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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1901.

THE SITUATION.

Sir Alexander Lacoste, chief Justice of Quebec, has raised the question of abolishing the appeal to the Privy Council, in England. He made the suggestion in an after-dinner speech, it must be said in mitigation, on behalf of the province of Quebec. He compared the present practice as an appeal to a foreign court, going so far as to say that only in the province of Quebec can a court be found competent to render justice under the law of that province. The suggestion to abolish appeal to the Privy Council, so far as Quebec is concerned, coming from the Chief Justice of that province, can scarcely be quite impartial, since the appeal may be fatal to some of his judicial conclusions. If there had been any general opinion in the province in favor of abolishing appeals from the courts of the province, some whispers of it would have been heard before. The Chief Justice equally deprecates appeal to the Supreme Court at Ottawa. All this means that, in his opinion, neither the Supreme Court nor the Privy Council is competent to administer the French law of the province. He mentioned the expense of appeals as one ground of objection; but the clients, who elect to appeal, would complain if the right to do so were denied them. There can be no doubt that these appeals give general satisfaction, especially the latter; when the Privy Council has spoken, litigants are willing to quit the arena; without the right of appeal, either to Ottawa or London, they would not be satisfied. A leading member of the Quebec bar, who was present, Mr. MacMaster, made a strong protest against the proposed abolition. The Chief Justice's suggestions cannot be said to constitute a public demand for the abolition of these jurisdictions; but there is some danger that the mine that has been located may be worked by men who are always ready to find a supposed racial grievance, even where none exists.

Mr. Chamberlain has let the public into the secret that the Government, of which he is a member, pro-

poses "to bring forward rules which shall give to the majority of the House of Commons greater control over its own business, and greater control over the men who insult and outrage it;" and that the endeavor will be made "to protect the mother of parliaments from those who would destroy her usefulness and reputation." He added that when the time for a dissolution of Parliament draws near, preparations will be made to ask the electorate whether it is fair to continue the Irish representation on a scale "enormously exceeding the representation of Scotland and England." He estimates that on the scientific basis of population, which Canada enjoys, Ireland is over-represented to the extent of thirty members. This, he declared, constituted an abuse, for the perpetuation of which no reason could be found. Per contra Mr. John Redmond, in a recent speech, referring to the Boer war, avowed that nothing but their inability to succeed should prevent the Irish from resorting to armed rebellion. For this, he said they had justification, but they had not the means. He therefore contents himself with advising the Irish people to hate and despise and defy the English Government; in this way, he pretends to believe, Home Rule is to be got. He refers to Canada, going back to the time of the rebellion, as a precedent, as if the two cases ran on all fours, which is very far from being the case. If the Irish people had the same opportunity that the Boers had, he declared, to organize, arm and drill for years, then he felt sure they would give as good an account of themselves. He forgets that the Boers are a nation of hunters almost born with rifles in their hands, and that for a long time they were obliged to defend themselves against powerful, savage animals, lions, tigers, and others; and in this way they got such an education in the use of arms as no other people could obtain.

On that part of the boundary line, delimiting Canada and the United States, between Rouse's Point and the river St. Lawrence, some of the fragile monuments of wood and mounds require attention, and in some cases replacement. To inspect them with a view of finding out their exact condition, the Canadian Government and that of New York have appointed surveyors to go over the ground, and report the facts as they find them. Many poles are said to have disappeared; an admonition that less perishable materials will require to be used as substitutes. Where the monuments have disappeared, the problem will be to find the exact places which they occupied. Mounds are scarcely suitable for this work; for besides being subject to denuding influences, they may be maliciously tampered with, and put out of easy recognition. Some durable material ought to be substituted for materials that are perishable or unstable, and we take it for granted that this course will be followed.

Now that the London Times gives assurance that the basis of the arrangement regarding the Isthmian Canal has been settled, we may accept the general fact as authentic. The precise details of the scheme, as published by a Chicago paper, some weeks since, were almost at once discovered to be premature. Of details the Times tells us nothing; for these, we must await the official announcement, after they have been per-