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WEDNESDAY.....JULY 6, 1887

The brightest saying that has appeared in the Kacoot for a long time shines out to-day like a diamond pin in the dirty shirt of a showman. "The farmers of Canada are not fools!" Let our neighbor keep that gem standing. The light it emits will illuminate many a dark corner of the Kacoot intellect.

A GREAT step has been taken by the Knights of Labor in their revised constitution. No member of the Order can hereafter engage in the liquor or beer trade, nor can any intoxicants be used at any meeting or gathering of the Knights.

The Ottawa Citizen refers to THE POST as "one of Mr. Blake's Montreal organs." As Mr. Blake has retired, we fall to see the implication. But we can assure our friend that THE POST is no man's organ, nor is it the organ of any party.

In the Duluth Herald we find a communication which gives voice to a sentiment entertained by a large number of Canadians who have been driven from their homes into the United States by the misgovernment of the Macdonaldite machine.

"Will the Evening Herald please inform Premier Norquay, of Manitoba, if he wants the services of ten thousand men to help build a railroad to the border despite the active opposition of the Dominion Government, he will find them in the Northwest. Many of them can bring their own ammunition."

UNITED STATES iron duties are more prohibitory than those recently imposed in Canada, yet prominent iron statisticians in Philadelphia state that the most serious aspect of the iron situation is the large importation of foreign materials, coming principally from Great Britain.

THE expressiveness of art is happily illustrated in the Pontifical medal struck this year, as usual, for the feast of St. Peter, the 29th of June. The arbitration of the Holy See in the dispute about the Caroline Islands is skillfully commemorated.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us an extraordinary report from Tingwick, Que. He writes: "There is living at this place a French-Canadian farmer, Ambrose Bedard, who has a daughter 16 years old. This girl has not eaten food of any kind for over five years. Until she was 11 years old she ate like any other child, but since then she has refused all food except a little cold

water. Strange to say she enjoys good health, works about her home, and walks to church, a distance of four miles, where she attends communion." Our informant adds that he can vouch for the truth of these statements himself, for he knows the girl, has conversed with her father on the subject, also with neighbors and the parish priest.

WHAT does this mean? In the Quebec Telegraph of yesterday we read: "Election contestation settlements are somewhat interfered with. So we are told. Sir Hector's contestation in Three Rivers and Mr. McGreevy in Quebec West have been interfered with by elements outside of the leaders."

TORONTO has a Humane Society whose operations have been productive of a great deal of good to animals as well as men. Recently this society has taken up the question of overcrowded street cars, in the interest of the public as well as out of pity for the wretched horses.

TURKEY is in a bad way. If the Sultan signs the convention with England, he will have to face the active hostility of Russia and France; if he does not, England will probably leave him to his fate. A St. Petersburg correspondent, quoted by the New York Herald, plainly reveals Russia's attitude when he says: "Russia is firmly resolved on her side to maintain her rights intact."

THE reply of the Toronto Branch of the Irish National League to the invitation sent to that body by the Toronto City Council, to assist at the jubilee celebration which takes place there to-morrow, was dignified and to the point, and voiced by the sentiment of every Irishman worthy of the name in Canada.

THIS week's issue contains an interview with Dr. Loberge, City Medical Health Officer, with reference to the mortality among foundlings, which reveals a chapter of horrors unsurpassed in the worst accounts ever published of baby farming.

THE Winnipeg Sun shows a queer idea of journalism if it pays a Montreal correspondent for transmitting malicious falsehoods and worthless opinions, like the following, over the wires: "MONTREAL, June 23.—On Monday night THE POST advocated rotten-egging the picture of the Governor-General on the court house for illumination, and this evening glories in the fact that it was so treated, though no one else heard of it."

WE would like to know the lying scoundrel who sent that despatch so that we could publish his portrait with a fitting biographical sketch and obituary.

TRULY the Jubilee of Victoria is being observed right royally in the old land. We read in United Ireland, received yesterday: "The cry is still—Evictions!—evictions everywhere. The horror grows absolutely monotonous. There are evictions on the Kamaara estate, evictions on the Grand estate, evictions in Cork, evictions in Clare—evictions no matter in what direction one turns his eyes. This year promises to be the blackest, in this melancholy respect, of any twelve months since the Famine time. During two months, April and May, alone, there were turned out of their houses in or about five thousand people. Those are the figures supplied by the Orange landlord Parliamentary Under-Secretary. What a comment on the system which usurps the name and functions of Government in Ireland. The class which is responsible for this shocking persecution and annihilation of the people, as well as now going to offer thanks to the God of money for Queen Victoria's fifty years of rule. The hideous hypocrisy renders their cruelty all the more revolting. It is rather at the shrines of Siva the Destroyer and Mammon the Money-bag that the heartless exterminators should bend their knees."

PARTY spirit, in the sense of subservience to the Macdonaldite machine, is very strong in Manitoba. It remains to be seen, however, whether it will bear the strain of disallowance in relation to the Red River Railway. An Ottawa despatch says the provincial act chartering the road has been disallowed. In a short time we will know of what stuff the Manitobans are made. Broadly stated, the conflict is one between a protective and monopolistic policy and the victims of that policy. If the Manitobans are beaten now in their efforts to secure a southern outlet, they may take up their minds

to endure another lengthened period of stagnation, deepened in all probability by the removal of settlers to the neighboring states and territories. The contest is exciting a great deal of interest in the west. The American view of it is well expressed by the Chicago Herald, as follows:—

"Manitoba's interests are identical with those of Minnesota and Dakota, and the Dominion law-making, which treats the people as victims merely, bears on them with the rank injustice. It is destructive all around. It denies to the settlers a free market for things which they would purchase, and it prohibits them from profitably disposing of the products of the soil by exorbitant railroad rates imposed by a monopoly of its own creation. They are like rats in a pit. The American people, suffering as they do in a less degree from the same injustices, but able to do away with them, whenever they shall become intolerable, cannot fail to view with keenest sympathy the struggle of the Manitoba farmers for commercial freedom. It is their duty to take arms against a centralized tariff and railroad intemperance which will not be without a useful effect upon the people on this side of the line."

WHEN Benjamin Disraeli described the British Tory party as an "organized hypocrisy" he enunciated a truth which has been abundantly attested by facts. The people of England have long ceased to be surprised at the utter lack of principle evinced by those who shape the shifting and inconsistent policies pursued by the party led by Lord Salisbury to-day. The Conservatives of the Continent, however, who take but a feeble and, so to speak, an intermittent interest in foreign politics, find it difficult at times to make out the real character of their British political brethren. Thus the Paris Univers, a respectable and old-established conservative organ, is sorely perplexed at the reception accorded to the Garibaldi deputation by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, to whom they had gone to present the first samples of a medal struck in honor of Garibaldi's exploits at Marsala. The proceedings took place at Stafford House, where Garibaldi was once treated with an enthusiastic hospitality, and compliments were exchanged in profusion. The Univers is shocked that the conduct of the noble owners of Stafford House should appear "quite natural" to the aristocratic upholders of British Conservatism, and expresses its inability to comprehend how a party which openly sympathizes with revolution on the continent should vilipend and persecute the Irishmen who constitutionally demand that justice and freedom be granted to their country. The Univers evidently knows little about British Conservatism.

HENRY GEORGE has the satisfaction of pointing to Canada as a place where his theories have found partial acceptance. In the sale by the Dominion Government of the town lots at Banff, a proviso was entered at the sale that each lot was subject to an annual tax of thirty dollars. This is a clear step in the direction of the Georgian principle of land tenure, and a direct blow at land speculation. Knowing the character of the men at Ottawa, however, we are not inclined to set much store by the new proviso in the disposition of land. Manipulated as it will be by them it will become simply an engine of oppression to those who may oppose the Government, while political favorites will have no trouble in getting a fee simple. What is wanted is a comprehensive land law in which the nation shall never resign the title to the land, but sell under conditions as good as if a clear title were given, so long as the purchasers utilize the land by actual settlement and cultivation. Then there would be no stretches of waste land growing weeds and harboring coyotes, while the owners waited for the labor and enterprise of others in the vicinity to increase his fortune with the unearned increment of value, which he not only did not aid but positively hindered. A wise land policy in city and country would be to quadruple the taxes on all vacant lots. Under the present system the man who improves, builds and cultivates is taxed in proportion to his own enterprise, while a worthless speculator who does nothing but block the way of settlement and investment by holding on for a rise in value is let off with a nominal tax. Reverse this order, and vacant places will soon cease to disfigure the cities and great stretches of land, now bearing wild mustard, Canada thistles and other agricultural abominations, will rapidly pass under the plough. A great wrong will be redressed, the productiveness of the country will be increased enormously, and the commonwealth will benefit beyond calculation. Tax the land speculator to death. That is the true policy.

IRISH VIRTUE AND UNITY.
Burch says somewhere in his Disquisitions:—"Whilst a people continue capable of liberty, the period of their ruin will never approach." Here we have a profound truism expressed with scholarly elegance. With all proper modesty we present it for the contemplation of those who imagine that the vile effort of the English oligarchy, embodied in the Crimes Bill, can overcome the spirit of the Irish people. Under the most difficult circumstances they have shown themselves capable of liberty. The very lowliest of the Irish are admitted, even by their bitterest enemies, to be astonishingly remarkable for the physical vigor and mental perceptivity of the men, the sweetness, purity, hopefulness of the women, and the unquenchable strength of their filial affections. In the most abject conditions into which they were ever forced by English tyranny and landlord oppression they never lost their virtue. That hard-headed statistician Mulhal bears testimony to the glorious fact that illegitimacy in Ireland is unknown in purely Catholic districts, and increases in ratio with the increase of Protestant population. On this we base our hope for the triumph of the Irish cause. No people can be enslaved whose women are, as Irish women have ever been, virtuous. England, or at least its Tory rulers, cannot destroy the spirit of Ireland, as Ali crushed that of the Christian people of Tunis. They cannot kill all the men and confiscate all the women. Strong in the knowledge of this hereditary principle of virtue, and firm in the assurance of its perpetuation, they scorn the bastardly usurpers of their soil and turn with the loathing of an immortal instinct from such mongrels as

Lansdowne. The adulterous "steer" and the obscure vulgarity of Petty are to this ancient, pure-hearted people a degradation which they are certain their fathers and mothers would never have survived. It is the remnant of this nation the oligarchy of England would exterminate. But the Tory gun, loaded to the muzzle, will be more disastrous in its recoil than in its discharge. As John Boyle O'Reilly writes in the North American Review for May last, "They are summing up their inhumanity in the view of the world. They are filling a deadly cup for Ireland which they themselves shall drink to the dregs in England. Oppression has outlived rebellion, but it cannot outlive contempt. Civilization could endure aristocratic landlordism while it was only an injustice, but must cast it out when it becomes a nuisance."

The Irish people are united to-day as they never were before. Instead of going into bankruptcy, the 500,000 tenant farmers of Ireland will hold fast by the Plan of Campaign. They will pay no rent, keep their money for themselves, take no vacant farms, accept no terms of purchase but what they hold to be equitable, and defy the Coercionists and all the laws that Tory malignity backed by landlord desperation can bring against them. This unexampled unity, determination and quiet present a barrier against which bayonets will break off short and writs of bankruptcy fall useless.

LANDLORDISM IN AMERICA.
Alarmed by the atrocities perpetrated in Ireland in the name of law, several States in the American Union have legislated with a view to the destruction of landlordism. The Legislature of Illinois has just enacted a novel land law, which provides that persons owning land in that State must become naturalized American citizens within six years or forfeit their land at the end of that period. This law is especially aimed at the notorious William Scully, an English Irishman, who owns the greater part of Logan county, and rents his lands to farmers on the English plan. The great mistake was made at first by the Government in permitting its lands to be gobbled up in large tracts by foreigners, whose only purpose could have been to reduce the United States to a level with Ireland. The present policy of the government should have been adopted long ago: to reserve public lands to actual settlers. The fight for self-preservation has commenced now too early or too vigorously. With the attention of the people once called to the matter, some remedy doubtless will be found for the evil. But an ounce of prevention would have been worth a pound of cure at any time. The United States have never been in such great distress as to warrant the disposal of its broad acres to any one, especially to foreign capitalists.

Table with 2 columns: Name of syndicate/landowner and Amount in No. Acres. Includes entries for Anglo-American syndicate, British Land Co., etc.

The same wholesale alienation of the public domain for nominal payments, or as rewards for services to the party led by Sir John Macdonald, has been going on for some time in Canada. A great, abiding curse has thus been fixed upon the soil. One of the greatest reforms demanded in the interests of the Canadian people is in regard to the land, but before Sir John closes his career there will be no land left.

FARMERS' LAND UNRESTRICTED RECIPROcity.
No one can question the appropriateness of holding a great meeting of the yeomen of Ontario on Dominion Day to discuss the question of Unrestricted Reciprocity between Canada and the United States, because that anniversary marks an era in the progress of this country from a condition of colonialism to one of absolute freedom. It is now evident to all men that American civilization, republican in form, democratic in spirit, industrial in action, commercial in purpose, is advancing on lines wholly different from that of Europe. Here militarism is passing into a tradition, revived occasionally by a holiday parade; in Europe it is an overpowering fact with which Imperial and dynastic systems are inseparably bound up. The difficulty of making Canada partake of the European character while all the economical, political and social forces are combined to force her along the lines of American progress, has become so great that further attempts in that direction must precipitate a crisis. The policy which was to have done so much for this country, and which was advocated as a means for obtaining Reciprocity, has merely succeeded in isolating the Dominion. Every session since it was first introduced it has been altered and elaborated, till the recent imposition of the iron duties revealed that the whole system was designed and has been operated less with a view to the general welfare than as an engine for the aggrandizement of a class. Manipulated in the same spirit which imposed the Gerrymander and the Franchise Act, how could it be expected to achieve any other result than discontent among that larger, more important class, made up of the victims, not the beneficiaries, of the so-called National Policy. A leading Government organ complains that the appeal for support of unrestricted Reciprocity is made solely to the agricultural class. This is not

strictly true. So far the appeal has been made by the agricultural class to the other classes and to the Government. In every instance the Farmers' Institutes have passed resolutions of their own motion, setting forth the belief that the abolition of the Customs line would be of great material advantage to this country, and urging the Government to take steps towards the attainment of that object.

But granting, for argument sake, that the appeal is made to the farmers, will any one contend that the leaders of the movement would do so unless they were profoundly convinced that the farmers were suffering under the existing system and desirous of a change? It is an old and trite saying, a saying not less true than trite, that when the farmers are flourishing the whole country flourishes. Every class, every industry, partakes of the success of the agriculturists. The converse is equally true. It only needs one season of bad crops to demonstrate how absolute is the dependence of the country on the success of its farming operations. For several years past the harvests have been above the average. The soil has yielded abundantly, yet the singular fact has been brought home to the farmers that, under most favorable conditions, their industry—the first and most important of all industries—has failed, as the farmers assembled at Cobourg recently declared, to return one per cent. on capital or reward the farmer with more than ordinary laborers' wages.

There must be something radically wrong in a system which produces these results. The opening up of new lands in the East has undoubtedly tended to lower prices in the English market, and the highly protective policies of other European states have also restricted the area of distribution of American (in this we include Canadian) produce. But these would not be insurmountable were it not that the cost of production in Canada is enormously increased by the Canadian tariff. What sort of statesmanship is it which deprives the Canadian producer of his natural market in the United States and disables him from competing in European markets, by overtaxing everything he has to buy? Surely such a system cannot last. It must break down, and the sooner it does the better for the country. In America, at least, the principle holds good that when any business ceases to pay it soon stops. What, then, must be the condition of Canada when farming ceases to pay? The effect on the country as a whole cannot fail of being disastrous. Therefore, the movement for unrestricted reciprocity is a genuine uprising of great industrial forces against unnatural, artificial barriers and conditions which must be swept away, or the waters of discontent, dammed back, will rise, till no power on earth will be able to control the flood of revolution.

It is a good thing that, as yet, neither of the great political parties has declared itself on this question. Sir John Macdonald, in a recently published interview, rather opposed than encouraged the desire for reciprocity. On the other hand Dr. Platt, a Liberal, introduced a resolution in the Commons affirming the principle. There the matter stands, so far as political parties are concerned. Government organs, however, in this city and elsewhere, throw cold water on the project, and endeavor to give it the character of a fad. But the anxiety of the ministry is evident. It is one of those questions which will not admit of fencing, and is thus a most difficult one for this Government to face. Yet face it they must next session, if not before. Meantime the conditions which have led to the demand for Unrestricted Reciprocity are intensifying and, should the fall prices continue another year, as in the past, Parliament will be compelled to take decisive action.

THE MERCIER GOVERNMENT AND MR. MCSHANE.
An evening contemporary flings an ill-natured but characteristic sneer at a Conservative paper which has had the manliness to publish an article in which simple justice was done to the local Premier, Mr. Mercier, and his able colleague Mr. McShane.

According to our contemporary's logic, a newspaper opposed on general principles to a ministry should not give credit where credit is due, nor admit the possibility of honest action in an opponent. This may be politics from an evangelical standpoint; but we think that, instead of imputing corrupt motives, it would show a more Christian spirit were the journal to which we refer to extend a little of the same generous treatment to those whom it opposes.

But perhaps we can trace in this oblation of pious bile the old motive. The Mercier Government has had to contend against much unworthy opposition, not the least annoying of which have been the repeated attempts in certain quarters to discredit it among Irish Catholics and English Protestants. But Mr. Mercier has lived down most effectively and killed with generosity the sinister attempts of his enemies. In his speech at St. Hyacinthe he finally disposed of these cavillers, but the sneerer must have his little sneer, if only to show his harmless fangs. The Protestants of this province are satisfied, we have reason to know, that they have nothing to fear. The efforts of the Government to convince them of the friendly disposition of the Cabinet have had a happy effect, and hereafter we are not likely to hear any complaints on that score—complaints without foundation save in the diseased imagination of a few interested and disappointed politicians.

As for the Irish, Mr. Mercier showed his attention to their interests by selecting the most popular Irishman in Montreal, the Hon. James McShane, to represent them in the Cabinet. That gentleman has a well-established character as a hard worker, he is conscientious in all his relations, intimate with the wants and wishes of his people, and respected and trusted by all classes in the community. Protestant as well as Catholic. The energy and devotion to duty which characterized Mr. McShane's conduct in his business and municipal relations he has carried into the higher sphere of life as Minister of the Crown in a still more remarkable degree. Under his administration the Department

of Public Works and Agriculture has been reinvigorated and put upon a business basis. In this enlarged sphere of activity and usefulness Mr. McShane has developed a high order of ability, and it is but ordinary justice to give him the credit he deserves. In this respect he is another proof of the fact, now generally admitted, that Irishmen when they get the opportunity always prove themselves capable of discharging with honor and success the highest functions of the citizen and the statesman. Such men as James McShane are living demonstrations of Irish ability to govern, and their success in the highest walks of life is the best refutation of the slanders of their enemies. As for himself, personally, it is hardly necessary to say anything. But we cannot help remarking that it is no wonder he is called "The People's Jimmy." Amid his multifarious duties and the many calls upon his time and patience, he is always ready to give attention to those who approach him. The humble receive like courtesy as the great. To all he is the same kind, obliging, active, unforgetting, unneglecting friend. His supporters all the ranks in every walk of life. The warm grasp of his hand sends a magnetic touch, and even where he cannot comply with all that is demanded he never forfeits the confidence reposed in him by common consent. His presence in the Cabinet has strengthened the Government with all classes, old and young, Catholic and Protestant, while his faithfulness to his chief, Mr. Mercier, to his colleagues in the Legislature and to his constituents, are guarantees of a long and successful career as a member of the best Government the province has possessed since the days of Mr. Joly.

FREEDOM, FRAUD AND FOOD.
Knights of Labor should bring their forecasts bear for the correction of the great evil of gambling in produce. The recent disastrous wheat corner at Chicago should urge workmen everywhere to combine their influence with the object of putting a stop to a form of speculation which has been condemned as criminal by the ablest economists. The demoralization and consequent loss brought upon business by the operations of those who have no thought above or beyond the "scooping" of a pile is something far worse than theft or burglary.

If a journalist in the exercise of his profession in the public interests brands these manipulators as rogues and gamblers, which they undoubtedly are, they can take action at law for libel and damages, because forsooth their "characters" have been injured and their means of livelihood interfered with. As well might the honest burglar and the conscientious forger claim immunity from censure. Recent civilization has developed a class of crimes of which the law takes no cognizance. Our whole system of jurisprudence, our social arrangements, our ideas of justice, are taken from the bygone institutes of feudalism tinctured with medieval misconceptions of the duties of life. A new and vastly complicated system, called business, has grown up instead. Mercantile honor and the banking invention of the Jews have taken the place thereof and receive recognition, so long as the parties engaged in business are "making money." When they fail, there is nothing for their creditors to do but pocket the loss and look out that they are not "stuck" again. All this is very admirable as a phase of human development, but it is no joke to those whose bread is increased in price, and whose power of earning is curtailed that rogues may flourish.

The New York Herald sums up the late wheat corner rascality in these words:—"This whole affair may be summed up as a speculative risk with ninety-nine chances to one against it. The prime movers went into it with intolerable recklessness, and, in the hope of making millions in less than no time, hazarded both fortune and reputation. Now that the grand collapse has come, both fortune and reputation are gone."

Is there no remedy for such action as a land that boasts of freedom, or is freedom but a synonym for the old game that—"He shall take who has the power, And he shall keep who can." We are told by the journal already quoted that "the corner had been on the carpet for about ninety days. It was thought possible to control the wheat in Chicago, St. Louis, Toledo, New York, San Francisco, and possibly Liverpool. With this control prices could be driven up with the speed of a race-horse, and the speculators, keeping their weather eyes open and foreseeing the date of the inevitable crash, could gracefully retire with their pockets stuffed full and leave the lamb the pleasant consciousness that they had been shorn close to the skin. For some reason there was a hitch. The price of wheat climbed a pole until it was almost out of sight, and so far the scheme worked admirably. But more wheat than was dreamed of came pouring in. It seemed as though seven years' crop was on the cars and had to be taken care of. The Fidelity Bank was taxed to its utmost, but the emergency was too great. The strain was tremendous. Chicago was wild—crazy. St. Louis followed suit and Cincinnati was in the 'dumps', for ugly rumors—very ugly—were in the air. The Fidelity had a good-sized earthquake under it, and the danger was that the whole concern would tumble into ruins. When the stretched string broke twenty-one firms in twenty-one minutes hit the dust. A double-headed cyclone could not have cleaned them out more completely. They were gone—horse, foot and dragoons. Then came arrests and charges of forgery and a thousand other things, and the panic was complete." Students of the laissez faire philosophy will tell us that this is all right, that it will mend itself, and, after a few experiences of this kind, men will learn wisdom and