

THE TORONTO WORLD.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 7, 1885.

Westward the Star of Empire. Toronto is fast becoming the wholesale centre of the Dominion. Once Quebec enjoyed that good luck. But for some reason or other a bright fall on the ancient capital and the business houses that flourished in St. Peter street forty years ago, are there no longer. The trade went to Montreal.

Montreal for years back did the bulk of the business. But for the last fifteen years Toronto has been gradually taking it from her. At the present rate of progress Toronto will lead Montreal in ten years, perhaps in five. Outside of certain blighting influences which hurt Quebec and are now hurting Montreal, but which she shall not here name, Toronto possesses one advantage which alone is sufficient to account for her success. We have a choice of seasons, and the competition in freight charges which such an advantage confers. We can receive importations by the St. Lawrence, or by New York. And we have the same advantage in regard to our exports.

Our only bar is direct railway competition from Toronto to the American roads at the Falls. We have only the Grand Trunk road, and the roundabout line over the Canadian Pacific, the Northern and the Canada Southern. Still, this latter is a check on the Grand Trunk which is going by Montreal than by New York.

But the indications are that the Grand Trunk will be forced to cultivate business to and from New York as much as to and from Montreal. The interests of the Grand Trunk to the westward of Toronto, or, say of Hamilton, are constantly increasing, and much of that business will seek an outlet by New York. The absorption of the Great Western, and the construction of the line to Chicago, have changed the status and the territorial interest, so to speak, of the Grand Trunk. We read of the centre of population moving in a certain direction; we could in the same way speak of the centre of interest of a railway doing the same thing. In the case of the Grand Trunk it is now west of Toronto, and New York is as much the seat of the system as Montreal. Toronto is so situated as to command the best rates of either.

If the wholesale centre, then, comes to Toronto, many other things must follow. The headquarters of the Grand Trunk must come here before long. And if the bank of Montreal were to speak of the liberal policy in regard to the portion of its capital assigned to its Toronto office. But we do not need to gripe over the mispolicy of that institution; we have plenty of banks of our own.

But all this aside, Toronto is the wholesale centre of the Dominion, and it is going to march at the head of the procession. When the London Times admits, as it does in reviewing Parnell's speech at Wicklow, that the government of Ireland is rapidly passing out of the hands of her majesty's ministers, it virtually admits that the triumph of what is known as the Irish cause is at hand. Of one thing we may be sure that nothing short of a miracle can restore England's lost prestige and power in Ireland. To us living in a free colony it is almost impossible for Parnell's demands to appear entirely unreasonable. He wishes to protect those peculiar Irish industries which are now languishing. We know what protection has done for Canada, and for that reason it is hard for us to withhold our sympathies from Parnell when, in the name of the Irish people, he claims the same rights and privileges as we enjoy. But, however much certain sections of the English liberal party may feel disposed to make concessions to Ireland, this bold announcement of a protective policy will prevent the m. from consenting definitely to home rule.

The cable dispatch giving a report of Parnell's Wicklow speech says the crowd dispersed cheering for "ould Ireland." It seems to us rather that they were cheering for the new Ireland.

which will not only send them back to the condition from which they have just emerged, but will result in the republic being placed on a firmer basis than ever. It is the most cautious party that will be the most triumphant out of the existing situation. But it cannot be disputed that last Sunday's elections have administered a serious blow to the stability of the republic.

The Trunk Sewer. Editor World: Mr. Phipps is beginning to acknowledge that his scheme for a street south of the tracks is not a necessary part of the good drainage of the city. If he will only take one step more and grant that a trunk sewer is not a necessary part of his proposed street, no man will be sure to disagree with him on the drainage part of the scheme.

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