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The Weekly Freeman.

Saturday, October 21, 1882

The Week.

The news from Ireland this week is interesting. The great Convention has been held in Dublin, and after a brief but animated discussion adopted the programme proposed by Parnell and his associates. The number who attended from all parts of Ireland is said to have been from 700 to 800. The telegrams prepared by those who usually love to misrepresent everything Irish, say that the meeting of the Convention created little interest in Ireland, and that its proceedings proved that there is little harmony between the leaders, but their own report shows that there was quite as much harmony as is usually found in deliberative assemblies. All agreed that the Gladstone Land Acts are sadly defective; all agreed that no law can be satisfactory which does not secure to the occupier of land all the property he has created in the land, and afford him ample opportunity to become the proprietor of the land he occupies, but there was some difference of opinion as to the best means for obtaining such changes in the law as are required for these purposes. Some papers appear to think it remarkable that only legal, constitutional means are to be employed for accomplishing what is desired, but there was no reason to suppose that any other means were contemplated by those who called the Convention or those who were likely to attend it. A settlement of the receipts and expenditures of the Land League fund by Mr. Egan, the Treasurer, was submitted to the meeting and approved of. Mr. Egan wishes now to resign, as his business suffers from his protracted absence. Mr. Davitt differs from Mr. Parnell in some matters of policy, but promises to work with him earnestly for the end both have in view. The following is the platform of the Irish National League adopted at the Convention:—

1. Self-government for the Irish people in the full American sense.

2. Protection to Irish industry, and Government aid to each wherever possible for their development as a means for encouraging Irish agriculture by giving it a home market, of giving the State a strong body of artisans, and of making the State as far as possible independent of other nations.

3. The creation of Irish peasant proprietorship; the State to advance the entire sums of money necessary to enable the peasants to purchase in fee their own lands, the moneys so advanced to be repayable to the State after 63 years, on small payments yearly thereafter, with a low interest on the balance.

4. The transfer of the uncultivated lands of Ireland by compulsory purchase to County Boards for reclamation, improvement, and final sale to the peasantry.

5. The abolition of the Vice-Royalty in Ireland, and the substitution therefor of a system of local self-government by which the various County Boards of Ireland will perform for their respective counties all the local governmental functions necessary, and at present obliged to be under the Vice-Regal system, performed unjustly or inadequately by royal underlings, either ignorant of the needs of the people, or indifferent to them.

6. Land law reform in such a general and thorough way as will abolish entail, primogeniture, and all the special features of the English system that go to foster aggregation of land titles and the creation of a landed aristocracy.

The rumor that Mr. Gladstone intends to retire from public life very shortly is revived. The danger of a division of the Whig and Radical sections of his supporters, should he retire, is generally admitted.

The political excitement in Spain continues. The telegrams do not state very clearly what either party wants, but it is said that an understanding as to changes in the constitution has been arrived at by Sagasta and Serrano.

The Khedive and his advisers persist in their refusal to allow English counsel to be employed in the defence of Arabi. It is said that if this be not permitted the English will demand that he be given back to them. They are undoubtedly responsible for what befals him, as they made him prisoner.

It is now generally believed that the great Democratic victory in Ohio will be followed by many others, and that the Democrats will have a large majority in the House of Representatives of the next Congress.

The "Marmion" agitation still continues in Ontario, and in the other Provinces the Tory papers make feeble efforts to assist it. Nothing could expose the true inwardness of Toryism more thoroughly. Every man of common sense perceives that the sole object of those who worked up the agitation was to excite Protestant prejudice against the Mowat Government by the most gross misrepresentation of facts. They showed their utter disregard of principle, and their willingness to use any means to obtain or retain power and office. At the great Tory Convention it was made cause of accusation against Mr. Mowat that Catholics, and especially Irish Catholics, did not receive fair play at his hands, and within a few short weeks the Tory organs frantically insisted that the description of an illicit amour was proper subject for analysis in schools of boys and girls; that the repetition of the foulest calumnies against the Catholic Church does not render a work of fiction unfit to be a class book in common schools; and above all and before all, that when a Catholic Archbishop stated the objections to such a work he was guilty of "dictation" to which Protestants should not submit, and that the Minister who gave due weight to his objections was the minion, "the vassal slave of bloody Rome," and offered an indignity to Protestants which they should resent at the polls. At least one Catholic journalist was found mean enough, and shall we say base enough, to assist in working up this agitation, by asserting that there is nothing in the poem to which any Catholic with an intellect superior to that of a poodle could object, &c., &c., and in calling upon the people to turn the Government out of office because it had paid due regard to the representations of the Archbishop in a matter of "morals." The elections of Wednesday last proved that the people of Ontario are no longer misled by such means, and it is probable that after a week or two we shall hear no more of the fitness of Marmion as a text book for common schools.

The *Sun* which "let Mr. Domville alone" for nearly a week made a violent attack on him on Thursday *apropos* of a letter, said to be circulated in King's County, in which it is stated that money and rum were used freely to secure Mr. Foster's election in June last.

Trial by Jury---Extraordinary Case.

The Fredericton *Gleaner* stated that in the case of the Lees, tried before a York County jury on the charge of having fired at and wounded policemen Vandine when he strove to arrest them, the verdict—

"Was extorted by one of the jurymen who assured them that a verdict of guilty on the 11th count could not possibly justify a sentence of more than a few months imprisonment. The circumstances, as related to us by a juryman are these: When the jury retired a vote was taken for acquittal or conviction. It stood 7 for acquittal and 5 for conviction. After some discussion a vote was taken on the 11th count, resisting the police. It stood 8 for conviction, 4 for acquittal. A warm discussion then ensued when one juryman offered to bet another $100 that the judge had not the power, provided the jury brought in a verdict of guilty on that count, to inflict any more than a slight punishment (we forget the length of imprisonment he named) on the prisoners. On that assertion, backed up as it was, the Jury was induced to render a verdict of guilty on the 11th count."

On Saturday—

"Mr. E. L. Wetmore appeared before Judge Steadman, in the Lee case, and read an affidavit from a number of the jurymen; the closing paragraphs and signatures were as follows:—We say that the said verdict, so far as we are concerned, was an entire mistake, and arose on account of our entirely mistaking the tenor of the said 11th count. In our opinion we were not satisfied that either Newton Lee or George M. Lee were guilty of any shooting or wounding whatever of Dow Vandine, mentioned in the said indictment, and were of the opinion that a verdict of not guilty should have been found with respect to such shooting or wounding, and were prepared and willing to return a verdict to that effect. But we believe that the said Newton and George W. Lee had been guilty and improperly hindered and prevented the lawful apprehension of the said Newton Lee and George W. Lee, and of the said Thomas Virtue, under the warrant proved to have been issued against them, and we believing that was an offence against the law and the only offence charged in the said 11th count of the indictment, with the other jurors, found the said Newton Lee and Geo. W. Lee guilty on that count and returned our verdict accordingly. But to our very great surprise, after the verdict was rendered and entered, we ascertained and were informed that the said 11th count charged a felonious wounding of the said Dow Vandine, and we say we did not intend to bring in any such verdict, as, in our opinion, the said Newton Lee and George W. Lee should have been acquitted of any such wounding."

(Signed)

Michael Neville,	Arthur Limerick,
Moses Smith,	James Jones,
John Palmer,	Stephen Tripp.

Mr. Wetmore asked that the judge, when pronouncing sentence, would give due weight to this affidavit if he refused the arrest of judgment asked for, and for which Mr. Wetmore could show no precedent. Mr. Tuck, for the Crown, said the jurors either did not understand their oaths or had little regard for them. They believed the prisoners guilty, he is reported to have said, but would not have found them guilty if they had known what the punishment was. That certainly is not what the jurors say in their affidavit, but that the evidence did not satisfy them that either of the Lees was "guilty of any shooting or wounding whatever," and that they misunderstood the tenor of the 11th count, on which they found the prisoners guilty.

Mr. Wetmore said that the jurors are some of the most respectable men in the county. The judge is reported to have said that:—

"He could not grant the application, were the affidavit made by all the jury. He had no power to interfere with the verdict. The case had gone clearly before the jury, and if there had been any reason why they should have made a mistake, it might influence him, if such a course as the counsel for the prisoners asked were possible. But to him the evidence had been clearly against the prisoners. He knew no precedent for such a case, as Mr. Wetmore had remarked, and he therefore must refuse the application."

If the judge is correctly reported, he means to regard the verdict so rendered as justification for imposing the full penalty should he, on consideration of the evidence, himself believe that it establishes the charge of shooting.

Mr. I. S. Moore, the "Parsee merchant" of the New York *World*, appeared before the Tariff Commission to give his evidence. He thinks that no more money should be collected by taxation than is wanted by the Government administering public affairs economically; that no duty should be imposed on any article in excess of that which would yield the largest revenue; that maximum revenue duties should be imposed on luxuries; that all duties should be *ad valorem*, and that duties should be so imposed as to bear equally and fairly upon all districts and all classes without discrimination in favor of any. The Morill tariff was a war tariff, but a dozen tariffs have been passed since, all increasing protection and discrimination. The appointment of this commission he regards as the strongest proof that the tariff is felt to be oppressive and scandalous:—

"As to 'infant industries,' he said that there was something so shamefully ridiculous in this claim of 'infancy' for a home industry that produced between five and six thousand million dollars of manufactured products annually that it made one feel astonished at the daring of the assertion. Was the woollen industry an 'infant' when it produced in 1880 $265,000,000 worth of manufactured products? Was the iron and steel industry an 'infant' when its manufactured product amounted in 1880 to $296,000,000? Was the cotton industry an 'infant' when it used nearly 2,000,000 bales of raw cotton? Was the chemical industry an 'infant' when it vaunted a production of some hundred million dollars annually? With the single exception of England, there was no country in the world that produced manufactured goods so largely as the United States. How could this country, with its population of 52,000,000—unquestionably the most enlightened people in the world—with superior mechanical genius, and with machinery surpassing any used in Europe, make a plea of 'infancy' for its industry? Whatever other reason there might be for upholding protection it surely could not be 'infancy'."

Labor saving machines, he says, have done much to neutralize the great American bugbear of pauper labor. He thinks that the wages of skilled laborers are much higher in the United States than in England. In this he is somewhat mistaken; but he points out that in England higher wages are paid than in other European countries which can not compete with England:—

"The price of wages paid in England was nearly, if not wholly, double that paid on the Continent. England had free trade, except in such articles as she did not produce. And England not only existed, but, compared with the Continent, flourished. Her people were socially better off, better fed, and better housed than those on the Continent. Her industries had increased and her commerce was spread over the entire world. If the American manufacturer had free raw material, free dyestuffs, free machinery, in other words, if put on an equal footing with English manufacturers, the higher wages of the United States would not be a formidable drawback. The cry of high labour was a convenient pretext, but it was not the real reason why American manufactures could not compete with foreign products."

When Canada felt the universal business depression in 1876-7-8, the people were told, and some foolishly believed that high duties—the N. P.—would remove the depression and restore prosperity, and they were asked to believe that the protected United States were prosperous because they exported wheat, flour, pork, cheese, cattle, tobacco, cotton, petroleum, etc. The fact that they then exported some cotton goods they were told—and some believed—was evidence of their prosperity, proof that by the help of their N. P. they had become able to compete successfully with England in foreign markets and even in her own. The truth was that the depression was much greater in the United States in those years than in Canada, and the people of the cities and towns, and of the manufacturing and mining districts, suffered more than the people of any part of Canada, and that the exportation of cottons, etc., in those days was proof, not of prosperity, but of adversity and depression. Of that period Mr. Moore said:—

"When protection lost its potency; when the country was overrun with tramps; when sturdy workingmen went begging from door to door; when several vessels cleared at American ports for Australia with emigrants, not, as formerly, to seek gold, but to work for a living? With what grace or truth could protection be cited as giving steady employment to labour when this history (from 1873 to 1879) was still fresh? High protection was unable to stem industrial distress during these six years, and therefore the assertion that protection was a preventive of industrial distress was a fallacy and a sham."

Some days ago a telegram stated that Sir S. L. Tilley had gone to work again, and that he was engaged in a revision of the tariff. We were not surprised when some of the Tory organs explained that no general revision of the tariff is intended, and that the changes to be made are not numerous, and that they will not affect the general character of the tariff. No doubt they will be like nearly all the changes made since the introduction of the first N. P. tariff in 1879, changes calculated to make the tariff more protectionist and more burdensome. Probably it is intended to comply with the demand of those persons interested in iron mines and in iron works, existing or prospective, who ask that the duty on pig iron shall be raised to $7 a ton, and that the duties on wrought iron, etc., be proportionately increased. It would be difficult to tell why this demand should any longer be resisted, if, as the Tory papers say, the people declared once for all, at the last elections, that protection, according to the principles on which the N. P. is based, shall henceforth be the policy of Canada. The present protection is not sufficient to enable Ontario iron mine owners to produce iron at a profit, either by using Canadian wood or Nova Scotia or United States coal for smelting, and why should not the protection be increased.

We intended, as the experiments in producing Canadian sugar from Canadian beets has failed, and a duty on sugar is no longer required for purposes of protection, and the surplus is so large, and is growing larger every month, to suggest to the minister that it may sweeten his N. P. a little, or render its bitterness less perceptible, if he abolished the duties on all kinds of sugar of grades below No. 14 Dutch standard, as he has abolished the duties on tea and coffee, thus doing much more than has yet been attempted to give Canadians a free breakfast table, and abolish the duty on molasses, and place on sugar above the standard No. 14 only such a duty as would protect the Canadian refiners. This change would "wipe out" scarcely half the present surplus, and it would be a great relief to the working classes who are large consumers of sugar and molasses.

The abolition of these duties would also be an easy mode of meeting the demands of the sugar refiners, who already say that they are producing, or rather washing, more sugar than they can sell in Canada, and that they want a foreign market. If the duties on sugar and molasses are retained no one can object to a fair drawback on such sugar as is exported by our refiners; but it is found very difficult everywhere to calculate what the proper drawback is, and refiners, for reasons best known to themselves, object to refining in bond for exportation. Some indeed go so far as to allege that as the people of Canada have adopted the principle that they shall all be taxed heavily for the profit and benefit of sugar refiners, and cotton lords, and miners and others, they should not refuse to go farther, and, by a bounty in the shape of a liberal drawback, encourage an export trade in refined sugar; in other words, that the people of Canada should pay a large sum every year to enable Canadian refiners to sell sugar at less than cost to the people of other countries, and make large profits by such sales. Mr. Harris, of Moncton, is one of the patriotic men who thinks that it would be a great boon to Canada if he were enabled to make large profits in such a trade at the expense of the Canadian people, and he has been in Ottawa lately urging upon the Finance Minister this magnificent enlargement of the N. P. As he and his associates rendered important service to the Government at the last Dominion election in Westmorland, perhaps he will yet get all, or nearly all, he asks. What folly, or what injustice, the men who framed the N. P., and who now pretend to argue that the producer of coal in the United States—or the exporter—pays the Canadian duty, are capable of, it is impossible to predict. We are told that at the interview with the Finance Minister—

"Harris explained the position of the refining interest, urging that they could never hope to do any export trade unless the drawback was granted. If the American system of paying bounties was adopted, Canadian refiners would then be able to secure control of the markets of Newfoundland and some West India Islands, which now obtained their supply of granulated sugar from Americans. Mr. Harris said that refiners must obtain markets abroad, otherwise they would soon be ruined by over production. Even now sugar men are cutting into each other's business to an extent which made matters unpleasant. He thought the Government, instead of going to the trouble and expense of making experiments, should take advantage of the experience of Americans and endeavour to assist home manufacturers in pushing a foreign trade. Sir Leonard said that the Government had not yet considered the advisability of adopting a bounty system, and thought it possible that sugar for export could be refined in bond. Mr. Harris thought such a system would be very inconvenient. He said the average duty paid on sugar imported into Canada for refining purposes was about $1.75 per hundred pounds. In the United States the average duty was $2.75, equal to $3.15 on one hundred pounds of the granulated article, so that American refiners received about $3.15 drawback upon every hundred pounds of refined sugar they exported. Canadian refiners claim the same measure of assistance, and ask that a drawback or bounty equal to $2.10 per hundred pounds be paid by the Government for every hundred pounds of Canadian refined sugar shipped to ports outside the Dominion. Sir Leonard did not seem to thoroughly comprehend Mr. Harris' arguments, but said the matter would be fully considered."

The abolition of the duties on raw sugars and molasses would simplify this matter very much.

Ontario Elections---Great Liberal Victory.

Eight members of the Ontario Legislature—five Liberals and three Tories, resigned their seats to become candidates for seats in the House of Commons. In North Renfrew, where parties are nearly equal in strength, both parties desired to avoid a contest, as there must be a general election held within a year, and it was agreed that a gentleman who supports the Tories in Dominion elections, but who pledged himself to support the Mowat administration in the Ontario House, should be elected by acclamation. The Tories claimed this as a Tory victory, but obviously it was nothing of the kind. On Wednesday elections were held in six other districts, and the following gentlemen were elected:—

South Bruce, O'Connor, Liberal.
East Simcoe, Drury, Liberal.
South Waterloo, Masters, Liberal.
South Essex, Balfour, Liberal.
Glengarry, Rayside, Liberal.
West Hastings, Rose, Conservative.

The election in Muskoka has yet to be held.

South Essex and Glengarry are the districts which were redeemed from Tory misrepresentation. The Tories who believed all that was told them about the great Tory Convention held in Toronto a few weeks ago, and who imagined that the efforts to excite Protestant prejudices by raising such a howl about the exclusion of Marmion from the High School course, and about what the Tory papers and some super-zealous ministers called Romish dictation, and who saw what efforts were made in Glengarry and elsewhere by the McLennans, the Whites and the other Tory stump orators and oracles, must be greatly surprised at the result of these elections. As is often the case in many districts of Ontario, the majorities are small in some of these elections, but the result proves that however some of its people may be misled for a time by Protectionist fallacies, Ontario is Liberal to the core, and that the desperate efforts to overthrow the liberal, economical, and just Government of Mr. Mowatt will bring disaster on those who make them.

In Verchères the disappointed Tories prosecuted one of the deputy returning officers who marked the ballots and counterfoils improperly. This it was probably that led the Liberals to attempt to enforce some provisions of the election law never before enforced. The man who gives, and he who takes a bribe, are liable to a penalty of $200 each, and in Verchères several who gave bribes are to be prosecuted. Mr. Mercier, the lawyer for the prosecution, is reported to have said:

"Mr. Brillon, the Conservative candidate, had committed bribery. This was established by the evidence of both sides, even that brought by Mr. Brillon. I took these facts and am suing all the gentlemen against whom there is evidence of bribery. I take Mr. Bisaillon, who was one of Mr. Brillon's agents in the country and one of the attorneys in the contestation against Mr. Bernard, and I find that he has paid money to some parties to have them employed as carters, and to buy liquor to treat some electors. By the law he becomes liable to a fine of $200 for each offence. The sum claimed against him is $2,500. It is upon his own admissions. Mr. Hurteau, the member for L'Assumption, is sued also for $2,000, the amount of penalties incurred in the same way. He admits himself that he paid so much to this one and that one. There are two farmers, Alphonse and Joseph Collet, of St. Julia, who are sued, the one for $800 and the other for $1,500 for offences committed which they have admitted in evidence. Mr. Huot, notary public, of Beloeil, is also sued for $1,000, the amount of penalties incurred in the same way, and admits it by his own evidence. There are about twenty-two or twenty-five suits to be taken. Among those to be sued are Mr. Archambault, notary public, of St. Antoine; Mark Ducharme, farmer, of St. Antoine, who was the late candidate against Mr. Geoffrion; Olivier Collat, Louis Dalpet and Louis Beauchemin, of St. Julia; Louis Trebert, of Montreal; Frederick Charland, merchant, Beloeil; Michel Langevin, farmer, St. Julie; Alexis Giard, farmer, of St. Roch, and a large number of others. These are the principal ones sued for bribing, but there are a large number of those who were bribed whose names are down here. We have decided to make an example of these."

Business prospects are by no means as bright as they were a year ago. The exports from this continent have materially declined, and the probability is that this year there will be a smaller demand than there was last year for many of our staples, and that prices will, on the whole, be lower. The crops of grain in Canada are not as large, we believe, nor is the quality as good, as was that of last year, and prices are much lower, with a decided downward tendency. The shipments to Europe have decreased. This, some say, is caused by the farmers' unwillingness to sell at low prices; but most farmers must know that there is no probability of an advance, and that to hold for a rise is to incur certain loss. England will require to import two million quarters of wheat, or sixteen million bushels less than she imported last year, and in Eastern Europe, as well as in the United States, there is a large surplus. It is not probable that the United States will want as great a quantity of potatoes from us as they took last season, or that they will pay anything like last year's prices. Lumber has advanced in price in the British markets. Farnworth & Jardine, in their October circular, report that St. John spruce deals sold in Liverpool at from £8 7s. 6d. to £8 12s., and other deals at proportionately high rates, but this advance in price is scarcely sufficient to cover the advance in freights, and it has been caused in part by holding largely lumber on this side which sooner or later must find its way to market. But though the Liverpool importations in September were only about a third as large as those of September 1881 the sales were correspondingly small, and the stock on hand there was scarcely diminished. Taken all in all our exports show a serious diminution in bulk and value, while our imports continue to increase largely. It is not surprising, therefore, that recent bank returns show that the liabilities of the banks have sensibly increased, and the means immediately under their control have diminished. There is as yet no scarcity of capital, but so much has been absorbed in various ways within the past two or three years that caution has become absolutely necessary, if we would guard against the consequences of a not improbable serious curtailment in the value of our exports.

It is said, and it is denied, that the C. P. R. Company and the Grand Trunk are bidding for the Montreal and Quebec R. R., which M. Chapleau sold to M. Senecal at his own price, and that Senecal will probably make a cool million at the expense of the Province. How long will the honest men of the Bleu party permit this kind of thing to be done in their name?

Editorial Notes.

The hop crop is a failure in England and prices have advanced to more than a dollar a pound.

It is announced that the Imperial Government have consented to take back the "Charybdis." *Deo Gratias.*

The October number of the *Harp* did not come to hand until this week. Its contents are varied and interesting as usual.

The population of Ottawa, which was so reduced by emigration in 1878-9, has begun to increase a little. It is said to be now 26,236.

Mr. Mott, late of the *News*, has received an appointment in the office of the Deputy Treasurer or Finance Minister at Winnipeg. We have not heard what the salary is.

Why is it that, although the price of flour has fallen so much, the price of bread is as high as ever in this market? Why is it that retailers charge as much for a bushel of potatoes as the farmer can get for a barrel full for exportation?

Donahoe's Magazine for November contains a description of the O'Connell monument, with illustration; the famous poem of Thomas Davis, describing how O'Connell's statue should be chiselled; a poem, by Father Ryan; a paper by Cardinal Manning, etc.

A number of St. John ladies who are making laudable efforts to render the St. John Free Library what it ought to be, will hold a Conversazione in the rooms of the Library of the Historical Society and the Natural History Society, Market building, on next Tuesday evening.

The death of Mr. Hamilton, of Kingston, the oldest member of the Senate, made the fourth vacancy in the representation of Ontario in that body. Surely there should be room for Mr. Plumb and Mr. Bunting, yet neither of these gentlemen is named as one of those who may be appointed.

It is rumored that several of the Quebec Judges, men in full possession of their faculties, and physically strong—better qualified, indeed, for the discharge of their high duties than ever they were—are to be superannuated. The superannuation of Judges in Quebec has become a great scandal.

Attorney General McLeod and Solicitor General Morton have been created Q. C.'s by the Canadian Government. Perhaps they meant to pay a compliment to this Province; perhaps they meant to strengthen their party here. What the effect of these appointments will be it would be hard to say. Probably not much.

It is now stated that Judge Miller, of Manitoba, tendered his resignation some time ago, and that it has been accepted. Perhaps the Judge thought that his elevation to the Chief Justiceship, which it is said was promised, was delayed too long. Perhaps the manner in which he tendered his resignation offended Sir John and that this is the reason why, when he could have been appointed Chief Justice, his resignation has been accepted.

Is the arrangement by which the care of sick and disabled seamen in Charlottetown, P. E. I., is transferred to the managers of an hospital attended by religious ladies properly described by the Toronto *Globe* when it says that: "the subvention of denominational institutions, educational or charitable, with public funds, is contrary to the sound policy which has long prevailed in the Dominion"?

Mr. A. M. Sullivan, who resigned his seat in Parliament because he suffered from disease of the heart, has found it impossible to continue his lectures on the Irish question, and has been compelled by a return of his illness to cancel engagements in many of the cities of the United States and Canada. It is to be hoped that he will shortly regain his health and vigor. Such men as he cannot be spared just now.

We were glad to learn from an article in the *Telegraph* one day this week that it understands fully that the harbor of Shippegan is "the port of this continent through which the shortest route passenger traffic to Europe should pass." It is in many respects superior to all other ports, and any attempt to divert the summer traffic to other routes must eventually fail, because Shippegan is the port on this continent nearest to Europe, and because it is also hundreds of miles nearer to all the great and growing cities of the west than any of its rivals.

Sir W. Whiteway, the Attorney General of Newfoundland, has found it necessary to issue a second election card in order to assure the electors that the Government are opposed to any other concessions to the railway companies represented by Mr. Blackman than those contained in the charters and contracts of the company, and will not assent to any increased obligations in relation to their railways either by subsidy, endorsement of bonds or otherwise. Public rumor said that the company asked that their bonds should be endorsed to a large amount, and that the Government, if successful at the pending elections, would do what the company asked.

It was stated a few days ago that the Chief Justiceship of Manitoba was offered to the Hon. John O'Connor, and that three days were allowed him to consider whether he would accept it. Since that telegrams say that there was talk of offering the position to Mr. Mousseau, to Senator Miller, and to a New Brunswick lawyer, probably the one who showed all the zeal of a neophyte in the Tory cause at the general elections, and whose efforts availed so little. When the Mr. Miller who is now one of the Manitoba Judges was appointed it was said that he received a promise that he would be the next Chief Justice, and that he was led to expect that a vacancy would be created by the deposition of Chief Justice Wood, whom the Tories were determined to sacrifice.

It is thought that the "Cedar Grove" will have all the deals she is to carry on board by Saturday. She is to take 5,000 barrels of Annapolis valley apples, and Messrs. Harding & Hatheway ship by her as an experiment a small quantity of flour, meal, &c., in cases. Every one in St. John having business relations with the old country should at once try to learn what of the articles we can produce can be sent to the markets of Great Britain with a fair prospect of profit, and every one in the Province should try to discover what can be raised here for exportation. Actual work, practically performed, on sound business principles, is what is now necessary to make this experiment a success.

We learn from the *Sun* that the Provincial government held a meeting at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday last; settled the terms which should govern the sale of cattle at the Provincial Stock farm, appointed Mr. James Tibbetts, jr., Sheriff and Judge of Probates of Victoria, in room of Mr. Olmstead, resigned, and added to the number of St. John magistrates. We are also told that the sale of stock realized $1659, instead of the $1,000 anticipated. One yearling Ayshire bull sold for $125, and two others for $100 each; a yearling Ayshire heifer sold for $90; a polled Angus yearling bull sold for $105, and a heifer calf at $71; a red polled Norfolk yearly bull sold for $125, and a heifer, calved in Feb. '82, for $100. Some rams were sold at prices ranging from $5 to $27; two ewes sold at $30 each.

On Saturday last Patrick Bennett died at the age of 85. Forty years ago Mr. Bennett occupied a prominent position in St. John as the editor of a paper devoted to Irish interests. He was a man of great natural ability and much originality. His writings, sometimes extravagant, generally quaint, often showing lack of culture, were always vivid and vigorous. He taught school in his younger days and for many years after his connection with the press had ceased. When age and infirmity unfitted him for that work he was compelled to seek refuge in the Alms House. There for years he was made as comfortable as possible, through the kindness of the master and matron, and until his strength wholly failed he taught the children of that institution, so that really he could not be regarded as a mere pauper. There are still many in St. John who, despite the waywardness and eccentricities of his better days, think and speak kindly of him.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Moncton have distinguished themselves and made the existence of their Association known all over America. They proposed to Oscar Wilde that he should lecture for them in Moncton on Friday evening for $75. His Secretary replied that he was engaged for Friday, but would deliver his lecture in Moncton on Thursday evening, and he asked them to let him know at once if that would suit them. No answer was sent. Oscar has told the reporter of a Boston paper that he waited 36 hours for the reply, and that his Secretary telegraphed a second time for it, but no reply came, and then he "closed" with other parties who meantime had made him a proposal. When the Y. M. C. A. at length telegraphed they were told that after having waited for their answer until 7 o'clock that evening Mr. Wilde had come to terms with other parties. At Moncton he was arrested on a bailable writ at the suit of the Y. M. C. A., who demanded $200 damages. He says that they wished the Sheriff to arrest him about the time he should appear on the platform, but that the Sheriff refused. Mr. Wilde resolved to resist the claim, and found some friends to go bail for him. If his statement is correct the Association has not the slightest claim on him in law or in equity.

A Mr. Blatch, clerk of the County Court of Queen's County, P. E. I., was arrested, last week, on suspicion of having stolen several hundred dollars from the store of Mr. J. Carvell. The store was entered by a hatchway which could be opened only from within, the safe was opened and the money taken. Suspicion fell on Mr. Blatch who was at one time a clerk in the store, or office, and who was much about the place. The strongest evidence of its guilt is that in a sum of over $600 which he paid after the robbery to a Mr. Dawson as the price of his interest in a livery stable, was a $20 U. S. note, which one of Mr. Carvell's clerks says was amongst the money stolen and recognised by several marks. Evidence for the defence was admitted by the magistrate.

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—The *Herald* today publishes the following appeal for the destitute small farmers and cottiers of the western coast of Ireland by Lady Florence Dixie:—"This appeal is made to the generous and charitable to assist me in raising a fund which I intend to use for the following purposes:—First, to grant assistance to destitute farmers who are not in any way connected with the Land League, who are under the threat of eviction for non-payment of rent, and who are unable to take advantage of the benefit of the Arrears Act through their genuine inability to produce the one year's rent which the provisions of this Act stipulate as a necessary accompaniment to an application. By assisting them to find this one year's rent they will be placed in a position to avail themselves of the Arrears Act and thereafter of the Land Act, obtaining from this latter a readjustment and judical settlement of their too often immoderately charged rentals. Second, to afford assistance to unfortunate and destitute persons who have been evicted for the non-payment of arrears of rent which misfortune has rendered them quite unable to discharge. These cases will be alleviated by obtaining for them honourable employment or a re-instatement in their holdings on fair and more equitable terms. Third and last, to tender help to the destitute cottiers and enable them, as in the case of small tenant-farmers, similarly situated, to come within the radius of the Arrears Act, without which eviction will be an inevitable consequence to look forward to."

CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—It is thought the three unknown persons drowned on Sunday are the husband and two children of Mrs. Amelia Hanson. The drowning was the result of the ruling of the supervising inspectors of steamboats, that tugs must not under a fine of $500 for each person take any passengers aboard. The tugowners have insisted on an exception in cases where they would save drowning persons, but no exception was allowed. Six lives have been sacrificed in this harbor as the result of this ruling.

This is a very extraordinary statement.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES.—The clergy of the diocese of Chatham have recently been engaged in the exercises of a spiritual retreat, at the Episcopal residence, conducted by the Rev. Father M. S. Burke, C. SS. R. of St. Patrick's Quebec. At the end of the retreat spiritual exercises for the laity were conducted by the same clergyman. All the visiting priests assisted Father Burke in hearing confessions in the forenoon and afternoon of each day. Wednesday's Chatham *World* says: The Pro-Cathedral has been crowded every evening this week, to hear the eloquent sermons of Rev. Father Burke, and all the services have been very largely attended. The visiting clergy constitute an unseen choir, and the effect of the singing is very fine and impressive. Father Burke is argumentative and earnest, not declamatory, and unfolds his subject by logical sequences that leave the sinner no loophole of escape from the conclusions at which he arrives. He has the quiet intensity of the best school of modern oratory, and makes his power felt without appearing to be exerting himself. The three days' exercises close this evening.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

John E. Ross, Buctouche, Kent Co., $2; James Scallen, St. Andrews, 1.00.

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