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THE SITUATION.

Public opinion in England not only supports the Imperial grant to the Canadian Pacific route, for postal and national purposes, but calls for an extension of the service, from a monthly to a fortnightly trip. The additional cost, it is pointed out, would be only £15,000 a year. In the state of public feeling indicated by the press, we may look forward to the time, not distant we hope, when the increased facility demanded will be secured. There is an expectation that this route to India will become popular, and that it will be taken by tourists, who will visit India in increasing numbers, under Mr. Cook's skilful organization. Sir George Stephen, it is announced, has gone to Europe to order new vessels specially adapted to the requirements of this route. One good effect will be to make the different portions of the Empire better known to one another, and to extend the consciousness of a lively national interest, in the broadest sense, to remote parts, where it has hitherto scarcely had a feeble and precarious existence.

If the Washington correspondent of the New York Times be well informed, Secretary Bayard expects the labors of the Fishery Commission to lead to some form of commercial reciprocity. Apparently he looks to the abolition of custom houses between the two countries while the goods of all other nations are subjected to duties. Canada, it is safe to say, is not prepared to buy access to the American market for her fish, on such terms. As in 1864, she refused to barter her independence for a market for her fish, so in 1887 will she reject a plan which is confessedly intended to "give Americans the benefit of Canadian trade," and to prevent Canada arriving at "a greater state of independence," or rather of maintaining the fiscal independence of which she is in possession. To reciprocity in natural products she has no objection. Most nations make a distinction between them and manufactured goods, the free admission of raw material being a legitimate as well as an effective mode of encouraging manufactures. If the United States is not prepared to agree to limited

reciprocity, in such articles as there are sound economic reasons for making free, it is safe to say, in advance, that the labors of the Fishery Commission will come to naught.

Once more we hear from Washington that the Fishery Commission will have nothing to do with the right of navigation and fishing in Behring Sea. It would certainly be more satisfactory if all questions of fishery and navigation between the United States and Canada were dealt with at once. To Mr. Drake's demurrer, United States counsel Delaney has put in a plea which deals with the headland question, on the principle for which Canada has always contended. This principle, as the plea shows, has always been applied to Boston harbor, Long Island Sound, Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, Albemarle Sound, and the Bay of San Francisco. Vattel is quoted to show that "if a sea is entirely enclosed by the territories of a nation and has no other communication with the ocean than by a channel of which that nation may take possession, it is no less capable of being occupied and becoming property than land." If this rule be good for Alaska, it is at least equally so for Hudson's Bay. The arguments used in a *plaidoirie* may be repudiated as non-official; but this particular argument is intrinsically good, and if accepted in its application to the western side of the continent, it cannot be rejected when appealed to for the protection of national interests, on the eastern side.

The incitement to what Mr. Bright truly characterizes as dishonesty and crime, still continues to mark political agitation in Ireland. Mr. Dillon's latest advice to tenants is not to pay their rents till they know what reductions landlords are prepared to make; that is to say, not to pay when they are able, but to insist on reductions, right or wrong. An orator who boasts that he would treat landlords as he would rats in a grain stack, must intend to incite to murder, if words have any meaning. According to one account, the feeling of exasperation which these agitators are creating may lead to an outbreak next winter. But in an insurrectionary outbreak the unarmed peasantry would have no chance against the army, and would be simply shot down. The leaders probably do not desire to bring on such an issue; but those who light the fire would in vain disclaim responsibility for the disasters of the conflagration.

The Quebec Government fixed a date for the payment of the arrears of the commercial corporations' tax; the time has expired and less than half the amount due has been got in. After the date named for payment, interest will be charged, a remission having been granted for prompt payment. The fact that there is a large arrearage still to be paid would seem to show a state of unpreparedness on the part of several of the companies. There is no longer a hope that payment can be avoided. Six years' interest is a heavy item, and one would expect that it would be avoided by payment, whenever possible.

There seems to be no reason to doubt that the alliance between Italy, Austria and Germany has been renewed. One condition is said to be that Italy will have the option of being neutral in a Franco-German war. Bismarck is reported to have given out that Russia contemplates an early attack on Constantinople. It is not stated that Great Britain has joined the alliance, and it is not probable that she will do so, though her sympathies must be in that direction; for in any case she would have to fight her own battle in the east, or if she is to have an ally there, China, which is equally exposed with India to Russian attack, is the most natural one she could have. Dhuleep Singh, having put himself under the protection of the Czar, has written a seditious letter, by which he hopes to arouse the natives of India, through the native press. Dhuleep Singh, who has a claim against the British Government, says he was offered \$750,000 on condition that he would not go to India; and since his arrest at Aden he resolved to become the tool of the Czar, for working mischief in his native country.

Mr. Rankin, a member of the British House of Commons, is taking the initial steps in the promotion of child emigration to Canada. It is proposed to pass the children through a training school, for sending them out; a very good plan. They would require to be of an age that would enable them to earn their own living. Adoption of such children, once more or less in vogue here, has gone out of fashion, and that resource closed, there remains nothing but self-support. A question of finance confronts Mr. Rankin, at the outset, and the Central Emigration Society, with which he is connected, is urging the government to permit the diversion of the grant to industrial schools to go to pay the cost of emigration. But in that case, where is the promised training to come from? We may say that it is not desirable to send young females of doubtful antecedents into the country parts of Canada, under the cloak of philanthropy, where their character would be unknown, and where they would work mischief for which others would probably get more than their due share of credit. But we do not assume that any such thing is intended.

The Government of Manitoba has offered \$300,000 of Provincial bonds, under the Treasury Act. They are of various denominations, some as low as \$50, so that the smallest capitalist, if enthusiastic enough, could aid in paying the debt of the Red River Valley Railway. But on Wednesday night only \$2,000 had been taken. The amount offered is not sufficient to finish the road, and is apparently only intended to pay the debts incurred. Contractor Ryan admits that the workmen have been only partially paid. The overflowing enthusiasm of the Manitobans, when measured by a money standard, shrinks to a very small measure, at the bottom of the pot.

Timber regulations and dues, in Quebec, have undergone a modification. Leases of timber limits are henceforth to be termin-