

short. If she does not—war. She must not put money into the Nicaragua Canal except on terms of its being controlled, otherwise war. She must submit to any claim the French may make in Newfoundland, otherwise war. She must submit to any dictation as to the boundary at the Lake of the Woods or along the line of Alaska, or else war. What is the use of trying to elude such an issue? We have already in these columns foretold that these demands were on the eve of being formulated. Now, consider Mr. Olney's proposition: "Any connection between a country like England and a continent like America three thousand miles away is improper and inexpedient." How much more warning do the English people want? Is there anything that will shock the fatuous stupidity on this question of men like Lord Playfair? It reminds us of the belief the Indian officers had in the fidelity of their Sepoys just before the mutiny. They believed in them to the last and paid the penalty for their credulity with their lives. Is it going to be the same way with England? God forbid. Perhaps the better element in the United States Senate, when they see the logical conclusions to be drawn from Mr. Davis's resolution, will vote it down or modify it so that it shall be not so truculent as it is.

Our Militia's Needs.

"The first requisite of the soldier is Boots; the second requisite is Boots; and the third requisite is Boots." * So said the Duke of Wellington or Frederick the Great or both of them. Next to boots are accoutrements and commissariat. Food is abundant in Canada, but accoutrements do not grow in our fields. We must get the best for our boys, and as there are different patterns, we hope that the new Minister of Militia will choose the best. Old soldiers tell of the days when their knapsacks and ammunition were so strapped on them that their arms were benumbed. Of late, the proper arrangement of the weight necessary to be carried has been carefully studied with the object of distributing it in the several places, the back, hips and shoulders, that are the best fitted to sustain weight. It is the same principle that is now studied in taxation. Put it, not on a great many, but on few things; not on food but on luxuries, and on articles the general consumption of which should be discouraged; not where it irritates but where it is least noticed. As to accoutrements, the Duke of Connaught's report on the defective character of "The Slade Wallace" pattern, after trying them in the recent autumn manœuvres in England, ought to be sufficient. We have seen much praise of "The Oliver," but there may be something still better. At any rate "The Slade Wallace" seem to be quite unsuitable.

Uniforms.

The question of uniform for the militia is also worth considering by Canadian experts. It is quite clear that Canada does not need a standing army, that is, five or six thousand men whose whole lives are to be devoted to soldiering. The number at present in the permanent corps is quite sufficient; or if any increase is to be made it should be in Artillery and in the formation of an Engineer corps. Our dependence must be on the Militia, who are in touch with the people, and represent the best elements of Canadian life. Fifty thousand, well-armed and drilled annually for from twelve to twenty days, should be our minimum. What of the uniform? Uniform is necessary, because in war there is nothing else to distinguish men from *franc-tireurs*; and in war, no mercy is shown to the *franc-tireur*. He is considered a bandit and not a soldier. But is it necessary that the uniform should be a complete suit? Would not the regulation accoutre-

ments, and the regulation rifle, and the cap with the number of the battalion plainly marked on it, clearly mark a man out as a member of the regular militia? We ask the question because there is no disguising the fact that we have not as much money to spend as we would like, and therefore we should aim at substance and carefully avoid mere show. The modern ironclad or monitor does not make anything like the imposing appearance of the old three-decker, with top-gallant sails and studding sails aloft and aloft; but the latter has had to give place to the former. What we need are men who can move together and who can shoot, not men in an expensive uniform, which they wear for only ten or twelve days in the year, and which would be more unsuited than their ordinary clothes for the wear and tear of a long march over muddy roads or for a campaign. Let us have the essentials. At present the amount spent on office-work and "fuss and feathers" is disproportioned to the total vote. And when it is known that a larger vote is to be asked for, harpies of all kinds will clutch at it, and the militia will be left where it is, unless General Gascoigne keeps his eyes open and the new Minister is possessed of "sand."

General Campos Deposed.

General Martinez Campos, who seems to be a very worthy and honest soldier, has been recalled by the Spanish Government, and Premier Canovas has been advised to appoint General Weylor to the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish forces in Cuba. The appointment has been made, and General Weylor leaves Barcelona for Havana to-morrow. He is said to be both popular and energetic, and it is expected and hoped by the Spaniards that the insurgents will soon be trampled under the dust—or mud. Though the new Commander will have a much stronger force than was granted to his predecessor, we doubt if Spain can ever suppress the rebellion, at least permanently. The Cuban is determined to shake off the Spaniard. Uncle Sam looks on with interest.

The King of Belgium's Letter.

The London Times on Saturday last gave great prominence in its columns to a letter signed "A Foreigner" discussing the reasons of England's isolation and unpopularity. The importance of the letter lies in the fact that the writer is King Leopold of Belgium, who has shown, during half a century, the keenest interest in English politics. He expresses his great admiration for the spirit of enterprise, unflinching love of liberty, and great achievements of Britain all over the world, and is astonished to find that not only Americans, Turks, and Boers, but nearly all the nations of Europe and Asia manifest great animosity towards the British. He asks himself what may have caused this unanimous hatred. This is his answer:

"In the first place it is envy and jealousy which have made England hated and feared by her rivals in the field of competition. The sight of a relatively small nation spreading a net of colonies and possessions all over the globe, bringing forward extraordinary and salutary changes in the social and political conditions of distant wild and semi-civilized nations, and, above all, earning moral and material successes for her strenuous work, could hardly have been viewed with indifference by those European nations, whose awakening is of more recent date, and who do not possess the means and qualities which have helped you. Success has in all time engendered envy and animosity, and particularly when this success is the outcome of national qualities in which others are lacking. Germany, France, and Russia, in comparing their gigantic military budget with the comparatively small outlays of England for her defence, must certainly feel vexed, and still more will their respective peoples envy the British citizen who does not feel the burden of compulsory military service and still enjoys the liberty, might and power