

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1903.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 11, 1903.

CANADA AND THE FUTURE.

Some of the Canadian newspapers have gone far into error in discussing the Alaska boundary award. One or two things should be stated right at the start, for instance: Canada is not going to war, nor is she intending to break away from the Empire. All the same, it is a matter of universal regret that Lord Alverstone acted as he did in the empire is a dispute, whereas he was one of the members of a supposedly impartial commission, met to deal with the evidence presented, as a jury does, with such evidence.

The effect of the boundary award has been interpreted variously, and according to the heat with which writers accepted it. Now that the first shock of the matter is over, it is open to Canadians to review the matter closely, and in the light of past events. There can, we think, be only one conclusion as to the justice of the award. Canada is still a dissenting party. At the start the United States was in possession of the territory in dispute. It was asked that the United States should submit this matter to arbitration.

When Great Britain attempted the settlement of a boundary matter with Venezuela, the whole American people were startled one morning by Grover Cleveland's message from Washington, in which he said particularly that unless the Venezuela matter was made the subject of international arbitration, the United States would go to war over it. The best comment upon that message is one that perhaps hitherto has never attained a publicity which is its due. It was made by Mr. Laffan, who is now the proprietor of the New York Sun, having bought that property from the Dabbs. He printed Mr. Cleveland's message with a "hearse-head," which the news demanded, but at the very tail of the headline he incorporated this little sentence: "Grover, S' Vaten Guerre." "The Grover's off to the war."

But Great Britain, which had nothing then to lose by reference to the power of arbitration, submitted that question to the tribunal which the United States demanded, and in a general way was satisfied with the result.

But when this other question arose, the United States said "there is nothing to arbitrate," and so it was that Great Britain assented to the formation of a commission to deal with the matter, in which thereafter two Canadian commissioners and one British commissioner were appointed to act.

Canada is left to assume now that the British desire to stand with the United States "was paramount." There were matters relating to the far east, for instance, and it is in evidence also that Great Britain regards its Indian frontier as of more importance than our North Pacific boundary, and so it appears that Lord Alverstone looked upon himself as rather a negotiator than a simple judge of the facts.

The unfortunate result of this appears to have been that the British commissioner placed himself in the position of one who should judge between the American and the Canadian representatives, as one who should decide between contentions.

Canada lost by this at the outset, for the idea of the commission was that Lord Alverstone should be a simple representative of Canada in this matter, and should decide as to the justice of all the facts presented, and as to the Canadian case in particular. He was, indeed, a commissioner, and not an umpire. He appears to have taken the umpire's position, and to have decided the Alaskan matter with regard to other affairs of imperial concern, which really should not have been regarded as bearing upon the question at issue.

Canada is asked today, and with some measure of reason, if she was prepared to go to war over this Alaska strip. The answer is, No. Canada would go further, and say that she would not willingly involve Great Britain in a war over the territory involved in this dispute; but Canada will say that when she descended to the acceptance of the American representatives on the commission it was not Great Britain's right to assent to the treaty for a commission before Canada had been heard in reference to the protest which she had lodged.

This country has shown again and again, and within the last few years, its good faith, by the expenditure of blood and treasure, that its loyalty to the empire is beyond question.

It is quite proper that at this time Can-

ada should display grave discontent over the Alaska boundary matter, and should regard that decision as proof that the statesmen of Great Britain do not yet regard the importance of this great colony in the future affairs of the empire at its proper worth.

Virtually, we have the treaty-making power today. We can negotiate. We can accept or reject. We should only reach the status which we deserve when we have settled with Great Britain our exact duty in regard to the defence of the empire.

We are on record as saying that we will not contribute directly toward that defence, but it is stated that in defending ourselves we contribute greatly towards imperial defence, and that we are willing now to make an arrangement which should cover our contribution to the general outlay.

Our main point is, that we maintain that any contribution should not be subject solely to the dictum of the first Lord of the Admiralty, but that Canadians should have a voice in the distribution of any money which they may be called upon to pay.

UNCLE SAM ON TRIAL.

Panama, which was one of the colonized states of Colombia, has declared itself a separate republic. It is through Panama the great isthmian canal is to be constructed. Before that work could be begun it would of course be necessary for the United States to enter into a treaty with the government controlling the territory. The Colombian congress adjourned on October 31st after having rejected the proposed treaty with the United States. Within a week the new republic of Panama was proclaimed.

With whatever degree of surprise the rest of the world may have heard this news, it was no surprise to the people of the United States. They were prepared for the revolution, and the government was evidently ready to recognize the new republic. It is also apparently ready to take the fullest advantage of the treaty of 1846 with New Granada, under which it agreed to guarantee the neutrality of the isthmus with the specific "view that the free transit from one to the other sea may not be embarrassed or interrupted at any future time while this treaty exists." The sovereignty passed from New Granada to Colombia in 1863, but the treaty is still in force. By the Americans propose to take advantage of the treaty is probably indicated in the following despatch from Washington:

The present American policy is to preserve the line of transit by the Panama Railroad open in accordance with the obligations of the treaty of 1846. It will be difficult for Colombia to put down the rebellion with our maintenance of neutrality on this strip. Our officers are apparently interpreting their instructions to mean that they should not let the revolutionists get at the government forces at Colon, nor allow the government army to attack the revolutionists who are in control at Panama. Colombia cannot, in troops except by sea, and much difficulty will attend her doing this without interference with the safety of isthmian transit.

If this policy is actually pursued, Colombia cannot put down the revolution, although under the treaty of 1846 the United States also guaranteed the "rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada (now Colombia) has and possesses over the territory."

If a Canadian newspaper at this time were to criticize adversely the attitude of the United States in this affair, such action might be attributed to ill-feeling aroused by the Alaskan award. The Telegraph will therefore content itself with quoting an article from the New York Evening Post, which will hardly be accused of international jealousy. The reminder to the American government of what happened at the time it had to deal with rebellion within its own borders appears to be especially applicable at this time:

"Revolutions," said Wendell Phillips, "are not made; they come." But the Panama revolution is one of the most transparently made-to-order affairs that was ever seen. The thing was announced, may, trumpeted, in advance. Our naval officials disclaim any actual knowledge of what was to occur, but say with a smile that they made ready for it out of "independent anticipation." This it was that caused the orders to the cruiser Dixie, on October 24, to put to sea at once, despite her chief engineer's request for time to make repairs, and with four hundred marines in addition to her regular crew—many of them "poked men." As a blind, the report was that the Dixie was to go to Guantanamo, Cuba; but it is now admitted that the real destination was Colon. If our consuls warned the government of what was coming, did they get their information from the chiefs among the revolutionists? Did the latter raise any question about being recognized by the United States? What we know is that they called a request for recognition the moment they had launched their pronouncements. Washington has as yet made no reply. It ought to hesitate long and deliberately before making a favorable one.

Secretary Hay is old enough, if the president is not, to recall the vehement protest against the recognition of our seceding states by European governments. Their recognition as belligerents gave bitter and undying offence, though that was doubtless required by international law. But against recognizing them as a government we strenuously argued, throughout those years of fearful struggle. It was, we contended, only rebellion which we were facing, and which we would put down in time if let alone. Yet the Southern Confederacy had many of the insignia of a nation. Gladstone was not so far wrong, as a mere matter of form, in saying so. Yet we threatened to go to war with any nation which recognized that secession movement numbering millions of men and with formidable armies in the field. The

dispatches of Seward and Adams are full of protests against recognizing the revolted states. Yet the Tribune's Washington correspondent coolly assures us that this government will presently recognize the State of Panama, which counts within its borders 250,000 people who are, says the delightful man, "as industrious as the climate will permit!"

No man in his senses imagines that we could think of thus swallowing our own principles unless the canal were the prize. But that is the very reason why we should be particularly scrupulous at this juncture. We cannot incur the shame of allowing a money interest to sway us from the path of international propriety. The situation is confessedly most difficult. We are there by treaty right to keep the isthmus open to traffic. But the same treaty which imposes this obligation upon us, also binds us to "guarantee the rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada (Colombia) possesses over the said territory." (The Isthmus of Panama.) But, in fact, transit may be kept open in such a way as to imperil Colombian sovereignty. Under the dangerous precedent of last year, our naval commanders forbid the passage of armed men by rail. Now, that might easily work out in preventing the central government from putting down the revolution in Panama. If we refuse to let troops be moved against the revolutionists, how can we also threaten to recognize them as a government, on the ground that they are too strong for the Bogota authorities? It is very much as if England had guaranteed to keep the Potomac open, and would not let Great Britain cross to attack Lee! The thing to insist upon is that the nation should act like a gentleman, not a sharper. Let the canal go, if we have to sacrifice a good conscience to get it. In this time of outcry and gathering conspiracy, it is the duty of every man who feels a stain upon the national honor as a personal hurt to speak up for such action by our government in dealing with a very complicated matter, as shall leave us open as the day, and free from a single suspicion of bending right to selfishness.

CANAL COMPETITION.

Hon. Mr. Tarte, in La Patrie, discusses the probable effect upon the Canadian transportation business of the enlargement of the Erie canal system so that it will accommodate 1,000-ton barges. The New York state legislature had voted \$101,000,000 for that purpose, subject to a vote of the people. The people of the state voted last week, and there was a considerable majority in favor of the canal project.

It is not quite clear, however, that the work will be at once proceeded with. The counties on the state voted generally against the measure, and it was carried by the New York city vote. New York County gave a majority in favor of 230,778; Brooklyn, 141,280; Queens, 15,329; and Richmond, 6,038, which greatly overbalanced the up-state opposition. The cities and towns close to the canal in question returned the heaviest vote against the project. The former vote was generally against it. The fact that 42 counties voted up a majority of 170,000 against the measure may have some influence with the legislature, for the majority in favor was secured in only 19 counties. Many of the members of the legislature represent counties opposed to the scheme, and it is stated in the New York papers that a determined effort will be made by the opponents to prevail upon the legislature to repeal the bill. It is a very unusual course to repeal a bill after the people have voted in its favor, but it is said to be not without precedent in New York state. Should determined opposition be manifested in the legislature it would of course be bad for the scheme, as the hearty cooperation of that body would be necessary in order to carry the work to completion. Were the legislature so disposed it could block the efforts of the canal commission at many points.

At this distance it would seem reasonable to assume, since the legislature practically voted once in favor of the scheme, and since it is now endorsed by a majority of the state electors, that in the end it must prevail. Of course the railway and other interests arrayed against it will continue their agitation as long as possible, but they will doubtless fail in their efforts to secure the repeal of the bill.

The main purpose of the project is of course to regain for the port of New York its lost grain trade, a considerable portion of which has been diverted to the cheaper Canadian lakes and canal route, which, as Mr. Tarte points out, would have in the 1,000-ton barge canal a very formidable competitor.

TALKING RECIPROcity.

The American press is paying a good deal of attention to the campaign of Mr. Chamberlain and his possible effect upon American trade with Canada. The New York Journal of Commerce urges action in the direction of reciprocity and argues the case thus:

"If Mr. Chamberlain's plan for detaching Canadian trade from this country and winning it over to Great Britain by an effective tariff preference shall wake up our people to the importance not only of retaining what we have, but of gaining more, it will serve a good end for us. Is Canadian trade a something that it is worth while for Great Britain to bid for at the cost of carrying it over three thousand miles of sea, it is worth our taking across a mere imaginary boundary line."

In the same issue of the Journal of Commerce, however, appear quotations from a report by the American consul at London, Ontario, who points out plainly that the United States has something more to do than merely express a desire in order to have its own way in the Canadian markets. The consul "suggests the idea that the United States has let the most favorable opportunity for the negotiation of a reciprocity agreement pass, and that it will be more difficult to get

the Canadians to enter into such an arrangement than it would have been a few years ago. He says that Canada is succeeding in establishing a rapidly growing export trade with the mother country, and that while she yet feels the need of our markets in many lines, her natural products are finding a ready sale in Great Britain and the people are hopeful that this outlet will be a constantly growing one."

It is certainly complimentary to Canada to have so much interest in reciprocity manifested by the United States, and the fact is also very good evidence that Mr. Chamberlain is doing something more than talking with the St. John Globe is pleased to call "day-dreaming."

A DEPRESSED INDUSTRY.

In an interview in Montreal last week, George E. Drummond, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, stated that Canada is being used as a dumping ground for American iron and steel products. American drummers are offering pig iron at slaughter prices. Structural steel beams, plates, angles, channels and rivet steel are offered at forty to fifty cents per hundred pounds less than current prices in Pittsburgh. Naturally, Canadian manufacturers protest. They are likely, however, to be forced to meet an even keener competition for the American iron and steel industry, despite the treacherous efforts to unload on foreign markets, has entered upon a period of depression. On Friday the price of Bessemer billets at Pittsburgh was reduced from \$27 to \$23 per ton. There is a forced reduction in the whole range of iron and steel products, due to a falling off in demand, and to a large over-production. Prices had gone to a very high level, and this no doubt to some extent overstimulated the demand. With the product piling up, and demand falling off, there could be no other result than a scramble for markets, and an ultimate decline in prices. Of course, with lower prices must go a reduction of the cost of production, and already wages have in some instances been reduced.

There will be a further movement in that direction. It may cause some labor troubles, and on the whole the outlook is not a cheerful one for the steel trade and its independent competitors, while there is also the prospect that the Canadian harbor will be affected by the necessity that exists for a further reduction of stocks on hand in the United States.

MEMORIAL STATUES.

The decision of the St. Andrew's Society of Fredericton to erect a monument in honor of Robert Burns is a manifestation of a very laudable feeling. So far as we know there are at present no notable memorials of distinguished men in that city. There are none in St. John, or indeed in any city or town in the province. In the United States almost every town of any pretensions has a statue or other memorial of some distinguished citizen of the town, the state or the republic. It is one method of daily reminding the people of the value of a good and heroic life, and of pointing the young to an example of patriotism which they would do well to cherish and to follow.

Fredericton people have set the rest of the province an example in the line of erecting a monument in memory of one man. They have chosen the great Scottish bard, a few of whose songs have won world-wide and lasting recognition, and whose influence on the life of Scotland is perhaps greater today than when he walked the banks and braes of Bonnie Doone.

One remark may be made in this connection, that is perhaps worth thinking about. It is that in course of time, as the recognition of the value of these memorials becomes more widespread, and more people are found willing to contribute to the necessary fund, it would not be inappropriate to commemorate the virtues and the deeds of some of the founders of this province and of the Dominion of Canada.

THE HARVEST.

The despatch now that a very stringent bill relating to the punishment of anarchists was introduced yesterday in the United States Congress. This action has been made necessary by the assassination of President McKinley, the threats levelled against the life of Roosevelt, the hatching of plots in American cities to destroy crowded heads in Europe, and similar events of recent history.

Our neighbors are reaping what they have sown. They have permitted the very worst elements of the population of Europe to land on their shores, take up residence in their cities, and go on teaching, under the name of freedom, the abominable doctrines of the anarchist and murderer. During the past few years a little more care has been exercised, but it is still notorious that while a vigorous, intelligent, and industrious Canadian is turned back at the border line by the zealous immigrant agent, thousands of the most undesirable class from the slums of Europe are permitted to land in New York. As was stated in yesterday's Telegraph, out of over six thousand persons who landed in New York one day last week the majority were from Southern Italy. "At the same time, an Englishman who declared himself to be an anarchist is held up and will probably be deported. He made the mistake of being honest. There can be no question, however, that in sending him back the authorities will be doing perfectly right. They have been far too slow in realizing the terrible results of their easy toleration in the past, and it has now be-

Clothing for Growing Boys.

From the little tot just out of dresses, to the big 17-year-old fellow who can scarcely get trousers long enough to cover his knees—it takes a wide range of styles and sizes to keep up with such a procession, but we are doing it.



A cute little tot yesterday was trying on one of those Russian suits in red with bloomer trousers for \$4.00 and he was as proud as a peacock when he looked at himself in the mirror. Another boy a little older had one of the sailor suits on at \$6.00.

Over on the other side of the store was a High-school boy putting on a fine big overcoat made of good tough Frieze, well-tailored—and it cost only \$6.50.

Double Breasted Suits,	\$2 00 to \$6 00	Russian Suits,	\$3 50 to \$6 00
Norfolk Suits,	2 50 to 6 00	Sailor Suits,	75 to 12 00
Three Piece Suits,	3 00 to 10 00	Boys' Overcoats,	3 75 to 8 50

P. S.—Boys are notoriously hard on trousers, and we have the main seams of all our boys trousers double stitched and taped. Sizes up to 10 years have waist band as well as buttons, Soc to \$1.75.

Men's Overcoats, Winter Weights,

Ready! From \$5.00 to \$25.00—and such fine-looking lot you never saw.

"This will be the banner seller," says a salesman.

"No, this one will," says another.

"Both wrong—here's the star coat," chimes in a third.

And so it goes—all the styles so good that no one can pick the best.

The cardinal principle here is, give the biggest value possible.

Men like it, and pass the news on. We like it, too. Word of mouth advertising is very much to our liking.

Good warm Coats and Stylish, \$5.00 to \$25 00.

Mail Orders.

We have a list of shoppers by mail. If you are not already on it, we would like to have your name added. Hundreds of men from all over the provinces buy their clothing at this store by mail with the most satisfactory results. Suppose you try it, and if what we send you is not satisfactory, you may return it. Samples and information cheerfully furnished upon request.

GREATER OAK HALL, KING STREET, ST. JOHN. SCOVIL BROS. & CO.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Deputy Mayor McGoldrick and the other members of the committee appointed to confer with the president of the C. P. R. with reference to additional harbor works have not been wasting time. They have held two meetings and have been in communication with Sir Thomas Shanks. He has stated that he is unable to come to St. John at present, but will be glad to meet the city's representatives in Montreal next week. This is so far satisfactory. It is understood that the committee will consider plans and fully inform themselves upon the whole question, and that next week they will proceed to Montreal. It may also be, and the citizens will endorse the suggestion, that the committee, or some members of it, will proceed to Ottawa and interview the government with regard to the question of dredging. It is to be hoped that in the meantime the board of trade will have framed its resolutions, held its public meeting, and nominated a strong committee to join with the city council committee in the appeal to the government. It goes without saying that Col. Tucker, M. P., will join that delegation and proceed to the capital to press upon the government the just claims of this constituency. It also goes without saying that there is no danger of having too strong or too influential a delegation.

ST. JOHN AND HALIFAX.

The statement of the Allans that they could not get full cargoes for all their steamers at either St. John or Halifax seems to have been a determining cause for the signature of St. John merchants to the petition asking that certain of the company's steamers be relieved of the unnecessary and great expense of coming around from Halifax to St. John. In this connection the following paragraph from the Halifax Chronicle is of special interest:

"The report that 500,000 bushels of grain are being forwarded to the elevator here has been confirmed. It is to be divided among several steamers. A gang of men are at work cleaning up the elevator and an expert elevator officer is coming from the west."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Those Boston negroes who have censured Booker T. Washington and recommended the formation of a separate party of colored voters may have ambition, but they will not realize their hopes.

The Charlottetown Guardian observes: "There is something in names. There was a time in the names of the American Boundary Commissioners. When our grasping neighbors Lodge upon a piece of disputed territory they always took Root and then proceed to Turner over to the United States."

Mr. Chamberlain's plan is warmly endorsed by the Board of Trade, and doubtless this is a straw showing how the wind blows hereabouts. The wind which Canada should take in the matter cannot well be clear until Mr. Chamberlain's plan is adopted by the British electors and negotiations opened with the Colonies. Then we shall learn just what is asked and promised. In the meantime it is true that

FREE. BEAUTIFUL WATCH, NEW ELECTRIC BELT, VALUABLE BOOK. FREE.

Free during this month only. One to each person writing me. All treated alike. No partiality. Call at once or write. A postal will do. This beautiful medical book is fully illustrated and should be read by every weak man or woman. It tells how to avoid disease and weakness and how to keep well and healthy. The watch we are going to give is a really valuable time-piece. It carries the manufacturer's full guarantee, is of triple German silver and will be found useful everywhere. Our new belt differs materially from the many old style vinegar belts advertised. It is positively the only belt now made that does not use vinegar to generate its electricity, and it never gives out. It is a wonderful discovery. It is a positive cure for Rheumatism, Varicose Veins, Weak Back, Sexual Debilities, Losses, Nervousness, Dyspepsia and General Debility. You need it. You want it. You should have it. Do not get any Electric Belt before writing me for you need treatment you need the best. My Improved Belt is guaranteed for three years. I do not want one cent till I have permanently cured you and then my prices are from \$3 only. We are making the greatest use of any electric belt company in order to introduce our splendid Belt in all parts of Canada. If you are fortunate enough to read this advertisement, write at once in order to profit by this most liberal offer. Address DR. A. M. MACDONALD ELECTRIC CO., 2362 St. Catherine St., Montreal, Q. C.

at the dominion general elections. Whereupon the Boston Journal rises to remark: "A sensational step has been taken in the Canadian Northwest by the territories. They demand independence. The territories are filling up with Yankee farmers, who want free trade with their neighbors. They can have it—not on Colonel Gaston's terms, but on the same terms that Jefferson gave to the Louisiana Purchase."

The amount of valuable information concerning Canada which one may secure by a careful perusal of American papers is really astonishing. And yet it is doubtful if Canadians fully appreciate their great opportunity.

Mr. Turner, one of the American commissioners on the Alaska tribunal, says that it will make no difference if nothing is done for half a century to delimit that 140 mile strip which was left in abeyance. He adds that the commissioners laid down a principle by which the boundary may be defined whenever necessary. He states that most of the territory which remains unanswered consists of a wild plateau, from which the snow rarely melts. Its only possible value, he says, would be in minerals, and even then the inhospitability of the climate is such that he doubts if it would amount to much.

The Globe is not pleased with Mr. Chamberlain. It calls his talk a "trap," and makes a comparison between his present campaign and the free silver campaign of Bryan in the United States. This is a warning to those Canadians, both Liberal and Conservative, who have declared themselves in favor of preferential trade. If they want the Globe to respect them they must recant.

If Lord Rosebery has no better argument to advance against Mr. Chamberlain's scheme than to suggest that a duty in favor of Canadian wheat would cause American farmers to pour into Canada, and that their presence might tend to weaken the bonds between Canada and the mother-land, he may as well quit the platform. If American farmers came because of a preference they would stay for the same reason, and have the same object in maintaining the relationship that Canadian born farmers would have.