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Manager.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1888

## THE SITUATION.

Ontario is making a good show at the Cincinnati Central exhibition, especially in minerals, of which more than four hundred specimens have been forwarded. Of phosphate of lime there are some unusually fine samples. This display will be to a certain extent a revelation to American visitors to the exhibition, and will attract the attention of American operators in mines, several of whom have previously made ventures in Canada, and some of whom have at present an interest in our minerals.

Alderman Baxter has met the charges of Cooper, made in the civic investigation, in a decisive way. He has sworn out an information against Cooper for perjury, and the accused will be left to prove his charges, when put upon his trial. It will be recollected that Alderman Baxter was not allowed to cross-examine this witness at the time he gave his evidence, and as the investigation has for some time been at a stand, the course taken by Alderman Baxter was the only one open to him, if he was not willing to let the charges pass unheeded.

The disposition of the \$400,000 voted by the Legislature of Quebec in compensation for the confiscation of the Jesuits' estates will be contested between the Jesuits and the University of Laval. The bill making the appropriation secures the interest of the money to the Jesuits until the Pope shall decide what disposition is to be made of the capital. When the Jesuits secured the interest in the meantime, they probably thought this triumph would ensure them the capital. But Laval is not without friends in the Local Legislature, and a majority of the members, in a note intended for the enlightenment of Leo XIII., stated that the interim disposal of the interest in no way interferes with the final destination of the capital. This was done in the interest of Laval. The effect is to make the Pope absolute arbiter in the case; and it remains to be seen whether the Jesuits or the friends of Laval University have the most influence at Rome. There is no doubt as

to where the sympathy of the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec lies, and in what direction his influence will be used. He has been in the past, and will be found to be now, the firm friend of Laval. He is opposed to the scheme of the Jesuits for setting up a rival university at Montreal. Pius IX. systematically discountenanced this project, and it remains to be seen whether Leo XIII. is more under the influence of the Jesuits than his predecessor. In asking the Pope to decide how \$400,000 voted by the Legislature is to be disposed of, the Legislature of Quebec is strongly cheapening its own autonomy.

It is the fate of colonizing countries to come into hostile contact, from time to time, with barbarous tribes. Canada, by pursuing a policy of justice, has had little trouble with the Indians. But we could not hope always to escape, and now a difficulty with the Skeena River Indians of British Columbia has occurred. It arose out of a murder by one of these Indians of another Indian. The "C" Battery of 85 men, with a small number of volunteers, has set out from Victoria to bring the Indians into submission. The expedition sailed in the "Caroline" for Port Essington, at the mouth of the Skeena River, about 450 miles north of Victoria, of which they will begin the ascent in boats, towed by a steam launch as far as navigation goes. After that the troops will have four days' march on an Indian trail in a difficult country. They will carry navy revolvers in addition to their rifles. Some critics pretend that the Naas River would have furnished a better route. Whatever operations are carried on must occur near the river, from which these Indians derive their chief subsistence, and separated from which they could not long subsist. The Skeena Indians are far more savage and intractable than the Indians of the plains. What is wanted is the arrest of the murderer, that he may pay the penalty of his crime. This kind of warfare is always carried on at some disadvantage to the whites, owing to possible ambushes and the peculiar mode of Indian warfare carried on in a country every inch of which is familiar to the dusky warriors, and which is imperfectly known to the civilized soldier. It is not likely that the murderer will be arrested without some skirmishes, and perhaps serious fighting may occur.

Mr. Ethan Allen is given as authority for the statement that "there is a large and influential body of Americans who propose not to stand idly by and see the beautiful and immensely rich island of Cuba go to ruin." He thinks that the island might be purchased for \$100,000,000; but the chances are that this is the vaguest sort of guessing. In the days of slavery, the United States, ruled by the South, would have been willing to make the acquisition. But since abolition has come, the Republic has refused to acquire the island of St. Thomas, when it was offered by Denmark. In spite of Mr. Allen's confident assertion, we doubt if Congress would consent to buy Cuba or that Spain would agree to part with it.

Cuba, like most of the West India islands, would probably be willing to change masters, in the hope of bettering its condition. The difficulty of governing the West Indies arises out of the large negro population, almost everywhere in the majority. In Hayti, the only island where the negroes have formed a republic, they lord it over the white man in a way that is far from pleasant to the latter; in Hayti no white man is allowed to own a foot of soil. Many Americans think that their own Republic contains quite as many negroes as are good for its future safety, without acquiring any West India islands that may be ready to be knocked down "dirt cheap." If the United States were prepared to enter on the perilous experiment of taking over islands in which the negroes predominate, she could probably find in the West Indies a large field for exploitation.

Mr. Thompson, the acting secretary of the American treasury, in reply to resolutions of the House of Representatives, calling for information in regard to the alleged discrimination against American vessels passing through the Welland Canal and not going down the St. Lawrence, substantially affirms Mr. Dingley's contention. He sees in the fact that less toll is paid by vessels which, after passing through the Welland Canal go down the St. Lawrence, than by others which take the Oswego route, "a discrimination against American ports, American railways, and American vessels." A discrimination against American ports there is, but not against American vessels or American railways, or speaking generally not against Americans. A Canadian vessel, plying between Chicago and a Lake Ontario port, is subject to precisely the same discrimination as an American vessel is; there is no difference. If there be discrimination against American railways, it is not direct but consequential. Technically, we are within the limits of our rights in this discrimination. It is of course open to the American Government to borrow this form of discrimination by charging tolls on vessels passing through the Sault Ste. Marie canal—now free—and continuing their voyage through the Canadian canals, though, as acting secretary Thompson points out, some enabling legislation will be necessary. Congress will probably hasten to confer such power, for the avidity of gain is prompt to act in such cases. The arrangement complained of was in force for years without any complaint being made by our neighbors. At last, by a forced construction of the treaty of Washington, an international grievance is made out, much to the satisfaction of Mr. Dingley, whose originality secures the applause of his countrymen.

Some expectation of a further reduction in the time necessary to cross the Atlantic is encouraged by the building of the "City of New York," an Inman Line steamer, fourteen feet longer than the "City of Rome," hitherto the most graceful-looking of Atlantic liners. On a short trial trip, the new vessel is said to have made twenty-three miles an hour, and it is claimed that