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Great Britain and the United States. In the British House of Commons, Sir Charles Dilke said the other day in connection with a debate on the Foreign Office vote: "The gravest foreign question at the present moment grows out of our relations with the United States; and if the matter is not dwelt upon it is because the Government is conscious that in these difficult matters it can count upon the support of the entire House." It seems very strange and greatly to be deplored that two nations having so much in common, united by ties of race and religion and bound by every consideration of moral principle and national interest to live on terms of peace and goodwill with each other, should, nevertheless, find it so difficult to deal with questions affecting each others interests in a courteous and friendly spirit. There are certainly no questions at present in dispute between the two nations, that should not easily yield to courteous diplomatic treatment. In the Seal question nothing greatly important in a practical point of view is involved, and the definition of the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska ought easily to be effected by mutual agreement or by arbitration. It is not necessary to contend that British diplomacy has always been characterized by a spirit of generosity, or that the views put forth by the British Government have always been right and just. But the British Foreign Office has always maintained the language of courteous diplomacy in the discussion of international questions, and during the past few years especially the mother country has exhibited a most conciliatory spirit toward the United States, of which her action in respect to the Venezuelan question and the proposed treaty of arbitration are evidence. It is much to be regretted in the interests of international peace and good will that a like tone and spirit have not formed expression in the legislative and executive action of the United States. The present cause of irritation may be unduly exaggerated. But in view of the fate which the proposed treaty of arbitration met in the United States Senate and the undiplomatic and insulting tone of portions of a despatch of Secretary Sherman recently made public, respecting the Seal question, it can create no surprise that many Englishmen are feeling themselves forced to the conviction that there is in the United States an influential, if not dominant, party, determined if possible to force the two branches of the great English speaking family into fratricidal war. That it is the practically unanimous desire of the people of Great Britain and Canada to live in peace and in the most friendly relations with the people of the United States is most evident. That millions of people in the great Republic cordially reciprocate these feelings of good-will, toward those who live under the British flag, is as little open to question. On the other hand it seems beyond question that there is in the United States a very considerable element of its population, and highly influential in its politics, deeply embittered against England and

eagerly desirous of bringing the two countries into armed conflict. How influential this element might prove itself to be at a critical juncture no one can tell. In view of existing conditions, however, it is certainly the sacred duty of all Christian citizens in both countries, not only to hope and pray for peace, but to use their influence to the full to promote honest dealing and friendly relations and to cultivate kindly and generous sentiments between the two great peoples of the one race and language.

Mr. Depew on the Jubilee. That eloquent and optimistic American, Mr. Chauncy Depew, who, with many of his countrymen was in London during the Jubilee Celebration, has returned to America and has been pleased to relate to a New York reporter some incidents of his visit. Mr. Depew, loyal American though he is, carries his optimism and good nature across the sea with him, and is able to take broad and benevolent views of British as well as of American affairs. "Probably no year has been so interesting to Americans abroad as this," says Mr. Depew. "It takes several generations to prepare a historical pageant. None of the peoples of other countries entered into and enjoyed the occasion and its spirit with such freedom from jealousy or fear or with such satisfaction to the Americans. European nations, while cordial on the surface, were troubled critics of this exhibition of resources and naval power. The most superficial view of Continental politics and the European concert shows this." Mr. Depew highly appreciated the enthusiastic loyalty of the English people and their intense devotion to their Queen. He could liken it to nothing in the experience of our times except the love and reverence for Lincoln manifested by the people of the Northern States. Alluding to the great naval review, the effort upon France, Germany and Russia of the thirty miles of battle ships, cruises, torpedo boats and torpedo destroyers, Mr. Depew says, was significant: A German diplomat of distinction is quoted as saying: "Germany has the most efficient and formidable army, and we are invincible on land. Some of our people are advocating a like expenditure on the sea. But we would bankrupt ourselves in vain. We would never catch up, as England would undoubtedly maintain her present preponderance by building as fast as we did." Visitors from the colonies, too, have been impressed with the evidences they have had of the unimpaired virility and strength of the mother country. A Colonial Premier said: "These people at home are up to date and can take care of themselves and protect us without our help, though we are very willing to help." There is no doubt, Mr. Depew thinks, that these representatives of the colonies will carry home with them an intense, if at present rather vague, belief in the federation of the British Empire. "The celebration gave immense impetus and fervor to the idea of English-speaking people working peacefully and harmoniously together and to their dominant influence in the affairs of the world and the development of civilization."

The Klondike Gold Fields. Wonderful stories are being told of the richness of new gold fields which have been discovered on the Klondike, a branch of the Yukon-River, and of the wealth which men who have been so fortunate as to spend a few months in this new Eldorado of north are bringing back with them. The reports as to thousands of dollars being secured as the result of

a few weeks work by washing out the gold of gravel beds are probably much exaggerated, but there seems no good reason to doubt that the deposits are of extreme richness, if not the richest ever discovered. The Klondike region appears to be so well within Canadian territory, that its ownership can hardly become a matter of international dispute. The country lies far north and is reached from Seattle or Vancouver either by a sea voyage of some thousands of miles through the Northern Pacific and Behring Sea and an additional voyage up the Yukon River of 1700 miles, or by a hard overland trip of some 600 or 700 miles. The reports as to the great abundance of gold in the Klondike country are said to have caused great excitement on all the Pacific coast, and by every available means men are making their way to the gold fields, eager to secure a share of the spoil. Winter in the Klondike country is said to last nine months and the cold is of course extreme, the thermometer registering as low as 68° below zero. The ground freezes to the depth of 20 feet, but the snow fall is not heavy. The short summers are quite warm and mosquitoes abound. One miner describes it as "a horrible country to live in, but very healthy."

Not Very Successful. Loyal and self-respecting British subjects cannot feel that there is cause for congratulation at the results of the Parliamentary enquiry into South African affairs. A majority and a minority report of the committee have been presented. The majority report contains a pretty severe censure of Mr. Cecil Rhodes for his connection with the Transvaal raid. He is charged with pursuing a course of action which resulted in an astounding breach of international comity, seriously embarrassing both the Imperial and Colonial governments and with utilizing his position and the great interests he controlled in order to assist and support revolution, while deceiving the High Commissioner and concealing his views from the members of the Colonial Ministry and the directors of the Chartered Company. Two of the members of the Company, however, Mr. Beit and Mr. Maguire are found to have been cognizant of Mr. Rhodes' plans. Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Under Secretaries of the Colonial Office and the late High Commissioner, Lord Rosmead, are exonerated from any charge of complicity, on the ground that there is no evidence to show that they had any knowledge of the intended raid. The minority report, presented by Mr. Labouchere, was doubtless colored by that gentleman's radical character and extreme views. It places the conduct of Mr. Rhodes and the men who acted with him in organizing the raid in the worst light and intimates that the failure of the Commission to sift the whole business thoroughly induces a suspicion that Mr. Chamberlain and the Colonial Office are not wholly free from complicity in the matter. While Labouchere's position is doubtless extreme and perhaps not uninfluenced by personal feeling toward Chamberlain and Rhodes, the reports of the investigation do not lead to the conviction that it was the desire of the commission to lay bare the whole truth in regard to the Transvaal raid, and the fact that Mr. Rhodes escapes with nothing more than a censure and that, though without official connection with the British Government, his influence in South African affairs continues to be dominant, are facts that will not tend to pacify the Boers or to convince the British Empire and the world that the recently concluded enquiry resulted in all that justice demanded.