

with them in April and May exposed their utter demoralization and loss of courage. On the 31st May the Boer delegates met Lord Kitchener at Vereeniging, in the Transvaal, and they accepted the terms of peace he proposed. So ended one of the costliest of Britain's wars, which lasted from the 11th Oct., 1899, to 31st May, 1902; a war that was undertaken solely to defend two British colonies from being wrenched away from the Empire; a war which ended by their preservation, and two other colonies being added to the roll of Britain's Imperial domains; a war which covered Canadians with imperishable renown; a war that has solidified the Empire by imparting to it the strength and the pride of conscious, impregnable unity.

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One of the features of the past year was the immigration of agriculturalists into the Northwest from the Western States of America. Though numerically not large, probably not exceeding 30,000 to 40,000, those new settlers may be compared to the first few drops of a coming copious shower. Their significance lies, however, in their indicating a reversal in the course of the flow of population, which, since Confederation, as it was for some previous years, was from Canada to the United States so much so as to be a source of weakness to this country that gave grave anxiety to successive governments. It is undeniable that the Dominion was steadily losing young men to such an extent as to threaten its future, for such an exodus year after year of the very flower of the population seemed destined to prevent Canada developing, and a nation with a stagnant population, like a tree that has ceased to grow, is near to the period of decay. The policy of encouraging native industries was designed to check this threatening movement by providing new and wider spheres of occupation for young men of special talents, enterprise and ambition. Another bold move was made in the same direction with the same purpose by building the Canadian Pacific Railway by which a vast, fruitful territory was opened for settlement. The full effect of those measures took some years to be developed. Canada, indeed, was so long in responding to the stimulus applied that not a few treated the sanguine forecasts of the statesmen who had endeavoured to open a new era for their country with ridicule. But last year was a glorious confirmation of their predictions, the full tide of emigration to the States ceased to flow to the south and the stream of settlers turned from south to north, from America to Canada.

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Now the pessimist's cry is, that so many Americans coming into the Northwest is a political danger. The cry is hardly worth answering. Our new fellow Canadians are almost all of British origin. They will find even wider freedom here than in the United States, and every condition existing in this country

calculated to inspire admiration for and loyalty to the political, educational and social institutions of this Dominion. Their sons will find varied careers open to them in our commercial and industrial centres, so that we anticipate the settlers from the States becoming a strength to the country and a demonstration of its attractions to settlers.

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The year 1902 passes away with an excellent character. No hostile shots were exchanged last year between any civilized powers. The Hague International Arbitration Tribunal was called into the service of peace. Between Great Britain and the United States there developed a more cordial feeling of mutual good-will than ever before existed, thanks to the combined wisdom of King Edward and President Roosevelt. Throughout the Empire there arose last year a deeper consciousness of and pride in Imperial unity. All industries and commercial activities were most active and prosperous, so that the record of 1902 is one of exceptional brightness, one also full of promise for its successor.

#### VENEZUELA—ITS RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT AND CUSTOMS.

Byron's cynicism that, a certain crime "is much more common where the climate's sultry," might truly be said also of offences against commercial morality. The sense of honour does not flourish in the tropics, though nowhere else is it so made the subject of such boasting. Virtue does not thrive where life is sustained with a minimum of mental and physical exertion, as it is in the belt containing Venezuela. "Idle hands" are well said to be "the Devil's tools," and idleness flourishes luxuriantly in those regions. There have been revolutions in 5 South American Republics in the past year.

An Englishman, long resident in a South American Republic, tells us that negotiations for the sale of a cow would usually extend over a week, the time spent in conducting which would be chiefly occupied in smoking cigars. For business engagements of any nature, especially financial, there is little respect. A debt due "to-day" means any day in the future, and pressure to ensure punctuality is resented as an insult. In Venezuela society is in perpetual turmoil. There have been over 90 revolutions in that Republic since Queen Victoria was crowned, the average being one every 8 or 9 months. Democracy runs riot in some of those States. Our informant had a servant who was an ex-President of the Republic. Law is not sacred; a thief sentenced one day to a month's imprisonment will be set free next day by the Alcalde to secure his vote. The Venezuelan Government's war vessel "Liberador" was refused admittance to West Indian ports on 1st April last by British authorities, because the steamer was practically a pirate. What can be done with such people when they refuse to pay their public and private debts? Manifestly, they must be compelled to pay by brute force, as that is the only power they respect.