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**Germany and Holland.** A great deal is being said, just at present, about German designs upon Holland. That the Germans are a very ambitious nation and dream of a still greater empire which is to dominate the whole world, is a well known fact. For the fulfilment of this dream three things were needed, namely, the possession of territories in foreign unsettled regions, a great navy, and the annexation of Holland. The first two have already been accomplished and all that is needed is the third. The annexation of Holland would by one stroke place the German Empire in the possession of colonies, second only to those of Britain in extent and value, while Holland itself, with its commanding sea coast, and the maritime character of its people, would round out and complete the position of Germany to an extent, that would enable her to contest with Britain for supremacy on the high seas. In order to carry out this design, it was stated that Germany was willing to placate France by allowing her to annex Belgium. This would certainly please France. It has always been understood, that Germany is only watching for an opportunity to accomplish her purpose. The fact that Holland is at present suffering from a great industrial strike of the railway employes, of which Germany has complained as injuring her trade, is said to give the desired opportunity. If Germany and France were to agree on the lines projected, Great Britain, considering the fact that she is just recovering from a great war, together with the attitude of the Dutch during that war, would hardly undertake by herself to protect Holland, although, without doubt, her sympathies would be strongly with that nation.

**Canadian Iron Production.** The Canadian manufacturers of pig iron have furnished statistics of the past year's production. These show an increase of 74,581 gross tons, or over 30 per cent., as compared with 1901. The total production in 1902 amounted to 319,557 gross tons, against 244,976 tons in 1901 and 86,090 tons in 1900. Of the total production in 1902, 302,712 tons were made with coke and 16,845 with charcoal. A little over one-third of the total production, 107,313 tons was basic pig iron. The Bessemer iron made, amounted to about 9,000 tons. The production of iron in Canada has increased gradually from 44,791 tons in 1894, the first year when returns were collected, to 86,090 tons in 1900. At the close of last year, there were fourteen completed blast furnaces in Canada, of which seven were in blast, and seven idle. The bounty on pig iron is \$3 per ton on the portion made from Canadian ore, and \$2 per ton on that which is made from foreign ore. At the lower rate the production of the last year would entail a payment of about \$640,000. There is an additional bounty of \$3 per ton on steel and puddled bars manufactured from Canadian pig iron. It has been decided that when the molten iron is run direct from the smelter into the steel-converting furnace, the Government must pay both the pig iron and steel subsidies on the product. The official returns of the subsidy earned during the past year are not yet available, as the Governmental fiscal year closes on June 30, but the extensive development of the iron industry in the Maritime Provinces will largely increase the amount involved.

**Sir William Mulock's Bill.** Sir William Mulock's bill to aid in the settlement of labor disputes on railways has been printed and distributed. It provides for a reference of disputes between railway employers and their employes to a committee of conciliation, mediation and investigation, and in the event of such

committee being unable to effect an amicable settlement, to a board of arbitrators. The conciliation committee is to be composed of three members, one to be chosen by the company, one by the employes, and a third by the parties to the difference. The conciliation committee may act as arbitrators, but in the event of objection being taken to this course new representatives on the board of arbitrators shall be appointed in the same manner, as the committee of conciliation were chosen. No court of the Dominion or any Province or territory is to have any power to recognize, enforce, or receive in evidence, any report of the board of arbitrators or committee of conciliation, or any testimony or proceedings before the said board or committee, as against any party or person, except in case of prosecution for perjury. Where the difference which is being inquired into affects a class of employes, they may be represented by some of their number. It will be noted that arbitration is not made compulsory by this bill.

**The Ontario Muddle.** The Ontario Legislature is in session, but nothing has been done since Mr. Gamey sprang upon that body the charge of bribery on the part of the Government, or at least one member of it, through an agent or agents. It is not often that an incident of this nature occurs in the Parliamentary proceedings of this Dominion, either Provincial or Federal. The charges were so definite and explicit, that men could scarcely believe, that they heard correctly. The feeling in Toronto and in Ontario has been aroused to the highest pitch. It is due to the Premier, Mr. Ross, to say, that rising in his place he declared that the truth or falsity of the charges preferred would be promptly, fully and impartially tried, and that the whole business should be sifted to the bottom. Mr. Ross proposes that the question shall be submitted to a court composed of two chief justices of the Supreme Court, with large powers to hear evidence and report their finding to the Legislature. The Opposition, on the other hand, contends that the charges should be referred to the Committee on Elections. The discussion for the past ten days has been, whether to pursue this or that course. The composition of the tribunal is a matter of little moment to the general public. What they want to know is are these charges true or are they false? It has been asserted that the Government has consulted the counsel for the defence as to the scope of the inquiry. This may or may not be true. It ought not to be done, and the fullest power should be given to the judges to get the facts and not limit the evidence to what is purely legal. There should be no hedging in this matter. The honor of the country is at stake. Party feeling runs too high, and we should claim cleaner elections everywhere. —Since writing the above the vote has been taken and the charges will be considered by a commission of judges.

**Manufacturers' Delegation.** The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is an organization of great influence, composed of 1,218 members, and representing over four hundred millions of invested capital. A delegation from this body waited upon the Premier and the Ministers of Finance and Customs a short time ago. The President of the Association presented the plea of an immediate and general revision of the tariff. The Association claims that it is now six years since the tariff was revised, and during that time the industrial condition of Canada has become much changed. They argue that the United States, our natural market geographically, meets us in every branch of industry with a closed door. While in Canada, the tariff is either so low that by com-

petition and undervaluation, the United States supply a large portion of the goods which we consume; or where the tariff is reasonably adequate, they make this country the dumping ground for their surplus products. The imports from the United States have grown during consecutive years from \$28,000,000 in 1866, to \$53,000,000 in 1896, until last year they reached the enormous sum of \$120,000,000. Of this amount \$65,000,000 was for manufactured goods, or equal in value to the total wheat crop last year in our Northwest. Turning to more distant and friendly markets, we find that Great Britain purchased from us last year only \$17,000,000, as compared with \$63,000,000, which she purchased the previous year from the United States. We purchased from Great Britain only \$19,000,000 or about 1/3 the amount supplied to us from the United States, and this, in spite of a preference in favor of Great Britain of 1/3 of the entire duty. The delegation then offered Mr. Fielding a confidential tariff policy upon which they had agreed, as representing their wishes in the matter. Mr. Fielding said he would be glad to have their tariff policy, which would greatly help the Government in framing any future policy; but objected to the word "confidential," for all such schemes should be public and subject to public criticism. The government gave no promise of an increase in the tariff during the present session.

**British Politics.** The meeting of the English Parliament has been attended by a remarkable phenomenon, namely, the sudden and substantial reduction of the Ministerial majority in the House of Commons. That majority ought to be more than 120. In the debate upon the address, there were at least five divisions. These were taken upon amendments, any one of which would have meant, if carried, a vote of censure upon the Government. They were defeated by majorities from 38 to 60. Perhaps the reason for this is the unpopularity of the Education Bill, and the alliance with Germany on the Venezuelan matter. Then the excitement and enthusiasm caused by the war is over and the bills are now to be paid, accordingly a reaction has set in, and the people seem to desire a change. Certain it is, that every bye election, since the passing of the Education Act, has gone against the Government, a total of five in all. If the Liberal party was not so broken up by faction and jealousy, the Conservative Government might well tremble. One section of the Liberal party fear that possessions over seas mean trouble with foreign powers and enormous expenditure; while the other accepts the vast destinies and responsibilities of the Empire, and is at issue with the present government only on the point of expenditure. On this great issue and that of Ireland, the party has split, while on home policy it is fairly of one mind. The Irish question seems in a fair way to be settled outside of party lines, so practically all that divides the Liberals is the antagonism between "Imperial and "Little England" ideas. If the country could be sure, that the Liberal party would do nothing that would disintegrate the Empire, it is probable that the next cabinet at Westminster would be a Liberal one. A strong Liberal party, united on the broad lines of imperial unity, economy and domestic reform, is necessary to the welfare not only of the United Kingdom, but of the Empire at large.

**The New Brunswick Legislature** was opened on Thursday of last week by Governor Snowball with the usual honors. Hon. Mr. Robinson of Moncton was elected speaker, and Mr. Sweeney of the same town takes the place of Hon. Mr. Hill of Charlotte as a member of the executive. The Hon. H. A. McKown of St. John was appointed solicitor general. New Brunswick is too much governed. Fewer men could conduct the business of the country quite as effectively and with much less expense.