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Finland and Russia. It is represented that Finland is writhing under the iron heel of Russian imperialism and there is great bitterness among the people of that country because they find themselves despoiled of rights and privileges which had been guaranteed to them by the oaths of the present Czar and his predecessors. A framed copy of this oath, it is said, hangs in every church. But now, through the influence of the Russian Minister of War and the Procurator of the Holy Synod, the engagement which the Emperor entered into, to respect the constitution of Finland, has been violated. The Emperor's title, Grand Duke of Finland, disappears and the word "Empire" or "Russia" is substituted in the soldier's oath for the word "Fatherland." These changes are accompanied with larger demands upon the manhood and the wealth of Finland for the support of the Russian army. The country, especially its capital city, Helsingfors, is described as being in mourning. Five hundred persons who went to St. Petersburg to protest in the name of their countrymen and to present a petition with half a million signatures against the Imperial decree concerning the constitution of Finland, have met with an ungracious reception and have been ordered to return home immediately. The feeling of despair which prevails among the people of Finland is said to have provoked a movement on the part of many of the young men of the country for a wholesale emigration to Canada. There is land and liberty in our western prairies for more of the Czar's oppressed subjects. But it is doubtful whether the Finns would be permitted to seek abroad the liberty which is denied them in their own fatherland.

The Pope and the Papal Succession. The reports as to the condition of the Pope's health, since the surgical operation which he underwent some two or three weeks ago, have been more or less contradictory of each other. But the more recent advices go to confirm the belief that the vital forces, so remarkably preserved, of the aged Pontiff are rapidly waning, and though his life may be prolonged for some little time, the end cannot be very far distant. Of course speculation is rife as to Leo's successor. Alluding to this matter of the Papal succession, the London correspondent of the New York 'Times' says: "The ablest candidate, beyond question, is Cardinal Serafino Vanutelli, a really great diplomatist, of high personal character, and possessing a singular knowledge of mundane affairs. Vanutelli's sympathies are distinctly anti-French. I gather, however, that the next successor to the fisherman may more probably be the son of a Genoese dock laborer, namely Cardinal Gottie. He became a monk, joined the so-called discaled Carmelites, that is the 'Bare-footed Carmelites,' who wear sandals instead of shoes. A spiritually minded, contemplative man, he reached the Cardinalate by his conspicuous capacities and virtues, and has received signal marks of affection from Leo XIII. Many well-informed Catholics believe that the latter has formally designated him by will as the most suitable successor. This unusual testament would not decide the election, but it would naturally carry great weight. Gottie would banish all politics from the Vatican. In any case the new Pope will of course be an Italian, and, though it is extremely unlikely that one of the few intrinsigants who advocate a renewal of the temporal power will be elected, no Pope would accept any settlement which left the city of Rome under an Italian King. The moderate party would agree to Rome being a free city like the old German medieval cities, or would welcome a federal republic with a little Papal State such as Pius IX. originally desired. Indeed, it is precisely this desire for a federal republic which has led the Catholic party in Italy to join the ranks of an active conspiracy against the dynasty of Savoy."

Prohibition. On Wednesday last a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Dominion Alliance was held in a committee-room of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. Among those present were Messrs. J. R. Dougall, S. J. Carter, G. M. Webster and J. H. Carson, of Montreal; F. S. Spence and W. H. Orr, of Toronto; Miss Mary McKay Scott, Mrs. Asa Gordon, Mr. C. B. Taggart and Rev. John Wood, of Ottawa; Senators Vidal, Yeo, Boulton, Macdonald (B. C.), Longheed and Messrs. George Taylor, Maxwell, Craig, Somerville, Copp, Macdonald (Huron), Wilson, McMillan, McMullen, Henderson, Rutherford, McInnes, Morin, Bain, Hale, Cargill, Scriver, McAllister, Moore, Logan, Martin, Calvert, Davis, Bell, Sproule, Clancy, Cochran, Gillies, McCleary, McIsaac, Powell, M. P.'s. Senator Vidal presided. It was explained that the meeting was virtually a caucus of members of Parliament favorable to prohibition, with other delegates from the Dominion Alliance. Mr. Spence related the facts in connection with the taking of the plebiscite and the attitude of the Dominion Alliance thereon, as expressed in the recent meeting in Toronto. In the face of many disadvantages, there had been polled for prohibition a vote of twenty-three per cent. of the total number of names on the voters' list, and he held that the proportion was not a small one in view of the fact that the party now in power had obtained but twenty-eight per cent. The subject seems to have been discussed at some length, and some difference of opinion developed as to the proper course to be pursued under the circumstances. Mr. Firman McClure, M. P. for Colchester, N. S., said that he was a supporter of the Government in respect to its general policy, but on this matter of prohibition both Conservatives and Liberals had wobbled. He could not support the Government on its prohibition policy because it had no such policy. Mr. McClure moved that—"Whereas the vote polled in favor of prohibition was large and influential, Parliament should not ignore the demand made thereby for prohibitory legislation, and whereas the Government has declined to introduce and become responsible for such legislation, therefore be it resolved that a committee of seven be appointed to decide upon a plan of action whereby the views of those in favor of prohibition may be brought before Parliament." As this resolution did not fully meet the minds of all present, Mr. Spence moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the results of the recent plebiscite are such as to call for the enactment of prohibitory legislation." This was made the main motion and when the vote was taken upon Mr. McClure's resolution as an amendment it was affirmed by a vote of twenty-nine to eleven. The committee required by the resolution was appointed as follows: Senator Vidal and Messrs. Flint, McClure, Ganong, Christie, McMullen and Moore.

Mr. Rhodes and his Cape to Cairo Scheme. Cecil Rhodes is again in London, and, in spite of the shadow under which he has been passing on account of his connection with the Jameson raid, Mr. Rhodes and his great projects are still the centre of much interest. Mr. Rhodes comes now to London with an increase of personal prestige because he comes from a conference with the German Emperor at Berlin, having thereby, it is understood, secured the assent of the German Government to the passing of the projected 'Cape to Cairo' Railway through the German territory which lies between the British spheres of influence in northern and southern Africa. This is regarded as a characteristically astute stroke of policy on the part of Mr. Rhodes. The German Government has been approached and the desired concession secured at a

time when the Emperor is desirous, on other grounds than those connected with African affairs, to cultivate cordial relations with Great Britain. The friendly attitude thus shown will doubtless have its effect in extinguishing any resentment which lingers in the British mind on account of the Kaiser's historic dispatch of congratulation to President Krüger at the time of the Jameson raid, and it will also discourage the Transvaal Government from any opposition to British sovereignty in South Africa based upon the hope of support from Germany. So far as political conditions are concerned, everything appears to be favorable for the carrying out of Mr. Rhodes' grand railway scheme. The engineering and financial problems have still to be grappled with, however, and the solution of them will require time. It is said that British capitalists are not disposed to put their money into the project without the assurance of a government guarantee, and this the Government will be slow to give. But the German Emperor's friendly attitude toward the railway may have influence with the Government and thus Mr. Rhodes' clever stroke at Berlin may result in improving the conditions for his scheme financially as well as politically.

The Dominion Parliament. The Dominion Parliament has been occupied up to the adjournment for the Easter recess with the debate on the address. In the House the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Mr. Bell, of P. E. Island, and was seconded by Mr. Martineau, of Quebec, who spoke in French. Mr. Bell spoke at considerable length and won recognition for his ability. In a speech of four hours and a half Sir Charles Tupper made a vigorous attack upon the Government, dwelling at length upon the Anglo-American Commission, holding the Government responsible for the failure of results in that connection, and also devoting much time to a criticism of its fiscal policy. Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied sharply in a speech of an hour and three quarters in length, defending the Government, showing what it had accomplished along various lines and taunting Sir Charles with failure in his own efforts at leadership. The leaders were followed by their lieutenants, Hon. Mr. Foster and Sir Richard Cartwright, in characteristically able speeches, and these Knights of debate have been followed by others of more or less distinction. In the Senate the address in reply was moved by Senator Kerr, seconded by Senator Thibaudeau and continued by Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. Mr. Mills and others. Prohibition and the plebiscite of course come in for some mention. The Opposition speakers accuse the Government of having played fast and loose with the Prohibitionists, and the easy reply is—"But what have you done and what are you ready to do now for the cause of prohibition?" Among the more important measures that are expected to come before Parliament during the session is a bill for the readjustment of the boundaries of the constituencies. The proposed legislation is described by the Conservatives as a gerrymander, while the Liberals say that it is only to correct a gerrymander which was effected by the late Government.

New Brunswick Legislature. The New Brunswick Legislature was opened by Governor McClelan on Thursday last. The speech from the throne was of considerable length. Among the matters to which it alluded were the coming of the new Governor General; the general prosperity of the country; the provincial exhibit at the Sportsman Show in Boston last year; proposed steps for the development of the mineral resources of the Province; the Government's efforts for encouragement of Agriculture; its policy for the encouragement of the settlement of the Provincial Crown Lands; the hope of an early and satisfactory settlement of the Expropriation Claims, and prospective legislation in view of the provincial rights in the control of the fisheries, as determined by decision of the Imperial Privy Council. The address in reply was moved by Mr. George Robertson, of St. John, and seconded by Mr. Lawson. Premier Emmerson and Mr. Hazen, leader of the Opposition, have also addressed the Legislature in advocacy of the different views and policies of which they are the exponents. Mr. Hazen's following is small—only four members—but the opposition promises to be of a vigorous character.