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THE SITUATION.

Australia is willing to bear one-third of the cost of the proposed Pacific cable, which is to connect Canada with Australasia, and she is of opinion that Canada and Great Britain should each contribute in like proportion. This view was expressed at a conference of the Australian colonies, held at Sydney, in which the several Postmasters General took part. Two delegates, Hon. Duncan Gillies and Sir Saul Samuel, were at the same time appointed delegates to the Cable Commission, and the suggestion for resolving the financial problem may be regarded in the nature of an instruction to them. It was in the form of a resolution, which also favored the landing of the cable only on British territory, and named the route from Fiji, Norfolk Island, North Island, New Zealand and Moreton Bay, on the east coast of Australia. When the project was first started some of these colonies favored connection with a French cable, but recent events have shown the desirability of giving the British cable project a distinctive national character, as well as the necessity of constructing this additional link between different parts of the empire without unnecessary delay.

In the summer of 1894, Mr. Carlisle, Secretary of the United States Treasury, appointed an immigration commission, which has just reported on the casual circulation of laboring population across the border line of Canada. Previous statements regarding the emigration from Canada to the States, coming from American sources, have, on investigation, proved to be full of exaggeration, and in fact utterly unreliable. The present commission listened to labor organizations in the Republic, who complained of the competition of what they called the "cheap labor" of Canada, and the necessity of protection against its invasion. The report represents that "at least one hundred thousand migrating laborers leave Canada yearly by Detroit and Buffalo," and spend a few months in the States every year. Of whom do "the cheap laborers of British America" consist? Our agricultural land is more productive than that of the Republic, our yield of wheat is considerably larger, and our laboring men belong not to the cheap, but to the dear races. The numbers who pass to and fro across the border are subject to no check which could form a basis of reliable statistics. Some

French-Canadians go to American lumbering camps, where they are among the best and most expert of workmen. Formerly emigrants who went into the States were welcome, whether their stay was temporary or permanent. Now the labor organizations there are hostile to them; and political pressure is brought to bear to compel laborers who make a temporary sojourn to the south of the border to become American citizens. Canada is so far from having any surplus population that she could easily find homes for one as large as that which inhabits the Republic. The few mobile workers who occasionally hover on the frontier, if they are not wanted in the States, should be induced to settle on Canadian soil, in some part of the country, east, west or central.

Whether it is possible or desirable to dam the great lakes so as to prevent a lowering of the waters and to raise them above their present level, has become a practical question. With the object of getting the materials from which to form a reasonable conclusion on the subject, the House Committee on Rivers and Harbors, at Washington, has reported a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for an estimate of the cost of making the necessary surveys. The surveys would cover the outlet of Lake Erie, at the entrance of Niagara River, and the outlet of Lake St. Clair, at the entrance of the Detroit River. They would necessarily be made in international waters, the dividing line, at these points, being at or near the centre of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. The work ought not to be under the exclusive direction of one of the countries interested, but should be shared by both.

Coomassie has fallen into the hands of the British without the loss of a life, except from the deadly fevers of the region, or a shot being fired. Natives were employed to make a road through the woods from the coast to the capital, and they were sent on in advance, apparently as a shield, of the British troops. The sacred grove, in which human sacrifices had continued to be made, contrary to treaty, was destroyed. England had required the native king to receive a British agent to see that the treaty was respected, and his refusal led to the sending of the expedition, the cost of which Ashantee must pay. Unless the agent be protected by an adequate guard, operations of this kind sometimes prove dangerous in the sequel. In 1879, the British agent who had been installed at Cabul by a force of 50,000 men, being left with insufficient protection, was massacred with his little guard. On the present occasion, King Prempeh is to be taken to the Cape of Good Hope and kept as a hostage. He will be unable to follow the example of Ayoob Khan of Abyssinia, in resigning. The only danger is that of a revolution at Coomassie, and against this it is necessary to be prepared. One incident of the march to Coomassie which causes profound regret, is the death from fever of Prince Battenberg, the favorite son-in-law of Queen Victoria.

Lord Salisbury proposes to Brazil to settle the dispute over the Island of Trinidad, on the coast of that State, by arbitration, and an answer to this proposal is asked for before 12th February. As the United States, at least by implication, has offered arbitration as a solvent of all disputes between European countries and South American States, and has in effect assumed a protectorate over these States, it remains to be seen whether she will be prepared to enforce her own rule. In the North-Eastern boundary question, between the United States and Canada, everybody seems to forget, when an arbitration resulted in a decision favorable to Great Britain, the United States Senate