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The Crops. From all accounts it appears quite certain that the wheat crop in Manitoba and the Northwest will be this year far below the average. Some rain has lately fallen in portions of Manitoba which may materially help the crop in those sections, but, under any circumstances the crop throughout the Northwest as a whole will be a very short one, and unless the weather from the present on should prove extremely favorable, there seems to be reason to fear that in many districts the crop will be almost a failure. Similar conditions are said to prevail in the north-western States. According to one estimate said to be made on the authority of an expert, the wheat crop of the Dakotas and Minnesota for 1900 will not be more than 25 per cent. of the crop of 1898, and only a little larger percentage of that of last year. It is quite possible of course that the shortage is being magnified in the interest of grain-holders, but there is no doubt that the wheat crop of 1900 in the northern part of the continent will be small as compared with those of the two preceding years. In Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces there appears to be promise of an average crop. In Eastern Ontario there is prospect of a good wheat crop and a poor hay crop—in Western Ontario an average cereal crop and a heavy fruit crop is expected. In the Maritimes the dry weather of June has been trying for the hay crop on light soils, the recent rains, however, will help the hay crop much and other crops still more. The prospect of the apple crop in Nova Scotia is considered excellent.

The English in Africa.* The Hon. Minister of Justice for Canada has given us, in the volume which bears the title indicated in the heading of this article, a work of very considerable interest and value. The appearance of such a book from such a source is a matter of interest in itself, as marking an important stage in the development of our country, and as indicating that our public men are beginning to find time and inclination for literary labors, and to manifest capacity for scholarly and statesmanlike discussion of subjects of grave importance, not immediately connected with the political affairs of their own country. Mr. Mills' work does not assume to deal exhaustively with its subject. It is in considerable measure a study in diplomacy, and has reference chiefly to those British possessions in Africa, the acquisition of which has involved controversies with France, Germany, Portugal, and the South African Republic. There is an interesting chapter on The English in Egypt, and other chapters on The Soudan, British Dominions in West Africa and British East Africa. But the larger portion of the book is devoted to the English and Dutch in South Africa and the relations of Great Britain with the Boers. The chapters dealing with this subject should certainly be of deep interest to the very large number of our people who have been following so eagerly from week to week the progress of the war. The author has perhaps dealt with his subject rather as a lawyer than as a historian. His presentation of the case is from the British point of view, and he has not felt under any obligation to recognize all that might be said by one who should plead the cause of the Boers. The British case is however strongly presented, and the unprejudiced reader will be likely to feel that the responsibility for the war which is ending in the overthrow of the independent Dutch States, is mainly due to the narrow intolerance and fatuous obstinacy of the Boers themselves. Not the least interesting chapter in the book is the final one on Rhodesia, the great region stretching northward from the northern boundaries of Bechuanaland and the Transvaal through ten degrees of latitude to the Congo Free State and Lake Tanganyika. This country is included in the British sphere of influence, being for the present under the immediate control of the South Africa Company. It is said to possess rich agricultural and mineral resources, and is probably destined to become an important part of a great

*The English in Africa. By Hon. David Mills, Q. C., Minister of Justice, Professor of International and Constitutional Law in the University of Toronto. Toronto: George N. Morang and Company.

British South African Commonwealth. Mr. Mills is evidently an Imperialist of a moderate type. He does not at all share the views of those who hold that Canada has no concern in the settlement of the Empire's controversy in South Africa, and contend that both the expense and the responsibility of maintaining British ascendancy should devolve upon the Imperial Authorities. He believes that when a colony, with local self-government, has grown until it possesses a foreign commerce and has external relations, it has reached a point when domestic self-government alone does not fully meet its requirements, and one at which the Empire is entering upon a new phase of existence. A colony having reached the position which Canada has attained, should not demand that the expense of its protection should continue to be a burden on the Motherland. A proper measure of self-respect demands that we should assume our due share of responsibility for our own protection. And the well-being of the colonies is not to be secured apart from the safety and prosperity of the parent state. The interest of Canada in the welfare of Great Britain is not merely a sentimental interest. If by any alliance of national forces against her, England were degraded from the position of eminence which politically and commercially she now holds among the nations of the world, it would mean incalculable loss to Canada and to every country which really cherishes the principles of liberty. It would mean the weakening of the world's grandest bulwark of political, religious and commercial freedom. With the downfall of Britain, "the trade of the world would go back, the restricted system would again be introduced, and the whole commerce of the world would be conducted on lines similar to those which prevailed before the beginning of this century. . . . We cannot stand still. We ought to advance; but we must not forget that increased power and greatness must bring increased responsibilities, and we would prove ourselves unworthy to share in the sovereign authority of a great Empire if we attempted to shift to the shoulders of others the burdens which should in justice rest upon our own."

Tien Tsin and Seymour's Force Relieved. During the week authoritative despatches have been received from China, confirming the reports of the relief of the foreign residents at Tien Tsin. The relief was effected by a joint force of British, Americans, Germans and Russians, with comparatively small loss, especially on the part of the British and Americans, whose casualties are said to have numbered only about half a dozen all told. The loss of the Germans and Russians was much heavier, amounting to 25 killed and between 60 and 70 wounded. The German and Russian troops appear to have been present in greater numbers and to have been earlier on the ground than the others. The arrival of a thousand British troops with artillery, gave the strength necessary to enable the foreign force to break through the cordon which the Chinese had drawn around the city, and to afford relief to the foreign quarter of Tien Tsin. It is gratifying to learn that the situation for the foreigners in the city had not been so bad as had been feared, for although it was quite serious enough to make relief imperative, there appears not to have been any massacre of foreigners or wholesale destruction of property. At Tien Tsin definite intelligence was obtained as to the whereabouts of Admiral Seymour's joint force of 2300 marines, which had been sent a fortnight earlier from Taku to Pekin, in order to protect the legations and other foreign residents in the Chinese Capital. Admiral Seymour had encountered the Chinese in so great numbers as to be unable to reach Pekin, and turning back toward Tien Tsin, had found his way blocked in that direction also and had been obliged to entrench his force in a defensive position. He had suffered heavily, the losses as reported amounting to 62 killed and 312 wounded. The force had made heroic resistance, never failing during 15 days of continuous fighting. For ten days the men were on quarter rations, and they would have been able to hold out a day or two longer. It was generally supposed that Admiral Seymour had succeeded in reaching Pekin and had brought away the foreign legations, but this as we

have seen was not the case, and at present writing it is yet uncertain whether the representatives of the Foreign Powers are still at Pekin, or whether they have been taken elsewhere under Chinese military escort. Seymour's men caught several Chinese who said that the legation had been burned and the ministers killed. Others said that the ministers had been imprisoned. Later despatches bring a report from Admiral Seymour himself, now at Tien Tsin, which shows that his force had captured a Chinese arsenal and considerable quantities of rice, and that though he was hemmed in by the enemy, his situation was not so desperate as the first accounts had made it appear.

So far as can be gathered from the despatches, the condition of affairs in South Africa has not greatly changed during the past week. The Boers under De Wet in the Orange Colony, and Botha in the Transvaal, are maintaining a guerrilla warfare. They are succeeding in annoying the British, but have not been able to deliver any important attack. On the other hand they have managed so far dexterously to elude the British generals. In this kind of warfare the Boers are wily and resourceful, and they may be able to prolong Lord Roberts' task of bringing an end to the war for some months to come. In the western part of the Transvaal, however, the process of pacification appears to be proceeding successfully under General Baden-Powell, to whom many of the Burghers have surrendered their arms, and some who resisted have been captured. Lord Roberts has not succeeded in enveloping Botha's forces, but the Boer general has been forced to withdraw from the vicinity of Pretoria to the eastward. Matters are assuming a more stable condition in Pretoria. Among other evidences of this is the fact that a newspaper has been started. It bears the title of "The Friend." The Canadian Mounted Infantry have distinguished themselves by capturing two guns from the enemy in the neighborhood of Rustenburg. The report that a body of the Strathcona Horse had made a raid in the direction of Komati Poort and blown up the railway bridge at that point, thus preventing any supplies reaching the Boers by way of Lorenzo Marquez, appears to have been a fabrication. . . . Out of the many confused and conflicting despatches purporting to give intelligence as to the condition of affairs in China, it is difficult to gather anything that can be regarded as certainly true. It is evident however, that the country is still in a terrible ferment and that the outbreak of feeling against the foreigners continues, if it is not increasing in violence. It now seems certain that the report of the murder of the German Minister, Baron Von Ketteler, in the streets of Pekin, on June 18, is true. The report had not been credited, but it is now confirmed through so many different channels that there seems to be no room for further doubt of its truth. It is said also that the German legation and six other buildings were burned, and that a number of the servants of the legations were killed and their bodies thrown into the flames. The outbreak against the German embassy in Pekin goes to support the statement which has been made that the present outbreak of hostility against foreigners has been provoked largely by the action of the German Government in seizing the port of Kiao-Chau as an indemnity from China for the massacre of two missionaries. Respecting the fate of the other legations and the European and American population of Pekin, said to number about 800, there is great uncertainty. One despatch states that the consuls at Shanghai entertain little hope that any foreigners are left alive in the Chinese Capital. But this gloomy view hardly appears to be justified by the general character of the information available. There seems reason to conclude that as late as June 26 no general massacre of foreigners in Pekin had taken place, though it was represented that at that date the situation was most critical. After the relief of Tien Tsin was effected June 23, a relief force was sent forward towards Pekin. The distance is about 70 miles, and if it was able to make progress it should have reached its destination before this, but nothing has been heard from it as yet. Men well acquainted with Chinese affairs are still not without hope that the situation may take on a brighter aspect, but for the present it must cause the gravest concern for the safety of many foreign residents in China as well as native Christians, and also as to the ultimate outcome of the trouble.

—The latest news from China is by no means of a reassuring character. It was stated in the British House of Commons on Monday that at present no relief expedition is advancing toward Pekin because the allied forces were not yet sufficiently strong for the purpose. The situation seems desperate in Pekin and the Province of Chi-li, but the southern provinces are said to be breaking away from the Imperial authority at Pekin and are forming a Confederacy with its capital at Nankin. The viceroys in these southern provinces are maintaining friendly relations with the foreign powers.