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LONDON, TUESDAY, MARCH 17.

THE LAND SPECULATOR IN PAR-

LIAMENT.

There is evidence that the Opposition

at Ottawa is determined to fight the

Dominion lands act with all the rancor

of which its leaders are capable. When

the measure was introduced last ses-

sion it met the fiercest hostility. The

Government, rather than further pro-

long an already too lengthy session,

withdrew the bill, with the announce-

ment that it would be reintroduced

this session. The Opposition would

prefer that the Government abandon

the measure, because if it were op-

posed by the party as a whole there

would be a day of reckoning for mem-

bers who come from the Prairie Pro-

vinces.

To permit the homesteader to

purchase an additional quarter section

of land at a reasonable price and on

condition that he bring it

under cultivation is the chief provision

of this bill. It would mean to the

farmer the difference between a farm

of a quarter section, and one of a

half section, and make it possible for

him to carry on operations on a larger

scale, and at the same time settle his

family near him. There is a demand

in the west for such a change in the

law, and the longer it is delayed the

more difficult it will be to secure in

the more thickly-settled districts the

additional uncultivated quarter section,

and permission to purchase them will

become less valuable.

To understand the attitude of the

Opposition toward the bill it is ne-

cessary to remember that that party

is dominated by men whose western

land speculations were financed by

great corporations, and by Hon. Geo.

E. Foster, who employed the funds of

the Union Trust Company for his

own use and profit. Naturally

farmers, if he wants more land,

should be compelled to buy from

syndicates, and they see in this plan

of the Government to throw open

public land at a reasonable price, the

collapse of their hopes of getting gilt-

edge figures for their western prop-

erties. The bill practically means shut-

ting the door on the speculators, and

the majority of Mr. Borden's lieuten-

ants are in that category.

## SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE ON

## ASIATIC LABOR.

Sir William Van Horne, who has

just returned from a business trip to

the old country, has been giving to an

English interviewer his views on the

Asiatic labor question as it affects

Canada. His opinions will be com-

bated by many in this country, but

coming from the head of one of the

greatest labor-employing concerns in

America, they are of public interest.

Sir William complains of the great

difficulty of obtaining labor in Canada.

Notwithstanding exaggerated reports

in England of the amount of unem-

ployment in Canadian cities this win-

ter, he sees no ground for expecting

that there will not be far more than

enough work for all during the com-

ing year. Indeed so pressing and per-

manent, he says, is the Canadian need

of labor that for his part he would

open wide the door to all virile men.

In his judgment British Columbia does

not Asiatic labor for her rapid devel-

opment, and he believes that apart

from the hoodlum element, the people

of that province generally are

not against the Asiatics. The

germ of the anti-Asiatic movement is

not, he says, to be found among the

men and women of the Pacific coast,

who find the Asiatics of the greatest

use in household service, the laundry

business, the small restaurant busi-

ness, the salmon canneries and so on.

The movement had its origin and gets

its stimulus in the drinking saloons

of California and Seattle, where the

animosity to the Asiatic is due to the

fact that he is a poor hand at liquor,

and the worst of customers in that

line. The animosity thus set going

has spread. It began in California

in municipal life; it spread to the

state, and then no one could go to

Congress without a pledge against the

Chinese. The Canadians, Sir William

fears, may have some such experience

as that before them.

Sir William takes no stock in the

cry that there is danger of Asiatics

coming to Canada in thousands to

settle here, leaving it no longer a

white man's country, because the

Asiatics have no intention of remain-

ing here. Their object in coming is to

make money and go away when they

have made it, leaving behind them the

increased national wealth they have

created by their labor, and the

earnings they have spent in

the country. The experience of

California shows that every two

Asiatics employed means employment

for at least one white man. Sir Wil-

liam declares it is the need of just

the labor which the Asiatic would

give that prevents a great number of

works from being carried out, and

providing openings for the more high-

ly skilled white labor as foremen and

so on. He believes that therein lies

the permanent interests of British

Columbia as distinct from the politics

of the moment. Hence his conclusion

that the people of British Columbia

generally are not against the Asiatics.

Sir William's views are, no doubt,

colored by his position as an employer

of labor, and the majority of Cana-

dian people do not agree with him

that there should be no restrictions

upon Oriental immigration; but his

prediction that the coming season will

see plenty of work in Canada for all

is reassuring.

## SOCIAL REFORM, NOT SOCIALISM.

The rejection of the so-called "right-

to-work" bill by the British House of

Commons appears to have convinced

Lord Rosebery that the country is still

safe from the Socialists, for the cable

announces that the former premier has

expressed the opinion that the present

Liberal Government is able and de-

termined to guard the United King-

dom against these extremists.

The main feature of the bill was

the clause compelling local authorities

to find work or maintenance for all un-

employed persons within their respec-

tive areas. The measure was strenu-

ously opposed by Conservatives and

Liberals alike. John Burns, who,

though holding a position in the Min-

istry, is as strong a friend of labor as

ever he was, declared the Government

had done all it could reasonably be

expected to do to mitigate the suffer-

ings of the unemployed; that no coun-

try in the world diverted so much

money to the relief of the poor, the

sick and the aged, and that the great

fabric which trade unionism and the

friendly societies had built up would

not last for two years if the bill be-

came law.

The Government's firm stand may

widen the breach between the Liberals

and the Laborites, but the vote on the

bill, which found only 116 supporters,

should serve to reassure those who

have feared that the Liberal party was

under the thumb of the Labor-Social-

ist combination.

The Government has drawn the line

between socialism and social reform in

opposing this bill. It is still prepared

to go on with its real reform pro-

gramme, including old-age pensions,

small holdings, proper housing, eight

hours for miners, minimum wages and

strict regulation for the sweated in-

dustries, taxation of land values, re-

striction of the power of the House of

Lords, and curtailment of the liquor

traffic. Never was such a progressive

programme mapped out by a British

administration.

China has backed down to Japan in

the Tatsu Maru case; but what of

the day, which is coming, when China

will feel strong enough to keep her

back up?

Royalty has more duties than privi-

leges. For example the Prince of

Wales will be compelled to go through

the round of functions at Quebec when

he might be having a real good time

at the London Old Boys' celebration.

The Toronto News devotes eleven pa-

graphs to condemning and one para-

graph to praising the Laurier admini-

stration which it admits has "many

excellent achievements and has shown

courage in its constructive pro-

gramme." This is like Falstaff's bill

—a pennyworth of bread to an intel-

ligible deal of sack.

"The Bells of Shandon, that sound

so grand on the pleasant waters of the

River Lee," are to be remodeled.

The news will touch a chord of senti-

ment in the hearts of all who have

read Father Prout's famous lines.

They have been called a "lovely bit

of doggerel," but they touch the spot

as some so-called poetry fails to do.

Whenever a Canadian woollen mill

gets into difficulties, the Conservative

press blames it on the British prefer-

ence. But as some Canadian woollen

mills, like the Penman's, are crowded

with orders and continually enlarging

their capacity, some other excuse has

to be found for the failures.

The annual bill for the prohibition

of the manufacture and sale of cigar-

ettes is before the House of Commons.

It is useless to try to banish the cig-

arette when it can be made by any-

one with rice-paper and cut tobacco,

but any law which would keep it out

of the mouths of minors would have

public sympathy and support. Cigar-

ette-smoking by minors could be made

a punishable offense by Provincial act,

if municipal ordinances do not go far

enough.

## A PRECEDENT BROKEN.

[Toronto News.]

A charity ball in London made money.

That is not according to Hoyle.

## SURPRISING ECONOMY.

[Toronto News.]

At a charity ball in London, Ont., \$25

was the credit balance. What a pity

the committee did not get a few more flowers!

## THE GERRYMANDER.

[Toronto Globe.]

It is proposed to link the eight constitu-

encies of Toronto in four pairs, each pair

to elect two members. It is just as easy

to divide Toronto into eight single con-

stituencies as into four double constitu-

encies. The double system is a departure

from that adopted in all other parts of

the Province. The Government certainly

should be above suspecting to so small

and dishonest a party advantage.

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FROM AN OFFICE WINDOW.

[New York Sun.]

Oh, the sun is shining, shining, and the

window's open wide;

I look up from my roltop to the world

that's just outside.

And I feel as if the heroes who for

glory up and died—

And who didn't have to plug it in an

office.

9 times 9 is 81 and 8 is 89,

And the stirring of the sun-kissed air

is like a potent wine.

I feel like up and dying.

Like an armored warrior dying.

But—I've got to keep on plugging in

the office.

Somewhere, I feel it in me, there are em-

pires to be made,

And somewhere waits a dragon for a

knight who's not afraid.

And somewhere there's a princess who—

"When was that invoice paid?"

Oh! it's mighty hard a-plugging in an

office.

"When was that invoice paid?" I say;

or was it paid at all?"

And somewhere there's a princess who

awaits the prince's call.

My heart is beating, beating.

And the hours are fleeting, fleeting.

And here I am a-plugging in an office.

The birds upon the roof across are sing-

ing with the rest—

"Dear Sir—Replying to your note, we beg

to say our best regards to you."

Quotation on rough castings is—They're

building them a nest!

Oh, laws! it's hard a-plugging in an

office!

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