The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1898.

A "BIG FOUR."

Three recent events bid fair to mark the closing years of the century as one of the momentous epochs in history. They are the growing undertanding between Great Britain and the United States, the Russian request for general disarmament and the Anglo-Germanic "entente." It may be premature to expect a realization of the Czar's desire, but that out of it may come an understanding, fruitful of good results for mankind, is wholly reasonable. It is clearly among the probabilities of the near future that an agreement will be arrived at between Great Britain, the United States, Germany and Russia. We wish to draw attention to several interesting feature in connection therewith.

If one takes the map of the world and starts westward from Great Britain, he will find that the first land to greet his vision on the opposite shore of the Atlantic is British territory, lying to the south of which is the continental possessions of the United States. Crossing the British territory and still going westward, he will come to Siberia, and, still going westward across Siberia, he will reach Russia proper. Crossing Russia, he finds himself in Germany, and from Germany a short sail across the North sea will land him back in Great Britain. He will thus have circled the world, and when he has not been on the ocean, he has been on territory owned by the "Big Four" combination above mentioned. But this is not all. If his westward departure from America is made from the United States, he can cross the Pacific by stepping stones, as it were, owned by the latter country, until he reaches the Philippines, when his next step will be to British territory in Borneo, thence to Singapore and thence by a series of British stepping stones he will find himself back in Great Britain; or from Singapore he may turn southward, and, taking in New Guinea owned jointly by Great Britain and Germany, reach the Australian continent, owned by Great Britain. Nor is this all, for if Germany occupies Syria, as is said to be contemplated, he can go eastward from Great Britain through Germany and Russia to Syria, thence to Egypt, and so on down to the Cape of Good Hope, and never leave the territories of the "Big Four."

Let us see what statistics have to say about this possible combination, and first as to area, the round numbers being used in each case:

	Square miles.
The British Empire	12,000,000
Russian Empire	8,700,000
The United States	3,700,000
The German Empire	1,250,000
Total	25,650,000

Next let us take the population:

British Empire	383,000,000
Russian Empire	122,000,000
The United States	80,000,000
German Empire	54,000,000
Total	639,000,000

In estimating the population of the United States we have included that of the territory acquired and likely to be retained by reason of the late war. Next take the statistics of foreign commerce, including exports and imports, and we get the following:

	Per annum.
British Empire	$5,000,000,000
United States	2,000,000,000
German Empire	2,000,000,000
Russian Empire	1,000,000,000
Total	$10,000,000,000

These statistics imply inconceivable area, power and wealth.

We draw attention to the relative position of the British Empire. It has nearly an equal area to the other three, and if Egypt be counted in and Syria be given to Germany, we possess more than the other three. In population our Empire has much more than the other three, and in commerce, after liberally estimating for Germany and Russia, we have an amount equal to the other three.

We note another feature of the affair. Germany, Great Britain and the United States are substantially the Protestant powers of Christendom, while Russia represents the Greek church. About 50,000,000 of the united population of the four empires are Roman Catholics, about 73,000,000 belong to the Greek church; about 219,000,000 are Protestant, and the remainder or about 300,000,000, chiefly British subjects, are Mohammedans, Buddists and members of various other sects, showing that John Bull has "the heathen for an inheritance" as well as "the uttermost parts of the earth. for a possession."

It is also noteworthy that the dominant races in this tremendous aggregation are substantially of the same great family that is to say, they are, speaking from historical evidence, representatives of the Northern branch of the human family as distinguished from the Tropical branch. They are not representatives even of the Latin race, as we have learned to call the people who inhabit Southern Europe and their descendants in South America.

When we consider all these things and others which will suggest themselves to any one who gives the matter a little thought, we will begin to form at least a vague idea of what such a combination of nations will imply. No one need be surprised if later day prophets read more into the despatches that appear on the surface and claim that we now see approaching the dawn of a veritable millennium.

THE GREATEST FIELD OF RESEARCH.

The President of the American Society for Psychical Research, after eight years' devotion to scientific investigation of spiritistic evidence, has made public a written declaration of his conviction that the dead can communicate with the living. Most people will say he has been humbugged, but he himself does not admit that there is the slightest possibility of that. He claims that in his experiments, all the precautions necessary to prevent fraud and collusion have been observed, and that he has demonstrated what he asserts, quite as unanswerably as other facts of an unusual character are demonstrated. He claims to have examined into and exhausted every other hypothesis which can be advanced as an explanation of the phenomena of spiritism, and hence finds himself compelled to accept the conclusion given above. Seeing that the society referred to was specially formed for the purpose of investigating the alleged phenomena, some weight must be given to the conversion of its president, who, it is alleged, was not predisposed to accept the explanation which he now gives.

Looking at the subject from the standpoint of independent criticism, and having regard to the scores of authenticated events inexplicable by any known laws, while we may very properly hesitate in accepting the spiritistic explanation, we must at least admit that mankind live on the borderland of a realm of which they know very little indeed. In the lately published memoirs of Muller, the founder of the Bristol orphanages, are given accounts of how he obtained money in ways that are, to all intents and purposes, miraculous. For example, he knew that the tax collector would call for a comparatively large sum of money during a certain day, and he had nothing to give him. He prayed, and during the day, and before the collector called, an anonymous person sent him the money required. He tells that he used any money sent in for any purpose for which it was needed, never thinking about providing for the next need, but that when he wanted more he always got it. He would, in the early days of his work, frequently place upon the table for the orphans the last morsel of food in the house, never thinking of putting them on short allowance, and that there was always something sent in in time for the next meal. There is no doubt about Muller's work. He received in all over £1,500,000, and never asked an individual for a penny. Explain this how we may, we cannot get away from the fact that Muller was in touch with agencies not ordinarily employed by men.

The experience of perhaps the majority of people contains some instances which seem to be inexplicable by any known laws. It is usually considered a mark of weak intellect to seek an explanation of them. We all shrug our shoulders just a little when someone tells us that he had an experience which seemed to require the postulation of something unknown. We act very much as our grandfathers would if they should drop in on us, and should discover us talking with someone twenty or fifty miles away. To them the explanation of the telephone would be as incomprehensible as Muller's explanation that he accomplished what he wanted by prayer, or the Psychical Research president's explanation that certain things are due to the active interposition of the dead.

Not to push these speculations too far, we think one may be stated without fear of contradiction, namely that the domain of the unknown is vastly greater than that of the known. We may also claim that there has been a great prejudice against any investigation into that domain of knowledge where the balance, the yardstick or the test tube cannot be used. The churches have said "hands off" to those who ventured to look within the veil. Material silence has laughed at the idea of any real phenomena outside of its domain. Yet we are conscious that there is something more of us than mere flesh and blood. We feel that when death comes it will not touch all there is of us. The evidence of the senses for tens of thousands of years has been telling mankind that death ends all; yet men refuse to believe it. It is idle to say that this is the result of education. There is no educator so universal and so remorseless as death. Every nation and kindred and people and tongue has been taught its lessons. It has spoken to every generation. It speaks to every living creature to-day. Surely no human teacher, however convincing, no school of philosophy, however learned, could hope to counteract the lesson which death seems to teach. Yet as universal as this teaching of death, is the belief that there is something beyond it, something over which it has no power. This is really the most tremendous thought which the mind can conceive. If mankind could be brought to shape it, and shape their course according to it, the world would pass from darkness into light. Hence we ought not hastily to repudiate those who claim to have learned something about the unknown ocean of existence which surrounds us. We suppose that a subscription of hundreds of millions of dollars could be got together if there was reason to suppose that, by its expenditure, we could learn if people lived on Mars and communicate with them. Yet it is infinitely more important to know if those whom death has carried within the veil, are clothed with a new life, and if we can hope to feel even so little as

"..... the touch of a banished hand
And the sound of a voice that is still."

The Times has not responded to the challenge of the Colonist, and printed anything from the Lieutenant-Governor's letters which can be called a specific allegation of dishonesty on the part of the late government. This being the case, we go further and offer to print in the Colonist any specific statement, based upon the Lieutenant-Governor's letters, which makes out a prima facie case of dishonesty, or can be construed as suggesting to any reasonable man a dishonest intention on the part of the late government. We do not even stipulate that the person sending the statement shall sign his name to it. We would prefer him to do so, but he can act his pleasure about that. This offer is open to anyone connected with the Times. If it is not accepted, we think it will no longer be necessary for the Colonist or any other friend of the late government to pay any attention to such allegations as those in which the Times has been indulging. The Colonist has nothing to conceal in this dismissal matter. It believed that the ex-Attorney-General should make a specific public statement about that special $15,000 warrant, and it said so frankly. It thinks yet that it is his bounden duty to make the statement. It is convinced of nothing more than of the honesty of the intentions of Mr. Turner and his colleagues, and it defies proof that an act, having even the tinge of dishonesty about it, was ever attempted or contemplated by them. It has dealt with the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Beaven and Mr. Semlin in a spirit of absolute fairness. It has not read into what they have said or done any motives which were not literally warranted by the facts. It has not dealt in innuendo. It has been definite and specific in everything it has said. And now it demands that the same spirit of British fair play shall be extended to Mr. Turner and his late colleagues. It believes the public will heartily endorse this demand. Therefore, it repeats, let the slanderers be specific, or else hold their peace on the question of honesty.

Doubtless the capture of Omdurman will promptly follow the destruction of the forts, and this will clear the whole Nile valley of the troublesome dervishes. As we pointed out the other day, they are likely to retire to the westward and seek retreat in the Sultanates of Kordofan and Darfur. In point of fact, Omdurman is situated within what was formerly the territory of the Sultan of Kordofan, which fell under the control of El Mahdi in 1883, and has been his scene of operations ever since. Kordofan has an estimated area of 100,000 square miles, and a population of about 300,000. Darfur is somewhat larger than Kordofan, and lies immediately to the west of it. The population is about 1,500,000. It is independent, but is for the most part within the recognized sphere of influence of the British East Africa Company, so that if the Khalifa goes in that direction, he will not be allowed to remain. He cannot retreat to the north, for that would take him into the desert. It is useless for him to go up the Nile valley, because the gunboats will follow him.

RE-ELECTION OF MINISTERS.

The News-Advertiser suggests to the Colonist that one way of testing public opinion upon the Lieutenant-Governor's action in dismissing his late advisers is to set up candidates against the new ministers when they offer for re-election. "Will you walk into my parlor;" said the spider to the fly. To paraphrase General Canrobert's comment on the charge of the Light Brigade, our contemporary's suggestion is attractive, but it is not politics.

By-elections, may be, and often are indications of the drift of public opinion. To refer to a case, which has been cited already in connection with the late crisis, Governor Manners-Sutton, of New Brunswick, claimed that the tendency of public opinion, as shown at a by-election, warranted him in concluding that if the people were again asked to express themselves on the question of confederation they would give a very different answer to that returned at the general elections a year previous. And so he precipitated a change of government and a dissolution. We all know that in Great Britain by-elections are regarded as barometers of public opinion. But such elections are not those occasioned by the acceptance of a portfolio by a person who is already in the house. In the great majority of cases such elections are unopposed. Rarely are they made a trial of party strength or the test of a principle. The reason of this is obvious on a little consideration. If a man has already been elected, it is to be presumed that his constituents will re-elect him if he has occasion to come before them again during the lifetime of the same legislature. Moreover, the promotion from the position of private member of that of a cabinet minister is always recognized as a compliment to the constituency which the member represents, as well as a positive advantage, and shrewd political leaders do not care to take chances in submitting the fate of ap arty or principle to what is in a sense a packed jury. If any member of the Semlin cabinet had been taken from a constituency which at the general elections had pronounced in favor of Mr. Turner, the case would have been altered, a challenge would have been thrown down, which Mr. Turner and his friends must have taken up. But it is needless to say that this is not the case.

We are not arguing against opposition to the ministers at the by-elections. The practice is to leave the determination of matters of that nature to the people of the several constituencies and for outsiders to keep their hands off, and we assume that this rule will be followed in the forthcoming elections. The opposing of a minister under conditions like the present is always a matter for his own constituents to determine.

It would be rank folly to submit so vital a question as that involved in the action of the Lieutenant-Governor to the verdict of three constituencies, which have directly profited by it, that is so far as it is a profit for a constituency to be represented in the cabinet. All the people of British Columbia, not simply those of Vancouver, West Yale and Nelson, are concerned in the proper settlement of that question. It must be passed upon first by the house and later by all the constituencies. We do not believe that a year will pass without a general election, when we hope it will be decided by the people of British Columbia once for all whether or not we have responsible government.

ALIEN MINERS.

It is well to remind the people of British Columbia that one of the subjects to be dealt with at the Quebec conference is the rights of miners in Canada and the United States respectively. The intention is to reach some conclusion which will be permanently binding upon both countries. We wish to point out that the action which the commissioners may take is likely to call for action by the legislature of this province. Neither the Imperial nor the federal parliament has the right to dispose of this question without consultation with the legislature of this province, which under the terms of the Confederation act has the exclusive power to deal with it. We have hitherto in British Columbia admitted aliens to an equal right in mines with ourselves, the people of the United States having in that respect no greater advantage than other aliens. Will we be asked to restrict the privileges of other aliens and declare those of American citizens permanent? Just now we have the right to say that no aliens shall have any right whatever in our mines, and a very considerable number of our people would like to see the legislature exercise it. It was one of the moot questions in the last house and there is no doubt that if the government had favored such a policy, the house would have promptly voted to prevent the issue of mining licenses to any except British subjects, or persons who had declared their intention of becoming such. The policy of the late government was to leave an open door in this matter. What is the policy of the present government on the subject, or has it any policy? If asked by the federal government to endorse a proposition making the right of American citizens to take up and hold mining claims in this province permanent, will they recommend the legislature to pass an act to that effect? If they are asked to introduce and pass through the house a measure depriving all aliens, other than citizens of the United States, from enjoying the privileges granted by our mining laws, will they accede to the proposition? Have they thought out what consideration they will ask as an inducement for the province to relinquish its control over its mines to that extent?

This is one, but not by any means the only question likely to be brought up at the Quebec conference in which the legislature and people of British Columbia have a direct concern, and it is very greatly to be regretted that there is not some one at Quebec able to speak for the province and insist that its rights shall be safeguarded in any concessions that may be made to our neighbors. The composition of the commission does not indicate any special desire on the part of the federal government to see that the interests of this province, which is so deeply concerned in the outcome of the conference, shall be properly watched, and the provincial government seems disposed to ignore the matter entirely.

THE WEST COAST.

Advices from the West Coast continue to be very favorable to the prospects of mining there. As good reason now exists to expect great developments there as Rossland afforded four years ago. The quality of the ore is every whit as good as that of the Rossland product. The deposits promise to be fully as extensive and numerous. The facilities for reaching them and of shipping out ore are better, and the absence of severe winter weather is a great advantage. A very great deal of work is in progress, although the public do not hear very much about it. The reason of this is that there is not the speculative element behind the West Coast that there was behind Rossland. Before there was anything to the great Kootenay camp worth mentioning, as it then appeared, Spokane was booming it for all it was worth. The whole country was set to talking about it, and there was a lot of business being done before an ounce of gold had been got out in the regular course of smelting. There are just as many elements on the West Coast for a mining boom as Rossland had in those days, but so little is said about it that even people in Victoria do not realize that any day results may be announced from Alberni and elsewhere that will give us a Kootenay at our very doors. Perhaps it is just as well to go a little slowly in such matters, and thus avoid disappointment, but we are not sure that Victoria people are not taking the matter a little too indifferently. It is a way they have, and we are not satisfied that it is altogether a good way. We know this, that if such prospects as those already known on the West Coast existed within a short distance of any other city, the people would devise ways and means of letting the world know the fact.

One more observation may be made to the people of this city, and it is that they are making a very great mistake in hugging the delusion that, by some means or other, they are going to make Victoria a distributing centre for Kootenay. They ought not to live in a fool's paradise any longer on this subject. They will always be able to do a certain proportion of the trade of the Interior, but we may make up our minds that the business men of the interior, if they can prevent it, will not permit the Coast cities to supply them. They will make their own importations direct, and will buy for themselves in Eastern Canada. We produce so little on the Coast that the Interior needs, that there is really not much necessity for coming here for anything. This is not a pleasant truth, but the truth is frequently unpleasant. Victoria and Vancouver will both become important cities, and will always enjoy a goodly share of the trade of the Interior, but their great source of prosperity will be their foreign commerce and the development of the Coast region. The sooner our people make up their minds to this, and act accordingly, the better it will be for them.

This is not to minimize in the least the future greatness of the cities named. At the rate trans-Pacific trade is growing, a decade will witness such an expansion as will astonish the world, and the Coast cities will profit immensely by it. But the point we wish to force home this morning is that the mineral wealth of Vancouver Island, apart altogether from its coal, seems likely to be sufficient of itself to more than double the business importance of the city, and we want to see the people of Victoria take such steps as will enable them to enjoy at the earliest possible day the great prosperity which will flow from the exploitation of that wealth.

LABOR DAY.

When you come to think of it, the day just past is a feature of the age in which we live. A holiday is of itself not such an extraordinary thing that one more or less calls for special comment. But there is no holiday quite like Labor Day in its significance. We are so accustomed to the word that we forget that holiday meant originally "holy day," that is, a day consecrated to religious ceremonies, or in commemoration of some saint, or some incident in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Thus we had Sunday, Christmas, Good Friday, and a few conspicuous saints' days. In some European countries the practice once was, and may now be, for individuals to observe as a holy day the day set apart for the particular saint whose name he bore. Of course, long before the Christian era there were holidays, but they were called by another name, and with the downfall of the Roman Empire and the institution of rigorous church rule, every other holiday than those which were holy days was strictly prohibited. As time wore on, holidays, in the sense of days of recreation or secular celebration, began to be observed. The beginning of the New Year, the birthday of the reigning sovereign, or some important event in a nation's history was set apart as a holiday quite apart from any religious significance. But all these are local, in the sense that they are confined to the particular country in which they are established. Labor Day is almost a universal holiday among civilized nations, although the same date is not observed everywhere. The interesting fact is that nearly every civilized country has set apart a day in recognition of the dignity and influence of labor. Nothing is more significant of the place which the working classes have taken in the affairs of the world. The man with his coat off comes very near to controlling the destinies of nations to-day. The earnest desire of all true patriots should be that he will learn to appreciate the tremendous possibilities involved in his new power.

Everything points to an immense export of food products from America to Asia. Great Britain, Japan and Russia are likely to be the largest purchasers in the immediate future, but it will not be long before China is in the market as a far more extensive buyer than at present. This will mean much for Canada, for it is easily apparent that the United States cannot much increase its export of wheat, which is the principal product in demand. On the other hand, only the margin of the great Canadian wheat field is cultivated.

A very active campaign is in progress all over Canada in favor of prohibition. Doubtless there is more or less work being done on the other side, but it is not very conspicuous. If we may judge from the newspapers, there will be a very large vote thrown in the Eastern provinces, with the exception of Quebec.

The Hooley exposure seems likely to cause the death of the "guinea pig." But what will the promoter and the investor do without the animal?

It is said that some United States capitalists, with John P. Morgan at their head, contemplate the immediate construction of a trans-Pacific cable via Hawaii, with a branch from some point in Northern Washington to Sitka, and thence by way of the Aleutian islands to Japan.

The adjournment of the Quebec Conference until the 20th instant will afford an opportunity for this province to get before the Canadian commissioners any arguments that may be thought worth presenting.

Replying to a correspondent, we may say that Omdurman is on the opposite side of the Nile to Khartoum. The latter city has not been rebuilt since the Mahdi destroyed it at the time of Gordon's death.

Late dispatches indicate that there must have been very severe fighting at Khartoum; but before any callow youth emits any vituperation of the British army, it would be well for him to wait for particulars.

It is reported in Vancouver that a Conservative candidate will be brought out in opposition to Attorney-General Martin. Under these circumstances what will Finance Minister Cotton do?

Paris is in a ferment over Dreyfus. It is a strange thing when a great nation is afraid to do an act of simple justice.

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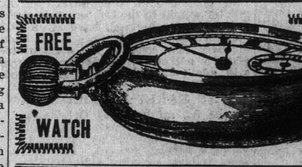

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Current Comment

CANADA MUST SIT UP.

Portland Oregonian.

The leading questions that will come up for discussion and settlement before the sitting conference at Quebec, representing Great Britain, the Dominion, Newfoundland on the one side, and the United States on the other, are pelagic sealing and the delimitation of the boundary between Alaska and British North America. In regard to pelagic sealing, we hold that the restrictions placed upon it by the Paris board of arbitration as to time, place, modes of destruction, are insufficient to prevent the complete obliteration of seal life at no remote period. At present the destruction of pregnant females and the mothers of pup seals through killing seals in the open seas, threatens the herd with extinction.

The discovery of gold at the Klondike and elsewhere on the headwaters of the Yukon makes the speedy settlement of the Alaska boundary of great importance. Another important question for settlement is the revision of the clauses of the treaty of 1818 by which Americans are prevented from obtaining bait or supplies in the Atlantic ports of Canada. It is reported that New England is anxious for reciprocity, but of what value is any concession Canada could make, so long as the present preferential tariff of 25 per cent., enacted last year in favor of England, stands? Will Canada tell us how the admission of our manufactures to a market of 5,000,000 consumers can be reckoned an equivalent for the admission of Canadian raw products to a market of 70,000,000? Reciprocity is out of the question under these circumstances.

There is only one straight road to free trade between Canada and this country, and that is through political union. All previous joint Anglo-American conferences which have met to arrange differences between Canada and the United States have either settled nothing or settled nothing right. The present hope for a more favorable outcome than in the past is due to several causes. First, England and the United States have reached a state of mutual good feeling; second, we have, through recent events, the advantage of Canada. So far as the seal herd is concerned, it is become a matter of comparatively small consequence, for the Canadian hunters have reduced the herd so greatly in numbers that it will probably be game not worth the candle to try and preserve the wretched remnant. In Alaska we hold within our borders the approaches to Canadian territory; we hold the best fisheries on the Alaskan coast; in Cuba and Porto Rico we control the seat of the colonial Canadian trade in fish, which we can destroy by tariff regulation, just as the sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico in our hands will destroy the market for the sugar of the English West Indies. Canada hitherto has prevented up from making reciprocity treaties with Jamaica and Newfoundland, but to-day we control in Cuba and Porto Rico a lucrative tropical market for the fish of Newfoundland, and we can ruin the sugar trade of Jamaica and the other English islands of the West Indies. Newfoundland has a place in this conference, and the English West Indies will be heard before it.

AN OTTAWA CONSPIRACY.

Toronto Mail and Empire.

The British Columbia political crisis is traced to Ottawa.

It resulted from the decision there to set up a local government in alliance with the federal men, and to complete the chain of provincial administrations working for Sifton and Tarte from end to end of the Dominion.

The union of local and Federal forces, all coercive and corrupt, introduces a new peril.

Bold enough to-day is the exploiting and greedy element.

Entrenched behind the combined governments, it will be more brazenly dishonest than ever.

If the federal politicians had not reason to fear the people, they would not need to interfere in provincial concerns.

ALASKA POSTAL SERVICE.

THE SAXONS.

We sing the fame of the Saxon name,
And the spell of its world-wide power,
Of its triumphs vast in the glorious past,
And the might of the rising hour;
And our bosoms glow, for we proudly know,
With the flag of Right unfurled,
That the strength and skill of the Saxon will
Is bound to rule the world.

And we glory not in the empty thought
That the Saxon arm is strong,
Nor alone to know, tho' 'tis surely so,
But this our pride, with Wrong defied,
And the sin-cloud backward hurled,
That the word of God, our triumph rod,
Is bound to rule the world.

In days of yore from the Saxon shore
Our sea-born fathers came,
They conquered then by the might of men,
And sword, and spear, and flame;
But to us 'tis given by the voice of Heaven,
With the peace flag far unfurled,
In our Union's might, by the power of Right,
To rule, 'neath God, the world.

In the olden time there were deeds sublime,
And dear-bought victories won;
For the hearts were true on the heaving blue
Or behind the fortress gun;
And they championed Right in their rising might
With their war-flags old unfurled;
Yea, Wrong went down 'neath the Saxon frown,
But its smile shall rule the world.

And perchance of old if the truth be told,
There were brother hearts estranged;
But the wound is healed and the friendship sealed
As the years have upward ranged.
Let the tale of wrong, now dead so long,
With the old war-flags be furled;
For a peace sublime, in the coming time,
Is bound to rule the world.

'Tis a mighty dower, this earth-wide power,
And a mighty task involves;
With our hearts steel-true, let us hold in view
The might of our high resolves;
Let us stand for right in our race's might,
With our fearless flag unfurled;
For the might of Love, from our God above,
Is bound to rule the world.

—William R. Wood in Montreal Witness.

CAPITAL NOTES.

A Long Series of Blunders by Lieutenant-Governor—Plebiscite Campaign Like Sham Battle.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Sept. 5.—Hon. G. E. Foster arrived to-day on his return from British Columbia. In an interview, he told how greatly impressed he had been with the progress evidenced on every hand in the Pacific province, especially in the mining districts.

As to the political turnover, he said the Lieutenant-Governor's actions have been a long series of blunders.

Speaking of the plebiscite campaign, Mr. Foster said that while the churches are displaying much activity in organizing to get out the vote, the general belief that the government will do nothing, even if a favorable vote is recorded, has resolved the battle into one with blank cartridges.

The Conservative prospects throughout the West Mr. Foster regards as excellent.

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