

Canadian Pacific Railway than can now be made under existing conditions. In both the steamship and the cable schemes the principle is recognized. In order to have British connection exclusively, the line must, in the first instance, be carried westward from the centre. By the acceptance of this principle, Canada obtains a position she has never occupied before, as the main highway of the British Empire. It is interesting to note that Sir Mackenzie Bowell received a cable message from Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain confirming the despatches in reference to the conference on the Pacific cable scheme, and inviting the Dominion Government to name two Commissioners to represent Canada at the gathering. It is abundantly evident that the Intercolonial conference is bearing fruit. Dr. Sandford Fleming will certainly be one of the Commissioners. He is better fitted for the important office than any other Canadian of whom we can think.

Mr. Hugh Ryan's  
Generous Gift.

Toronto's more wealthy citizens have, as a rule, never been remarkable for public spirit or for generosity in the way of endowing public institutions. There have been a few notable exceptions, but Toronto has lagged far behind Montreal in this respect. It is to be hoped that the example recently set by Mr. Hugh Ryan will be followed by other men of wealth in Toronto. With fine public spirit and generosity, Mr. Ryan has built and completely equipped a large and handsome wing, which he has added to St. Michael's Hospital. The capacity of this indispensable institution has thus been doubled, and its means of carrying out its work has been increased in the same proportion. The doors of St. Michael's Hospital are closed to no one who needs its shelter and its aid. Mr. Ryan's splendid gift is a gift to the city, and his generosity is sincerely appreciated. He receives the warm thanks of the whole community.

Under the  
Southern Cross.

Australia is moving steadily in the direction of Federation, or some form of union, and of freer trade relations. Both lines of movement are interesting to Canadians, because there is no part of the world with which we do so little business in comparison with what could be done, and no part of the world that is so entirely on the same social, political and constitutional plane with us as the great, wealthy, and enterprising Colonies under the Southern Cross. There has been no outside pressure to bring about Federation there, as there was in Canada. Hence the delays which have taken place. But recent action by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, the premier Australian Colony and the one which has hitherto for various reasons held back, shows that the sentiment in favour of Union has become overwhelming. By a majority of 62 votes to 5, the Assembly has passed the Federal Enabling Bill, which provides that a convention of ten representatives of each Australian Colony shall meet to draft a Federal Constitution. This Constitution is to be referred to the direct vote of the electors of each Colony for acceptance or rejection; and if accepted by three Colonies it shall then be presented for Imperial enactment. There can be no doubt of Victoria and Queensland following the lead of New South Wales; and even if the others do not come in at once, they will not stay out in the cold very long. The very name of "Australia," which, of course, must be given to the new Dominion, would be enough to bring in South and West Australia. Tasmania is almost as ripe for Union as Victoria. As for New Zealand, it is already a Confederation by itself, and will not merge in Australia for a long time. There will therefore soon be two Dominions in the

Southern Seas, and the closer the relations of all kinds between them and their older sister—Canada—the better for all concerned.

The Situation in  
Europe.

The nations of Europe appear to be forming their opposing lines. England and Italy seem of one mind. Russia and France are undoubtedly moving in accord. Germany is hesitating. It is well known that old Bismarck's policy was to let Russia have her own way. He cared nothing for England. The sop to Cerberus was to take the shape of Austria's German provinces. We are not sure that that would not be best for Germany after all. If this Russo-German alliance could be revived it would end the Franco-Russian *entente*. England's only possible policy is to uphold the present state of matters. She must try and do for Turkey what she is doing for Egypt. She must get things straight and act as Receiver until they are straight. It is a big contract, but it is her best plan. If she undertook this work Austria would probably work with her out of dread of the Bismarck game of grab. If Russia gets hold of Turkey, and Germany becomes really Germany, Austria and France sink into second-rate powers. England would lose her hold on India because Russia's *prestige* there would become so great that a Russian invasion would be followed by an immediate and probably successful rising of the native population. England's strongest alliance would be Germany, and if the price for that alliance is to let Germany get the German Provinces of Austria, it is only what is right after all, and it is not too dear to pay for German assistance in holding Russia out of Constantinople even if it involves keeping the "unspeakable Turk" there some generations longer. In time we may see Austria again the Empire of the East, and this compensation may console her for the loss of her German provinces.

Gold Withdrawals  
From the United  
States.

The withdrawal of gold from the United States is again causing anxiety. In an article published lately in these columns we called attention to the serious state of financial matters across the line. We foretold that the drain of gold would continue, and that unless it was stopped it would reach dangerous proportions. We see no reason to alter that opinion. Unless the wise efforts of President Cleveland to restore sound financiering are successful the United States will have to pass through the most dangerous crisis they have yet experienced. Foreign capital has been furnished to them hitherto most lavishly. Now the creditors are requiring payment, and taking it in gold; no bonds, thank you. Another issue of bonds nevertheless is spoken of; another *coup* for somebody to make another \$10,000,000 out of. How long will the credit stand? Jonathan has been going it at a pretty rapid pace. How long can he keep it up? An ugly word stands in front of him. It is a long way off still, but it is there. Repudiation! If he listens to President Cleveland he can keep clear of it. If he is guided by the silver kings and the paper money men he will come to it. The men who have the solid money bags know the state of the case, and Jonathan, rich and strong as he is, cannot for ever violate universal laws with impunity.

Next Year's  
Copyright Act.

In a speech delivered by Mr. Hall Caine at Ottawa on last Monday night he announced that the better legislation which Canada promised to authors is under way. "The much disputed Copyright Act of 1889," said the distinguished novelist, "will never again be offered to your Parliament or sent to England for Imperial sanction. Instead of that there will be an amended act to be called the Copyright Act of