

There are five great gold producing countries in the world, Australasia, South Africa, the United States, Russia and Canada, which are responsible for 85 per cent of the annual output of gold. In the figures given for 1899 South Africa would easily have been first but for the outbreak of war which completely disorganized the industry. As it is, the palm was taken by Australasia with an output of \$79,206,130. The United States has fallen to third place and although for this year it may again be second it cannot hope to compete with South Africa after the disturbing element of war has disappeared. Two years ago Canada was eighth on the list, with an output of \$6,027,016 which has grown to \$21,049,730 running Russia's output a close race for fourth place. No country in the world has increased in such an extraordinary ratio as Canada. Our gold production has from practically zero become an important factor in the world's output; and is growing so rapidly that within a few years Canada will be running neck and neck with Australasia, South Africa and the United States for the honour of first place. This great movement is not recognized in its bearings and effects as it ought to be. The great gold discoveries in California had a most important bearing, not only upon the commerce of the world, but also upon the development of the resources of the United States. The discovery of gold rescued Australasia from commercial stagnation by placing its internal trade upon a hard money basis and thus stimulated its growth and the prosperity of its people. Prior to the discovery of gold in Australia the commercial intercourse of Australians was governed by that peculiar mixture of barter and credit which restricts a man's energy to the district in which he is born or has settled, for the simple reason that nothing he possesses passes current anywhere else. Canada is now producing gold enough to have a very marked effect upon the growth and internal prosperity of the country. Not that \$20,000,000 is any great matter compared with the value of agricultural land, railways, or other national productive assets. But it is gold which makes wealth freely interchangeable and upon the free interchangeability of wealth does the prosperity of a people depend as much as upon the existence of the wealth itself. Unfortunately Canada, so far as its gold production is concerned, is a mere appanage of the United States. Canada has not taken the trouble to make a local market for gold produced within its own borders. Yet a local market for gold is at the present time the most important concern of anyone imbued with the idea of national progress and national existence. How long this very unsatisfactory condition of affairs will continue it is impossible to say. How much pressure will have to be brought to bear before the advisability of a distinctive Canadian gold coinage is recognized is still a problem. There are strong elements in the country in whose minds the general advantage is offset by disadvantages peculiar to their own interests. These will eventually be overborne, and the sooner the better.

In the twinkling of an eye the interest of the civilized world has been transferred from South Africa to China. During the last nine months it has seemed as though South Africa would continue to hold the feverish attention which it had received as the theatre one of the most remarkable wars of history, remarkable not because of its greatness, nor

on account of the magnitude of the issues involved; but because it brought into such strong relief the superficial weakness and inherent strength of the British Empire. Yet suddenly and without any warning the scene of history has been changed, the map of South Africa is torn down and that of China substituted for it. There is a vast difference in the nature of the issue. The South African affair is an episode, certain from the beginning in its conclusion and without material significance to the history of civilization. But in China it is different. The gloomy prologue has been spoken of a scene integral to the action of the piece we call modern civilization. In China the outbreak against foreign powers marks the last revolt of Oriental barbarism against the civilization of the West. It is not necessary to apologize for the use of the word barbarism. That there is in China a great but to us incomprehensible civilization is not denied. The very fact that we do not understand it is sufficient to justify our distinction of it as barbarous. Doubtless to the Chinese we are barbarians of the worst type. But our type of civilization is, as we believe, in harmony with the evolution of humanity, that of China the decadent remainder of an early phase. Doubtless in the course of time forces will arise destined to break up and destroy the fabric of our civilization and the field of the world will again lie fallow. Nor perhaps is it certain that in the philosophy of Lord Bacon with all its outgrowth of modern science absolute or applied, will anything have been added to the secular history of mankind greater in itself or more valuable in its effects than the teachings of Confucius. But that is not the point. Our modern institutions seem probably to most of us as permanent and inextinguishable as the sacred fire on the Capitol seemed to the citizens of Rome. Permanent and inextinguishable they are until their work is accomplished and their dynamic force is exhausted. Not only so, but they are incredibly hostile and bitterly cruel to anything that opposes them. That the banner of Christian civilization might perch on the battlements of Khartoum the African desert was strewn with the corpses of oppugnant fanatics, whose holy patriotism, and self-sacrificing courage were of no avail. *Causa victrix placuit deis.* The same result will occur in China. That is inevitable although its fulfilment will probably occupy the lifetime of a generation. And then Orientalism will have been driven into its last stronghold in the Himilaya Mountains under the aegis of the Grand Lama of Thibet. It is not a question of warring states, but of warring forces. Much is often made of the destiny of Russia in the Far East. But it is only in so far as Russia assimilates Western ideas and usages that Russia counts. The conquest of Russia is not to be carried on by batteries of artillery and battalions of men, but by the pressure on the Slav of the ideas and institutions of the modern inheritance in which Russia claims a share. The disintegration of the Chinese Empire will not leave the world as it found it. It will move the centre of gravity westwards. As China is developed in the modern industrial sense it will be found that the greater portion of the trade and commerce of the country will be across the Pacific Ocean with the United States and Canada and the great ports of Oriental trade will be Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle. The effect upon the Pacific slope cannot be overestimated. The first great demand from the East will be for iron and steel, for locomotives and machinery. There is no possi-