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THE SITUATION.

Under the new commercial treaty with England, the German Chancellor has issued a notice granting the most-favored nation treatment to the subjects and products of the United Kingdom, and to British colonies, "with the exception of Canada and Barbadoes." Upon what authority Canada is excluded, the Ottawa Government is reported not to understand. This means that the exclusion is not of Canada's seeking; and it is certain that the British Government would not undertake to act for Canada in the sense of the German Chancellor's announcement. It would be somewhat of a surprise if our Government did not know what was coming before Germany published the official notice. Germany must have refused to admit Canada to the benefits of the treaty, during the negotiation; at least it is difficult to understand how the exclusion could take place otherwise. The meaning is, of course, "Here is a Roland for your Oliver." Let us take the fact as a lesson in diplomacy, in which Canada has had little experience. As we do to other nations, they will be tempted to do to us, especially if it be evil. In this light preferences within the British Empire, more especially, perhaps, if they are reciprocal in form, are not likely to be wholly without danger of retaliation. The path that leads to provocation is more to be shunned than sought with alacrity.

In the old system of registered letters, which does not make the Government responsible in case of loss, something is wanting, which, in the British Post Office system has been made supplementary. It takes the form of insurance against loss, damage, or theft of valuables. This new form of insurance has already been extended to British Guiana, Ceylon, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Lagos, Newfoundland, St. Helena, the Straits Settlements and Trinidad. Why it has not been extended to the greater colonies we do not know. Its adoption by Canada, as a measure for internal use, is needed. Sending large sums of money by post, under cover of registered pack-

ages, is about the most improvident thing that business men ever permitted themselves to do, the risk being wholly disproportionate to the advantage.

Two members of the British Government have spoken on the policy which ought to be pursued towards China. The Right Honorable George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, assured an audience, which he was addressing, that the Government would be no party to any policy which would look like giving up any advantage or retreating from any position won. And Sir Matthew White Ridley, Home Secretary, answered the question of retirement from Pekin by saying that the Government would not be satisfied with any arrangement which did not involve sufficient punishment for what had been done and the establishment of security in the future. But other nations appear to be falling in with Russia's proposed withdrawal from Pekin. According to one account, the withdrawal may be only to a point just outside the city.

In a recent speech, the Premier of New Zealand let fall some words in favor of preferential trade with Canada. He went further, coupled "America," presumably the United States, with Canada, for this purpose. What would be his exact meaning is not clear. Surely New Zealand is not prepared to accord preference to a distant foreign country. New South Wales has already embraced the preference, which Canada proffered, as have the West Indies, British Guiana, Trinidad, Tobago, Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. It is doubtful whether the tariff of New Zealand is low enough to entitle it to the benefit of Canadian preference; if not, the duties would have to be lowered before the great solitary island could avail itself of the benefits. Even in the absence of preference, our trade with New Zealand is increasing encouragingly.

The South African war is slowly but surely drawing to a close. Lydenburg, which, like Pretoria, was said to be impregnable, has fallen into the hands of the British, with but little fighting; and Botha is now said to contemplate going into the neutral Portuguese territory and surrendering to the authorities there. A resolution to take up guerilla war has been come to by the enemy, contrary, it is said, to the advice of Botha. A few marauders can do petty acts, under this name, and cause annoyance to the victorious side; but they scarcely constitute war and only serve to discredit the lost cause, when it was possible to surrender with dignity and preserve the name for valorous deeds, which the Boers justly won in the early stages of the struggle. Kruger, the belief is, will manage to escape either to Holland or the United States. For this purpose he has gone to Lorenzo Marques. All military experts representing foreign powers, have left the Transvaal.

The Executive Committee of the Council of the Dominion Alliance calls upon the Prohibitionists to do their best to elect Prohibitionist candidates. They are asked to "identify themselves with political organizations," to attend "political primaries, and conventions," as a means to the end in view. Separate candidates they cannot elect. Prohibition is one thing, and the election is not going to turn on a single issue. Political