

There is no doubt but there is room for improvement in the present system, but like the fable of the old man and his ass somebody will object to the mode of procedure, and have some other method by which they would further improve it.

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A GREAT wave of tariff reform is sweeping over the country and we would not be surprised to see many of the old landmarks of the National Policy swept away. It is felt by a great many that the protection of the past few years has served its purpose and that the time has come for modifications of the tariff. Protection has outgrown its usefulness and needs to be replaced with something which will place trade on a basis fair to all and dissolve the combines which have of late years taken a stronghold to the detriment of the country.

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We had hoped some steps would have been taken during the sitting of the legislature to extend and operate the present line of the Hudson's Bay Railway. This is a road that would prove of great benefit to the settlers and why it should be allowed to remain in its unfinished state, is a problem to the average Manitoban. This and the improvement of the Red River are subjects which have been threshed out year after year but so far with no result. It seems strange that in a free country the wants and wishes of the people who would be benefited are so wantonly disregarded by both the Federal and Local governments.

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THE "grand old man" is evidently determined to give to Ireland the privilege of Home Rule. That considerable trouble will at all events accrue from it, is evident by the way loyal Irishmen in America and the north of Ireland are contributing their

assertions through the press. The Irish of the North are determined in the action they will take should the Bill pass, of which there seems to be very little room left for doubt from the stand of prominent politicians in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

In the event of Home Rule being given to Ireland, Scotland will be the next to apply for it, followed by Wales and then as a matter of course, Canada will want more freedom in her laws and mode of government.

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THE Panama Canal scandals still continue to crop up. Further developments are appearing and it is clear that more trouble is apprehended. That such a hero of canals, as Ferdinand de Lesseps, should be toiling in prison is indeed lamentable, and it is to be regretted that he could not aim at something higher than such gigantic swindling. That his experience will be echoed the world over and teach a lesson to thousands, that these corrupt practices will not be allowed to pass unpunished in the present advancement of civilization, is truly affirmed by the opinions of the press in all parts of the world. Not a paper, however humble, has allowed the revelations made in the history of the Panama Canal to pass unnoticed, and the name of Lesseps will be handed down from generation to generation.

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THOSE who have been witnesses of the efforts made here to give expression in the young, to that spirit of patriotism so general among the older members of the community, by means of flags, patriotic songs, etc., will appreciate the efforts now being made in some parts of England, as are shown by the subjoined