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TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1900.

THE SITUATION.

Mr. Bourassa has said a word in season, which he of all other men could say with effect, and which settles the question, sometimes unnecessarily raised, whether in case of war between England and France, French-Canadians would fight under the British flag. "If," he said, "the British flag were attacked upon Canadian soil, French and English, alike, would rise to a man to defend it, even if to do so they had to face the tricolor." Mr. Bourassa opposed the sending of the Canadian contingents to South Africa, and his doing so caused some people to ask whether the French-Canadians were loyal to the Empire, and whether they could be relied on, in a war with France. They have their answer, and it is one which will prove satisfactory to Canadians of whatever origin.

Lord Roberts has made the 4th of Sept. memorable, by issuing a proclamation "announcing that the Transvaal will henceforth form a part of Her Majesty's dominions." Such is his brief report of the transaction. Again, it will be noticed, the annexation takes place before the fighting is all over. What remains to be done, in that way, is but the cleaning up of odds and ends. The Boer cause has long been a lost cause. One inconvenience may possibly arise from dating the annexation prior to the final rout of the last of the marauding gangs of Boers; it may be more difficult to deal with Boers hereafter captured with arms in their hands than it would have been, if they had been prisoners of war. But it does not follow that annexation now is not justifiable. The war, on the side of the Boers, being without an object, it is equally without justification, and it is quite permissible to give notice that if they go farther in an unwarranted cause, they may fare worse. Three or four individuals, at most—Kruger, Steyn, De Wet and Botha—stand in the way of peace. Every man lost is a life sacrificed to their mortified ambition. The end will be the same, and they know it. While we admire them for their heroic constancy, we cannot applaud the criminal folly of continuing

wantonly to throw away valuable lives without the slightest hope of compensation for the sacrifice.

Labor Day was a day of processions and spectacular display; oratory was practically silent; labor dumb in presence of the activities which it set in motion. What sections of workers are doing we see elsewhere in the fact that the Socialists are to run candidates of their own in the coming elections, in the full conviction, we may reasonably assume, that they will be defeated. As the election contest proceeds, the public will hear something of their views. Trades unionism, which is another thing, we know of old. Labor and capital being each necessary to the other, it is desirable that they should, in whatever form, work together for their mutual good. As always happens, on a great rise of prices, labor difficulties have of late been somewhat numerous. If there be any paradise, to be reached in future, in which these things will not occur, it is closely veiled from us at present. As things go, labor and capital must get along together, as best they can, pretty much in the old fashion, with some steps towards improved conditions.

The outlook for the European concert in China has been darkened by the separate action of Russia, in deciding to withdraw her troops from Peking, in the hope, if not the expectation, that the other powers may follow her lead. An alliance, if it is to maintain mutual confidence, must act upon a common understanding, arrived at after full discussion. Instead of consulting the other powers, when she conceives that a new step has become necessary, Russia lets the other powers know what she intends doing, instead of asking what their views are on the new aspect of the situation. In taking her own course, she forgets that she leaves them to take theirs. It was at first thought that the United States had followed the lead of Russia, but since then an unofficial assurance has come from the Foreign Office at Washington that it is not her intention to withdraw, at present, from Peking. It is said, in addition, that the Washington authorities hope to induce Russia not to withdraw from Peking under present circumstances. Emperor William, speaking for Germany, is credited with using very strong language against withdrawal from Peking, and it looks as if Russia would fail to find even a second. The Emperor of Russia proposes to recall the old Government to Peking. This Government is responsible for the crime of having countenanced the attempted assassination of all foreigners in Peking, including the representatives of foreign powers, and the actual murder of many. When the military governor of Peking issued a proclamation inciting to the murder of all foreigners, he could not have done so without the authority of the supreme rulers.

One of the objects of Russia, as declared in the diplomatic circular, is to restore and maintain the old Government of China, in the capital of Peking; another, to do everything possible to prevent the partition of China. On the first of these objects it is not surprising if there is want of agreement among the allies. There must be some government for the allies to deal with, and it may be equally difficult to restore the old one or to set up a new one. To prevent the partition of the Empire is desirable; is there no danger that it may begin in the Russian conquest of Manchuria? To this question Russia answers that so soon as lasting order