

unchallenged in Parliament. The great coal oil monopoly in inducing the railway companies to make rates to suit itself is really preventing Canadians importing the company's own American oil to compete with their Canadian oil. As a rule this monopoly has not sinned seriously in making high prices for oil in the States; but it is clear that it does not intend Canada shall have the advantage of a similar scale of prices. The company will doubtless develop the Canadian oil region to its full capacity. Hitherto our oil deposits have not had a fair test. For the most part the wells were too shallow to test the full value of the deposits. Hitherto Canadian oil has been often bad and dear, sometimes malodorous and repulsive. Our oil men apparently had not the enterprise to engage the necessary chemical talent to secure proper refining, and the public, which taxed itself for their benefit, suffered accordingly. The foreign monopoly which take their place will do their work better; but our Legislature must take care that they do not place the Canadian public at their mercy.

If it be true that the Canadian Government has undertaken to free from military service a number of Russian emigrants, the policy is one which ought to be reconsidered, before additional numbers are induced to come under such an engagement. These people object to war, as most of us do, in the abstract, but good resolutions will not ensure the world's perpetual peace, and when unwelcome war does come every country has a right to the services of all its citizens for the common protection. If communities like the Quakers, who refuse to engage in war, are native to the soil, we may compound with them on the principle which is acted upon when men drafted for service find a substitute, but to admit foreigners on the condition of perpetual freedom from military service would if carried far, sap the foundations of the nation. A few admitted in this way may do no practical harm, but a general policy of exemption of emigrants from military service, for whatever reason, ought not to be thought of.

Now that the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States has been signed, people are asking what it all means. In some cases this is not easy to foretell. France, the principal creditor of Cuba, will lose heavily if Spain be unable to pay the Cuban debt. Who shall pay the debt of a country which passes by conquest is answered in different ways according to circumstances. On the conquest of Canada only a small portion of the debt was paid, but that debt bore little analogy to the debt of Cuba. How is Cuba to be governed? Garcia, in the day of triumph or of defeat, as you choose to consider the American conquest, dies, and ex-United States Consul Lee returns to Havana in the triumphant spirit of the prediction which he made when he left amid the jeers of the populace. The problem of the government of the Island must be solved. Spain is expelled; the United States is nominally official guardian, and will no doubt become the real owner. What is to be done with the Philippines? is now asked. A member of Congress has a bill to authorize the sale of the islands, and the story got out that the President favored this course. The rumor is denounced as untrue. It is not the less certain that the views of the President regarding the Philippines have changed rapidly and violently. At first he was against their acquisition; now he favors their retention. Some say that the United States will transfer them to some other power, probably England, two or three years hence; but this is extremely improbable. Opinion in the States favors the idea of keeping all that is or can be got, and it is likely to increase rather than decrease.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

In Paris many Frenchmen have become possessed of the fatal idea that England is resolved to force a war upon their country. What England wants above everything is peace, but she also wants a settlement of certain outstanding difficulties between herself and France. Some of these France appears to have nursed so that she could make of them a convenient *casus belli* if occasion should favor. Among these is the Newfoundland question. In Newfoundland, which is indisputably hers, England has for peace sake caused a railway which runs across the island to be deflected to suit the whims of French fishermen, who have a right to dry fish on the shores and to erect hovels for that purpose. There is a limit to endurance of this kind and it has now been reached. If France nurses irritating questions as a possible *casus belli* she can not have a monopoly in the use to which they may be put. France probably does not desire war any more than England; if so, it becomes her to observe a conduct which is compatible with the maintenance of peace. The Admiral of the French fleet says he is ready for any eventuality; but another personage, unnamed, connected with the fleet, in an article contributed to L'Evenement, rates the French fleet as two to five against that of England, and says that war with that country would be criminal folly. The real danger is that the army is disposed to contest supremacy with the civil authority. The writer in question while deprecating war at present, wants France to expend half a billion francs on her navy and then accept the contest. The delusion of this plan is that it assumes that England would stand with hands folded while France prepared to strike. It is more likely that England would meanwhile increase the disproportion between the two fleets to her own advantage.

The colonial policy of France is based on a delusion not less fatal than the notion that she can increase her fleet so as make it superior to that of England. Several years ago French publicists, noticing the increasing disproportion between the populations of France and Germany, came to the conclusion that colonization provided the only means by which France could redress the balance. To colonize, France must send colonists from her bosom, there to increase the French colonial population. The process would diminish the numbers at home, and though a gap in the population would be left to be filled, it is not certain that Frenchmen would consent to fill it. It is not probable that a French colony would, at the present day, increase in anything like the proportion of the English in Australia, where the births are 87 to the 1,000, and if the birth-rate were high it would probably be accompanied by a wasting death-rate in proportion. The relative decadence of France cannot be arrested by colonization. She must protect the colonies she conquers, and this is a drag upon her military resources, both in men and money, and cannot add to her effective strength. The plan of converting natives into soldiers, as England does in India and Egypt, finds more or less favor in France, and doubtless something may be done in that way. But while France has the ambition she wants the spirit of colonization; her colonial bureaucracies are cumbrous and ruinously expensive. She makes colonies for the benefit of French officials, not for the benefit of the native population. She offends the rest of the world by setting up discriminating tariffs and does not derive any great advantages from her objectionable exclusiveness. As a colonizing power she is unpopular, and so long as she retains her present policy of exclusiveness her expansion will be viewed by other countries with anything but good-will.