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Editorial Notes.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the lurid developments about Parnell's letter, this Irish business is becoming just a little tiresome. There are thousands of us in Canada who believe that a measure of Home Rule should be conceded to Ireland; but a good many of us are of opinion that these Legislative resolutions are an impertinence, not to say a nuisance. As for Mr. O'Brien, we think he has been well advised in abandoning his intention of coming over here to apply a Coercion Act of his own to Lord Lansdowne. It would be a simple outrage upon all decency were he to come here to raise private animosity against a nobleman who has won golden opinions in his official capacity, and who is an exceptionally good Irish landlord—far more liberal in fact than many resident English landlords. Whatever our private opinions on the government of Ireland may be, Canada as a nation has no interests at stake, and even if we admit the claims of the universal brotherhood of man, our sympathy could not be expended on less worthy objects than the Governor-General's evicted tenants. They are not the miserable victims of rack-renting tyranny, turned out naked and penniless to beg on the road-side, but gentlemen of good position and ample means, who might own farms of their own if they did not find it more profitable to rent from others and sub-let. They are fair representatives of the class of rack-renting middlemen, the detested "squireens" of Irish story, who have been hated for their presence more than the English landlords by reason of their absence. They joined the popular movement because it was too strong for them, and thought by a bold stroke to obtain a reduction of rent that would make their own interest in the land greater than their landlord's. Their plan did not succeed, and now they ask the sympathy of the civilized world because a dishonest business speculation failed.

LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE.

THE action of the Dominion and Local Houses in wasting on outside matters the time that should be strictly devoted to the interests and business of Canada is to be severely deprecated. Of what consequence to this Dominion is the legislative action of the British Houses of Parliament respecting their English, Irish, or Scotch business? Is it at all likely that sentimental resolutions passed either in Toronto or Ottawa regarding Home Rule or Coercion will in any way influence statesmen in London who have to deal with practical matters of urgent importance? It is questionable whether any one but Mr. Gladstone would treat the gratuitous advice of Canada on the Irish Question with even the semblance of seriousness. The Home Rule resolutions are on a par with the perfected O'Brien Crusade. Both are ill-advised movements of insolent interference, and their results will be precisely similar in their harmless transparency.

OUR FISHERIES.

LORD SALISBURY'S proposal to the United States Government foreshadows a tardy but permanent settlement of a matter which has long vexed Canadian and American politicians. That it is strictly just will hardly be admitted by Canadian fishermen, but abstract justice is unfortunately a rare commodity. In gaining an American market our fishermen get the greatest boon diplomacy can confer on them, and if they are wise they will imitate the selfishness of their American brothers of the craft, who seem to think that their Government is bound to further their interests at no matter what cost, provided the said cost does not fall on them. For ourselves, while anxious to protect the rights of our fishers, we would rather not spend a large annual subsidy in watching poachers, and should like at any rate to see free-trade in a case where all the advantage is on our side. But let us have no more taxing fish-cans, a piece of smartness as morally despicable as the sale of wooden nutmegs.

THE PROVINCIAL GAME OF GRAB.

How the shade of Oliver Twist haunts the lobbies at Ottawa! Every session comes some impecunious Province, always asking for "more." This year two will probably appear, Quebec and Nova Scotia; and yet it has been shown again and again that either of these Provinces already draws more from the general treasury than it pays in. If Ontario drew out of the public chest all that her people contribute in the shape of indirect taxation, and returned a per capita grant for the expenses of the Federal Government, how would these Provinces fare? Very badly; yet such a plan would be eminently just, though we fear that as long as