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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1900.

## THE SITUATION.

The Board of Trade banquet accorded a hearty and well deserved welcome to Lord Strathcona. As the occasion forbid, no word was said in favor of either form of British preference, against the other, free or reciprocal. Lord Strathcona did his part with a modesty which added to the admiration of his character, and which might be copied with advantage by other public men. Of course Lord Strathcona's contribution to the defence of the British Empire in South Africa was uppermost in everyone's mind. He gave great credit to the commander of the force which went to South Africa at his expense, as well as to the officers generally, and the members of the corps; adding, that the whole of the Canadian soldiers who went there, had done their duty not less nobly. In the course of his speech, he expressed the opinion that, by the close of the year 1902, we shall have direct cable communication with Australia. He brought up a subject of which his residence in England, as High Commissioner of Canada, enabled him to speak with authority; the disadvantage at which the medical profession of Canada stands, in England, from the fact that medical men here bear no general Dominion mark. For want of this they are debarred the chance of obtaining lucrative positions in the British army. Let us hope the suggestion will bear fruit, though, if we are to judge by the past, strong jealousies and prejudices stand in the way of reform.

On the return to England of some soldiers from South Africa, London was moved by a cyclone of enthusiasm which drove before it the great mass of humanity, counted by millions, like feathers in a storm. A cordon of soldiers and police broke before the impetuosity of the moving millions, at a thousand points. It was to no purpose that the military cordon, whose business it was to keep the line open, linked hands and stood back to back assisting the police; the rush of the mass of people swept both police and military as easily as a hurricane drives into billows the

water of the ocean. The line of the swaying multitude, meeting counter currents here and there, became a solid mass, which held so fast together, that not even the weight of mounted horsemen could make any impression upon it. For once, a London crowd became unmanageable; but it was good natured, though terribly in earnest in its approval of the course that has been pursued in South Africa. Some idea of what the scene was like may be got by recalling the spectacle presented in Toronto on Pretoria day. The loss of civic control over the mass, while it attests the strength of the military enthusiasm, will yield scant satisfaction to thoughtful minds. Some will ask whether the war has changed the character of the English people for the worse; others will find in it a gauge of safety for the great nation, which is much envied by other countries and hated by some. However viewed, it is a portentous fact, which may mean good or ill or a mixture of both.

Mr. H. Cook again reiterates his charge that he was offered a senatorship, if he would pay \$10,000, and says he is ready to appear before a non-partizan commission to substantiate the charge. So far there is no evidence before the public from either side; but the question has assumed a shape which requires that steps be taken to elicit the whole truth. As a rule, men who receive senatorships from either party are probably the men who regularly make contributions for election purposes, not in direct payment of the senatorship or even at the time of its receipt. This is not a direct sale of senatorships, or such a one as the law would reach. Was Mr. Cook a regular contributor to party funds, when there was no question of a senatorship? A man who contributes to party funds for years, is expected to continue, and if he ever gets a senatorship, without paying for it, can he be said to have bought it? Whenever a contributor to election funds receives a benefit from those for whom the funds are expended, an anomalous situation is created, in which the same result is produced as would be in a direct case of bargain and sale.

The city of St. John, where the Minister of Railways is opposed by ex Finance Minister Foster, the electoral battle is carried on with great energy. The C.P.R. is trying to force the Government, as representing the Intercolonial, into an arrangement for the exchange of traffic, to which the Minister of Railways is not willing to consent. The electors are told that the fortunes of the city, as a winter port, are at stake, and will be decided favorably or not, according as one or the other candidate is elected. Mr. Foster tells in detail what steps he will take to ensure the continuance of St. John as the winter port, if he gets back to office. He backs up the C.P.R. and the C.P.R. backs up him. Under the circumstances, he seems to have the weather gauge of the Minister. How far he is prepared to go may be understood by the fact that he is ready to give the C.P.R. what it asks, "even if he had to go back on the agreement with the Grand Trunk." By the agreement in question, the Government leases for 99 years the use of 31 miles of track, from Rosalie Junction to Montreal, including the right to cross the Victoria bridge, and to utilize the Grand Trunk