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THE SITUATION.

Canadian cattle slaughtered in England, under a recent order-in-council, have all proved to be healthy, no trace of the dreaded disease which caused Canadian cattle to be scheduled having been discovered. Pleuro-pneumonia is one of the diseases which, if it cannot be absolutely banished from the world, may be rendered relatively as rare as small-pox now is. Thanks to the genius of Pasteur, who has done so much before in the same line, inoculation promises a universal preventive of this disease. Already the experiment has been made on more than 2,000 animals, not one of which, though they all travelled immense distances, contracted the pleuro-pneumonia. But, before this remedy can be generally available, Canada hopes to prove that, in her case, inoculation is not necessary.

There has been a marked increase in the quantity of grain which has sought the St. Lawrence route this year; and persons engaged in handling it are of opinion that the reduction of the Welland Canal tolls has helped this movement. The fact is one over which to pause. We formerly put on discriminating tolls as a means of drawing traffic to the St. Lawrence route; but experience is now held to have proved that the way to attract it was to avoid discrimination. The fact adds one more proof to the pre-existing list, that artificial contrivances to develop trade often fail of their object. The St. Lawrence route has never yet had fair play from those who have had the business of forwarding in hand. They have constantly called upon the Government for aid and sacrifice in the forms of increased works and reduced revenue from tolls; while they themselves have never to the present day provided the facilities of a single fixed elevator at Kingston, but have been content with rude and out-of-date contrivances for transshipping grain at

that port. What would Buffalo be to-day if it had shown a like lack of enterprise? What would Ogdensburg be if it had no fixed elevators? And what would have been the relative business done in the Erie Canal and its branches?

One of the weak spots in the banking system of Australia is likely to be shown by the present crisis to be the inability of a considerable portion of the shareholders to meet calls which the interests of the banks' creditors demand. About one-third of the shareholders of the Commercial Bank of Australia, who reside in Melbourne, are women who are in no position to meet any call that may be made. And it is not probable that one-third is the full measure of stockholders who will be unable to meet calls; so that the resource of future calls is likely to prove to a great extent an unsafe reliance. Probably not more than one-half of the amount that may be asked for will be obtained.

Financially, the first experience of the Sunday opening of the Columbian Exhibition was a great success. No less than 120,000 visitors were present, nearly as many as had attended during any five ordinary days since the exhibition began. It remains to be seen whether the courts will finally decide for or against Sunday opening. Meanwhile Judge Stein has issued a temporary injunction restraining the directors from closing the fair on Sundays. This decision comes from one of the State courts. Upon a new and distinct case the Federal court, at the instance of the Government of the United States, will be called upon to decide the same question, and it is not impossible that the decision may be in the opposite direction. Judge Stein, of the State courts, dealt with the facts on which the Federal courts will have to pronounce. Congress, he said, had withdrawn from its agreement with the Exhibition company by withholding part of the grant; and according to this view the agreement is no longer binding on the company. On the moral and religious question, he denied that, in a country which is in the enjoyment of religious liberty, Christianity can be said to be part of the law of the land. No longer since than last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States decided the same question in the opposite sense, going into an elaborate argument to prove that Christianity is part of the law of the United States.

Statements now being made purporting to give the reductions in the tariff which the Democratic party of the United States will propose, can only be regarded as faintly foreshadowing what is likely to happen. One of those lists puts in the free column a number of articles of farm produce, including veal, beef, mutton, pork, which now pay from two to ten per cent. per pound; eggs, horses of less than \$150 each, mules and sheep; besides coal, which now pays 75 cents per ton. The rate for barley is reduced from 30 cents per bushel to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*; malt, from 45 cents per bushel to 20 per cent.; potatoes, from 25 cents per bushel to 10 per cent., and all other vegetables free; furni-

ture, from 35 to 25 per cent.; hops, from 15 cents per pound to 20 per cent.; apples, from 25 to 15 per barrel; grapes, from 60 per barrel to 10 per cent.; bricks and books, from 25 to 10 per cent. These changes, taken as a whole, may not be made, or even proposed. But lists of this kind point to the direction in which tariff changes are likely to be made by the party now dominant in both branches of Congress.

What is called reciprocity in wrecking, but which is more properly reciprocity in salvage, between the United States and Canada, has at last gone into effect. Delay in giving force to the agreement between the two countries was caused by the Americans claiming that the Canadian canals were included in the waters to be operated in. The withdrawal of this claim has removed the only obstacle to this form of reciprocity, which does honor to the humanity of the two countries.

If solar time is the legal time, as the police magistrate of London decides, it must meantime be observed by tavern-keepers and others who have no option in the matter. If standard time be intended to be observed, it must be legalized. With what authority does this duty rest, the Dominion or the Provinces? The Provinces do not appear to be certain that they possess it.

If it be true that the United States Treasury Department has prepared and will soon issue an order preventing foreigners crossing the frontier line into the United States during the night, from 7 o'clock p.m. to 6 o'clock a.m., the international train service from Canada will have to undergo considerable changes. This measure is said to have regard to infectious diseases and undesirable emigrants, including the contraband Chinaman. Cholera has again, by official admission, appeared in Hamburg, and all the avenues by which it could reach the United States will be carefully guarded. While vessels will have to submit to quarantine regulations, railways must suit their time to the new prescriptions. This will cause some inconvenience; but apparently there is not likely to be any help for it.

For some time past the Chignecto Marine Railway has been at a standstill for lack of funds. The company which has the work in hand has undertaken to raise £300,000 to complete the work, and about £100,000 has been secured on six per cent. mortgage bonds. An effort will be made to obtain the balance by July; but if it should not be successful, further time will be asked. The Government has not hitherto shown a disposition to extend the time, but it may become absolutely necessary in the interest of the work that it should do so. It is a bad time for raising money, especially for enterprises of a novel and untried character. The chief hope of raising the necessary capital is from persons who have invested in the undertaking and who would lose all they have advanced if the work were suffered to become a wreck. There can be no serious doubt that the enterprise, having been pushed so far, will sooner or later be completed. Further de-