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**The Anglo-German Agreement.** The announcement of the Anglo-German understanding on the Chinese question has met with a

generally favorable reception from the English press, notwithstanding the fact that the people of Great Britain are, on general grounds, inclined to be somewhat suspicious of such diplomatic agreements. In this case, however, there appears to be no question of embarrassing concessions in order to secure a desired end. The announced alliance or understanding seems to mean simply that Germany has declared its adoption of the well-known view of Great Britain and the United States that the true policy in regard to China is the maintenance of the integrity of the Empire and an open door for commerce,—in other words that all nations shall have free and equal privileges of trade with China but that no nation shall appropriate Chinese territory. The declaration of Germany in favor of this enlightened policy and the fact that the two Governments have announced that they will stand together in maintaining it, give a valuable guarantee for the peaceful solution of the Chinese problem, or at least those features of it which are at present creating much embarrassment. The agreement reached with Germany is felt to add sensibly to the prestige of Lord Salisbury as head of the Foreign Office, since it demonstrates that he has not been pursuing the negative and timid policy which his enemies have ascribed to him,—waiting to see what course the other powers would take, and then following in line with the stronger party. An agreement of Germany and Great Britain on a line of policy to which the United States and Austria-Hungary are known to be favorable can hardly fail to secure its general adoption. It is unlikely that Russia will offer any open opposition, though whether she will practically admit the application of the policy in reference to Manchuria is doubtful, and what will be the result if she do not, is of course a very significant question. Does the Anglo-German understanding mean that Britain and Germany have agreed to resist Russia's encroachments upon Manchuria?

**Kitchener.**

Mr. Alfred G. Hales, the famous war correspondent of the London 'Daily News', has lately returned from South Africa, and in an interview with a newspaper man has given his impressions of Lord Kitchener, the man to whom the eyes of many Englishmen are now turning as the main hope of certain much needed reforms in the British army. The sum of what Mr. Hales is reported to have said on the subject is as follows: Kitchener is possessed of a profound contempt and no mercy for the military dandy and the kind of soldier who is brave enough to face death on the battlefield but who takes no serious interest in arms as a profession nor much serious interest in anything else. To such men Kitchener is a terror. Mr. Hales had seen men go into Kitchener's quarters swaggering and laughing, and come out looking like plucked birds. He had asked them more than once what happened. "Well," came the reply, "one look is enough for me. It makes your blood run cold." Men love Roberts, they fear Kitchener. "A man might disobey Roberts, but Kitchener—!" And some of these ornaments of the military profession came in contact with the man of iron, in South Africa. He told some of them one day he wondered they did not bring ladies' maids to curl their hair for them. . . . He went down to Capetown and found dozens of them having a good time in a small hotel there, full of rank and fashion. "What were they doing there?" "On leave, my lord, there's nothing doing just now." "Oh, well gentlemen, you'll either take the first train back to the front—or—the next boat to England." You can always spot one of Kitchener's men Mr. Hales says. They mind their own business and don't care for anything else. They are soldiers, and their duty is to fight, and win. If not, to die. Mr. Hales expresses the opinion that, though Lord Roberts is a magnificent soldier, the war would have been brought to an end much sooner if Kitchener had been in command. Those brilliant flanking movements are slow. Kitchener believes in frontal attacks, and if he would have lost more men in battle he would have saved thousands who have died from fever. Mr. Hales' opinion of Lord Kitchener is that he is another Wellington. Terrible—a man without

bowels—without a friend—hated by many—feared by all—but a man who will put things through—a man who believes that it is a soldier's work to fight and win—or die.

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**No Intervention.** If reports are to be believed the Boers have been counting much on European intervention on their behalf in order to preserve to the conquered South African republics some measure of independence, and with this hope their resistance to British authority is being desperately prolonged even after that resistance has degenerated into a purely guerilla warfare. It has been asserted that Russia, France and Germany were contemplating joint action in the matter, and that the diplomatic attack upon Great Britain was to be made about the time of Mr. Kruger's arrival in Europe. The fact that Great Britain is cooperating with Germany in reference to Chinese affairs would in itself make it highly improbable that the latter would take any step so offensive to England as interference in respect to the issues of the South African war would certainly be; and Russia and France would not be likely to act on the matter without the concurrence of Germany. Besides, the German Emperor is reported to have said recently that "it is to Germany's advantage for England to have the Boer republics." If this report is correct—and it is not inconsistent with the attitude maintained by the Kaiser and his Government throughout the war—it may be considered to dispose quite effectually of the bogey of European intervention in South Africa. If the Emperor is considering the commercial interests of his country he would certainly have good reason for supporting British supremacy in South Africa as well as British policy in China.

**The British Liberals.**

The lack of a strong and generally acknowledged leadership in the Liberal party of Great Britain and of unanimity of opinion and policy—especially in respect to the South African war and its settlement—made success for the party in the late elections impossible, and it may be admitted even by its friends, that under the circumstances success was hardly desirable. But the friends and advocates of those reform movements, for which the Liberal party has stood in Great Britain, must desire to see that party under more vigorous leadership, with a stronger front and a more numerous following than at present, for it must be admitted that the hope for the enactment of many important reform measures in England, will depend upon the existence of a strong and united Liberal party. The British Weekly discussing the present condition and duty of the Liberal party in England, advises that there be no going back to the old fights about the origin of the war and its righteousness. "For good or evil the war has been fought, and controversies about it are merely exasperating or destructive. Nor can there be any question about annexation. What lies before Liberals as their plain duty, is to work together for the application of Liberal principles to the situation in South Africa. . . . Kicking against the pricks, stirring up dispute in one's own party; reviving ancient rancours—all those things should be viewed as treason, and should meet with the sternest condemnation from every member of the Liberal party. We do not care who is appointed leader, whether Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman keeps his seat or Mr. Asquith succeeds him, but the leader, whoever he is, must lead, and the followers must follow." The Weekly further intimates that the elections show that the Liberal party has not at present the full support of the working classes, who should be its natural allies, and in respect to the Irish vote, it says that Liberals may as well understand sooner as later that they will only get the Irish vote as a whole by impossible concessions, and they ought to pursue the path of true Liberalism without turning to the right or to the left.

**The Boers Still Active.**

The Boers manage to keep up a pretty vigorous guerilla warfare, and the number of casualties being reported by the British commanders is considerable. A reconnaissance in force northward from Zeerust, by a part of Lord Methuen's forces, result-

ed in the discovery of a large body of Boers who were only dislodged after artillery fire lasting four hours, the British loss being four killed and ten wounded. Small bodies of Boer guerillas are reported to be worrying the British lines of communication, operating at points widely separated. Armored trains patrol the railways which are necessarily strongly guarded in other ways. It having been reported that the Boers had exhausted their ammunition for their Long Tom and Howitzer guns, a force of cavalry was sent out from Lydenburg, under Major Henderson of the Imperial Guards, to effect their capture. The expedition proved unsuccessful however, as the Boers had made good their retreat, taking their guns with them. It is stated that Lord Roberts is distributing a new circular, to the effect that Boers who have not previously taken the oath of neutrality, and who now voluntarily surrender, will not be exiled, but will be permitted to return to their farms at the conclusion of hostilities. A train with a reconnoitering party of the Highland brigade was cut off between Heidelberg and Greylingstad in the Transvaal. In the fight which followed the Highlanders had two captains and eight men wounded, all of whom were captured. In the Orange State also the Boers appear to be active. Mr. Steyn, with members of his executive council, is reported to be at Fountainsburg, which he is said to have declared the Capital of the Orange Free State. The report that Jacobsdal, southwest of Kimberly, had fallen into the hands of the Boers is contradicted. It appears, however, that they made a vigorous attack upon the place, and that in defending it the Capetown Highlanders lost 14 killed and 20 wounded. On October 25 Lord Roberts at Pretoria declared the Transvaal a part of the British Empire, the proclamation being attended by impressive ceremonies.

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**Canadian Labor Troubles.**

A strike of laborers, employed at the Cotton Mills at Valleyfield, Quebec Province, had taken on so serious and threatening a character about the middle of last week that it was judged necessary to call out a body of militia to preserve order. Accordingly a hundred men of the 5th Royal Scots went out from Montreal on Thursday. The presence of the troops appears to have had the effect of maddening the strikers who, without provocation, attacked a detachment of twenty-five soldiers as they were passing along the street. Stones and other missiles were used with such effect that eight of the Scots were so seriously injured as to be taken to the hospital. The soldiers were ordered to charge their assailants with fixed bayonets, which they did, and the crowd was speedily dispersed. Fearing more trouble, a larger force of militia was brought out from Montreal. The strikers, however, offered no further violence, though they maintained a very threatening attitude on Friday and their numbers were increased by operatives of the mill who sympathized with the strikers. On Saturday the strikers remained quiet but refused to go to work until the military were withdrawn. A part of the soldiers have been sent back to Montreal. It is stated that the trouble arose from a number of the laborers demanding an increase of wages from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day, accompanying the demand with a threat of preventing work in the factories until their demand was complied with. Hon. Mr. Mulock, on behalf of the Department of Labor, has offered his services to mediate in the dispute between the strikers and the employers. . . . There is also a serious labor trouble in Quebec City, where the recently formed Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association, which includes the owners of twenty-one factories, has decided to close its factories indefinitely, a step which it is said will have the effect of throwing some five or six thousand operatives out of employment. This decision was reached, the association declares, owing to the action of union laborers who not only refuse to allow manufacturers to employ whoever they wish, but insist on only union men being employed even when available union men are unfit for vacant positions. The right to dismiss any man is refused by unions. For months past this has caused trouble and some time ago quite a large body of men refused to work because incompetent men were discharged and replaced by others. The manufacturers declare they will not reopen their factories until such time as they can run them themselves without dictation. There is no complaint among the men as far as wages are concerned.