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THE SITUATION.

Hog cholera has been brought to the neighborhood of Toronto by the importation of diseased animals from the United States. It is confined to a narrow area, principally the large hog farms east of the Don, where swill and butchers' offal are used for feed, and may be expected soon to disappear under the vigorous stamping-out process that will be enforced. The first thing is to proceed against the farmers who sell and butchers that deal in the meat. The publication of the facts will prevent the sale of the dangerous stuff to the public, and no butcher will buy what he cannot sell. The Government will doubtless see that vigorous measures for the extermination of the disease are taken. Though hog cholera is a peculiarly American disease, this is only the second time that it has occurred in Ontario. All affected animals must of course be killed at once, and as the United States is the source of the malady, quarantine regulations will have to be enforced. The pork farmers who killed diseased hogs for the market, on the first symptoms of an attack, are highly culpable. The Washington Department of Agriculture professes not to know of any case where the flesh of hogs suffering from this disease has been eaten in the United States. In the present instance, the character of the disease was discovered by the health officer of Toronto, and there seems to be no reason to doubt that it is genuine hog cholera.

Permission to slaughter American cattle in Canada requires the sanction of the Imperial Government, as if any evil came of it, the English would be likely to be the sufferers. At present, American cattle can be shipped through Canada, being taken out of the cars for water and rest at some point on the journey. It is now proposed that slaughtering should be permitted at one or two places in Canada, and the Imperial Government seems to be on the point of

granting the request, so Premier Abbott has informed the Senate. When this is done, meat will presumably be put up in all the various forms known at Chicago and other places. It is probable that the appearance of hog cholera, an importation from the United States, at a moment so inopportune, may be used as an argument against granting the permission asked. Freedom from cattle disease at present gives Canada an advantage over the United States in the English market, and there are people who hold that if the slaughtering of American cattle in Canada were allowed, this favorable discrimination would be liable to disappear. This has been the view which our own Government till recently took. Sir Charles Tupper became the promoter of a meat company, and he has doubtless made headway in demanding the necessary permission of the Imperial Government. The principal cattle dealers in Canada, who export to England, are opposed to the measure, chiefly, it would seem, on the mistaken notion that this meat will be sold free in Canada. The meat ought not to be exported as Canadian, when in fact it will be American; it ought to be marked as American, slaughtered in Canada.

At the October term of the United States Supreme Court the Sayward case will come up. The United States Government took the ground, at the outset, that the court has no jurisdiction; but the court decided to hear the case, and if the Solicitor-General should renew the protest, he will find it necessary to argue the case on its merits. The extent of the jurisdiction in Behring Sea is the point to be decided; the claim of the United States is not that it is a closed sea, and it has in fact been only stated in loose and general terms. The exception to the jurisdiction of the court is not likely to succeed, and a decision on the merits can scarcely affirm the principle of an unusual maritime jurisdiction. If, as predicted, the Solicitor-General should argue that the court has no jurisdiction because the Government has assumed to construe the treaty with Russia, it will remain for him to show that the Government has the right to do so to the exclusion of the court. To do a thing and to have the right to do it are not the same; and if the Government had the right assumed, would the exercise of it necessarily debar the court from entertaining the enquiry? It is a curious fact that, in this suit, two jurisdictions are in question, the jurisdiction of the Government over the waters of Behring Sea, and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the case; the decision of the court would bind the United States Government, but it could not, if adverse, take away the rights of third parties.

Mr. Abbott, the Premier of the Dominion, has announced the intention of the Government to appoint a royal commission to enquire into the state of the civil service. And he added that one possible result of the commission will be the appointment of an inspector of the civil service with powers similar to those of a bank inspector. The Government is not a bank, nor

have the civil servants similar functions to those bank officers. Still inspection may render a useful service in the area to which it is proposed to extend it. Similar officers are not unknown in some departments of the civil service of the Local Governments, and we believe they have done valuable service. For such a commission there is a precedent in the Government of Upper Canada in 1840. At that time irregularity was everywhere visible; nearly all the revenue officers were in default. Nothing of this kind exists now. There is unhappily nothing new in the frauds which have of late been brought to light; every one of them can be matched by the doings of the directors of the Welland Canal Company, before the work was handed over to the Government, even to the putting down of one name to cover the benefit of another. But this proposal of Mr. Abbott does not cover the whole ground, though it may do so when it is fully developed. If civil servants who take bribes are to be punished, will the offering of bribes by private persons be made illegal?

None too soon, a bill has been brought into the House of Commons, at Ottawa, to fix the standard of time. The system is already in operation in several parts of the country. When the new system was adopted, and had become in some degree customary, the question arose which was the legal time, the old or the new, and this confusion or doubt might have led to serious difficulties, if any question had arisen about the true time at which an act was required to be done. The universal day, if it can be made universal, will count continuously up to 24 hours, so that there can be no confounding 12 o'clock p.m. with 12 o'clock a.m. The prime meridian in the new system corresponds with that of Greenwich, and there would be a decided advantage in having one prime meridian for all nations. There is no reason why the measure should not pass and many why it should.

An objection which has often been made to unlimited reciprocity by Canadians, that it would wipe out too large a proportion of our revenue, has been repeated in Venezuela, where it has led to the rejection of the Blaine treaty by the Congress of that Republic. The annual revenue of Venezuela is about \$6,000,000, one-third of which would have been sacrificed if the treaty had been ratified. This revenue is derived from articles which the country does not produce, and if one-third of it had been remitted in favor of the United States, the trade with other nations would have had to bear the extra burthen; in other words, limited free trade in one direction would have produced greater restrictions in other directions. The policy of the change which the treaty would have produced has not commended itself to the people of Venezuela, for a reason which had something to do with the rejection of the proposal of unlimited reciprocity by the Canadian electorate, though with us it was not the strongest. Venezuela, which exports \$10,000,000 of her produce yearly to the United