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The eyes of oppressed people The Finns. have been fixed on Canada as a future home. Whether they are good colonists or not, there are two bodies of these peoples already settled upon our soil and prepared to make homes for themselves. The Galicians have come to us solely to better themselves materially. The Doukhobors have come not because they desire more of this world's goods but because of the intense religious persecution to which they have been subjected to in the land of their birth. There is another body of people whose eyes are turned toward Canada as a future home. The Finns are ready to leave their native land on account of the steady and persistent oppression of Russia's autocrat. In more than one sense Finland occupies an exceptional position amongst the European nations. Formerly the country was an integral part of the kingdom of Sweden. Her geographical position made of her a shield against the repeated attacks of Russia. Many of the most bloody battles fought between Sweden and Russia were fought in Finland, and her peoples bore their full share in the conflict. During the Thirty Years' War the contingent of Finnish soldiers in the army of Gustavus Adolphus amounted to 40 per cent. of the whole, although the population of Finland was but one-fourth of Sweden. The result of the war between those two great countries was that Sweden was worsted and Finland became incorporated in the Russian empire, with the understanding, however, that the ancient laws of the country would be maintained by the conqueror—who said, "Our aim is to rule the land in conformity with the liberties of the nation and the rights assured to it by its constitution." Thus spoke Alexander II. Under his reign Finland made extraordinary progress. The number of large fortunes is comparatively small, but utter destitution is unknown. It is a democratic nation and there is no parish in the land which has not one or more national schools. The University of Helingsfors, which possesses about two thousand students. has about three hundred women undergraduates. Finland is a rival of Canada in the trade in butter. Between 1871-1875 the annual exportation of butter was 4,600 tons. In 1897 it had increased to 13,600 tons. A country which has so prospered is in great distress. Russia has changed her policy toward this people. A new army bill has been passed by the Russian Government which changes the whole military system of Finland. It makes it obligatory on Finnish soldiers to serve anywhere within the Russian Dominions. Heretofore they could not be taken outside their own country. There other provisions which are equally galling. By another edict issued in Februlast the Czar announced that Finnish legislative autonony was to be done away with. It looks as if the avowed policy of the Russian Government was to Russianize the land by the severest measures of oppression. The liberty-loving Finns do not take kindly to this, and rather than submit to such bondage are willing to leave all, and seek in a new land, a home where they and their children may be able to live in peace and quietness, and enjoy the priceless blessing of civil and religious liberty. There is no doubt that Canada will extend to them a warm welcome. Religiously they are Lutherans.

Wireless Telegraphy. This sounds like an absurdity. It is not so absurd as it sounds. Recent experiments have shown its practicability. Wonders never cease. It is easily understood that if electricity is accumulated by a machine, and if it is not conducted off in some particular direction by a wire, after the usual manner in telegraphy, it will be radiated in every direction by its own force, like heat or light from a globe or lantern. And so if there is a receiving instrument somewhere within range of these scattered electric rays, it may gather them up and record them, as a mirror will gather up the scattered rays of light. The distance through which these wireless electric currents may be sent will, of course, depend upon the force with which they are started,-that is upon the power of the generating machine, and also upon the presence or absence of intervening hindrances, the condition of the atmosphere, the temperature, etc. It is said that messages have been transmitted and recorded through distances of eighty miles. The receiving instrument may be at any point in the circle around the sending instrument, if there be no intercepting hindrance, or at any point above, as in a balloon; or the message might be sent from a balloon. Such messages could not be, strictly speaking, secret, for, as they are flying freely through the air, any body with a proper receiving instrument could capture them. For communication between ships at sea, or the vessels of a squadron, or a ship and a life-saving station, or many other like purposes, such a system of wireless telegraphy would be invaluable.

Railway Extension. It is said that France is propos-ing to construct a railway across the Desert of Sahara to unite her possessions in Algiers on the north and colonies in central Africa will be in close communication Shut out of the Soudan by the watchful eye and strong arm of Great Britain, she is determined to strengthen herself in the "Dark Continent" if possible. But France has never been successful as a colonizing power in the past. The character of her Government, and what is more to the point, the character of her people, is against her becoming strong in founding colonies which shall become centres of influence. The proposed route is 1,250 miles from Biskra to Air, and the estimated cost is \$60,000,000. The work is as difficult as any yet undertaken, not excepting the trans-Siberian line. If constructed it will open up the interior of this great unknown continent as nothing that as yet has been done, will do.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, Premier of Ontario Politics. Ontario, in an address to his constituents, has announced his retirement not only from the Premiership of the province, but from public life. Ill-health is given as the reason. Mr. Hardy has been a Minister of the Crown for twenty-two years, and has acquired some knowledge of public affairs in all these years. He is succeeded in the Premiership by the present Minister of Education, the Hon.G.W. Ross, who has been in charge of the department of education for the past sixteen years. The vacancy thus created in the Ministry is to be filled by Mr. J. R. Stratton, who is said to ossess considerable business ability. Hon, Mr. Harty also retires and it is said that Mr. F. R. Latchford will succeed him. Politics in Ontario seems to be getting decidedly interesting. Both parties are preparing for the inevitable.

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As a result of the Boer ultimatum Fighting in there is a bloody and relentless war in force in South Africa. A great battle has already taken place, and at least a thousand men have fallen, and there are more battles to follow. There are those who will cast the blame of all this upon Great Britain. This, no intelligent and loyal Canadian will That Great Britain desired war is not true. But there are times when peace may be too dearly purchased. The seat of war is in Natal, where the heaviest fighting. has already taken place. The Boers entered British territory through Laing's Nek, the narrow entrance to Natal from the north, and the Orange Free State troops advanced toward Van Reenan's Pass, opening into Natal from their own country, both lines converging upon Ladysmith occupied by a considerable British force under the command of General White, who has had considerable experience in Indian campaigns. Boers have laid siege to Mafeking on the borders of Bechuanaland, where Col. Baden-Powell is encamped. Kimberley, the centre of the great diamond district, is also threatened. It is supposed that those in authority at both these places will be able to hold them until help can come from the outside. There will be a decisive battle or two when Gen. Sir Redvers Buller reaches the seat of war and the British troops will then have their faces set toward Pretoria, which will be reached at no distant day. Britain means to settle the question as to the power which shall predominate in South Africa. When this war is over there will be no Transvaal or Orange Free State as independent States. There will be one State, a colony of Great Britain. The sooner the war is over, now that it has began, the better for all concerned.

The calling out of the militia The reserves has caused wide-spread Reserves Called Out. comment. The story of a continental combination is revived. It is current talk that the Government is determined to demonstrate to Europe that the British are able to put an army in the field should such a step be deemed necessary. It is just possible that the attitude of Europe at this important crisis and that of the natives of South Africa may have had something to do with this movement. This display of force is intended, doubtless, not only to check the ill-will apparent on both sides of the Rhine, and beyond the Vistula, but also to guard against the "rising" of the Blacks in Africa, whether at the Cape or elsewhere.

-Lady Henry Somerset is reported to have said at a recent meeting of the British Women's Temperance Association, "That according to the brewers" almanac eleven hundred and fifty millions of dollars are invested in English breweries, and that in the Guinness Company alone there were one hundred and seventy-eight bishops and other clergy. A second brewery concern had one hundred and thirtythree such upon its list of stockholders." There is no wonder that considerable feeling was stirred up at the meeting when it was known that so many of the religious teachers of the country were directly interested in these breweries which are doing so much to demoralize and debauch public mor als.

-The Czechs of Bohemia, despite government prohibition, have raised the sum of \$15,000 with which to erect a monument to the memory of John Huss. They demand for its use the most public square in the city of Prague. It is somewhat suggestive that Roman Catholic countries have of late been so busy building the sepulchres of those whom their fathers put to death. They have honored Savonarola, Arnold of Brescia, and now Huss of Bohemia. It will soon be the turn of Luther and Wickliffe.