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The Arbitration Scheme. The Scheme or Convention on Arbitration now before the Peace Congress at The Hague is an instrument of considerable length, embracing upwards of fifty articles. The following abstract of its contents is given by the New York Tribune:

"Briefly stated, the Convention may be divided into two general parts. The first provides for mediation. The signatory Powers agree to try their best to settle all differences among them peaceably, by direct negotiation between disputants, by appeal to other Powers as umpires or as mediators, or through the un-olicted offer of mediation, either before or after the beginning of hostilities, such good offices having no obligatory force, and always being regarded as friendly. The second part provides for arbitration in cases where ordinary diplomacy fails. A permanent court of arbitration is to be created, composed of eminent jurists appointed by the signatory Powers. It is to have jurisdiction in all arbitration cases. Submission of cases to it is always to be voluntary, but such submission morally binds the parties making it to accept in good faith the award of the court. The court is to have permanent offices at The Hague, but may meet elsewhere at the will of disputants. Cases may be tried by a single arbitrator chosen from the court by both parties, or by a number of judges similarly chosen. The judgment of the majority of the arbitrators shall be final, except in case of the discovery of new evidence, in which case a revision may be had. The general expenses of the court are to be apportioned among the signatory Powers, but in each trial each contestant shall bear its share of the special expenses of the court."

Of course no Convention can have any binding force upon the nations to prevent war. If any nation is determined to make war upon another it will do so in spite of any treaty of arbitration that may be framed or signed. But for nations which desire to avoid war and still find it difficult to reach a settlement of their difficulties by ordinary diplomatic methods, such a scheme of arbitration as that proposed will offer facilities of which they may be glad to avail themselves for the adjustment of a dispute before it shall have reached an acute stage.

Mongolian Immigration. There is on the Pacific Coast of Canada, as well as on that of the United States, a strong popular sentiment against the cheap Chinese and Japanese labor with which the country would be flooded but for the barriers which legislation erects against Mongolian immigration. Two years ago British Columbia passed an Act prohibiting the immigration of Chinese and Japanese into the Province. This law the Dominion Government, acting at the request of the Imperial Government and out of consideration of Imperial interests, has disallowed. During the past winter the British Columbia Legislature passed a number of bills granting charters to certain companies for certain undertakings, but prohibiting the employment by them of Chinese or Japanese laborers in their works. These measures are also held for the consideration of the Governor-General in Council, and may be disallowed. The subject was brought up the other day in the Dominion House of Commons by Col. Prior, one of the members for British Columbia, who demanded that the Government refrain from disallowing the acts above mentioned and argued in favor of the exclusion of the Chinese and the Japanese from the Dominion. In replying to Col. Prior, the Prime Minister indicated the position of the Government toward the Mongolian labor problem. Personally, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, he sympathized with the feelings which were entertained on the coast as to the undesirability of the Mongolian immigration, but the Government must take cognizance of the fact that the Dominion has paid heavy subsidies toward developing the trade between Canada and the Orient, and while intimating a willingness on the part of the Government to increase the poll-tax on the Chinese, he pointed out the difference between the status of the Chinese and the Japanese. In accordance with Imperial interests and the policy of the Imperial Government, it was necessary to preserve friendly relations with Japan, and Canadians, the Prime Minister said, owed it to themselves as British subjects to place every other consideration second to

that of Imperial necessity. Canada should be willing to make any sacrifice which Imperial connection might demand. If it was to share in the glory and participate in the advantages, it must assume the duties, be ready to stand for them and abide by them.

British Politics. The results of bye-elections in England appear to indicate very clearly that the popularity of the Government party is seriously on the wane. Since the general election the Liberals have won 15 seats and the Conservatives three, a Liberal gain of twelve, reducing the Government majority to twenty-four on divisions. In two recent elections in Oldham considerable Government majorities were converted into still larger majorities for the Opposition candidates. Another instance indicating the waning of the Government's strength is that of Mr. Whitely, the member for Stockport, who was elected at the general election as a Conservative, but who, having denounced the Government, offered for re-election as a Liberal and was returned without opposition. There are, however, still two years before the life of the present Parliament will expire, and Lord Salisbury may live in hope that something will occur in the meantime to turn the popular tide in his favor.

The Transvaal. From the accounts which English correspondents give of matters relating to the Transvaal, it appears that the British Government has concluded that the situation is one which demands some considerable concessions on the part of the Boer Government to the Uitlanders who are now held in a condition of semi-serfdom. If President Kruger will make these concessions voluntarily or in response to gentle pressure, so much the better, but if a dogged resistance to reasonable reforms is persisted in, then force will be applied and the Boers will be given a chance to demonstrate whether or not they are able to set the British Empire at defiance and withstand the progress of civilization in South Africa. It is understood that President Kruger has already indicated his willingness to make some concessions, but nothing of a satisfactory character, and the British Government is accordingly making military preparations on a large scale. Large shipments of war material have been made to the Cape, a number of special service officers have been sent out, and other steps, concerning which absolute secrecy is imposed, have been taken by the Government in the way of preparation for emergencies. Mr. Henry Norman declares his belief that unless within a few weeks President Kruger not only accepts the British demands but also gives satisfactory guarantees that they will be carried out, a large proportion of the First Army Corps, now stationed at Aldershot, will be embarked, and the other military steps will be taken. The first draft would probably be 10,000 men, followed later, if necessary, by 20,000. It is not the question of a few years more or less in the length of the franchise granted to the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, but of the whole future of British rule in South Africa.

The Pacific Cable. The success of the Pacific Cable Scheme appears to be assured by the recently announced decision of the Imperial Government to assume eight-eighths of the cost of construction. This is in accordance with the plan embodied in the Bill of the Hon. Mr. Mulock, which provided that Canada and Australia should each guarantee five-eighths of the cost of construction and that the balance of eight-eighths should be guaranteed by Great Britain. The British Government, however, influenced by the prejudice against the assumption by Government of financial interest

in any enterprise and by other considerations, declined at first to do more than to guarantee the enterprise against loss to the extent of £20,000 yearly for a period of twenty years. But it seems that the Imperial authorities have been so influenced by the representations of the Colonial Governments in the matter as to accept the terms of the scheme as originally presented and assume responsibilities for eight-eighths of the cost of construction.

Kinetic Heating. The problem of heating must always be in this climate a serious one. Any discovery or invention, therefore, which shall afford good promise of a more satisfactory or economical method of rendering private dwellings and public buildings comfortable through our long winter season cannot fail to find an eager welcome. It is accordingly of much interest to note that a Mr. Ingalls, of Montreal, is about patenting an invention which, it is claimed, will work a revolution in house-heating, and the report of experts are said to be favorable to the claims put forth. The invention is described as a new application of calorifics intended primarily to be a household invention and destined to supersede coal heating. The installation is at a very small cost and with no disturbance of existing conditions and little change. It may be used in the smallest compass, or to maintain a uniform temperature in all the apartments of the largest hotels. It is automatic in its regulation and affords unlimited heat absolutely controlled; its economy lies in the fact that it saves all the dust, soot, smell, ashes and other inconveniences of present methods at one half the cost of coal heating. The inventor, who is a Canadian and a graduate of McGill University, is said to have worked out theories which are entirely original by careful progressive experiments. The invention hinges upon the decomposition of water into its component gases, which gases, reassembling in combustion, give out the very greatest artificial heat known to science, the decomposition being induced by a thin stream of city gas, which is also decomposed, allowing its hydrogen to combine, but giving off its carbon as a solid. The secret of this process will be better understood when the patents shall have issued. In the meantime great things are expected of Kinetic heat and its inventor will have the best wishes for his success of all who have to pay fuel bills.

—The announcement contained in Mr. Henry Norman's last week's letter to 'The New York Times' that it was the last he would write as the London correspondent of that paper, and the further intimation that he is retiring from the field of journalism, will be received with much regret by a very large body of readers. If Mr. Norman has made the personal pronoun rather conspicuous in his London letters, it must be said that his conscientiousness and industry in the interest of his readers have been at least equal to his egotism. He has doubtless in many instances possessed exceptional information as to what was going on in diplomatic circles not open to the view of the general public, his information has generally been accurate and his forecasts astute; and, best of all, Mr. Norman's letters have always been actuated by a strong desire to promote a mutual good understanding and the most friendly relations between the people of Great Britain and those of the United States. This is especially to be commended in contrast to news despatches of a very different motive and tendency which, during the past few months especially, have been industriously sent forth from Washington, with the aim apparently of promoting an international misunderstanding over the Alaskan boundary question. In his latest letter Mr. Norman tells his American readers that it is a grave mistake for diplomatists and the press to keep on making distinctions between Canadian and Imperial views. "The Empire and Canada are one and indissoluble, and nothing could be so fatal to an understanding as the popular belief in this country, however unfounded, that the United States was endeavoring by pressure upon London to gain an advantage over Ottawa." As a last word Mr. Norman expresses his conviction that "every other matter is as a chip in the surf or a mote on the sunbeam compared with the infinite value to mankind of the certainty that the one language shall stand forever for the one law, one liberty and one peace."