

The Governor-General's Resignation The letter of His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, announcing his resignation, and Sir Wilfred Laurier's reply thereto, are models of a graceful interchange of good wishes between the Dominion of Canada and its titular ruler, the Queen's representative.

That His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen earnestly regret the reasons which remove them from our midst before the expiry of the Governor-General's term of office, cannot be doubted, and it must be pleasant for all Canadians to note His Excellency's reference to his life in the Dominion, having been "very full of interest from an official and a personal standpoint."

Recalling the active participation of Lord and Lady Aberdeen in all the good and benevolent institutions in their temporary home, we can readily believe they will never forget Canada, and the Canadians, and, as the Premier says, the sentiment is one which Canadians will heartily reciprocate; they will follow the career of Lord and Lady Aberdeen with interest, respect and gratitude for honest efforts to assist in promoting the welfare of our people.

Klondyke. Some of the disappointed gold hunters are returning from British Columbia.

The stories they tell are likely to rob the country of some of its allurements, even for the hardy and hopeful adventurer. A Mr. Watts, said to be a well-known citizen of Liverpool, G. B., one of the latest arrivals from British Columbia, is strong in his opinions and free with his advice, although he does not seem to have had practical, personal experience of the work and hardships of the old prospectors upon whom he pours out sympathy. However, intending emigrants cannot do better than obtain all the information possible from every source before embarking in search of gold, and against the rose coloured visions of wealth inspired by the return of the successful few, the Klondykers can place the following dismal opinion expressed by Mr. Watts, of Liverpool, regarding the fate of the disgusted, "dead broke" many. After recording the experiences of returning miners whom he encountered in British Columbia, Mr. Watts says: "The richness of the country has been most grossly exaggerated. I met old prospectors who had been in the country for many years, some as long as twelve years, and had found only just enough to exist upon—you cannot call it living. My opinion is that every dollar obtained from that country will involve the outlay of ten to get it, and my advise to people intending to make the trial is simply—don't!"

Dismal, depressing and disheartening, Mr. Watts would not be a very cheerful companion on a gold hunting expedition which embraces the passage of the Chilcoot. He instances a terribly severe journey to the Yukon district via Chilcoot Pass, and makes

special reference to the existence of the party on flour and beans. We would prefer pork with the Bostonese delicacy; but surely they did not expect to live on wood-cock and champagne.

However, Mr. Watts' words of warning may serve a good purpose, and, in the meantime, our own Mr. Ogilvie in a letter to the *London Times* complaining of garbled extracts from statements culled from his reports of Klondyke, is telling people to place little faith in the prospectuses of companies, and to investigate before investing.

Chamberlain and Harcourt. Those who remember the passage at arms in the public print of some months ago, between Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Sir William Vernon Harcourt, will not be surprised that the latter has seized upon the somewhat sensational and surprising speech of the Colonial Secretary of State and expressed an opinion that the country would desire "to discuss the new Birmingham foreign policy." Mr. Chamberlain was also asked if he thought such language and sentiments were consistent with the friendly relations between Great Britain and Russia.

Whatever was the purpose of the speech made by one who has been lampooned as "pushful Joe," he has succeeded in provoking the following comments from the press of St. Petersburg.

The *Vovoe-Vremya* says:—

"We doubt if the United States desires an alliance and whether it would be agreeable to the other powers that the United States, after wresting the Philippine Islands from Spain, should afterwards sell them to Great Britain."

The *Vovoe-Vremya* considers such an intention "Sufficient to induce the powers to re-consider their neutrality during the present war."

Mr. Chamberlain is but following his leader, the Marquis of Salisbury, in thus publicly, if more pointedly and plainly, expressing a belief in the wisdom of forming an Anglo-American alliance. But we venture to think that this extraordinary plain speaking, so out of keeping with ordinary diplomatic prudence, is partly intended for effect in other countries than the United States. With France growing restive over the African question, and Russia somewhat aggressive in the East, the British Government may be anxious to let Paris and St. Petersburg know that Britain and her colonies, past and present, will unite at any time of danger menacing the English speaking race. But the game of diplomacy is intricate, and apt to puzzle the on-looker. Was it not Colonel John Hay, the present United States Minister to Great Britain, who penned the following distich?

There are three species of creatures that when they seem coming are going,

And when they seem going they come:—diplomats, women and crabs.

Time only can reveal to both the nations most concerned what their statesmen are now engaged in planning for the future.