

shall be a crime punishable with imprisonment for any employee of the railway, paid by salary or percentage, to participate in any contract for supplies to the railway, or for work done on the line or in connection with it, or to make any arrangement for the carriage of passengers or goods from which such employee shall derive a benefit.

Dr. Baxter Langley who was to have been the Liberal candidate for Greenwich at the last English election, committed a slight *faux pas*, which consigned him to gaol for 18 months. He was chairman of a company and bought some land for it, out of which he made a profit, and the above penalty was the consequence.

A note of warning has been sent to the *Globe* from "A Brick-maker" who has found woful disappointment at Winnipeg. Like many others, he had gone there expecting to find work at good wages at once; but the actual experience is that the place is crowded out, and the newly opened region is not in need of skilled mechanics. The marvel is that so many mechanics rush off to those newly opened regions. If they used their brains in an ordinary way of reasoning they would conclude that they had better remain in the great centres of industry where there is a chance of finding work and making a living.

I have received some Reports and pamphlets from Mr. F. C. Capreol bearing on the "Huron and Ontario Ship Canal" scheme which go to show that it is not only practicable, but eminently desirable. They say that the canal proper would extend for but sixty miles, and would save in distance over 800 miles between the upper lakes of this continent and Liverpool, for vessels of 1,200 tons burden via the St. Lawrence, a saving in time by taking the St. Lawrence route instead of the Erie Canal and New York, of 14 or 16 days—and all that would effect a saving in amount paid for freight of about \$12,000,000. If Mr. Capreol is right as to his facts and figures it seems to me that he should have some of the money for his Canal scheme which government is now wasting on that fatal Pacific railway.

Says Edmund Yates in the *World*:—

"I am assured that a member of the Canadian House of Commons addressed the envelope containing his reply to an invitation to dinner at Government House, 'Major Winton, R.S.V.P. in Waiting'!"

I can very well believe it true, and should like to know the name of the "member," but I am disposed to think that it was a joke on "Major Winton;" for the man who knew the letters "R.S.V.P.," and the words "in waiting," would certainly know the significance of both letters and words. The Major is held to be a bit pompous, and is not at all a favourite with some people, and I imagine that some sharp Canadian M.P. played off a bit of fun upon the military man. If I were the Major I would not send such silly news to Mr. Edmund Yates.

If ever there was a case in which the Minister of Justice might have interfered and commuted the extreme penalty of the law, it was in the Robert Decoursier affair. The man had been guilty of a terrible crime in shooting his brother, but the provocation had been of the worst possible character, and as the case was altogether extraordinary, it seems as if every end of justice might have been satisfied by a change of sentence. As it was, the poor man preferred death by poison, self-administered, to the awful process of a public hanging.

As to the merits of the Argenteuil election case of course nothing can be said at this stage of the proceedings, but it is perfectly fair criticism to say that Mr. Trenholme should have brought forward his strong points at once. A fortnight or more has been spent in mere skirmishing, which may be pleasant and profitable to lawyers, but is a sad waste of time and money to gentlemen who are compelled to be on hand to give evidence, and the country which has to pay for keeping open law courts.

Even the stout and stern free trade spirit of Great Britain is compelled to yield to the exigencies of the times. Mr. Gladstone's

Budget speech bristles with discriminating duties, which are obviously in favour of protecting and encouraging British trade. Evidently the Government is not bound to any ideal standard of free trade. Mr. Gladstone has reduced the duty on the light French wines to secure a new commercial treaty with France, which is to be negotiated in a short time; at the same time he has increased the duty on strongly alcoholic wines, for the purpose of compelling Spain to agree to a commercial treaty favourable to British manufacturers. So it is plain that "British interests" are understood to be more important than the doctrines of the Cobden Club.

The proposed increase to the income tax will certainly be unpopular. It always has been and always will be disliked. When devised, the only argument in its favour and that made it supportable to the people who had to bear the new burden was, that it was absolutely needful at the time as a means for meeting the extraordinary demands made on the Exchequer by a long and costly war, and that with the return of peace would come an end to the tax. War once entered upon must be carried to a successful issue. But when peace and prosperity had been restored, and the tax was not remitted, there were not a few who felt that they had suffered something like a betrayal at the hands of their political guides. The tax was declared unfair and inquisitorial to an almost intolerable degree. Mr. Gladstone joined the general hue and cry against it, and toward the end of his last term of office made a bid for re-election to it by stating, among other things, that he was prepared to remit the obnoxious tax at an early date. If he understood the adverse vote then to mean that the people were quite willing to put up with the tax he was certainly mistaken, or if he thinks he can safely adopt this method of revenge he is no less wrong.

Mr. O'Donnell has contrived to turn the British House of Commons into a bear garden. His attack upon the newly-appointed French Ambassador to London was both unwarrantable and indecent. Mr. O'Donnell knew that the charges against M. Lacour were purely visionary, and had been proved to be so in a Court of Justice, but the Irish M.P. had some personal spite against M. Lacour because he had made fun of the wild Irishman's epistle to a French journal, demanding that a congress should be called together to investigate the English Government of Ireland, and affirming that till the English fleet had been destroyed and an army of liberators, of at least 10,000, with arms and munitions for 200,000 insurgents had landed on British soil, there could be no chance for the Irish. M. Lacour and his fellow-journalists hawked the precious document about for the amusement of their friends—hence Mr. O'Donnell's indecent attack.

But, poor Gladstone, was again unfortunate. In moving that Mr. O'Donnell be no longer heard, he was treading on dangerous ground. Liberty of speech is a sacred thing in Great Britain, and anything that seems to trench upon that will be opposed and resented. Probably not half a dozen members in the House would have joined O'Donnell in his senseless position, but the attempt to put him down in a high-handed manner, which, although perfectly justifiable in that particular case, might become a dangerous precedent, raised a host of indignant opponents. Two things are evident by this: that no majority can trifle with liberty of speech in the House of Commons, and Mr. Gladstone has got into the habit of making blunders.

The Sublime Porte is making itself ridiculous. It declines to look favourably upon Mr. Goschen and his mission of reform, but has decided upon its own right to manage its own affairs, independently of all European advice and intervention. But the geographical position of Turkey makes it imperative that Europe shall look after Turkish—just as the geographical position of Ireland makes it impossible for Ireland to be separate from Great Britain. If the Turks would clear out of Europe "bag and baggage" all Europe would have special cause for rejoicing; but as they will not do that, they must submit to be coerced into the decencies required by international laws. The powers are bound to enforce the fulfilment of the conditions of the "Treaty of Berlin," so that Turkey must reform or die.

EDITOR.