1881, the imports were $104,424,075, and the amount of duty collected thereon was $16,071,878. But on the consumption of $128,468,000, as I have stated, the duty would, under Dominion rates of taxation collected, have been $20,658,568, or $24,044,552 worth more goods consumed and $4,586,688 more duty collected. That is for New Brunswick alone. There can be no doubt that as the country advances the people consume more goods, and their consumption will yearly increase; but I have taken the amounts just as the population increased. For Nova Scotia, the Trade and Navigation Returns show in those years goods entered for consumption to the amount of $123,058,114, on which there was duty paid amounting to $17,834,855.

Sir Leonard Tilley.—Do I understand the hon. member to say that during the five years previous to Confederation $104,000,000 worth of goods were entered for consumption?

Mr. Burpee.—No I took the average of five years previous to Confederation as a basis to work upon. I take $7,978,183 as the average imports for the five years previous to Confederation for New Brunswick; I did so because during the year immediately preceding Confederation the imports were $10,000,000, and I thought the Minister of Finance would take exception to that year as the imports were so large; in making the calculation, I have taken the average amount which I have stated, and have taken into account the increased population year by year. The imports of Nova Scotia during that period, amounted to $123,058,114, on which duty was paid to the sum of $17,834,855. The consumption on that basis, of the average of the five years before Confederation and on the increased population, from 1868 to 1881, would be $179,529,748, and the duty collected, directly or indirectly, was $28,894,055, or an increase of consumption of goods purchased from Ontario or Quebec, of $56,471,634, in those years, and an increase of duty of $9,060,100. Those figures, I think, answer the question as to the consumption of the Maritime Provinces, and what those provinces do not import from Great Britain and the United States comes from Quebec and Ontario. The hon. the Minister of Finance referred to the sugar question. There is a singular circumstance in connection with it, that it is impossible to find out, either from statistics or from the refiners, as to the loss of weight to the refinery in the quantity of sugar between the time when it is taken into the refinery and when it passes out between the grades of sugar. In 1874, there were imported 111,934,604 lbs; in 1879, 118,366,467 lbs; in 1880, 116,847,000 lbs.; in 1881, 136,416,000 lbs. The average price in 1877 was 5¾ cents per lb., and, in 1881, 3 3-4 cents per lb. We find that the loss of revenue, comparing the two Tariffs, was, for the year 1880, $754,249, taking the same quantity and quality as 1878, for comparison, and $755,718 for 1881, making a total loss of revenue of a little over $1,500,000 on what would have been collected under the 1878 Tariff if quality and quantity imported be the same. The average price, as taken from the *New York Price Circular and Journal of Commerce*, which is an authority on all wholesale prices, was, for sugar in bond in New York, $6¼ per 100 lbs., and duty paid into Canada under the Tariff of 1878 would be, in Canada, $8.66, 100 lbs; the average price for Canada refined, as taken from the *Montreal Journal of Commerce*, was $9.70 per 100 lbs. In drawing this comparison I have taken every week and month of the year, and striking an average it appears that the sugar of the United States taken out of bond and paying duty under the Tariff of 1878, would have cost here $1.04 per 100 lbs. less than it cost us Canada refined. Hon. gentlemen opposite will say that the cost of transportation should be added to the New York prices. To us in the Maritime Provinces and in most parts of Ontario, the cost of carrying sugar from New York to its destination is a good deal less than from Montreal. It is some 15 or 20 cents 100 lbs. less from New York to St. John than from Montreal to St. John, and for the year 1881 the average price in New York, in bond, was $6.50, and under the Tariff of 1878, would be on sugar laid down here, $9.12½ per 100 lbs., while the average of the Montreal was 10.09, showing an increase over that if imported under the Tariff of 1878 from New York of 96½ cents per 100 lbs. The cost to the consumers (duty paid) on granulated sugars for the average of the year 1881 was, in New York, $9.61 per 100 lbs., and in Canada it was $10.09, showing 48 cents per 100 lbs. less to the people of the United States than Canada. The hon. Minister of Finance has spoken pretty freely of the increased cost of manufactured cotton goods and decreased cost of the article to the consumer as compared with 1878. I am not going into the question minutely, but I wish to refer to one point. The hon. gentleman, in his speech, said that the raw cotton in 1881 was 2 cents a lb. higher in price than in 1878.

Sir Leonard Tilley.—More.

Mr. Burpee.—If the House will look at the Trade and Navigation Returns hon. members will find that the price of raw cotton in 1878 was 10 70-100 cents per lb., and in 1881, 10 65-100 cents per lb., showing what would be the cost to Canadian manufacturers, that is the value which manufacturers have entered at the Custom House in 1878 and 1881, and no doubt is correct. I do not propose to go through the different items to which the hon. the Minister of Finance referred, saying manufactured articles cost less in 1881 than in 1878. I know from the information I have received, not only from merchants and consumers, but from manufacturers, that the facts are quite different. There is an increase in the prices of a great many articles, but there may be some kinds of goods that are a little less in price owing to the cheapness of those goods in the European markets. Woollen goods are now and have been for the last few months nearly 20 per cent. cheaper in England than in 1878. Of course, our manufacturers are obliged to meet the competition and reduce their prices accordingly, but I venture to say the consumers and merchants can better decide what goods cost now as compared with 1878 than the hon. the Minister of Finance. The manufacturers control their prices according to foreign markets, and keep prices up so as to keep foreign goods out, which the consumers have to pay. With regard to the manufactures of the country, I believe that a revenue Tariff would best suit the business of the Dominion, and afford ample protection. I believe that a revenue Tariff such as we are now obliged to impose for the expenditure of the Dominion, properly adjusted, would suit all the manufacturers, and that they would prosper better under it than under the present Tariff. I admit that four or five manufacturers have been materially helped by the discrimination made in their favor by the Tariff and that under it the cotton and woollen manufacturers, and sugar refiners, and perhaps the furniture manufacturers, have experienced a temporary help to their enterprises. But the question is, will they be able to stand in times of adversity as well as if they were of a slower growth and established on a better foundation. I have been more or less engaged in manufacturing for many years, and I believe that it is more to the advantage of the manufacturers to be let alone as much as possible by the State and depend on the energy and enterprise of the promoters. Legislation in their favor does not prosper them on the whole; because they cannot and do not, as we know by the example of the United States, stand adversity as well as those manufactures which grow up under less protection, by enterprise and industry. The Liberal policy has been very well defined—namely, to pursue such a course towards the country, in and out of this House, as will be to the interests of all classes in the Dominion, and not to discriminate between one class and another, but to legislate so that one class shall be as well protected and cared for as another. That policy has been pursued by us as well in as out of office, and I think the country will so appreciate and understand our policy. The laborers, the farmers, the lumbermen, fishermen, shipbuilders, as well as the majority of the manufacturers, have shown most conclusively, by letters and representations, that they are not benefited by the present Tariff, but are taxed very heavily and unequally. Our policy stands in contrast with that of the Conservative party. Their policy is to take from him who hath not even the little that he has, and give it to him who has abundance.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The Supreme Court of this Province—the Judges being unanimous—have decided that the fisheries in all non-navigable rivers belong to the owners of land on both sides. What is to be understood in Canada by non-navigable rivers, has we believe not yet been defined, but in England all rivers above the flow and ebb of tide are meant. The fishery leases on the upper waters of the Miramichi and other rivers in New Brunswick are thus adjudged to be null.

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Gerrymandering.

The Tory party continually cry aloud that their policy is popular in all the Provinces; that their administration everywhere meets with public approval; that they are stronger in the country than they were in 1878, and that whenever the elections take place they will go back with an increased majority, and yet they are every day doing something that exposes the real state of their feeling, that proves them to be slaves of the most abject fear. Knowing that the tide has begun to set against them, feeling the ground slipping from under their feet, hearing from all quarters that the illusions of which, at a time of great and general distress, farmers, mechanics, operatives and manufacturers became the victims, are fast being dispelled, and forced to the conviction that, bad as their chances now are, they would inevitably be much worse next year, they have resolved to bring on the elections this year, and to run the risk of losing power and place, and all they hold most dear, a year sooner than they need resign them, for the chance of obtaining now the renewal of their lease, which they know well there is no chance of their obtaining next year. They will, no doubt, frame some excuses for taking such a course. They will pretend that they act in the public interests only, but is there a man of common sense in all Canada who can believe or imagine that if those men felt themselves as strong as they pretend; if they really thought that their policy is increasing daily in public favor, they would, having so large and pliant a majority in the House of Commons, dissolve the House a year before the time fixed by the constitution, and force so many of their own supporters in the House into private life? Is there a man in all Canada so stupid, so besotted, so blinded by party prejudice as not to see that such an act is the act of men terrified and desperate?

If any one could have had any doubts as to the real motives of the Government for bringing on the elections a year sooner than the law requires, for scattering so lavishly, in quarters in which they expect it will render them services, the money which they have extorted from the toiling masses of the people by enormous taxation, and for lending their countenance and support to so many undertakings of great magnitude, the Bill for readjusting the representation of Ontario, which Sir John A. Macdonald introduced on Friday of last week, must surely have removed all such doubts. No men not utterly desperate, in whom all sense of decency, all feeling of shame was not deadened by overmastering fear, could have proposed or framed such a Bill.

That Bill is one of the most infamous measures ever submitted to a Legislature. It is a deliberate attempt to enable, by legislation, a minority to override and control a majority. Of course the Government say that they were actuated solely by a sense of right and of duty. Sir John A. Macdonald, whose expression of countenance, even while he spoke, contradicted his words, asserted that besides providing seats for the four new members, he sought to give effect to the principle of representation by population for which Ontario so long contended, without what he called a pedantic adherence to that principle, and with a reasonable regard to geographical symmetry. If he had, indeed, endeavored to make the numbers in the several constituencies nearly equal, and to make the electoral districts as symmetrical as possible, and as nearly bounded by straight lines, he might have had something to say in favor of the course he has taken; but in truth he showed a total disregard of the principles on which he pretended that he was acting. He did, indeed, propose to merge the petty boroughs of Cornwall and Niagara in the counties of Stormont and Lincoln, and the Tories will pretend that in doing this he threw away two Tory seats, but those who know Ontario know that, even in this, his object was to consolidate the Tory strength in districts in which it was known to be weakening, and to give him opportunity or pretext for making such changes in order to provide the two additional seats, as he hoped would give him two other supporters. He allowed a number of small constituencies to remain unchanged, and so proved that the inequality of the representation in other districts was merely seized on as a pretext for making a number of most monstrous changes, which he hopes will strengthen his party. He cut and carved no less than fifty-two electoral districts, taking one or more townships from one, and adding one or more townships to others, in some cases taking away one township or more from an electoral district, and adding one or more to it, until, in nearly all cases, the configuration of the district is rendered not merely unsymmetrical, but absolutely monstrous. Nothing but a diagram could convey any idea of the shape those districts will now bear. One is said to be forty miles in length and only four miles in breadth; another is made up of two irregular blocks, joined Siamese twin fashion by a narrow belt some miles in length. The district of Wentworth, represented by Mr. Rymal, is so altered that one township, lying within half a mile of the county buildings, is taken from it, and one or more townships, extending forty-five miles in another direction, are added, and the population, which wanted but seven of fifteen thousand, becomes, as a consequence of this extraordinary change, only about 15,500, so that neither the principle of representation, nor geographical symmetry, was much regarded in this instance. Halton was nearly a rectangle. Out of this a piece is cut at one corner, and a piece is added to it at another, and it assumes somewhat the shape of an old arm chair. And yet these are some of the more symmetrical of the newly created districts.

To understand the object of all this cutting and carving, it is necessary to know that owing to difference of races and other causes, not only electoral districts but townships also are decidedly and invariably either Liberal or Tory. By cutting a strong Liberal township off a district in which the Liberals had a moderate majority, or by adding a strongly Tory township to such a district, or by cutting off one or adding another, it seemed possible to convert some Liberal district, in which the Tory majority was small, or taking from it a Liberal township, it seemed possible to make some doubtful districts, now represented by Tories, permanently safe for Tory candidates.

But "what could be done," you will ask, "with the Liberal townships so cut off. They must have been added to some other districts." In most cases they are added to districts already so strongly Liberal that no process of carving, of addition or subtraction, could make them Tory. In several districts of that kind the Liberals will have an undoubted majority of from 600 to 1200, while in the districts from which Liberal townships have been lopped off the Tories do not even now hope to have majorities of more than from fifty to two hundred. By thus concentrating the Tory electors, "hiving the Grits," as Sir John A. Macdonald once said, the Tories hope to carry a number of constituencies which they knew they could not retain were such changes not made.

Nothing more infamous in this line was ever attempted or conceived. By working into a few hideously shaped districts a large number of Liberal electors, and leaving in each of the other reconstructed districts a number of Liberals, large, indeed, but not quite a majority, a deliberate effort is to be made to give to the minority of the electors a majority of the seats in the House of Commons.

For many weeks this nefarious scheme has been hatched and brooded over by Sir John A. Macdonald and those whom he called on for assistance or advice. Day after day prominent Tories from the districts to be "gerrymandered," as it is called, went to Ottawa to tell their accomplices what should be done. Day after day rumors as to the intention of Sir John and his accomplices were floating about the Parliament building. Men refused to believe that any thing so monstrous, so shameless, so utterly disgraceful would be done. The measure introduced is worse than rumor led any one to apprehend or imagine.

And yet the men who resort to such infamous means in the hope of carrying a few seats, would have the country believe that they retain its confidence, that they know themselves and their policy to be more popular than they were in 1878, and that they are stronger than ever.

Sir John A. Macdonald, we are told, did seem ashamed while he was stating the provisions of his Bill, sad cowered in his seat while Mr. Blake denounced in withering words of scorn and abhorrence the great political crime which was proposed. But Sir John's supporters, or many of them, exulted loudly and openly in what they regarded as the success of his machinations, and gloried in their shame, shouting, cheering, jeering like men under demoniacal obsession.

What will be the actual effect of this measure on the elections? It is not easy to tell exactly. The measure will, undoubtedly, excite the indignation of all really honorable, fair-minded men, of all honest men who are not the slaves of party prejudices or blinded by party bigotry, and as men of this class really hold the balance of power in many constituencies, the effect will be more injurious to the Government than, perhaps, they imagine. Again it is evident that in the "gerrymandering" Sir John and his associates acted upon the assumption that the vote in 1882 or 1883 will be the same, or very nearly the same, that it was in 1878. In this they will find themselves greatly disappointed. But, taking the case at its worst, the effect will be to place four on five of the prominent men of the Opposition in such a position that if they do not, in the townships which now constitute their districts, poll a larger vote than the Liberals polled in 1878, they must be defeated, and that some of the Government supporters, whose election was doubtful, are made to feel more secure. Granted that all this were certain, yet the overthrow of the Government would not thereby be averted. The tide of popular opinion can not be turned from its course even by so monstrous a measure as this, and there is room to doubt whether the Liberal majority will be in any degree diminished by it. The men now in office act in almost everything they do as if public opinion did not exist at all, or as if it could be outraged with impunity. They will find themselves grievously mistaken. This monstrous measure probably was wanted to fill full the cup of their iniquity.

Sir John A. Macdonald, by his Bill "gerrymandering" Ontario, has capped the climax of his long political career. It would scarcely be possible for him to devise anything exceeding this in enormity.

Mr. Blake pointed out that there are in Quebec several small electoral districts with a population of ten thousand each or thereabouts, and some with a population nearly or quite three times as large, and that in the Lower Provinces there are inequalities as great, and that Sir John allowed all those inequalities to remain; but he could gain nothing by any change in Quebec, or Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward Island, and Sir S. L. Tilley knows what a tempest of indignation would have been excited against him in this Province had the electoral districts been readjusted as was proposed.

The Nova Scotia Premier has been in Ottawa for several weeks. The negotiations for the purchase of the Windsor and Annapolis road, it is said, have wholly failed. It is said that Mr. Holmes insists that the Dominion Government is bound to pay the additional price demanded because of the decision confining the lease of the Windsor branch to the Windsor and Annapolis road. It is said that the representative of that road has been threatened—that unless he accept the price offered his company will be legislated out of their rights. At all events there is to be some legislation on the subject. The public will shortly learn what it is to be.

ANTI-HUMBUG.—You should be able to judge whether the dry dock can be built on a guarantee of two per cent. on the cost; or whether capitalists can be found to furnish money for the ship railway from La Planche to Bay Verte, the Government promising to pay $150,000 a year for twenty-five years after the road has been completed, provided it is kept open and in use all the time. You should be able also to judge whether these works would, if built, be worth what they cost.

From the evidence at the inquest on the body of Mrs. Smythe, murdered in Meath, it appeared that the shots were fired when the carriage was only a few hundred yards from the house of her relative. The coachman saw a man crouching behind some bushes and he stated that four shots were fired in all, but so that they might have been fired by the one man. Mr. Smythe thought that it was the first shot that killed his sister-in-law

The contest between Christianity and Infidelity, which rages in so many countries in Europe, has lasted for many years in Belgium, and there is yet, unhappily, nothing to give promise that it will soon cease. The majority of the people are earnest Catholics. The bishops and priests are pious, learned, and zealous, but the infidels are numerous, especially in the cities and towns, and animated with that fierce hatred of Christianity which we in this country can scarcely understand. There, as elsewhere, of late years, the battle is fought mainly on the school question. There, as elsewhere, the enemies of Christ and His Church know that if they can obtain control of the young, so as to prevent their being instructed in Christian doctrine and imbued with Christian feelings, their ultimate victory would, in all human probability, be certain. There the bishops, fully alive to the danger, have proved themselves vigilant in guarding against it, and zealous in their efforts to counteract the measures of their opponents, and to save their flocks. Under pretence of being liberal and just to all, the infidel party, which has been in power for some years, has substituted for the old school law which authorized the bishops to provide for the religious instruction of Catholic children in the public schools, a law by which all religious instruction is forbidden, and the pupils are exposed to the full force of the influence which lead first to indifference, and thence, by an easy descent, to infidelity. The bishops, after struggling in vain for such a change in the law as would restore their power to do their duty, and re-establish the rights of Catholic parents, have established Catholic free schools, supported by voluntary subscriptions, and to-day two-thirds of all the children of Belgium attend those schools. M. Emile de Laveleye, himself an advocate of the non-religious system, admits that in many villages the communal schools are almost empty, and in others they have lost half their pupils. The Catholics have now a complete educational establishment of their own, supported by their own contributions. Their University, though discountenanced by the State, is one of the very first in Europe, and their communal schools are in all respects equal to those endowed by the State.

Just, fair-minded men, men who understand what religious liberty really is, and who value it, must admit that those who endeavor to force their irreligious system on the Catholics of Belgium, and who support it at the expense of those who are conscientiously opposed to it, and can not use it, violate every principle of true liberty, but there are some even in this country who imagine, or pretend, that Belgium Liberalism, in attempting to force such a system on the country, "sanctions the fullest political freedom, such as is enjoyed in Great Britain and her Colonies," to use the words of a leading Canadian paper, and the efforts of the bishops to save their people, and of parents to save their children, is by the same paper called "an intolerant war against modern liberty." What strange ideas of liberty the man must have who imagines that liberty is complete only where Christian education is prohibited or discouraged, or that liberty can exist only where the liberties of Catholics are restricted, or their rights trampled upon.

At first the infidels did not venture to go as far as they wished. So long ago as 1842, the same party being in power, the communes were required to establish schools sufficient for the accommodation of all the children, but the law permitted the commune to adopt, that is contribute, to the support of private schools, in which the education was thoroughly Catholic, and the bishops and their clergy were empowered to supervise and direct the religious instruction of Catholic children. Now M. de Laveleye says:—

"Each parish or village must provide the schools necessary for the children of its inhabitants, and must not give support to any private school. Ecclesiastical inspection is suppressed. Religious instruction may be given by the ministers of the various denominations in the school buildings, but out of the regular hours."

A parliamentary enquiry has been made into the means by which the Bishops, priests and people have been able to render harmless, to so great an extent, a measure which it was hoped would, in a few years, eradicate Christianity. It was found that Bishops, priests and lay men had made extraordinary sacrifices in order to establish and support Catholic schools; but, says M. de Laveleye, other means were also employed:

"Spiritual threats; refusals to administer the sacraments at confession; menaces in sermons, and more especially at death beds; material privations to the obstinate; withdrawal of support from paupers and of land from tenants; suppression of Catholic customers from tradesmen, and of employment from laborers—all has been done to stamp out public education."

The employment of temporal measures,—the boycotting of tenants, tradesmen, etc., is no doubt greatly exaggerated; but we see no reason to doubt that the spiritual means described have, to some extent, been employed. This question is essentially a religious question and surely no parent or guardian who refuses to obey what he well knows is the law of his church, has any right to complain that his liberty is impaired, if the penalty attached to the offence of emperilling the faith of his children is imposed. There is no law in Belgium or in Canada to compel any man to belong to any church or to profess faith in its teachings; but it is folly to suppose that a man's liberty is impaired unless he can profess to be—say a Catholic—and yet set the laws of that church at naught with impunity. Spiritual threats or spiritual penalties affect none but those who believe in the divine authority of the church, which holds out such threats and imposes such penalties. But, says the Canadian journalist whose ideas appear to be much confused—

"The evil results of such a conflict and especially of the confusion sure to be created in many minds between religion and the intolerant war against modern liberty which is being waged in its name, are already great and threaten to become greater in the future. The Liberals tend to become anti-religionists, and the Catholics uncompromising enemies of the liberty which they deem hostile to their faith. In other respects the constitutional system is working admirably in Belgium. The evils threatened to religion on the one hand and liberty on the other by the school question may well teach a lesson to all in Canada and elsewhere who are tempted by mistaken zeal for religious instruction to advocate such measures as tend to bring the claims of religion within the lines of political warfare."

Was there ever such a jumble? The so-called Liberals are, as they have long been, "anti-religionists," and what the Catholics condemn is not liberty but the grossest tyranny. Religion and liberty are not opposed in Belgium or elsewhere, and the evils which threaten religion there, exist only because liberty has been impaired. Religion will live indeed despite the evils, but liberty may perish.

Europe seems to be more quiet of late. Those rumors of plots and counterplots, of open preparations for war and of secret alliances which were so prevalent, no longer excite so much apprehension. The Austrians have almost reduced their rebellious subjects on the Adriatic to obedience. From Constantinople, the focus of intrigue, no disquieting reports are made, and the idea that Russia is eager for another war is no longer generally entertained. In Germany the negotiations for a re-adjustment of ecclesiastical affairs proceed slowly, but the persecution has been relaxed and bishops have been appointed to some of the sees so long widowed. Probably pastors have also been appointed to many of those thousands of parishes the Catholic people of which could hear Mass and partake of the sacraments only by stealth, if at all. Of this, however, we hear little. The newly appointed we may suppose will find it in the interest of their people to temper zeal with discretion and to proceed surely rather than rapidly in providing and appointing priests to minister to those afflicted people. Bismarck is travelling to Camuas slowly and reluctantly and often halts on the way and refuses to go further. The war on the Church continues in Belgium and France and Italy, but it is not conducted so noisily. In France, indeed, the yoke imposed on the Church is almost as heavy as it is possible to make it without openly avowing the purpose of destroying Christianity. The religious orders and societies are suppressed and deprived of their property, the schools are given up to irreligion, ecclesiastics are made liable to military service and the freedom of action of the clergy is circumscribed as much as possible. The small stipends paid to the clergy as partial compensation, for the property and revenues of which the revolution robbed the Church, have been greatly reduced and their total abolition is threatened. Perhaps the present government and legislature will find it necessary to go further to satisfy their own hatred of religion or the fierce animosity of the infidel socialist rabble who stand behind Gambetta, Clemenceau and their associates, but to go farther they must close and perhaps raze the churches and banish or silence the priests. Such measures have not yet been openly demanded. So in Italy the limit of persecution has been reached, unless the government elected and maintained by the small infidel minority adopt and avow the policy of suppressing by force the religion which they have been laboring—in vain—for so many years to undermine.

The Czar, at the request of Victor Hugo commuted the sentence of five Nihilists sentenced to death. Nihilism must possess wonderful vitality, as the discovery of new nests of conspirators is made frequently and danger besets the Czar and his most trusted officials wherever they go. It does not seem to be so much dreaded since it has become more familiar and since so many arrests have been made. It does not permeate the masses who are still loyal to the Czar, to whom indeed they owe much land and a certain degree of liberty; but it lurks amongst all classes, especially amongst the day dreamers, the dissolute and the desperate.

We hear very little now of what the French are doing in Tunis or the Turks in Tripoli. If the project for converting the Sahara into a desert succeed, the face of things in all that part of Africa will soon be radically changed. Egypt is still uneasy. There are rumors of plots and conspiracies, and the dislike of the foreigners who control Egyptian affairs has become very strong, but nothing has yet happened to render the threatened Anglo-French intervention necessary.

Mr. Gladstone's budget speech was looked for with much interest, as it is supposed that it was his last. Trade and commerce are now in a healthy state, but the increase in the revenue was not so great as he expected and therefore he refrained from proposing important financial reform, which he contemplated. His surplus was less than four hundred thousand pounds. Seven millions of the national debt was paid off during the year. The increase in both revenue and expenditure within the last thirty years, rendered necessary, perhaps, by the increased armaments of the other European powers. Then the annual expenditure scarcely exceeded fifty millions; now it is about 78 millions, and it will continue to increase. The population and wealth of the country, it is true, have also increased largely. Mr. Gladstone proposes an increase of the taxation on carriages. Everyone who keeps a carriage in England pays a tax therefor.

The agitation continues in Ireland. Public meetings are no longer held, and meetings of the Land League are prohibited, but this has not broken the spirit of the people who show a degree of self reliance and an independence of spirit of which they were not supposed to be possessed. The Land Act Courts make small progress compared to the amount of work to be done. The landlords in several districts continue the work of eviction, and the Government lend them the aid of all their military strength to carry it on, but still the attitude of the whole people is remarkably firm. Unhappily, in some cases those who think themselves aggrieved, and who see no hope of redress from law or courts, seek vengeance where they despair of obtaining justice. Some outrages have been committed, of which it can not even be said that they were prompted by a spirit of revenge.

Lord Cowper has resigned the office of Lord Lieutenant, and Earl Spencer, it is said succeeds him. Mr. Forster has given up the Secretaryship. Mr. Parnell and the "suspects" have been liberated, and rumor says that a new policy will be tried, and arbitrary arrests discontinued, and that a more severe administration of existing laws will be tried and the summary jurisdiction of magistrates will be greatly increased. If the increased power be entrusted to the ordinary magistrates, who, in ninety cases out of the hundred, are selected from the class most hostile to the people, the change will be no improvement and will do no good. A Bill was introduced in the Imperial Parliament for the relief of those hundreds of thousands of tenants who owe heavy arrears of rent, because their rents were higher than could be paid and because their crops failed. This bill it is said was framed by Messrs. Parnell and Healy and showed that they are prepared to deal practically with the difficulties which exist if they had the power. Mr. Gladstone opposed the second reading, but admitted that something should be done for the relief of the persons in that position and promised that he would himself bring in a measure of the kind. It was urged that whatever was given towards the liquidation of the arrears should be given as a gift and not as a loan, so that poor men may start again in life if without much means, at least free from debt. It seemed to be assumed that the landlords should be willing to accept part of the arrears in payment of the whole. If an honest settlement of accounts were made on the basis of a fair rent, in very many cases it would be found that the landlord is in debt to the tenant. It is possible that something will be done to render the purchase of the lands by the tenants more easy. It is said that the Lords will propose that matters be so arranged that the tenants, without having to pay more than the old rents, would in time become proprietors. In many cases it would be impossible to pay the old rents. One of the main features of the land policy of the Land League was the re-distribution of those vast fertile lands, from which in past years the people were driven, to make room for bullocks. Neither of the great political parties has yet proposed to deal with this very important part of the question.

The resolution of the Canadian Commons has had a very beneficial effect on public opinion in England, and will have a good effect on the action of the British Parliament. The London *Daily News*, indeed and some other papers pretend to resent what they call our improper and unjustifiable interference in their affairs, and tell us they can mind their own business; but England has set us the example of making suggestions and tendering advice, and even offering remonstrances to other nations as to the manner in which they treat portions or classes of their population, and it should not complain if we now follow their example. We, as part of the Empire, are necessarily interested in the welfare of the whole, and in the peace, order, good government and welfare of every part of it. We are especially interested in the peace and welfare of Ireland, not only because one million of us are of Irish descent, but because our personal interests are gravely involved. As the resolution states, immigration from Ireland to Canada is prevented or diminished by the dislike to the British flag and British institutions which the misgovernment of Ireland has created, and which the present condition of Ireland keeps alive, and when the mistaken idea that Ireland could be liberated or aided by attacks on another part of the Empire took possession of the Irish in the United States, Canada suffered grievously. We have a right to sympathise with our fellow subjects and to express that sympathy. We have a right to ask that we should not again be exposed to the danger of invasion, and to the cost of life and money to which we may be exposed should a sufficient remedy for the grievance under which it is admitted Ireland still labors not be applied. We have a right also from our own experience of the workings of the Federal system of government and of the unspeakable benefits of self-government, of Home Rule, to say what we think that remedy is.

President Arthur seems disposed to revive Mr. Blaine's idea of inviting the other American Republics to a Conference and to the formation of a grand continental League of some kind.

The Nihilist plot just discovered is the most extraordinary yet heard of. To blow up the Kremlin, under pretence of lighting it by electricity, when all the notabilities were assembled after the Czar's coronation was surely a monstrous conception. The idea of fitting infernal machines in hundreds of peasant's caps, which were to be thrown into the air as if in delight when the Czar was passing and to explode when they fell was almost as monstrous. Three hundred of the accomplices in these plots have, it is said, been arrested.

It is rumoured that Earl Spencer assumes the Irish Viceroyalty only for a short time, and that Lord Dufferin is soon to take the place. Some, perhaps many, imagine that Lord Dufferin's genial, conciliatory manner would do much to restore peace to Ireland. A conciliatory policy would, no doubt, be ably carried out by Lord Dufferin; but the troubles are too real and too widespread, the difficulties too deeply seated, to be healed or removed by conciliatory speeches or any other means at the command of a Lord Lieutenant, left to depend merely on his personal resources.

"The Grits have something to howl over now. Let them howl" was the brutal taunt of one of Sir John A. Macdonald's supporters in the House of Commons when the Gerrymandering Bill was introduced. The people, as soon as they get the opportunity, will teach him and his accomplices that they can not with impunity, much less with profit, trifle so on with public rights, trample so on justice.

Sir John A. Macdonald, and some of his supporters, in defence of the Gerrymandering Bill, said that Mr. Mowatt and the Liberal party did as much of the same kind of work in Ontario. This a reference to their Bill shows to be untrue. They had, in order to provide constituencies for three additional members, to take townships from some of the largest of the old districts and group them together. More than was necessary they did not do, but even if they had done wrong that would not have justified such a measure as the present, or palliated the guilt of those who framed it and those who will vote for it.

The Quebec Government succeeded only by their Speaker's vote, in passing through the Legislative Council the Bill for the sale of that portion of the railroad between Montreal and Ottawa, although their friends had frequently boasted that they had secured a majority. It is said that they will not attempt to pass a Bill authorising the sale of the road from Montreal to Quebec.

The Mr. P. S. Smyth who now denounces the Land League so violently, is a respectable, earnest man, and very able and eloquent but somewhat eccentric. He is not a Home Ruler but a repealer.

Dominion Parliament.

OTTAWA, April 27.

The remaining clauses of the Civil Service Bill were agreed to. Several Bills were read a second time; amendments to some Bills sent from the Senate were concurred in; and further progress was made in supply, a large number of items being passed.

OTTAWA, April 28.

Sir John A. Macdonald introduced the Bill to "readjust" the representation in the House of Commons, and explained that this was rendered necessary by the last census, the increased population entitling Ontario to four additional members and Manitoba to one.

Mr. Blake, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Mills, Mr. Rymal and others sharply criticized the Bill, which was read a first time.

On the motion to go into supply hon. Mr. Burpee moved an amendment to the effect that the duties on iron should be reduced so as to enable the manufacturers to supply the consumers at a lower cost. Mr. Burpee spoke at some length in support of the motion, and was followed by Mr. Domville. The debate was continued by Tilley, Anglin and others, and the amendment was lost.

OTTAWA, May 1.

Mr. Blake moved that the House go into committee on the whole to consider the resolution on the subject of the system of administering Dominion lands, situate along the lines of railway. He said that the present system of administering Dominion lands situate along the lines of railway was likely to practically result in the acquisition by the railway companies of almost all the enhanced value, not merely of their own lands but of the Dominion lands in the immediate proximity to the stations on such railways. Steps should be taken to secure to the public, as far as practicable, such enhanced value in cases of stations hereafter to be established.

Sir John admitted the existence of the evil complained of by Mr. Blake, and said the Government had in view measures for remedying it. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Schultz brought up the matter of the petition against Chief Justice Wood, of Manitoba, but at the suggestion of Sir John the matter was allowed to stand over.

There was a good deal of discussion on the question of the tax on fish traps and weirs in Nova Scotia, Mr. Daly and Mr. Kaulback defending the tax, and Messrs. Killam, McIsaac, McDonnell (Inverness), Flynn and Robertson (Shelburne), condemning it.

Mr. Blake strongly objected to the tax, and especially the arbitrary mode of its imposition, and called upon the Government to remedy this injustice to the fishermen of the Maritime Province.

After recess, Mr. Mackenzie moved the resolution on the subject of the contract with H. J. Peemer, for the construction of the works of the Welland Canal, declaring that the said contract was made in violation of the law and that this House cannot approve of the same. He said that circulars were sent to ten parties for this work and six replied. There was one inexplicable circumstance connected with the tenders to contractors, that is, that the parties who had failed in their contract and whom the Government released from the contract, were invited to tender afresh. He could not understand why they should be allowed to tender again. He mentioned previous cases where the Government refused to receive any tender from them; notably the contract for the post office at Ottawa. The same practice he thought should have been enforced in this case. He thought this practice was unprecedented and most unlawful and unjust, and not to the best interests of the public. He held that Mr. Page, in his report, aimed at destroying the principle of letting contracts by public tenders.

Sir Charles Tupper made what seems to have been a very feeble attempt to defend the Government in this matter, declaring merely that the mode of letting the contract was the best that could be adopted under the circumstances.

Messrs. Blake, Anglin and others continued the debate, and the motion was lost on a division.

Motions for a great many papers, &c., were carried.

OTTAWA, May 2.

Mr. Pope introduced a Bill to amend the Patent Act of 1877.

Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a Bill respecting the Windsor and Picton branches of the Intercolonial Railway.

The Bill to repeal certain provisions of the Inspection Act, and to make other regulations respecting herring packed in Newfoundland, was agreed to.

The House then went into committee on the Bill to provide for the allowance of drawbacks on certain articles manufactured in Canada for use in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Bill was reported from the committee read a third time and passed.

Sir Hector Langevin then moved the third reading of the Civil Service Bill.

Mr. Casey moved an amendment (seconded by Mr. Blake) to the effect that the Bill does not adopt the principle of probationary appointments free from political influence, &c., and should be sent back to the Committee to be amended in this respect, also that it should be so amended as to provide for greater economy on the payment of writers in the different Departments.

Mr. Casey supported his resolutions in a brief speech, laying stress on the fact that the report of a commission specially appointed by the Government to look into the question of civil service had been directly disregarded by the Government.

The resolutions were put and declared lost by the Speaker.

The motion for a third reading of the Bill was then carried on division.

Sir John Macdonald moved the second reading of the Bill respecting fugitive offenders in Canada from other parts of Her Majesty's dominions. He explained that legislation had been adopted in Great Britain and in most of the Colonies except Canada, providing facilities for removal of fugitive offenders from one part of the Empire to another. This Bill was to provide the same legislation for Canada, as the Imperial Government, and other Colonies had adopted. It was a copy of the Imperial Act, except the necessary verbal changes. The Bill was read a second time, passed through committee and passed the third reading and the House.

Several other Bills were read a third time, and then the House went into Committee on the supplementary estimates for 1882, a number of the items of which were passed.

OTTAWA, May 3.

The resolutions respecting the pensioning of County Court Judges of Ontario were passed and reported.

There was considerable discussion over Mr. Mousseau's resolutions amending the Internal Revenue concerning the duty on Canadian tobacco. The resolutions were agreed to, and the Bill founded on them was read a first time.

The House then went into Committee of Supply and passed the remaining items. On the item for militia Mr. Mackenzie called attent on to the censure of Col. Ross, published in the *Gazette*. A long discussion took place, and nearly every member who spoke condemned the action of the Minister of Militia in this matter.

The House adjourned at 1 a. m.

Seven or eight thousand insurgents lately attacked, unexpectedly, a French force in Tunis, and after some hard fighting forced it to retreat, abandoning its supplies.

MR. BLAKE'S SPEECH ON THE IRISH QUESTION.—Our readers, we know, desire much to see Mr. Blake's great speech on the Irish question in the Canadian House of Commons, and we intend that they shall, but as the *Hansard* reports, when they first appear, are often full of blunders and sometimes of serious errors, we thought it better to wait until we could present a revised and fairly accurate report. This we will do next week.

An attempt to blow up Vanderbilt and Cyrus Field, by infernal machines sent through the Post office, is attributed to the New York Socialists, who are said to be almost as much under the dominion of the Devil as their fellows in any part of Europe.

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