

was an unwise mode of administering relief. The labourers are therefore to be allowed to work on the land, either for themselves or the farmers, so that due preparation may be made for next harvest. Committees are to be established in various districts, who will be empowered to administer relief in food. Money is to be advanced to the landlords to enable them to buy seed for such of their tenants as would otherwise be unable to obtain it. Half the amount, about one million sterling, of the sum expended under the provisions of the Labor Rate Act, is to be paid by the landowners, and the other half is to be advanced from the consolidated fund. The land owners are to have advances for the draining and reclamation of land, and government proposes to expend one million in the purchase and reclamation of waste lands, to be afterwards sold in plots of from twenty five to fifty acres. A new poor-law, by which the guardians will be empowered to give relief in food, either in or out of the workhouse, is also proposed. Power is to be given to the owners of entailed estates to sell part of the lands, to clear off any mortgages, and to convert into freeholds, farms let on renewable leases. Such are the chief ingredients of the ministerial panacea for Irish ills. The members of the house listened attentively, and the opinions expressed by the different speakers were, upon the whole, favorable to the intended measure.

Lord John Russell has also explained the intentions of Government respecting the continuation of the Poor-Law Commission after the expiration of the present act. Instead of the commission, as at present constituted, there is a proposed board consisting of a president, who should usually be in the House of Commons, and some members of the administration, who, as in the case of the Board of Control, or the Board of Trade, would not, under ordinary circumstances, interfere in the business of the department. The new board is to have two secretaries, one of whom will also be eligible to a seat in the House of Commons, so that there may always be some minister present who shall be able to give any explanations which may be required.

The colonies are likely to occupy the attention of the Home Government; and it is confidently asserted that very important changes will be made in that department.

Intelligence has been received from the East by the overland mail. A hurricane of unusual violence had occurred at Madras. There had been much speculation, and positive gambling in the opium market; but the news generally is unimportant. The Punjab was tranquil. Lord Hardinge was still within our recently acquired territory, and Lord Gough was about to leave Simla for Umballah.

From the West Indies we have rather favourable accounts. The crops are likely to turn out well; the present appearance is most encouraging. The Islands are become healthy, and the fever has disappeared. It was rumoured that a general election was to take place in Jamaica. A number of Coolies have arrived at Demerara from Madras.

We have little to report from the Continent. There is no news of importance from France. The Paris papers are taken up with details of the distress existing in that country, and with the proceedings of the British Parliament. There is much that is distracting and contradictory in the Peninsular news, but nothing of grave importance. It is rumoured that Saldanha had been defeated, but this seems very improbable.

In Germany and Italy there seems to be the usual amount of dissatisfaction, but nothing strong enough to call for comment.

IRELAND AND HER EVILS.

Each post brings additional evidence of the sufferings of the unfortunate people of Ireland; each day adds to the fearful catalogue of crime and misery. There must

be something radically wrong in the whole frame work of society—some deep seated cancer preying upon the very vital functions—when, after years of intended ameliorating legislation, we find a whole nation on the brink of ruin. Every experiment hitherto tried, has resulted in failure. A country second to none in the gifts of Providence—rich in soil, abounding in mineral wealth, blessed with a hardy and intelligent people—is become a bye-word and a reproach. In the most fortunate years, the mass of the people is but one remove from beggary; and even a partial failure of the crops entails an amount of destitution dreadful to contemplate, and heart rending to witness. The failure of the potato crop two years in succession has been a grievous visitation; but we believe that good will eventually result. The wound will be probed to the quick, whilst hitherto it has merely been suffered to skin, and, “rank corruption tainting all within,” has but increased and prolonged the mischief sought to be avoided. Employment is needed in Ireland. Her wonderful and inexhaustible resources must be developed. Her people must be trained to well directed and productive labour. Capital must be created, and the latent capabilities of the country and people brought to light. At present there is only, and ought only to be, one thought—how to save millions of human beings from starvation and death. The landlords of Ireland seem inclined to do their duty at the present crisis; and it ought to be the duty of Government to aid, urge, and, if need be, compel them to do it in future. Society is chaotic; the rude matter wants bringing into due form. Education must be extended, manufactures of every kind fostered, and commerce encouraged. Partial remedies must be no longer indulged in—party legislation no longer the creed of her rulers. The whole evil must be boldly grappled with. It is useless to lop off the decayed branch, and permit the rotten trunk to exhale its putrid miasmata. And we are in hopes that this will be done. The real condition of the country has not been understood in England. British wealth has fertilised the desert; from her own fair fields to the uttermost parts of the earth its beneficial influences have extended, save only to that country which would have been its natural and best investment—Ireland. The last few years, however, has manifested a better feeling. The labours of Sir Richard Kane, and one or two others, have done much to dispel the prejudice which before existed, and if proper steps be taken, Ireland will, ere long, take her rightful place in the scale of nations. Surely, at the present time, England is doing her work bravely and nobly, and if we read the Irish heart aright, the kindness will obliterate much cause of previous bitterness. The expenses consequent upon one “glorious war”—a less sum than the amount wasted by America in Mexico—a tithe of the sums squandered by French ambition at Algiers—can surely be spared by rich England for so benevolent and holy a purpose. If—which we do not believe—profits do not follow proportionate to the investment, there will be at least, the satisfaction of having done our duty.

The Queen's Speech was expressed from London to Dublin in thirteen hours, by the *Dublin Evening Mail*. Our cotemporary had a Steamer stationed at Holyhead, and another at Liverpool, in case of one not arriving in due time.

Lord John Russell stated at a deputation, last week, that it was the determination of government to make the admission of sugar to breweries, &c. a permanent measure, and that they did not intend to submit only to a suspension of the present restrictions. His Lordship added, that the measure would be in operation by the 1st Feb.

From the London Gazette, Friday, January 13, 1847.

Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment.

Walter James Brittain, Gent., to be Ensign, vice Jarvis, promoted, dated 15th January, 1847.