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### THE SITUATION.

A blot on French civilization is cast by the massacre at Aigues Mortes, of fifty Italians, and the wounding of a much larger number. The rivalry of workmen of the two countries, embittered by national jealousy, may account for the outbreak; but the serious part of the affair is the culpable apathy of the police in not interfering adequately to protect the Italians. One hundred and fifty Italians, attacked by nearly a thousand Frenchmen, of whom some 400 were armed with revolvers and rifles, stood no chance without police protection. The fleeing Italians took refuge in a farm house, which they finally left on the advice of the police. The implied protection was not afforded, and the attempt to escape gave the opportunity for massacre of which the French mob was in search, and relentlessly was it used. A riot may occur anywhere; but when police protection, at hand, is practically withheld, a grave responsibility to the aggrieved is incurred. In this case, the responsibility is national, and the incident possesses an aggravated atrocity which calls for prompt international reparation. Attempts at retaliation have been made by mobs in Italy, with this difference, that the authorities, understanding their duty, made prompt efforts to stop the mischief. France cannot refuse to make such retribution as the circumstances permit of.

A commission appointed to enquire into the want of harmony among the authorities and professors of the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, at Guelph, has just sent in its report. Its members were Mr. John Winchester, Master-in-Chancery, Mr. John Watterworth, and Mr. J. S. Pearce. Professor Shaw, of the agricultural department, comes in for the heaviest strokes of the commissioners' censure. Him they charge with being the cause of the lack of harmony in the institution; with whisper-

ing complaints against President Mills in the ears of students and strangers. Of Mr. Mills they say, "He was remiss in not upholding his authority over the agricultural department on all occasions." Any man, in whatever station of life, public or private, who fails to exercise legitimate authority on suitable occasions, is sure to find some one usurp it, and if he attempts to recover what he should always have guarded, trouble comes. Professor Shaw is not charged with publicly attacking or promoting attacks on President Mills. The trouble is of long standing and involved others besides Mr. Shaw and the President. Whether there was any politics in the business does not appear, but Professor Shaw is charged with evading all responsibility to the Minister of the day. In a purely government institution such responsibility is unavoidable, although in itself the political connection may sometimes be embarrassing. No doubt the commissioners are right in the conclusion, "That it is in the interest of the institution that the rules, regulations, and by-laws in connection with the institution should be rigidly enforced; that it is absolutely necessary that there should be only one head to the institution, and he alone responsible to the Minister for the proper discharge of duty of all the staff and the officers connected therewith."

Before the amount of the damages which become payable under the decision of the Behring Sea arbitrators can be settled, some further negotiation will be necessary. Some American journals name \$1,500,000 as a probable amount, and others state that a claim of \$2,000,000 will be made by Canada. It is not probable that either amount can be regarded as other than proximate or conjectural. The claim is for improper capture of vessels, cargoes and apparatus, and the imprisonment of the crews. The "Onward," the "Thornton," and the "Sayward" were all seized hundreds of miles from shore. There is of course no question of the liability for damages; all that has to be done is to ascertain the amount. This is not likely to be put at a fanciful figure. There is another claim for which the Americans are liable, in respect to which Great Britain has already advanced to Canadian sealers \$100,000, but which she has magnanimously declared, through Sir Charles Russell, her readiness to waive. The \$100,000 paid accrued under the treaty as compensation for sealers for loss of business. There will not, we apprehend, be any serious difficulty over the other claim. The waiving of one evinces a spirit on one side which needs only to be reciprocated to make the settlement of the other an easy matter.

After September 18th, Russia will prohibit the importation of foreign silver coins. One motive for the issue of the order was the fear that the repeal of the Sherman Act by the American Congress would turn the stream of silver coin to Russia, where already the silver rouble has fallen below its paper namesake. Of course, the importation of silver will still be possible; but as the metal can be coined

only at the option of the Government, it will not be exchangeable for other commodities at more than its market value. Everywhere silver gets the cold shoulder; each movement directed against it tends to depress the price. In England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given assurance to Parliament that the Government has found in the course of events in India nothing to induce it to interfere with the single monetary standard.

As was anticipated in these columns, the supply of hay in England has tended to outstrip the demand. During the last six months the imports into England reached 62,762 tons against 26,066 tons in the corresponding period of last year. In a circular issued from the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, Mr. W. G. Parmelee calls attention to the desirability of properly marking the bales to facilitate identification of different parcels on landing. In the absence of this precaution, it has happened that some consignees get more and some less weight than they are entitled to. The marking, it is pointed out, may be done by a slat of shingle with printed or stencilled words upon it. The practical point is worth attention.

An attack upon Canadians employed in loading lumber from a dock in North Tonawanda, United States, was carried to the extent of driving the men from their work. How far the outrage was instigated by national feeling may be doubtful, since the assailants were union men and the assailed non-union. The motives were probably mixed, as at Aigue-Mortes. A part of the complaint is that the men attacked were not properly defended by the police. The incident will, of course, be made a subject of enquiry.

The renewed outbreak of cholera in Europe comes too late in the season to last long. Two or three cases have been reported in England, where the precautions against the spreading of the disease proved effective last year, and may do so again. Should any cases reach this country, the improved quarantine regulations will be found of great service.

There is a touch of the ludicrous in the way in which "want of currency" is being made to do duty, in the neighboring Republic, for inability to meet obligations. The humorous aspect of the euphuism is lost sight of in the grim reality of the financial situation. Posterity will smile over the cool assertion that mere want of currency equally puts the present difficulties in the way of the beggar and the banker. The real want is of the means of paying. England has withdrawn some \$200,000,000 from American investments, and the pinch is being severely felt. In the emergency, new forms of credit are being invented. Marked cheques for which cash cannot be got have been forced into circulation. Here is a new form of confidence amid the surrounding want of confidence. The situation is full of like contradictions. The suggestion has been made that drafts drawn by country banks on