. When captured three hundred and sixty dollars had disappeared, most of which some newsboys, who had made friends with the lad, had stolen from him.

KINGSTON, Jan. 13.—Two of the gypsy children who were found huddled in the shanty, and whose parents abandoned them, have died with scarlet fever. The other three have the disease.

The first sod of the Brockville and West Port railway was turned yesterday at Newboro.

OTTAWA, Jan. 14.—It is understood that the Dominion government will at the forthcoming session of parliament introduce a new electoral division out of the territories north and east of Lake Winnipeg.

BOWMANVILLE, Jan. 14.—Dr. Galbraith, formerly of Whitby, dropped dead here this morning.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Thos. Palmby, a laborer, secure seven hundred and fifty dollars from William McClary, a farmer of Westminster, for the seduction of his 16-year-old daughter, who died giving birth to the child.

PETERBORO, Jan. 14.—There are ten cases of smallpox in the village of Pontypool. The school has been closed and the patients isolated to prevent the spread of the disease. The schools in the neighborhood have also been closed to permit of vaccination. It is generally accepted that the disease was brought to the village in dry goods imported from Montreal by a village tailor. A young lady employe who opened the goods was the first victim.

MONTREAL, Jan. 13.—The buildings burned yesterday morning were owned by the Hotel Dieu nuns, and