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THE MOROCCAN QUESTION.

THE Frankfurter Zeitung says that an agreement has been reached by Germany and France, regarding the Moroccan dispute on all points except one, and that the programme assures Germany's economic rights in Morocco. The report reminds us of the story of the man who was telling a friend how easy it was to settle all domestic disputes. "When my wife and I cannot agree upon any question, we always compromise the affair. It is much better than quarrelling." "It sounds all right, but I don't see how you do it. Give me a case in point." "Well," said the peaceful man; "for instance, my wife likes tea for breakfast, and I like coffee." "How on earth do you compromise that?" "We compromise on tea."

That is about the compromise Germany has obtained on the Moroccan question. She has obtained assurance that her economic rights in Morocco (which were never in question) shall be maintained. France apparently scores on every other point. The German Government sent a cruiser to Agadir, and, no doubt, will be thankful to get it home again undamaged. The other important privilege she has obtained by the compromise is the privilege of retaining the political domination of France in Morocco, a privilege it also enjoyed at the Algeiras Conference. She may possibly also have obtained some territorial compensation in the French Congo; but that France will grant Germany any territory which would split the French Congo in two, or that England would permit any German acquisition of territory which would intercept or threaten the Cape to Cairo Railway is unthinkable. What Great Britain needs now is an African Monroe Doctrine. Great Britain and France own more than half of Africa between them. Great Britain owns over 3,700,000 miles of territory (including Egypt) with a population of 45,000,000 or 46,000,000 and 16,305 miles of railway, a bigger railway mileage than France, Germany, Belgium and Portugal combined possess in Africa. Germany's sudden desire for a big slice of the French Congo, may be part of a scheme to connect the German protectorate on the Atlantic coast, the Cameroons by railway with German East Africa. Germany is already building a railway from Dares-Salaam, a port opposite Zanzibar, to Ujiji on Lake Tanganyika, one side of which is the western boundary of German East Africa. On the other side of the Lake, Great Britain has acquired, by treaty, the right of way for the Cape to Cairo line. Germany is also constructing a line from Buen, an Atlantic port in the Cameroons, to the French Congo frontier. To connect the two railways, a route must be found

through both the French Congo and the Belgian Congo; which would involve isolating the greater part of the French Congo from the sea, and crossing the Cape to Cairo Railway. Suspicions on this subject may have had something to do with the recent military activity in Belgium.

For the present, at least, Germany's ambitions are checked by financial exigencies. They have already cost the country untold millions of marks — almost the price of a war.

MONTREAL'S SMOKE NUISANCE.

AN esteemed correspondent writes regarding the remarks of one of the City Controllers about the toleration of smoke in Montreal. He says that there is a Canadian smoke-consumer in one of our public buildings, which has been in use nearly two years and proven perfectly satisfactory. We have no doubt that our correspondent is perfectly correct. To abate the smoke nuisance in Montreal four things are necessary: a good smoke consumer; a stoker who knows his business; a good law and a good man to enforce it, together with the use of good coal, if necessary. There are plenty of good smoke consumers and good stokers. If there is not enough law it is easy enough to get some more. Where we seem a little short is in the matter of a good man to enforce the law. The smoke nuisance is under control elsewhere, and we are convinced it can be controlled here. They caught the nuisance young in London. Over 600 years ago a man was hanged for burning coal in that city. The remedy was a severe one, but must have been effective in his case. The Public Health Act of 1875, which applies to all places in the United Kingdom except London, Liverpool, Manchester and some other big cities which are provided for by local legislation, has a smoke nuisance clause. It is not as well worded as it might be, as there are some avoidable ambiguities. Sub-section 7 of clause 91 prohibits any fire place or furnace which does not as far as practicable consume the smoke, in any establishment not being a private residence. Another sub-section which was intended to strengthen the first, but rather weakens it, provides that the offence is not merely the emission of smoke, but the use of a fire-place or furnace, which does not, as far as practicable, consume the smoke. Still another ambiguous sub-section makes the emission of black smoke in such quantity as to be a nuisance an offence. The courts are not yet in agreement how black smoke must be to be "black