

that the provisions of the treaty can be applied by drawing a line in the rear of these mountains, as certainly would be done, if the boundary passed around the head of the Lynn inlet." The treaty makes the mountains, parallel to the coast, the boundary, as far as the intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude; but if the mountains were found to be more than ten marine miles from the coast, then the line is to be drawn at a distance of ten degrees from the coast. Here the question always recurs; what is the coast? Does the coast exclude or include the Lynn inlet? Now that Senator Mills has given the public what we must consider the Canadian case, will someone, equally competent and responsible, give us the American case? Enough is now known to show that the matter is eminently one for arbitration, and to that it must come at last. Why not at once?

In the published correspondence between the Transvaal Government and Mr. Chamberlain, the chief point lies in the conditions which the little republic attaches to its proposed franchise concessions; that England is henceforth not to exercise her rights as Suzerain, and not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Transvaal. This means that England is asked to forego two rights, which she now possesses; the right of Suzerain, and the right which her subjects in the Transvaal possess, to equal treatment with the rest of the population. The right to interfere in the internal concerns of the Government, to enforce the promised equal treatment, becomes a duty, when British subjects are subjected to exceptional and unfair treatment, contrary to the stipulations of the convention between the two countries. The British note, in reply, makes it plain that the condition which the Transvaal seeks to impose will not be accepted. As President Kruger must have known that these conditions would not be accepted, the good faith of the proposed concessions is open to doubt. If Kruger could get rid of the Suzerain, he could do as he liked with the Uitlanders; and this is what he wants to accomplish. If war should break out, it is easy to foresee that the attitude of the Transvaal will be a struggle for complete independence. The opinion gains ground, among the South African correspondents of the British press, that the Boers intend to fight rather than make the concessions, without conditions which make them unacceptable. The position of most of these correspondents, in the Transvaal, has become critical, and several of them have sought safety in flight. The Transvaal is evidently relying upon the active assistance of the Free State, and a Boer uprising in Cape Colony, and it may be an invasion of Natal and Rhodesia. Meanwhile, some of the evils of war are being experienced; the population of Johannesburg is fast emigrating, and as the production of gold declines, the revenue of the Transvaal declines.

In the Transvaal negotiations, everything is now at sea. President Kruger's proposal of a five years' residence franchise having been refused by the British Government on account of the inadmissible conditions attached to it, the Transvaal Government withdraws; but still leaving open the question of the appointment of joint delegates to draw up a report on the electoral law, passed by the Volksraad. The latest Boer reply

to the proposal says: "The Transvaal will await the ulterior proposal of Great Britain, as to the constitution of such commission, as well as the time and place of meeting." A cabinet council is to be held to-day, in London, at which this latest Boer despatch will be dealt with. One thing is certain; England will not relinquish her right of suzerainty, which Kruger now disputes. In proposing conditions to the grant of a five years' franchise, he asked that the assertion of the suzerainty be dropped, which is something quite different from denying its existence. This difference amounts to a raising of its terms by the Transvaal, just at the time when, if negotiation is to succeed, it is necessary to lower them. Both sides continue to prepare for war, and the prospect of the maintenance of peace becomes less as the negotiations proceed, though Premier Schreiner, of Cape Colony, has taken the extraordinary ground that, in case of hostilities, the Cape would be neutral. The Boers understand that the Afrianders, in Cape Colony, would not assist the Transvaal in an attempt to throw off the suzerainty of Great Britain.

EMIGRANTS FOR CANADA.

A special effort is to be made to obtain, among the peasants of France, emigrants for Canada. The work of drawing them in has been entrusted to Dr. T. A. Brisson, who, as Agent-general of the Repatriation Society of the Province of Quebec, has been trying his hand in that line for some time, without, it must be said, conspicuous success. He goes to Paris as one of Canada's representatives to the Exposition of 1900; but as he has other work besides what can be seen and done, in Paris, he will leave early, possibly in November of this year. He thinks the French peasant can be lured by an offer of 100 acres of land in Canada, and the hope of eventual escape from the poverty in which he habitually lives. But why does the French peasant resist the attractions of the pet French colony of Algeria, much nearer home, a colony in which the olive tree grows wild, and for which France has made enormous sacrifices? Because the modern French peasant is not an emigrating being; he prefers poverty, at home, to chances out of France. France has no surplus population, politically speaking, to spare; she can scarcely maintain, without increase, the present number, while the population of Germany increases with rapid strides. The individual emigrant takes no account of considerations of this kind, it is true; but when the disposition to emigrate is wanting, no offers, however advantageous they may seem, have much effect. It will not be safe to count much on the best efforts which Dr. Brisson may be able to make.

LUMBER TRADE CONDITIONS.

Activity continues in the lumber trade. Both from the United States and from Canada there is a good demand for our lumber in its different classes. The home enquiry has proved especially good, and this may be taken as an indication of satisfactory industrial development. The lumbermen have been counting on a large cut this winter. Mills which have been idle the past two or three years are being put into working