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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1900.

THE SITUATION.

A bill to permit English trustees to invest in Canadian stocks, the Inscribed Stock bill, has passed the House of Lords and is expected to find favor in the Commons. By widening the market for Canadian Government bonds, the measure will tend to secure better terms and results to Canada, as a borrower.

The Imperial Government has issued a call for tenders for the construction and laying of the Pacific cable in three sections; the first of which will stretch from Vancouver to Norfolk Island, the second thence to Queensland, the third thence to New Zealand. Of the commercial value of the cable there can be no doubt. Its value as a national work is attested by the joint Government ownership. Of its political value as a means of aiding any form of Federation, there may be some doubt. The term commercial federation has been used, but it is and must remain a misnomer so long as England refuses to abandon her free trade policy; and it would be gross self-deception to pretend that there are any visible signs of such an event.

The question has arisen in the Senate whether Dr. Devlin ought to be prosecuted for palming off on the Government an inferior food as an emergency ration. The Minister of Justice is reported to have confessed to an impression that a fraud had been committed on the Government. The matter had not, at the time of speaking, been referred to him. The defence of the transaction did little credit to those members of the House of Commons who took that course. The folly of the defence was that, so far as a party vote could do it, it tended to implicate the Government in a matter which is clearly indefensible. No one could use stronger terms in describing the nature of the crime involved in the charge made than the Premier; on the supposition that the charge was true, the criminality of Dr. Devlin was clear. But the question arises whether he is to be regarded as purged of guilt by a favorable vote of the House. Evidently, that vote does not fore-

stall investigation which ought to be something less than a farce. The Minister of Justice suggested that Mr. Borden himself might investigate.

If the accounts of the destruction of the Legations and all foreigners at Peking be correct, a terrible revenge will be taken by the Powers, whose diplomatic representatives and subjects have been slaughtered. The wrong has been done not by the Government of China, which had been reduced to a state of impuissance, but by subjects and national soldiers in rebellion. The work to be done by the allies is to put down the rebellion, restore order, and obtain due guaranties for the rights of foreigners. If any vestige of legitimate government remains, it ought to be found working in conjunction with the allies. Prince Ching, the rebel and usurper, who has put himself at the head of the Boxer outbreak, is the one on whom punishment must fall; and though to bring it about will be a formidable task, it will have to be accomplished. The anti-foreign agitation appears to be thoroughly popular in China, though how far it will prove to be general in development can only be decided by the event. The military training of the Chinese is very recent, and is due to foreign mercenaries, who always work for the master who pays them best; the Chinese may have been apt to learn the art of war, since they discarded wooden guns and took to Krupps, but they cannot yet be ranked as a great military nation, though the facility with which they progressed in the art of war seems to show they have the materials, long unsuspected, out of which one may be made. The present aspect and condition of things augurs ill for the peace of the world, in the opening of a new century. Let us hope that some easier way out of the trouble than can at present be discerned will be found.

When the trouble in China broke out, the Australian colony of Victoria offered to send to China a contingent of troops to operate with the English; and now it is announced that the offer has been accepted. The dissentients who objected to colonial troops being sent to South Africa will probably take this opportunity to say that they foresaw that, once the colonies began to take part in Imperial wars, they would be drawn into every war in which the Mother Country may become engaged. The case of China is certainly exceptional. Hitherto a peace-loving nation, avoiding, as far as she could, all wars, and refusing to arm even for her own defence, suddenly surprises the world by the belligerent attitude of a part of her population in revolt, with the cry of "death to all foreigners" within her borders. Such is the fearful attitude of Chinese patriotism, expressing itself in a way that paralyzes or destroys all regular domestic government. Hitherto this populous nation, in which resides one-fourth of the human race, has been peaceful, unarmed, only desiring to be let alone, all at once rising as a new military power, to upset all previous estimates of military possibilities, in the world. The uprising has taken place before the arming had become general, and this being the case, united Europe and America, with Japan in the van, will be able to put it down. Farther than this it is not easy to see at present. Russia will have to fight for the maintenance of her position in Manchuria; but in the