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EDW. TROUT,

TORONTO, CAN FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 1889

THE SITUATION.

News from Stanley, which reads almost like a message from the grave, this time bears the impress of absolute certitude. And it is important. Among other things an extension of the Victoria Nyanza to the south-east of 26,900 square miles has been traced. This makes the lake 1,900 square miles larger than it was reported by Speke, and brings it within 150 miles of Lake Tanganyika. The region between 25° and 29° 45' east longitude, hitherto a blank, is found to be "one, great compact, remorselessly sullen forest, swarming at intervals with crafty, undersized, maneating savages." Between this mass of dark forest and Albert Nyanza there is a belt of grass land, where the savages constantly opposed obstacles to the march of the whites. Three times this dangerous region had to be traversed. To these troubles encountered by the intrepid discoverer were added fever, internal treason, and the almost mortal sickness of Stanley himself. Stanley is now in no danger and is likely to arrive at Zanzibar in safety. The New York Herald's expedition has gone to his relief. In the service of the Herald Stanley found the wanderer Livingstone; now the Herald will aid Stanley in his return.

It new comes out in a speech of Herbert Bismarck, in the German Reichstag, that something besides Samoan affairs were concluded at the Samoan conference. Some agreement about African colonization was come to. But what this agreement is all the parties are bound at present to keep ecret; the details of the settlement, such is its description, are not to be revealed. This fact came out incidentally. Dr. Windthorst, seeking pretexts for opposition, attacked the Government on its colonial policy, which he said was a policy calculated to irritate friendly powers, not that it had actually had that effect. This alleged tendency of the German colonial policy had to be denied; a bare denial would not have carried weight, and it was strengthened by divulging the fact that a secret was made at the Samoan conference. The each imported Chinese laborer, is dead. policy, which was pursued at a manifest

circumstance of this fact not having been previously divulged shows that even a Republican Government can on occasion keep a secret. Now that so much is known, there will be a natural anxiety to learn what the agreement is. It would almost necessarily relate to the respective parts which the three nations are to play in opposition to the African slave trade or in forwarding African colonization, or both.

To the agitation for an eight hours' bill, asked in the name of the workingmen, Lord Salisbury replies that he cannot support it. And he added that such a bill would not be in the interest of the workingmen. The statement was made at a mass meeting in Nottingham, at which a great many workmen must have been present. To reduce the working day to eight hours would be for England to throw away one of the means of competition against foreign manufacturers and make more industrious nations a present of a weapon against herself. Great Britain owes her position in the markets of the world to the quality and cheapness of her goods. If she vacated any one of her industrial advantages, the pressure of competition would become greater. Men already work longer hours in Germany than in England, and a further curtailment of the English working day, by the intervention of law, would put a premium on foreign competition which a great manufacturing nation cannot afford needlessly to encounter.

Proof accumulates that the law can be made stronger than the Trust corporations. At the hands of the law no less than one thousand of these corporations in the State of Missouri are reported to be on the point of coming to a sudden end. Most of them, it appears, are concerns of little note. An anti-Trust law was passed laying down conditions applicable to these companies, non-compliance with which led to forfeiture of charter. Compliance was, it would seem, rendered nearly impossible, for noncompliance appears to have been universal. Of course the anti-Trust law was intended to eliminate the objectionable features of the Trusts. The necessity for the law may be judged from the vast number of companies affected and on the point of suppression.

Has British Columbia already discovered that the anti-Chinese law, which it advocated in such strong accents a short time ago, is a mistake? It would seem so indeed; it is at least certain that strong interests are in favor of repeal. And those interests are knocking at the door of the Cabinet, at Ottawa, in the form of a deputation, to announce repentance for past support of the law and to ask for its repeal. Both the fishing and the mining interests unite in the cry for repeal. They have found out that Chinese labor is essential to their success. These interests are strong; united, the strongest in the province, we should think. But it does not follow that opposition to the antiagreement regarding African colonization Chinese law, which levies a duty of \$50 on

People who are neither fish-curers nor miners may be relied on to maintain their opposition to the Chinaman as an immigrant. The question will probably be decided, for the present, in accordance with the wishes of British Columbia, though the whole country is interested in its solution, and the labor unions will support the law, while it may not be easy to find out what is the mind of British Columbia, in the divided state of opinion which is certain to exist there.

Mr. Pope's decision, given last February, cancelling the patent of the Edison Electric Light Company's incandescent lamp, has now been reversed by his successor, Mr. Carling. In arriving at this decision the Minister of Agriculture was largely guided by an elaborate report on the subject made by Sir John Thompson. He finds that Edison, the patentee, complied with the law requiring the construction of the lamp in Canada within a given time, that it was obtainable by any one desiring it at a reasonable price, and that the lamp was not imported from the United States, contrary to the statute. From one cause or another, the electric light is very slow in getting into use in private houses, though a great many persons are anxious to avail themselves of it. If this decision should tend to put an end to the delay; the public will be grateful for it.

Very nearly the same financial question has arisen in the North-West that caused so much trouble in Lower Canada before the rebellion, to which event it finally led. There were certain revenues in Lower Canada, revenues raised under Imperial statutes, the proceeds of the Crown lands and what were called the casual revenues, consisting chiefly of fines, which the Imperial Government long refused to place at the disposal of the Local Legislature. In the North-West, a similar division is attempted to be made, by excepting from the control of the legislative body the revenue voted at Ottawa. In Lower Canada, the Legislative Assembly claimed control over the whole revenue, and more than once refused to vote the supplies on any other condition. Similarly, the late North-West Assembly refused to consider the supplies. In Lower Canada, the extreme demand was put forth by the French-Canadians; in the North-West, a governor of that race takes the part formerly taken by British governors in his native province. In Lower Canada, the Assembly twisted the law to suit its own views; in the North-West, the late Advisory Board cannot be said to have the law in its favor.

King Humbert, in his speech to the Italian Parliament, announced the intention of the Government to propose the abolition of the differential tariff between France and Italy There is a slight deficit in the revenue, but it is not proposed to put on new taxes. The agriculture and commerce of the country have both suffered in recent years. A desire to adopt a more liberal commercial policy is announced. More than half a century ago Italy entered on a protectionist