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The Free Press,
LONDON, ONT.

Wednesday, September 15, 1886.

A TRIANGULAR SITUATION.

Since Sir Richard Cartwright deserted the fortunes of Sir John Macdonald, in 1867, he has not gained much in public estimation. Talented as he is in many ways, his talents he has not turned to good account. On the contrary, he has been amongst the foremost in depreciating the country which repudiated him in 1878, and told him and his fellow Grits to be gone and give place to better men. If not exactly a waiter on providence at the present time, he is evidently in search of a constituency. Yet that is no new thing with him. At the general election in 1882 he found himself deprived of a seat, and was driven to make some arrangements with Mr. McMillan, of South Huron, so as to enable him to secure one. Since that time Mr. McMillan has not thought fit to renew the bargain, whatever it was, and Sir Richard is as much a Wandering Dicky, as Mr. Macdougall ever was a "Wandering Willie," as the Grits used to delight to call him. Rumor has it, however, that seeing that Mr. James Armstrong, M. P., has given such great offence to the loyal inhabitants of South Middlesex, irrespective of party, by his course on the Riel question, it may be found convenient to keep him out of the running, and open the nomination to the ex-Finance Grit Minister. That scheme no doubt has its merits, but it is fraught with this inconvenience, that it would put a dampener on the expectations of Hon. D. Mills. Despite Mr. Mills' course on the Riel matter—in which he sided with the champions of rebellion in Quebec—it is known that he has indulged hopes with reference to South Middlesex, seeing that his tenure of Bothwell is of so uncertain a kind. Such a complication would have its ugly side. It would not be a pretty picture to see two ex-Grit Ministers striving against one another to procure a "hived" constituency, each being afraid to stand upon his own merits in what might be called the open market. If such a conjunction were to arrive Mr. Armstrong would have a fine opportunity of promoting the "Reform" interests after the fashion formerly adopted by Mr. McMillan. No doubt, the "Reformers" of the South Riding would much prefer to look kindly on Sir Richard, because, though he has been but a sorry success in a party sense, he had at any rate the manliness to oppose Mr. Blake in his wicked crusade against the Government of Sir John Macdonald, because the Premier had not thought fit to step in and stay the hand of Justice when Riel fell, at last, into its clutches. And it should be borne in mind that Hon. Alex. Mackenzie took the same course. On the other hand, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Mills were willing to censure the Government for refusing to interfere, and thus save Riel from his well-merited fate. Taking that view of the matter, it is not improbable that at the coming convention in South Middlesex Sir Richard may stand a fair chance of nomination; for it is well known that the conduct of Messrs Mills and Armstrong, as well as that of Mr. D. M. Cameron, of West Middlesex, in attaching themselves to the rebel cause, is not stomached by the loyal inhabitants of Western Ontario.

M. de Giers is described as a highly intelligent-looking man of about sixty-five, who shows the cares of office. He stoops, and his beard is snow white. His stay in Franzensbad was said to be primarily due to the approaching marriage of his daughter, Olga, to M. Rosetti-Solesco, which had been fixed for the 1st of September. M. Solesco is a Rumanian *boyar*, and a diplomat of promise. He is a nephew of Prince Cuza, the former ruler of Moldavia and Wallachia, and was a fellow-student in Paris of King Milan of Servia. The French papers say that Mlle. Olga de Giers has inherited her father's diplomatic talents, and is the author of more than one of his state papers.

BALLANTYNE AND CHEESE.

The history of the cheese "exhibit" that was not exhibited is easily stated. Mr. Ballantyne did not at first favor putting cheese on show at the Colonial, but thought it better in the dairy interest to send over a large amount to be cut up as required for use in the restaurants. This would, in his first judgment, form a better advertisement of our cheese than merely to place the cheese on show in the building. And this was why he bought up 600 boxes rather than six or sixty at the outside, which would be all that exhibition space could reasonably be asked for. But on his arrival at London he found that Mr. T. D. Millar, a prominent dairyman of Ingersoll, was already on hand with a small stock of cheese, sent over in good time and at his private expense. Then it seems to have occurred to Mr. Ballantyne that he had made a blunder in not applying for space, and being a prominent figure in the Exhibition, especially as Messrs. Spiers and Pond, the caterers, did not tackle over kindly to his other views. It would never do to be outstripped by Mr. Millar, and allow him to carry off honor in an interest in which he (Ballantyne) had been endeavoring to pass as a "king." He demanded space for his 600 boxes, which was declined, because at that late date, in April, it had all been assigned. Sir Charles Tupper agreed, however, to clear out a space of six square feet, occupied by some tubs and other wooden wares, for Mr. Ballantyne's use, but he (Mr. B.) objected. He asked to be allowed to erect his cheese into an arch, over one of the passages, but this was refused, as being too dangerous an experiment. The arch might break and fall on the crowd of people. Mr. Ballantyne agreed at length to take the six feet of space offered, but on condition that he should be allowed to take his cheese away if it should turn bad by the effect of heat. Already it seems some of it had become bad, or had taken on a bad odor. To this request the Exhibition authorities objected, saying that once there the cheese should be a fixture. It should not be taken in and out at Mr. B.'s pleasure. Besides, if there was any doubt about the cheese, it had better not be brought in at all. This was the origin of the misunderstanding, and on which Mr. B. seeks to blame Sir Charles Tupper. No doubt it was galling to Mr. Ballantyne to have spent $4,500 of Government money in buying cheese from himself, and to find himself playing second fiddle in the Exhibition to the Ingersoll man, who had been the "early bird" at the Fair on his own account. But what was he to do after having muddled the matter as described? How to gain for himself, as "king" of the Ontario dairymen, the post of honor occupied by Mr. Millar? He offered to buy Millar out; he would pay any price for those cheeses—and well he might, as commander of the Ontario treasury in that interest. But Mr. Millar declined to sell or budge, and remained as the representative cheese man. When, therefore, Mr. Ballantyne and his friends censure the High Commissioner for neglecting the cheese interest of Canada, it is proper to say that such blame is unmerited. Sir Charles, who did all in any man's power to accommodate in every way, had already given place to all the cheese sent over, and was ready to give Mr. Ballantyne a reasonable amount of room for any display he desired to make in addition. But Mr. B.'s dictatorial manner got the better of him. Because he could not "boss the whole show," he would not have any share in it. It was not the fault of Sir Charles, that Millar was ahead. It was owing, first, to that gentleman's superior pluck and energy, and, second, to Mr. Ballantyne's dilatoriness and lack of fixed ideas. Mr. B. may try to keep up his fictitious "kingship," by abuse and brow-beating, but it won't do. He may have lead some, in weak moments, to believe that the dairy interests of Canada subsist but by his nod and patronage, but cheesemen are getting rid of that supposition. Mr. Ballantyne does not run the market, any more than he ran the Exhibition. Our dairymen will make cheese, exhibit and sell it without his august approval, and if that gentleman could but hear the real sentiments of independent dairymen, as expressed at every corner, he would be apt to doubt how much longer he can maintain the arrogated position of "cheese king of Canada."

The Wingham *Times* says that while the rate of taxation in that town looks rather high this year, it is less significant in view of the fact that an extra amount has been expended on valuable public improvements. Would that other Grit organs were equally rational in discussing the general indebtedness. They say the public debt has been increased, *ergo*, the Government has been extravagant. They do not take into account why the debt has been increased, and that we have as an offset some 2,700 miles of railway penetrating and opening up as fine a new country as there is in the world. When this fact is considered what is called a "debt" is in reality a most profitable investment of capital, which will return an hundredfold in due time.

A late traveller on the Pacific Coast writes: On the Columbia River I found a very discouraging state of affairs. The fishermen had lost confidence somewhat, though they had had two or three good days. Even in fishing I saw where machinery was supplanting the labor of men. One machine I saw caught 18 tons, or 3,600 bbls of fish, in 12 hours and the only labor needed was not in catching the fish, but in carting them away. One word more in regard to Puget Sound. The waters there are never frozen. The climate of Portland, which is the same latitude as Montreal, is similar to the climate of Northern Georgia. There are 18 miles of shoreland and the water is so deep that vessels can approach the land to load with timber at any point.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Berlin *News*:—Mr. Thomas Ballantine, the Grit M. P. P. for South Perth, has a very soft snap. He is Mr. Mowat's generalissimo and Great Authority on cheese, and as the representative of the Ontario Government visits Europe during the summers and sells his own cheese to the Britishers. No wonder Brother Ballantine obstructs in every way he can the progress of creamery butter-making.

One hundred and two thousand shingles have been shipped from Puget Sound to Port Moody for shipment across the Canadian Pacific to the east. The Vancouver *News* says: "This is only the beginning of a future great trade between the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts. Cedar grows here in abundance, and the shingles cut from the lumber are the most substantial in the world, tests having proved that, placed on tops of buildings, they can withstand the rain and tempests beating down upon them for 40 years. The shingles will not rot; the action of the weather wears them away, but decay never attacks them. Our eastern friends speak highly of the shingles turned out on this coast, and the first shipment of them over the C. P. R. is the beginning of an immense trade."

A correspondent writes that the "model" township of Westminster would better deserve that title if the gravel roads were better attended to. For instance, he says: —"If it is because most of the gravel for the roads has been put in the west side of the township, and on some of the concession roads, instead of being placed on the side lines running towards the city, where it, in justice, should have been placed, and if it is because the centre concession road in it, for the distance of only about one hundred and forty rods midway between two of the side roads, has never been open for travel, then the title is most extremely ludicrous; and especially so because the above named piece of road could very easily have been opened for travel long ago, and just as easily yet, with a small outlay. The Township Council pays more in needless lawsuits, which they always lose, per year than would make a good road there."

The recent earthquakes in this country are very puzzling to the scientists, both of Europe and the United States, and seem to upset many preconceived theories. All are agreed, however, that there is no country in the world in which the terrible event could have been so well and quickly reported as in the United States. Professor Swift, of Rochester, thus knocks over some theories, and at the same time frankly confesses his ignorance on the subject:—

You will see a great many theories set forth in the next few days. Look them over, and you will see that the word absurb will fit them all. Now, take the theory that the earthquake is caused by the displacement along a line of weakness in the earth's crust, beginning somewhere south of Raleigh, and extending in a line along the tide-water past Richmond, Baltimore, Washington, and Troy. This shock was felt, probably, over an area of 1,000,000 square miles. This theory could not, therefore, explain the cause. Electricity has nothing to do with the earthquake. There is fire in the interior of the earth, and this, in some way, causes earthquakes, but how it operates to produce shocks no one yet has discovered.

German newspapers are drawing attention to the interesting fact that the present year, 1886, marks the outset of a new era in which the men who fought in the great wars of 1866 and 1870 will have entirely retired from service. Hereafter the conscripts who are annually levied to renew the active army will be men who were not born when the last of many quarrels between Austria and Prussia ripened towards the final settlement at Sadowa. These coming recruits were but children four years old when the leaguers of Metz and Paris were begun, and they can have no recollections of the suspense, the trials and the triumphs of that period. Nor, with the exception of some officers, is there any one now left in the active army or even in the Landwehr, or reserves, who can recount as an eye-witness the soul-stirring campaigns of Bohemia or France, and perpetuate in his young comrades the passions which formerly inflamed the Prussian soldier against his Austrian and Bavarian compatriot as well as against his traditional French enemy. Only in the Landsturm, or home guard, linger some veterans of the Seven Weeks' War, and the grass has long been green over the graves of their brethren who perished in fratricidal conflict at Koniggratz and Kissingen. Of the soldiers who will henceforth be called upon to fight for the German empire in any probable contingency, not one can recollect a time when North German and South German were not brothers in arms, nor would any of the new generations look with the old fear and rancor on their neighbors across the Rhine if Frenchmen upon their part would but cease talking of revenge.

The story of the rattlesnake that swallowed eggs in a Georgia pantry, and was thus caught in a jug handle, is followed by a like tale from Chattahooga. A citizen heard a noise in his henhouse, and investigated. He found that a black snake had swallowed a China nest egg outside of the house, thrust its neck through a knot hole, and swallowed a real egg, and was thus unable to go backward or forward, as the eggs were larger than the hole.

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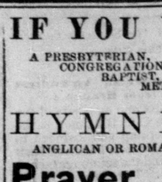

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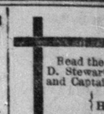

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