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EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

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THE SITUATION.

President Cleveland, in his annual message to Congress, redeems his promise to recommend the appointment of a commission to consider the fishery question, in which Canada, as well as the United States, is deeply interested. In reliance upon this course being taken, Canada agreed to allow American fishermen to pursue their vocations in our waters, till the end of the season, without special arrangement. Such commission, the President intimates, should also take into account other questions which arise out of the intercourse between these neighboring countries, including of course, Newfoundland. Canada has done more than her part in the steps that lead to the initiation of the proposed new fishery and trade policy, and we cannot doubt that, as a matter of good faith, the Congress of the United States will act upon the recommendation of the President in regard to the Commission. It is very desirable that some arrangement should be come to before next season's fishing commences.

The extension of the Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, is urged by President Cleveland. Negotiations on the subject, we are informed, have been pending during the last fifteen years, and although nothing is said about the progress made, the hope is expressed that a satisfactory result may soon be reached. It is very desirable to bring dynamitards under an extended Extradition Treaty. They are not political offenders, but assassins of the worst sort, the enemies of mankind—whom all nations cannot fail to hold in abhorrence. A pressing need for the extension of the schedule in other directions has long been felt, and is sure to be provided for in any new treaty that may be agreed upon. Political considerations add to the difficulties of such treaties; and it will be necessary to provide that a criminal of whom the surrender has been obtained for one crime, shall not be tried for another which the treaty does not contemplate.

A new boundary question between Canada and the United States has arisen. The United States acquired Alaska subject to the demarcation set out in a pre-existing

treaty between Great Britain and Russia. "Modern exploration," President Cleveland tells us, "discloses that this ancient boundary is impracticable as a geographical fact." This is a not uncommon fate of lines drawn on paper without adequate knowledge of geographical facts. Both the north-western and north-eastern boundary differences originated in this source. What the precise difficulty is in the present case, the President does not say. What he does say is that mineral discoveries have given importance to the question. "I have," he adds, "invited Her Majesty's government to consider with us the adoption of a more convenient line, to be established by meridian observations or by known geographical features, without the necessity of an expensive survey of the whole." If the question is to be decided upon the "known geographical features" of the country, it will be necessary to be very certain about the facts. A complete survey, though it would be expensive, would probably prove to be the most satisfactory.

In referring to San Domingo, President Cleveland lays down a principle which seems to discountenance commercial treaties with any nation. He objects to tariff regulations by treaty that they diminish revenue; and he adds, that as "an emergency calling for the increase of taxation may at any time arise," "no engagement with a foreign power should exist to hamper the action of the Government." It would be difficult to see in this expression hope for Canada if our case, mixed up as it is with the fisheries, were not entirely exceptional. The President does not favor the Nicaraguan canal treaty, but gives the preference to the Tehuantepec route, which he believes to be not only feasible but preferable. He says truly that "whatever highway may be constructed across the barrier dividing the two greatest maritime areas of the world must be for the world's benefit, a trust for mankind, removed from the chance of dominion by a single power, nor must it become a point of invitation for hostilities or a prize for warlike ambition."

Protection is running a wild career in France. The Chamber of Deputies, by a large majority, has sanctioned a proposal to put additional duties on cereals and cattle. The previous increase of these duties is so recent that its full effect is not yet known. Agriculture can receive protection only at the expense of manufactures. France, as one of the chief manufacturing countries of Europe, needs nothing so much as cheap food for its workers. She cannot tax cereals and cattle without increasing the difficulty of competition which French manufacturers have to meet; and when she piles tax upon tax she handicaps herself.

To some extent, it is already certain, the Canadian route is to be used for British mail purposes. The British government has advertised for tenders for a mail service between England and Australia by way of Canada. If this is the natural route for the mail why not for commerce? Whether the mail service from England to

China and Japan will follow the same route, a little time will tell.

10,000 bushels of grain are now being daily shipped from Manitoba to Montreal, besides large quantities to Toronto, Ottawa and other places in Ontario. Last year the harvest in the North-west was got in earlier, and the bulk of the grain was shipped before the close of navigation. Now, the *Montreal Herald* informs us, shipments are limited only by the supply of cars.

Representation of the North-west in Parliament must be provided for next session. The completion of the census provides a basis for such action. By this means the wants of the people can be made known in a direct and legitimate way and with a certainty which has never yet been possible. To remove cause of anxiety, direct representation in Parliament has become necessary. So far it has not been deemed necessary to put into force the disarming Act even in respect of the Indians. When the North-west gets representatives, some extravagant claims may possibly be made, but if unreasonable they can be answered, while reasonable claims are granted. Distance lends a peculiar difficulty to the North-west question, which even railway communication will not quite get rid of.

The net result of the British and Irish elections is that Lord Salisbury, even with the aid of the Parnellites, cannot count on a secure majority, and the Liberals without the Parnellites have not an assured working majority. A coalition, which would seem to be the obvious resource under the circumstances, does not receive much encouragement. The chances are that, after a short session in which little will be done beyond the defeat of the government, there will be a new election, when the Liberals, being in power, would expect to add enough to their majority to enable them to be independent of the Irish Nationalists, or Gladstone may make some sort of terms with Parnell, whose views may be moderated by the failure of his alliance with the Tories, and the prospect before him.

The revenue of the United States for the last fiscal year was \$315,000,000, and the total ordinary expenditure was \$290,750,000. The civil and miscellaneous expenditure reached \$79,500,000; \$6,000,000 was disbursed on account of Indians, and pensions reached the enormous total of \$54,000,000, about £11,000,000 stg. The naval establishment was maintained at a cost of \$15,000,000: the district of Columbia, the ten miles square in which the national capital is situated, cost \$8,500,000. To the Sinking Fund went \$54,750,000, which practically means the abatement of the public debt to that extent; and this figure coincides almost exactly with the amount of funds redeemed.

The committee of the Toronto Board of Trade on railway privileges has concluded an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway on the subject of tickets for commercial travellers. Travellers will obtain their tickets on presenting a certificate of