

English members of Parliament make an open boast of defying the law, and evictions were never more difficult to effect. Mr. Bright cordially supports the government in putting down what he characterises as a wicked conspiracy, which is leading Irish tenants to dishonesty and crime. The Land League has erected huts for ejected tenants, on Lord Lansdowne's estates, and Wm. O'Brien had the tenants installed, but they all left voluntarily except one laborer's family. The League is paying the tenants from £18 to 18s. a week; Mr. Dennis Kilbride, who visited Canada with O'Brien, getting £15 a week, though he has recently added to his other dignities that of member of Parliament. A correspondent of the *Manchester Courier*, who gathered the facts on the spot, says the majority of the tenants were induced to join the Plan of Campaign by Kilbride, who, while exacting the last farthing from sub-tenants, would not pay his own rent. "Most of the tenants," the correspondent adds, "are quite willing to accept Lord Lansdowne's offer, but are afraid of the League." They would be able to do so and make a fair profit.

THE GEORGIAN LAND THEORY.

The Labor Congress, at Hamilton, passed a resolution in favor of the Georgian theory of land, which there is about as much chance of realizing as there is of constructing a railway to the moon. This resolution, which was moved by Mr. Jury, declares that "all wealth is produced by the application of labor to land," which is a transparent fallacy borrowed from the forgotten Physiocrats. Wealth is just as certainly produced by the application of labor to manufactures as to land; and it would be as reasonable to ask that every man have machinery, necessary for the production of textile fabrics, placed at his disposal, as land. Another assertion is that "by the facilities afforded to mankind to obtain free access to the soil the prosperity of the producing classes is determined." This at best is only a half truth. Persons employed in all other occupations than the single one of pasturage and agriculture do not, as a basis of prosperity, require access to the soil. A farm, in their hands, would be of no use; since they could not work it and attend to their own chosen occupation. The resolution bound the meeting to petition for "the gradual abolition of private ownership of land and our present indirect system of taxation, and the substitution therefore of a system of taxing land values whereby the people will be reinstated in their inherent right of possessors of the land." The contrary effect would be produced by the proposed change; that portion of the people now in possession of land would be dispossessed of it, and the Government would become the owner. How is the land to be taken away from the farmers? Will they stand quietly by while the operation is being performed? If any inherent right of the people to possess the land exists, it is only that they may cultivate it. If government became the universal landlord, what it received for land would be rent; and to call it a tax is only a confusion of terms. The Imperial

government tried this system, in Canada, before a surrender of the Crown lands was made to the colonial governments; and it was so unpopular that it had to be abandoned. A return to it now, even if the government had not alienated the lands, would be intolerable.

No doubt there is a sense in which all the land belongs to all the people, before it is alienated by the Crown; it is national property and belongs to the nation, without distinction or exclusion. In the same way public works are owned. But when the nation alienates lands or public works, for a consideration, a private interest in the land or public works alienated is created. The nation or the whole people does not, by this transfer, lose its rights: it gets them in a different form, in the form of a consideration for the land. That consideration may be direct or indirect; may be in money, or it may be in improvements: in the case of a sale, it is in money; in the case of a free grant, it is in improvements, on which the general progress and prosperity of the country depend. You cannot eat your cake and have it: when the nation parts with its lands, for a consideration, they become private property; and to talk of retransferring them to the Government as the restoration of an inherent right is to talk nonsense, of which Mr. Jury, to do him justice, is not often guilty.

In his opinion, Mr. Jury is reported to have said, "no man should have more land than he could work by his individual exertions." That is the condition of things among the small tenants in Ireland; and if they were owners instead of tenants, would that be an improvement upon farming on a larger scale? Much has been said, in former times, in favor of small holdings, especially by Sismondi and Mill. They had Tuscany principally in their mind, where the conditions of agriculture differ greatly from those of Canada. Since Sismondi wrote, and it was Sismondi that Mill followed, agricultural machinery has changed all the conditions of the problem. If each man had no more land than he could work by his own individual exertions, he would not be able to avail himself of the aid of costly machinery; production would decline, and the returns of labor applied to land decrease in a corresponding degree.

MANITOBA CROPS

We have this week received from the secretary, the report of the Winnipeg Board of Trade with respect to the crop of 1887 in Manitoba; and are pleased to find that the estimate made before harvest, on the strength of replies from 361 townships giving 432,134 acres under wheat at probably twenty-four bushels to the acre, has been exceeded in the realization, by some twenty per cent. In many sections thirty-five bushels to the acre was harvested; and the report takes twenty-eight bushels per acre as a safe average, which gives as a total 12,099,864 bushels, actual yield.

Allowing something over two million bushels for home consumption and seed, the report considers that ten millions will be available for export, which, at an average price of 55 cents per bushel, gives a

value of five and a half millions of dollars in wheat as an asset in this year's crop. This is a very encouraging state of affairs. But there is more to come. Barley, oats, flax and potatoes contribute another million, dairy products, live stock, wool, hides, and vegetables show in the aggregate half a million dollars worth further available for export. The total of these is something over seven millions, (\$7,112,500.)

There was 56,110 acres barley under crop. The yield has been large, but the average here assumed (which is lower than any given by grain men) is 35 bushels per acre, making the yield 2,000,000 bushels. Of oats, 155,176 acres were sown, but it is likely that 25 per cent. of this area will be cut for fodder, as the seeding was late. The acreage is therefore placed at 100,000, which, at an average yield of 50 bushels, shows a total of 5,000,000 bushels of this crop harvested.

12,000 acres of flax has been harvested, with an average of 15 bushels per acre, giving a net yield of 180,000 bushels seed. The acreage reported of potatoes reached 11,000, and a safe estimate of 250 bushels per acre may be used. This represents a total crop of 2,750,000 bushels.

Lest people, who have not seen the crop growing, should think these estimates excessive, Mr. Bell, the secretary of the board has endeavored, apparently with success, to verify his estimates by ascertaining the quantity of twine used for the binding machines. From enquiries made of all dealers in binding twine in Manitoba, he finds that 1,816,130 pounds weight of that article was sold to farmers this season. Allowing 3½ pounds of twine to an acre of wheat, and two pounds to an acre of oats (though, as a matter of fact most of the oat and barley and much of the wheat was bound with straw bands or raked, owing to the shortage of twine in the market) the following result is found:—

Wheat, 432,134 acres at 3½ lbs.....	1,512,469
Oats, 100,000 acres at 2 lbs.....	200,000
	1,712,469

Hence he regards the actual yield as amply confirming the government estimates of area.

The report next discusses the elevator capacity in the province which is approximately 1,600,000 bushels, which will practically be devoted to wheat. "With 10,000,000 bushels to handle, the farmers may be prepared to meet with delay in getting their grain taken off their hands. With over 14,000,000 bushels of produce available for export, it will require over 20,000 cars (averaging 700 bushels for all classes) to transport our surplus. Supposing a train to consist of twenty cars, not less than 1,000 trains must be supplied to meet the demand.

"The value of the year's crop which will be available for export is estimated as follows:—

Wheat.. 10,000,000 bushels at 55c..	\$5,500,000
Barley.. 1,000,000 bushels at 30c..	300,000
Oats.... 2,500,000 bushels at 18c..	450,000
Flax.... 150,000 bushels at 75c..	112,500
Potatoes 1,000,000 bushels at 25c..	250,000
	14,650,000
	\$6,612,500

It is safe to add for the value of dairy products, stock, vegetables, wool, hides, etc., available for export, not required in Manitoba .. 500,000

\$7,112,500