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TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1901.

THE SITUATION.

At Quebec, the place at which the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall began their tour across this continent, some parts of the programme had to be omitted in consequence of the death of the American President, Mr. McKinley, a necessary token of respect to the late chief of a friendly nation. The freedom of the city of Quebec was conferred on the Duke, as was also an honorary degree by the University of Laval. The Duke was the recipient of numerous loyal addresses; he dined at the citadel and reviewed 5,000 troops on the historic Plains of Abraham. One of the gracious acts of the Duke was the distributing the medals to returned volunteers who had served in the war in Africa. It is announced that the health of the Duchess will not permit of her accompanying the Duke across the continent. After Quebec comes the turn of Montreal, the passage being made in the "Ophir," and that city, as might have been expected, did the thing in right royal style. The decorations were magnificent and the reception in every way matched the decorations. The intended civic reception was cancelled out of respect for the dead president of the neighboring republic; but an admirable address from the city council was presented and replied to in felicitous terms. As addresses were to be in one language only, the French mayor made it in French, illustrating the variety of tongues in the wide-spread British Empire. The spectators are estimated at one hundred thousand, one-quarter of the number being strangers. The Duke and Duchess were the guests of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.

Contrary to the opinion confidently expressed by one of the attending surgeons, President McKinley died from the effect of the assassin's bullet. Public indignation against the murderer gave birth to many suggestions for the treatment of murderous anarchists, and indeed to anarchists of all kinds. Among the rashest of remedies, as too often happens, some come from the pulpit. That anarchy, as we know it by its manifestations, is a menace to society is only too clear; but the proper mode of combating is not to copy its lawless methods. An accredited

American lexicographer defines anarchy as "the state of society where there is no law or supreme power, or where the laws are not effective and individuals do what they please with impunity." The description fits more than professed anarchists; it fits all who defy the law; and in this way it brings a good many combines under condemnation, combines which insolently override the law to the injury of the public and for their own undue benefit. It is evident that we require a new classification of anarchists, not a new definition; and that it is necessary to include more than generally pass under that designation. All who defy the law, whether by violence or stratagem, properly go under that name.

Predictions were made that the cabinet of the murdered President would seek an early opportunity of resigning, for the purpose of giving his successor, Mr. Roosevelt, who, under the constitution steps into the Presidential chair, an opportunity of formulating and carrying out his own policy. But one of the first things the new President did was to ask all the members of the cabinet to retain their places and they at once, one and all, responded to the call. The new President moreover announced that his policy would be a continuation of that of his immediate predecessor, and in retaining the whole of the old cabinet he proposed to carry that declared policy into effect. Before being elected Vice-President, the present President was a most conspicuous opponent of combines, which, since then, have become more rampant than ever. It remains to be seen whether the old feeling of opposition to them will revive in him, or whether he may acquiesce in what he may possibly have come to regard as the inevitable. Time alone can solve the riddle. Meanwhile it looks as if things would go on in the channel which the dominant forces cut during the ascendancy of the late President, an ascendancy which the old McKinley tariff had much to do in establishing. President McKinley, as was noticed last week in these columns, had, just before his death, got round to the advocacy in general terms of reciprocity with Canada. What effect this disposition would have had on reciprocity with Canada, if he had lived, it is now impossible to tell, but as his successor announces in general terms that he intends to follow in the footsteps of the dead President, it may be taken for granted that negotiation will once more be tried, and we should not be greatly surprised if it should be tried in vain. If anything should come of it, so much the better.

The recent cabinet changes in British Columbia tend to throw doubt on the future stability of the Dunsmuir Government. Its genesis was the result of the anti-Martin feeling, the strength of which, at the last general election, may be gauged by the fact that Mr. Martin, as Premier, could command in the whole Province a support of only seven members out of forty. When Mr. Turner recently resigned his office in the Government to take the position of Provincial agent in England, the Premier selected Mr. Brown to fill the vacant place. Mr. Brown it seems is a Martinite. This selection was so distasteful to Mr. McBride that he resigned his portfolio of Minister of Mines. Mr. Martin gained whatever strength he at any time possessed in the Province by opposition to what passed for the exactions of the C. P. R., and he used up this fund of popularity by afterwards playing the game of the company he had so vigorously opposed. At the last session of the Provincial Legislature he voted to hang up the question of bonusing the Coast-Kootenay railway, in the interests of the C. P. R., which wanted the subsidy for