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INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS

We are quite familiar with the arguments used in favor of international trade unions, and quite willing to admit that, in theory, if unionism be admitted as beneficial, international unionism can hardly be opposed as its logical outcome. It is said that capital knows no boundary lines, nor any national restrictions, and that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. It must not be forgotten, however, that capital would soon discover national restrictions of a most violent kind, if it were used for anti-national purposes. Let us suppose, for instance, that an American railway combine purchased the control of the Canadian Pacific railway, and then proceeded to give discriminative rates to local centres on its system in the United States, in order that Canadian commerce might be disintegrated and denationalized, would such an application of the power of capital be tolerated for one moment? Of course it is not a very likely case, because the interests of capital would not be served thereby. But it might happen. Suppose the Canadian Pacific railway was able to maintain such effective competition to the Morgan railway and steamship combine, that it became a matter of self-preservation on the part of that hugely over-capitalized concern to deal with Canadian traffic in this way, would not the only effective bar to its operations be the spontaneous revolt of Canadian nationalism? In short, nationalism would become at once a potent economic force, limiting to a very considerable degree the operations of capital. It is evident that labor and capital are frequently affected in their operation by national boundary lines. Look at our Alien Labor legislation. We are free to admit that the Alien Labor law of Canada does not carry out the purpose for which it was advocated by labor interests. But that purpose most unquestionably is to limit the power of employers to procure foreign labor during the continuance of disputes with home labor. No labor man who approves of such legislation has any right to argue that an international boundary line does not influence the labor question. Because here he is himself advocating that the relations between employer and employed should be limited and prescribed in a most important particular by just such a boundary line. Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and Canadian working men should be reasonable enough to remember it. Now we have seen that capital might easily come in conflict with nationalism, and that labor has no scruples, and, rightly enough, in using nationalism to advance its well being. Surely, then, these two considerations show that international trade unionism should not be judged according to a dogma of industrial cosmopolitanism, but according to its purposes and effects in particular cases. Now, if we are to discuss it from this point of view, the very first practical consideration is the attitude of the United States towards Canadian industry. That attitude on the part of both the government representing the people at large, and the capitalist interested in United States industry is one of undisguised hostility. There is no question at all that a great deal of the tariff legislation of the United States was aimed directly at Canadian industry. Legislation has been used there for exactly the same purpose, with precisely the same methods, which a large producer of manufactures uses to kill off a small producer whose competition is interfering with him. That this legislation was a complete and total failure has got nothing whatever to do with its spirit and purpose, which were obvious enough, and which illustrate very amply the attitude of the United States as a whole towards Canadian industry. Other methods than legislation have been used to further the same ends. We need only mention one case with which we are familiar in British Columbia. The competition of our high grade lead mines began to be dangerous to the, comparatively speaking, low grade lead mines of the United States. The smelting trust uses its control of the situation, to cut the Canadian mines out of the market altogether. It did this in order to secure an advantageous compact for restriction of output from the United States lead mines; and it maintains this compact by the threat of opening the floodgates of Canadian competition. These are indisputable facts. Now have we any guarantee that labor corporations might not be inspired by the same spirit and used for the same purpose, that, namely, of minimizing the effect of Canadian competition upon United States industry, as the power of Congress and the power of corporations of capital have already been used for? None, except the recognition of Canadian national interest on the part of our own labor corporations. In what way would such an influence of international unions dominated in the United States make itself felt? Can we not imagine a mine owner in the United States, say in Butte, addressing the officers of his local union as follows: "Our relations with you have always been harmonious, and the conditions of your labor satisfactory to you; but, frankly, I do not see how it is to continue. Our mines are getting very deep, our costs are multiplying, and we are subject to the growing competition of British Columbia. Over there they have cheap coke and vast ore bodies on the surface. Their conditions of production are naturally easier; unless you can make them artificially harder, the brunt of their competition must fall upon you." The absolute validity of this argument from the point of view of those who might be supposed to use it is indisputable, and also its potent effect upon those who might be supposed to hear it used. The operations at first stimulated by such a consideration, would be highly welcome to Canadian working men. They would only see a praiseworthy effort, in which they were invited to assist, to improve the conditions under which they live and labor. The ultimate object, that of paralyzing the industries by which they live, would not be immediately obvious to them. The ultimate effect, that of driving them into the United States to obtain a livelihood, where their masters would have the same effective lever over them, the dread of Canadian competition, as the smelting trust had over the Coeur d'Alene mine owners, would be most unlikely to occur to them, at least at first. We suppose that no working man would be inclined to deny that it is impossible to create a labor preserve in any one circle of industry which has to compete in a common market with other circles. You cannot raise the level of a pool of water connected with other pools by one fraction of an inch over that of the other pools. We unhesitatingly assert that the men working in the staple industries of British Columbia are better paid, have shorter hours, receive more protection in the enjoyment of liberty and the pursuit of happiness, than the working men in the Western United States of America, a fact due to the richness and availability of our resources now worked. Is it not remarkable that the working men of the Western States should be willing to subscribe oratory and money, and, we imagine, a good deal more of the former than of the latter, to improve conditions which are already better than their own? And is it not certain that the only effect of their exertions will be, not to improve the conditions, but to destroy or cripple the industries, and thus lessen the competition? Have we not an analogous fear to that which inspired the United States government in much of its tariff legislation, to that which inspired the Smelting trust in its action which reduced the lead industry of British Columbia to less than one-half of its former proportions, manifesting itself in the ranks of labor? Have we not the government, the corporations, and the unions of the United States, all according to their several natures and methods, furthering precisely the same design, the restrictions of Canadian competition? In a word, are not international unions parading under a correct enough theoretical principle, the cosmopolitanism of labor, being really used for national purposes, essentially hostile to Canadian industrial development? Why should our coal industry be universally disarranged from Sydney, Cape Breton, to Nanaimo, British Columbia, at the very moment when, through the rebate of the American duty on coal, Canadian competition is most to be dreaded in the American market? Why should ancient grievances in Nanaimo be suddenly erected into a cause of war, if it had not been hoped that inflamed prejudice would carry on the strife which mutual good sense was fortunately able to accommodate? Why was a strike entered into at Fernie upon an agglomeration of petty grievances, not one of which was the company unprepared to remedy? Why is Ladysmith now threatened with disastrous war, precipitated at the precise moment when the mines were in a position to earn money on the United States coal market? These questions irresistibly suggest themselves as corroborative evidence of a movement on foot directed far less in favor of Canadian working men, than against Canadian industry. There is only one power by which this movement can be counteracted, and that is by the patriotism and reason of Canadian working men themselves. If the pressure of the United States, met and successfully resisted before, in other lines, is now asserting itself in a most insidious and most dangerous form, it is the very fibre of our people which is at the test, but that pressure will be met and successfully resisted again. The United States is a strong power, and Canada is a weak power; but Canada is an independent power, and, by the God above us, will always remain an independent power.

TIT FOR TAT.

We observe with amusement tinctured with regret, that the promising young province of Ontario, a province in whose ultimate future we have always had the utmost confidence, is enjoying an extraordinary period of political effervescence. Things must have come to a pass which in other and more settled parts of the Dominion we have difficulty in understanding, when the Leader of the Opposition clenches his fist and, brandishing it in the face of the Premier, declares that his attitude towards him is that of a prize fighter; and when the Leader of the Government, with fine restraint, which reminds us of the old gentleman who was admonished to be calm, and who replied, "I am calm, sir; perfectly calm," when he was obviously boiling with rage, congratulates his parliamentary life are to us in the far to the "new parliamentary rules," a hardly veiled allusion to the lifework of a famous peer. Such amenities of parliamentary life are to use in the far West excessively amusing. They certainly betray a lively and vivacious spirit; but to us they hardly appear as suitable to the dignity of the participants. Nor can be overlook the serious accusations of corruption which are bandied to and fro in the political arena of Ontario. It may be that corruption does not exist to the extent alleged by violent partizanship, but it is not a healthy symptom of the body politic where such accusations become the daily missiles of controversy. The condition to which the politics of Ontario has been reduced is bound to react most unfavorably against its development. We observe that complaints are already being made that the stream of immigration is passing over Ontario, attracted by the greater opportunities of Western Canada, and the higher wages paid there. The birthrate of Ontario is low, and the native population is very much inclined to emigration, in spite of the fact that Ontario possesses vast stretches of undeveloped territory. Between these things and the lack of stable government, of which Ontario gives abundant evidence, it is impossible not to suspect some vital connection. Certain it is that the people of British Columbia who have become interested in Ontario have, especially of late, found small encouragement to persevere. There has been little or no alacrity to engage in legitimate mining investment, and a most reprehensible hugging of wildcats by means of which the wily Ontario broker could fleece his investing brother in the country. Until these features disappear in Ontario, and the institution of stable government re-establishes the confidence of outsiders, we are afraid that its progress can never be such as its resources warrant, or such as its true friends might be entitled to expect.

The above with our compliments to the Ontario press, and the hope that it likes our superior aire better than we do its superior airs.

DISSATISFACTION AT DAWSON.

A Dawson exchange, speaking of the new Tanana fever, says that "it is a noticeable fact that the Tanana fever has affected other than Americans in Dawson, for of those who have already gone and are intending to go there are as many Canadians as Americans. That reasons for this condition of affairs exist there can be no doubt, and one of the most prominent of the reasons is the failure of the Dominion government to enact more liberal laws for the control of the mining industry of this district. Promises have been worn threadbare, relief is not yet in sight, miners are discouraged and disgusted, and the natural result is that news of the discovery of a new district is hailed with delight by Canadian as well as Yankee." At the same time it warns the stampeders to remember Cape Nome. It is a nice commentary upon the Yukon administration that the fact of a new strike's being in American territory should be hailed with relief.

POSTAL RECIPROCITY.

Yesterday one of the greatest reforms ever accomplished took place, one of the finest strokes of imperial policy ever made, came into operation, without any flourish of trumpets or beating of drums. Canadian newspapers and periodicals can now be delivered in Great Britain for the same price as in Montreal or Toronto, and British newspapers and periodicals can now be delivered in Canada, upon the same terms as in Birmingham or Glasgow. So far as Canada and Great Britain are concerned, the Empire is now homogeneous in one of the most important respects for promoting union and mutual understanding. We are apt to look at this perhaps too much from the point of view of the individual subscriber or the individual publisher. The one has a larger choice in the selection of his reading matter, and the other a larger market for his literary wares. To them no doubt the change will be a boon, but that does not limit its beneficial results by any means. British and Canadian newspapers will now be in a position to exchange with one another, with the result that British public opinion will be disseminated in Canada and Canadian public opinion in Great Britain in a much livelier and more effective form than before. What the people in Great Britain are saying and thinking is fairly well available to us through publications made up of selected excerpts from the leading newspapers and occasional indications over the cables; but Great Britain is in a dark and terrible, and ultimately unwholesome fog as to what the people of Canada are saying and thinking. Another great advantage this postal reform offers is that it will tend to counteract the Americanization of our current literature. Of course good literature is good literature, and equally valuable whether published in the United States, Great Britain, or Timbuctoo. What we refer to, however, is the swamping of Canada with cheap periodicals in which American ideals, American heroism, American pluck, American enterprise, and American achievements are described, discussed and illustrated in every line of prose or poetry, in a way that suggests that no other country ever had, or has ever been capable of having, such ideals, such heroism, such pluck, such enterprise, or such achievements. This kind of literary pabulum gives our Canadian readers an image of things in general refracted through the lenz of United States patriotism. We need not be unjust to either American literature or American patriotism in saying that this is an undesirable literary atmosphere for Canadians to grow up in. American current literature is not sufficiently cosmopolitan, it is too parochial, for the citizens of so much larger a country like the British Empire. Every mechanical means which will render a freer interchange of thought possible between the various peoples of this world wide Empire, should be recognised as a big step towards its more complete unification. There will be no hesitancy in according to Sir William Mulock all the credit which is undoubtedly his due for having inaugurated this reform, and congratulations are also to be extended to Mr. Austin Chamberlain who does not appear to be so dense as the average run of British Postmasters-General.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The summary of the mineral production of Canada for the year 1902, just published by the Geological Survey, is in some ways a satisfactory document, and in other respects not by any means satisfactory. The value of the total mineral production of Canada fell by 2.61 per cent. indicating a stationary, if not actually retrogressive condition in many of our basic industries. The significance of this fact for British Columbia lies in this that the production of metallic products fell off 15 per cent. British Columbia is not merely very much dependent upon her metalliferous mining industry, but is the main portion of Canada in which the metal bearing minerals are produced. We need no further justification for the dissatisfaction with mining progress in British Columbia during 1902 than the figures published in this statistical summary. However, there are crumbs of comfort to be picked up which point conclusively to better days in store. Copper showed an increase in quantity of 3.54 per cent. but a decrease in value of 21.59 per cent. As we know, under the stimulus of better prices, our copper mines are keeping up their production to their limit now, so that this year should show a very satisfactory increase both in quantity and value. Gold shows a decrease of 14.04 per cent. which was not due to British Columbia, however, but to a falling off of production in the Yukon. It is to be noted with surprise and regret that the production of pig iron from Canadian ore shows a decrease of 13.76 per cent., while the production of pig iron as a whole shows an increase of 30.44 per cent. It would not seem as though the bounty system adopted by the government was proving successful in aiding the development of Canadian iron resources. Nickel shows a satisfactory increase. When we come to lead and silver we meet a decrease in the one of 55.68 per cent. and in the other of 21.05 per cent. The silver statistics may be neglected. Silver is either produced as a bye-product of lead, or from very high grade ores of which no decrease in price is likely to affect the quantity produced, although seriously affecting the profits gained by the producers. The reduction of the quantity of lead produced in Canada in a single year by 55.68 per cent. would be a thing impossible if there were, as there should be, a Canadian market for lead. Our lead industry was wholly dependent upon a foreign market, controlled by a hostile trust, and that trust with deliberate design, broke its back. Such an action of course merely throws Canadians back upon themselves to cast about for means of opening a Canadian market, and a direct foreign commerce in this commodity and its products. We may think that the lead question is unique. It certainly possesses unique and peculiar features, but the essential principle involved, only exemplifies what the United States has attempted to do in the case of every developing Canadian industry, with immediately harmful, but permanently beneficial results. If the government, face to face with a specific crisis in a specific industry, will only put its theoretical nostrums in the fire, and adopt a national policy in regard to lead, Canadians will yet bless the day when the United States Smelting Trust tried to do in regard to Canadian lead what the United States government has already failed to accomplish in regard to other Canadian industries. Another favorable symptom appears in these returns in the fact that during 1902 Canada became for the first time in her history an exporter of zinc. The amount is small, only 166,700 pounds, but it is the beginning of an important industry. In non-metallic mineral products important advances were made during 1902 in almost every substance, an increase of over 20 per cent. being registered over the whole schedule. We are naturally most interested in coal, whose production increased 22.27 per cent., and coke which increased 38.56 per cent. During 1902 Canada produced 7,639,255 tons of coal of a value of $15,538,611, and 506,466 tons of coke of a value of $1,538,930. Of the advance in production British Columbia has had her share as the tonnage produced increased from 1,460,331 tons in 1901 to 1,731,315 tons in 1902.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

Some little time ago it was proposed to establish a public circulating library in Constantinople. A list of the proposed books was submitted to the authorities and permission to establish the library was refused. Special exception was taken to the Fables of La Fontaine, in which the continual references to the lion as the king of beasts were declared to be derogatory to the dignity of the Sultan or Turkey, who has long maintained a prescriptive title to the epithet king of beasts. Constantinople, Turkey, and Victoria, British Columbia, are the only two centres of civilization that we know of where any opposition has been manifested to the establishment and operation of an adequate public library. The main difference, however, is that in Constantinople the opposition was authoritative, and prevented the establishment of the library, in Victoria it is not authoritative, and will not prevent the establishment of the library. The question, as it now presents itself, is entirely different from the question of whether Mr. Carnegie's gift should be accepted or not. Objections have been taken to the acceptance of such gifts on three grounds. (1) The ground that independent progressive communities should not accept benefactions from strangers. (2) The ground that Carnegie some years ago published some very lawless Republican ideas. (3) The ground of his responsibility for the Homestead riots. We do not sympathize with any of these objections, but we can understand them. They have their origin in natural enough feelings or prejudices, and require to be overcome in all reasonableness with better logic than that by which they are supported. But such objections as those have already been overcome in Victoria. The City Council in Victoria have received a most clear and positive mandate from the people of Victoria to accept Mr. Carnegie's offer, and to go ahead with the erection of a library building. There may be those in Victoria who know better what is good for the citizens than they do themselves, but our form of government fortunately, does not provide any mechanism by which they can, like the authorities of Constantinople, translate their convictions into fact. The objections then, which are now raised against the public library, narrow themselves down to this, that Victoria cannot afford a public library. Because, if Victoria cannot afford to maintain a public library, where it has the building supplied for nothing, it cannot afford to maintain a public library at all. The attempt to show in what way the cost of maintenance could be lessened, with the interest and sinking fund on the capital cost of a building added to it, has not been particularly successful. It is a proposition not susceptible of demonstration. We are then face to face with this, that a city like Victoria cannot afford to maintain what has long been considered an essential to the well-being of a civilized community. We are perfectly satisned that there is no general feeling in the city behind the opposition to the library. We are perfectly satisfied that the almost unanimous desire of the people is that the City Council should go ahead at once to carry out the mandate they have already received. The question of a site is certainly a thorny one, but what on earth do we elect a mayor and council for if not to settle thorny questions, and harmonize separate interests by the consideration of what is best for the whole. People who would rather not see a library building at all, than see it built anywhere but on the street where they live, are not fit to be citizens of a city, and we do not believe there are any of them in Victoria. The whole question is one upon which we naturally look for a definite lead and guidance on the part of the mayor, and we are quite sure than his lead will be followed without much cavil, even if some sectional interests are disappointed through the impossibility of building one library in four or five different places.

The Four Track News is a magazine published by the Passenger Department of the New York Central and Hudson River railway. Its typographical work and half-tones are equal to any produced by the best magazines. The March number contains some exquisite illustrations of Victoria and surroundings, accompanied by a short appreciation of Victoria from the pen of Mr. Frank I. Clarke, late city editor of the Colonist.

TAKE A MOTHER'S WORD.

Thousands of mothers in all parts of Canada have written to say that Baby's Own Tablets, are the best medicine they have ever used for the cure of the little ills that afflict all children. It is impossible to publish all these letters, for they would more than fill a newspaper, but the following extracts are a fair sample of what all mothers say about this medicine.

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TOO MUCH HOCKEY.

The president of the Montreal Hockey Club said a few days ago: "We have had too much hockey. Although men may be called of iron, they are not made of iron and tired nature will give way. When it is remembered that the Montreal team has played 13 hard games since the 3rd of January, and that nearly every man has been ill at some time or another during the season, I think they died game last night." According to the knowledge of a newspaper commenting on this, hockey on the ice has this season been responsible for a case of threatened insanity from a blow on the head, a case of threatened blindness from a blow on the eyes and broken legs, lost teeth, contusions, dislocations, and wounds, some of which will entail life long trouble; it is responsible for serious disturbance of the heart's functions from over-excitement and exertion, and the practice of dosing with very dangerous drugs to give relief when there are signs of collapse. The president of the Montreal Hockey Club unblushingly remarks that nearly every man on the club team, a picked crowd of healthy young athletes, has been on the sick list during the season. Hockey on the ice is sport in the same sense that fighting game chickens is sport. It is all right for the spectators, and possibly the chickens enjoy it, but if they consulted their best interests they would be scratching gravel in a barnyard somewhere else, and only invading the territory of a neighbor when they wanted a little warlike excitement. Athleticism, carried too far, makes a young man play the same tricks with his constitution as a small boy plays with a window pane, who throws stones to see how near he can go without breaking it.

THE CONVERSION OF MR. GAMEY

Some time ago there was a provincial general election in Ontario, at which the Liberal government under Premier Ross very nearly sustained defeat, so nearly that the Conservative opposition began already to raise a shout of victory. There was temporary demoralization. The Globe newspaper sent up a trial balloon to see if the wind blew in favor of a coalition government in which the best men of both parties would unite to save the country from a political deadlock. This suggestion met with no favor in any quarter, and the Conservative opposition continued to cry on the dogs of war, who were licking their chops in anticipation of the fat feast when the quarry was run down. During all this strife and turmoil, the attitude of Premier Ross was one to command admiration. He stood firm, declaring that the Ontario government was still doing business at the old stand, and that although its majority was very small, perhaps that majority would grow before it became necessary to use it. The reports do not relate whether when Mr. Ross made use of language of that kind, he winked the other eye. But whichever eye he winked, there is no question at all that he did not reckon without his host, and that the Liberal majority has grown since the election returns were received. After this very extraordinary general election, it was discovered that a very large number of the members had been returned through violations of the Elections Act. There was a rush of protests on both sides, directed especially against candidates elected by small majorities. Then began the adjustment of these protests by the obvious but slightly immoral method of "sawing off." A number of by-elections were then held, and the results were in almost every case satisfactory to the government. It is true that the enraged Conservatives declared that these elections were carried by the most amazing corruption and illegitimate pressure. But this was merely the outcry of disappointed partizans. The real reason was that Ontario, amazed at having nearly unseated her traditional masters, recoiled aghast from the crime against them she had almost perpetrated, and hastened with quick repentance to make their position more secure. There was one curious exception to the success of the Liberals before the country. In one particular constituency the Conservative candidate had only five of a majority. Of course his election was protested, but a "sawoff" was arranged. After the fruits of the "sawoff" had been secured to the Liberals, they repented, and went on with the petition. A localized moral wave, to use the accustomed language of the Toronto Globe, struck them, or else they were tempted by the narrowness of the majority. The constituency itself, however, rejected this sharp practice and multiplied the majority of the Conservative candidate manifold. But its operations in the country were not the only means which the Liberal party relied on to increase its majority in the legislature. It aimed at conversions among the indubitably elected members, and the first fruits of its faith were realized in the conversion of Mr. Gamey, Conservative member for Manitoulin. Seven weeks ago the Globe announced with that solemn moral joy or which it is so famous, that Mr. Gamey might be counted a member of the Liberal fold, that he had come to the conclusion that the interests of Ontario and of his constituency required that he should support the Ross government. Mr. Gamey in fact appeared as a glorious reflex image in the legislature of the quick repentance taking place in the country (Mr. Gamey, like brer' rabbit, he lay low. He waited until the legislature met, and then in simple language, he related his side of the story. It appears that Mr. Gamey was waited on by a gentleman named Sullivan, who indicated that he could procure $5,000 for Mr. Gamey if he would support the Ross government. Mr. Gamey immediately consulted the president of the Conservative Association, and the two of them entered into a dark conspiracy to see how far the thing would go. According to Mr. Gamey, it led him into the office of the Hon. J. K. Stratton, provincial treasurer, where he received $3,000 for privately committing himself, which he generously divided with Mr. Sullivan, and afterwards $1,000 for publicly committing himself in an interview in the Toronto Globe. The telepathic connection between the high moral plateau on which the Globe is published and the office in which the conversion of Mr. Gamey was brought about, is one of the most entertaining features of the episode, also the cautious delivery of the consideration upon the instalment plan. After Mr. Gamey had exploded this bomb on the floor of the Legislature, Premier Ross declared that the whole story was a surprise to him. We should rather think so. Any reputable politician would be not merely surprised, but horrified at such a scandalous recital. When he spoke of the growth of his majority he was merely voicing his confidence that the true-hearted people of Ontario would not desert him, and was without any knowledge or idea of the methods which might be utilized to stimulate its growth. We apologize for having discussed this extraordinary episode at such length, but we in British Columbia have frequently had to put up with criticism from Ontario on account of our want of stable government. We see now that this criticism has been justifiable and well merited. Ontario has a stable government—an Augean stable government. It smells Gamey.

BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

British Columbia has more than a passing interest in the announcement made by the British Home Secretary that Whittaker Wright is to be brought to justice, for no one ever wrought, though quite a few tried, such irreparable mischief to British Columbia as the said Whittaker Wright. In the fall of 1895, when he turned his attention to this province, our mining prospects were very favorably regarded in Great Britain. It was recognized that British Columbia was a great mining country, and that it had reached the stage when capital could be made productive to the mutual advantage of the investor in Great Britain and the people of the province. Suddenly, just before Christmas, the British America Corporation's shares were offered to the British public and they swallowed the pill. They were not much to blame, for in truth it was well gilded. Its real nature was concealed under the name of the Marquis of Dufferin, whom Whittaker Wright unfortunately had got a hold of, and that of the Le Roi mine at Rossland, which Whittaker Wright had not got a hold of. The money poured by an unsuspecting public into the British Columbia market created by Wright, the name and fame of the Marquis of Dufferin, and the mines of British Columbia were all alike used, and in the process all alike discredited, to bolster up the tottering credit of Wright's foundationless yet colossal speculations in Western Australia, notably the market trust known as the London and Globe. For a while things went well, and then all went to smash together. The official receiver, against whose appointment Wright fought in vain, discovered a most extraordinary tissue of peculiar transactions between the various companies, and a wholesale falsification of assets in their published balance sheets. In spite of this, the official prosecutor refused to take action against Whittaker Wright, and all efforts to make him do so failed. We all remember the remarkable exposure of earls and barons which took place when Ernest Terah Hooley arose in his wrath and told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, about his affairs, and how rapidly the attempt was made to divert attention to something else. Of course it has been freely hinted that the Hooley exposures would be as nothing compared with the Wright exposures, if ever the truth was dragged into the light of day. However that may be, the latest feature of the case has been the collection of five thousand pounds by private subscription to bring Mr. Whittaker Wright to book. Finally, the Home Office has been induced to act, and Mr. Whittaker Wright will be prosecuted by the crown. It is not dealing with anything sub judice to say that his conviction will follow his prosecution, that is, if the official receiver meant and can prove what he said in his report. Meantime Mr. Whittaker Wright is reported to have gone to Egypt, but it is not known whether he means to try to escape by flight or not.

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