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THE SITUATION.

Sinister interpretations are not unnaturally put upon the action of the United States in landing marines and material of war near Santa Fe, Nicaragua, under pretence of protecting the canal. The Nicaraguans allege that there was no necessity to place artillery and Hotchkiss guns in position for this purpose, since any danger caused by the late revolution has passed away. In short, there is a belief among the people that the United States is preparing to exercise a protectorate over the country. Formerly England exercised a protectorate over the Mosquito coast, which, after lasting nearly two hundred years, was terminated in 1850 by the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; ten years later the protectorate was ceded to Nicaragua by the treaty of Managua. It is difficult to believe that the designs attributed to the United States by the fears of the people of Nicaragua, are really entertained, since the Republic is under treaty stipulations with Great Britain not to take any such line. The protection of the canal may have been deemed necessary when the "Atlanta" sailed for the Nicaraguan coast; and protection implies a necessity for military outfit such as has been landed. The present administration of the United States has acted a reasonable part in the Sandwich Islands affair, and in the absence of positive evidence to the contrary its word may reasonably be taken in the Nicaraguan business. Mr. Cleveland is too prudent a man to borrow trouble by involving the Republic in complications which treaty obligations require him to avoid.

A hitch has occurred in the operation of the extradition treaty under which criminals may be mutually surrendered by Canada and the United States. The trouble is over the costs of extradition. Canada, it is alleged, when she makes a claim on the United States for the extra-

dition of a criminal, provides for the cost of the operation on the other side; while Canadian detectives and others are still unpaid for their services in connection with the extradition of Blank and Rossenweig, rendered over a year ago. These officers refuse to make an arrest, in a case now pending, till provision for their expenses is made, and in this refusal their action has been sustained by Judge Dugas. The complaint of unpaid fees in the instance mentioned was referred by our Government to Washington, but a settlement has not been arrived at. There cannot surely be any serious difficulty in the way of laying down some general rule, which will apply to both countries, in connection with the working of the new treaty; and the first friction once removed, things may be expected to go on smoothly. If there be any serious desire to get to New York the man now in Quebec under charge of making a murder assault, the costs of the operation will not be permitted to stand in the way.

"Almost ideally perfect" is the language which Mr. Angers tells us Americans apply to the Grosse Isle quarantine station. We trust this may be found to be no exaggeration. But Grosse Isle still has its critics, among whom Dr. Playter is to be found. Mr. Angers replies that Dr. Playter has himself been tried at the station and found wanting, Dr. Montizambert having reported that he was incapable of performing the work he had been given to do. Whatever may be the merits of this quarrel, we can only hope that the chief quarantine station of the St. Lawrence is as near perfection as Mr. Angers reports it to be.

At length the marrow of the question of the Behring Sea seizures has been reached in the tribunal of arbitration. Sir Charles Russell and Sir Richard Webster have asked the tribunal to find that the seizures were made by authority of the United States; that they were made in non-territorial waters, in other words, on the high seas, for alleged breaches of the United States laws; and that they were made without right of jurisdiction recognized by international law. Mr. Phelps and Mr. Carter, for the United States, ask the tribunal to find that the seizures took place under authority of the United States, over ten miles from any shore, but that it do not pass upon the fact of how many of the vessels seized were owned wholly or in part by British subjects and American citizens, and that cognizance be not taken of the value of the vessels and their contents. In asking the tribunal to declare that the seizures made more than ten miles from the shore were not made in non-territorial waters, is, in effect, a contention that the territorial waters extend beyond that limit. It may be that an adverse decision on this point would suit them, as it might be held to imply that the territorial waters extend ten miles from the shore. On the question of management, the American counsel modestly ask that sealing in the Pacific Ocean be prohibited a distance that practically makes it total. The British counsel, on the other hand, contend that the reference

does not extend to the prevention of sealing in the Pacific.

Some idea of the artificial condition which inflation produced in Australia may be formed from the fact that, in some places, uncultivated land sold for \$150 to \$250 an acre, and farms under cultivation, with inferior buildings, for \$500 an acre. Adelaide is, for the time, dead; Melbourne is represented as bankrupt; while Brisbane has suffered from a terrible flood. In Queensland all the mines are under water. The labor voter dictates the policy of the Government, and socialism has made considerable advance. The Government owns the railways, and traffic rates are so exorbitant that horses are employed to draw for hundreds of miles any freight that will bear the cost of this mode of transportation. In North Australia, rain falling in torrents has done immense injury. The curable evils will now be remedied; the incurable must remain, and the difficulty is to say when the one ends and the other begins.

A seizure of an American schooner, the "Lewis H. Giles," on the coast of Nova Scotia, has been made by the Canadian protection schooner "Vigilant," for fishing within the three mile limit. The capture was made on Sunday afternoon. The offending vessel was found to have three hundred barrels of mackerel on board. This is the first capture of a vessel in Nova Scotia waters this season. By merely taking out a license the "Giles" could have fished within the three mile limit and run no risk of capture. What is the temptation to incur a needless danger? Is it merely to save the license money, or is it the result of a sudden temptation to follow a school of mackerel or other fish, or is there some special pleasure in drinking stolen water? However it may be, the instances in which the penalty of capture is suffered are few. Perhaps many offend where few are caught. If so, the protective service would be inadequate to the duties required of it.

A Russian ukase just issued names sixteen months imprisonment with confiscation of the vessel and tackle, as the punishment to be meted out to sealers who pursue their vocation in the prohibited waters of Behring Sea. The limits of illegal sealing are not mentioned in the despatch from St. Petersburg, which conveys this information; but presumably they are conformable to a previous announcement. The penalties denounced apply to Russians and foreigners alike; but, of course, the recent treaty between Russia and Great Britain will be the rule for British subjects, and will take their cases out of the purview of the ukase.

Property holders and taxpayers have become aroused and alarmed at the attempt of the Street Railway Company of Toronto to shuffle out of its agreement to pay the city \$800 a mile for the valuable franchise it enjoys, and to substitute a new bargain in its place. The Property Association insists on keeping the agreement between the company and the city intact. It is plain that there are in the City Coun-