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THE SITUATION.

American critics of the policy of our Government in the Klondike forget one thing, when they speak of the royalties put on the production of gold, as if they were specially aimed at Americans. It would be well for them to bear in mind that these royalties, whether high or low, good or bad, affect alike all producers of the yellow metal operating in that region. There is no discrimination against Americans, no immunity for British subjects, no favors for Canadians. This is in marked contrast with the policy of the United States towards foreign miners. In the mines of the Republic foreigners have no rights, unless they have taken the first step towards renouncing their allegiance and becoming American citizens. It deserves to be mentioned, to the credit of public opinion in the Republic, that the practice is better than the law, the latter being to a large extent a dead letter. As a matter of fact, foreigners are not unfrequently allowed to exercise their industry as workers in American mines, on their own account. Still the rule of law is exclusion of foreigners, except as hired servants of Americans.

In the new American tariff the spirit of exclusiveness crops up unpleasantly. With what duties Congress elects to put on we have nothing to do; that is a purely domestic affair. But when Congress claims the right to favor Americans working in our woods, getting out timber, by discriminating in favor of their product and against our own, the contrast of the favor with the disfavor is specially ungracious. The effect is to give certain Americans rights in Canada, through the home connection, which Canadians do not possess. The discrimination ill accords with the comity of nations, and is a challenge to reprisal which we should be sorry to see our Government reduced to the necessity of accepting. The people who thus treat Canada ought, for very shame, to refrain from objecting when we make a mining regulation, which they are not expected to like, but which applies with equal force to both British, including Canadian, and American miners, working the Klondike placers.

Some of the reasons given protesting against the Klondike royalties are that Americans discovered the gold there, and it is pretended that Canada is copying the bad practices of the Transvaal Government, which caused the Jamieson raid. An American miner may have discovered the richness of one of the Klondike placers; but the discovery was in Canada, and he cannot complain of the treatment he receives at the hands of our Government when he is permitted to work the rich diggings on the same terms as Canadians and all other British subjects are required to observe.

If this is an unsuitable time of the year to start for the Upper Yukon, it is not because winter mining is carried on at a disadvantage, but because of the difficulty and danger of reaching there before the frost has set in. Winter is the best season for mining there, the only enforced cessation from working the placers being when water is on the surface. There is some danger, too, that a larger number of persons may arrive than can be provided with shelter and food, how well soever they may be provided with the means of paying for these necessities. The extent of the rich placers is as yet quite unknown, but it is probably large. Inspector Strickland, of the Mounted Police, who has been two years in the country, knows what he speaks of when he says he has seen a single pan of earth yield \$595, but his estimate of 2,000 to 3,000 square miles of rich placers is a mere guess, of no value whatever. All placer mines have hitherto been found exhaustible, and we are not warranted in assuming that past experience is here going to be reversed, except so far as we see it in actual course of reversal. Some miners profess to know where the mother lode is to be found, and others are going in search of it. When it is found beyond question, scientific mining, calling for large amounts of capital for its prosecution, will be in order. Meanwhile it is safe to distrust Klondike schemes which run into the millions.

Suddenly, after the interview between the colonial Premiers and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, came the asked-for denunciation of the British treaties with Germany and Belgium. The news that notice of the termination of the treaties had been given was received in England with an unwonted approach to unanimous approbation. Canada, the original mover against the treaties, is also practically an unit. For years, both political parties had advocated the course now taken. Belgium meets the inevitable with resignation, but Germany frets and foams in an unseemly way. Belgium, it is said, will seek to obtain a new treaty with Canada, while, if we believe the prophets, Germany may set her wits to work to invent some scheme of retaliation. Retaliation for the exercise of a right which the treaty itself contained, the right to terminate the treaty after a year's notice! The first rule for dealing with economic arrangements is to keep your temper; and the Germans, as a people, have too much good sense long to permit notions of retaliation, which are wholly misplaced, long to interfere with her interests.

In the opinion of some people the denunciation of these treaties means far more than appears on the surface; nothing less than the general abandonment of the "most favored nation" clause in all existing treaties. So far as can be seen, at present, there is no warrant for