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TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1895.

THE SITUATION.

To find the exact location of the international boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska, Mr. Turner, Premier of our Pacific Province, is just now anxious. He is urging on the Ottawa Government the necessity of a practical delimitation. This part of the boundary, under the treaty of 1825, between Great Britain and Russia, when the latter country owned Alaska, is controlled by the combined factors of distance—thirty miles from the coast—and the summit of a range of hills or mountains in the vicinity. Whatever difficulty may be found will be in the location of the highlands, but as this is controlled by a specified distance from the coast line, the delimitation cannot well present serious problems for solution. Mr. Turner contends that the line has been inaccurately laid down on certain American maps, and that the misleading line has been carelessly or ignorantly transferred to some Canadian maps. From such general statements it is impossible even to form a clear idea of what Mr. Turner's contention is. American squatters are said to be settling themselves on the disputed territory. The same thing was done, in the north-eastern boundary dispute, to which the present case presents a physical feature somewhat allied: the highlands named in the treaty. Another instance of Americans obtaining possession of lands covered by an international dispute occurs at this moment, certain American citizens having obtained from the Government of Venezuela some of the lands claimed by Great Britain. Acquiring or squatting on territory claimed by two nations cannot alter the rights of parties, though it adds a new element to the complication. The upper part of the Alaska-Canada boundary is now being determined on the ground, and as it follows a different rule from the lower part of the line, the work of the surveyors is confined to tracing a line of meridian. The work is, we believe, being satisfactorily done. The British Columbia section is not less in need of being traced on the ground. Here the work may present greater difficulties.

The extreme flexibility of the Canadian Government in reference to the grain standards, has brought trouble where peace was hoped for. The Winnipeg Grain Exchange has declared for the rejection of the standards made by the Standard Board except No. 8 hard and frosted. The Exchange infers that these standards do not conform to the Act on which they are ostensibly founded. It asks that inferior grades containing an admixture of scoured wheat be kept separate from other grain at Fort William. The best thing would seem to be to let scoured wheat go for what it is worth, and to keep the unsuspected grades free from it.

The right and the wrong of the seizure by the United States cruiser "Rush," of the Canadian sealing vessel, "E. B. Marvin," depend upon facts which the two parties dispute; and until the facts are made clear, no sound opinion can be formed on the merits of the case.

Those who tell us that British influence in China has waned, and will soon cease altogether, may possibly alter their views when they see the effect of the formidable naval demonstration in the Yang Tse Kiang river. Lord Salisbury had demanded that the late viceroy of Szechung, as being responsible for the outrages at the mission station at Cheng Tu, last May, be suitably punished; and as the Chinese Government remained passive, and screened the offender, it became necessary to prepare to enforce the demand in the only way that the Pekin Government seemed to be able to understand. That Government is reported to have gone so far as to demand the recall of Mr. O'Connor, the British Minister, on the ground that he had been over zealous in investigating the cause of these outrages. The presence of a British fleet in Chinese waters will make it unnecessary to give a more specific answer to the Chinese demand, since it has had the desired effect in procuring the punishment of the offending Chinese official without a gun being fired. The Pekin official gazette tells the story of the reparation, the British Minister having first declared himself satisfied with what had been done. The effect may not go far to settle the question whether Anglo-Saxon or Slavonic influence is to become dominant in China. There may some day come a division of the two influences over different parts of China, for doubts as to the stability of the present empire begin to obtrude themselves. But in any future division it is certain that Japan would have to be reckoned with, and perhaps France could not be excluded. Japan, with her illimitable coal power and proved capacity for development, is destined to become the England of the East. Instead of China, of which she could have made an easy conquest, Japan will have Russia for a rival and an enemy, as all Japanese political parties see and acknowledge. War between the two countries is regarded as only a question of time, and Russia would precipitate a conflict if she should seize Port Arthur, but she will hardly make a decisive move till her trans-Siberian railway is completed. It is probable that when China demanded the recall of the British Minister, the influence of a prompter or prompters at her side was not unfelt.

More or less uneasiness was recently felt when the Treasury gold reserve of the United States fell but slightly below the minimum legal reserve of one hundred millions of dollars. And a few people, including some banks, sent to the Treasury gold in exchange for greenbacks. But in anything like a real emergency such doles would not be forthcoming, and an emergency is always possible where the gold reserve bears no proper proportion to the paper that is liable to be presented for redemption. There are outstanding $500,000,000 of greenbacks and $330,000,000 of silver certificates liable to be presented for payment in gold. Supposing the gold reserve to be at the full minimum of $100,000,000, it would bear the proportion of only about 12 per cent. to the redeemable paper. If a bank had a cir-