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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1900.

### SITUATION.

Two different views of the Resumption of Reciprocity negotiations come from Washington. One is that there are no grounds for believing that the reassembling of the Joint High Commission would be likely to lead to any useful result, the Americans being prepared to adhere to the position they occupied at the close of the last conference. The other and more hopeful view is that Premier Laurier and Secretary Hay may be able to effect some compromises. It must soon be known whether negotiations are to be resumed or not.

The Hamburg-American steamship company, whose steamship Arabia went ashore in the ship channel between Quebec and Montreal, in 1897, is suing the Dominion Government in the Exchequer Court, for \$100,000 damages. The theory on which the claim is based is that the Government is bound to keep the channel in a proper condition, and that the accident resulted from this obligation not having been met. The scene of the accident was Cap la Roche, about 50 miles above Quebec. If the liability of the Government should be established, the difficulty of maintaining Montreal as the principal port on the St. Lawrence will be increased. Even now the largest ocean vessels could not reach Montreal.

For some cause or other, there has been a decrease in the tonnage of vessels to Montreal this year, to the extent of 116,730 tons. It is necessary to ascertain accurately the cause of the decline, at a time when most kinds of business have increased.

Most people who take an interest in the Grand Trunk Railway, learned with regret of the resignation, as a general manager, of Mr. Hays, who has done so much in a few years to place this great highway in a position to earn dividends which used to be considered beyond possibility. Mr. Hays' successor is Mr. G. B. Reeve, formerly traffic manager of the road, who voluntarily resigned his position last year to follow fruit-farming in California. This appointment, while unexpected, is one that meets general approval, especially among those who have long

known Mr. Reeve's intimate acquaintance with Canadian trade, as well as with the road in whose employ he had been for nearly forty years. Mr. Reeve, while he has the esteem of Canadian business men generally, equally commands the affectionate respect of his subordinates, which is no weak test of a man's quality.

It is now announced that the winter port business of St. John, N.B. will go on as usual. Previous to this being agreed upon, it is said that negotiations between members of the Government and the authorities of the C.P.R. took place, from which the conclusion is drawn that some sort of an arrangement has been come to. During the fight between these two forces the Government made an arrangement for steamers to come to the port of St. John, the C.P.R. not being a party to it. The exercise of this foresight by the Government turned the tide in favor of the Minister of Railways, which had been running against him, if one may judge by appearances from this distance, at the time of the election. The state of things now announced is a happy one for St. John.

Canada will not send any troops to join in the inauguration ceremonies of the Confederation of the Australian Colonies, but she will send her hearty good wishes for the success of the new confederation. A few days ago, a rumor obtained currency that Hon. Mr. Mulock would go, as the representative of Canada, on the occasion; but it is now said that his duties in Canada will make this impossible. Cape Colony will send a delegate to be present at the celebration. Canada will probably also find a suitable representative to send.

Under the Ontario Act of 1900, which contemplates the establishment of consumption sanitariums, movements are being made. The Medical Health Officer of Toronto has been called upon to report upon what conditions the city could reasonably lend its aid. He suggests that the Municipality should grant \$50,000 in aid of such an institution, to be set up not further than 30 miles from the city, afterwards made 40 miles, and that the grant should not be made till a like sum shall have been paid in trust to the Provisional Treasurer of the Trustee Board, by persons representing the philanthropic and charitable citizens; that the sanitarium shall not be a municipal institution, and that, in future, the city shall be called upon for nothing towards its support, except 40 cents per diem allowance for patients that the municipality may send there; and that to prevent the city being burdened with outside patients, no one shall have a claim on the city until he has lived here one year. Some provision of this kind was necessary, as all who remember the old English law of settlement will understand. The Baptists and the Methodists have already taken steps to support the movement, which already gives promise of success. It is probable that many similar efforts to establish consumption sanitariums will be made in other parts of the country. Mr. Gage has a plan for establishing a small sanitarium, for 50 patients, without city aid.

After Lord Roberts has left South Africa, it is believed that severe methods will be used by his successor, Lord Kitchener. The plan of "reconcentrados," pursued by Spain in Cuba, will be adopted, and the hostile population will be concentrated near the coast, where it will be easier to feed them. Scarcely had this plan been made public than the news came that the American government will carry out a like plan against the Filipinos.