

# The Canada School Journal.

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### The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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#### —TERMS.—

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### The World.

The German protectorate established over the Samoan Islands is, it is said, to be administered by a Council of State, consisting of the German Consul, two Samoans, and two Germans. A German officer is to act as adviser of the King and judge in all penal matters in which Germans are concerned. Whether Lord Granville has interposed any objections, or made serious remonstrances, does not yet appear. It may be that the British Government sees no reason why Germany should not be free as herself to establish colonies in the interests of her subjects.

The Egyptian embroglio is not the only trouble looming before the eyes of British statesmen. The approach of the Russian army to within forty miles of Herat, on the borders of Afghanistan is, it may be feared, ominous of a still greater difficulty. The joint commission which was to settle the boundaries of the Afghan frontier failed on account of the alleged illness of the Russian Commissioner, but the Russian army moves on all the same. Meanwhile the British Government maintains a suggestive silence with reference to the progress of negotiations between the two empires

The more the project of Imperial Federation is discussed the larger loom the practical difficulties which beset it. The plan of a great council composed of representatives of England and her colonies, seems utterly impracticable. As the *Week* points out in such a council the Colonial members would represent each a different country with distinct and often, it might be, clashing interests. The colonies would never submit to any larger measure of interference with their local affairs than at present obtains, and yet without large powers of direction and control by a central authority any confederation would be but a rope of sand. Meanwhile late despatches show such a state of feeling in Australia, in consequence of the German annexation of the Samoan Islands as may speedily develop into a movement towards independence.

Socialism and Communism seem to be making rapid progress in the United States. The state of affairs in some of the large cities is calling forth strong and even sensational articles from some of the leading journals, which are ordinarily not alarmist. Communistic societies are increasing in numbers and in out-spokenness. Not only are doctrines boldly advocated every week whose legitimate fruits would be wholesale massacre and pillage, but men are actually being armed and drilled by the hundred with the avowed object of being ready to head the revolution when it comes. In times of general prosperity little heed need be given to such ulcerations of the body politic, but at a time of great depression, when men are out of employment by thousands and tens of thousands, and hunger is driving them to despair such threats are not to be despised. It may be that the abundant vent of free speech and a free press may prevent more serious explosion, but it is possible, on the other hand, that the current year, before its close, may usher in scenes surpassing in horror any social struggle of ancient days.

It seems too bad that the carrying out of a great national project, such as the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, should have become so inextricably interwoven with party politics, that any question arising in connection with it is sure to be regarded from the point of view of its bearing upon Grit or Tory, rather than Canadian, interests. From the numerous rumours afloat, it would seem that the company is again out of funds, and is asking the Government to supply them this time by repurchasing a large quantity of the lands given to the company by way of subsidy. This would seem to be a good arrangement were it not that those lands are already held by the Government, as security for the loan of last session. In any case, to let the road now stop short of completion would be little less than a national calamity. It would give Canadian credit a shock, from which it would not soon recover. Whether the contract with the company was wise or otherwise, and whether its business so far has been wisely and economically