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THE SITUATION.

Little as any one in this country suspected it, pleuro-pneumonia has been found in a steer sent from Canada to England and slaughtered there in accordance with existing regulations. The disease is reported to be contagious, but it is singular that the case is isolated and that the herd did not become infected. This is a staggering anomaly, almost strong enough to throw a doubt on the reality of the disease reported to have been detected. But as no doubt is expressed in the cablegram which brings the unwelcome intelligence, none is permissible. Must we then accept the alternative conclusion that sporadic pleuro-pneumonia may exist without much danger of other animals, along with one infected, taking the disease? The danger, whatever it may be, is not one to be trifled with. The disease is rare in Canada, so rare as to be, for all that is known to the contrary, non-existent. Could not the animal in question have caught the disease elsewhere than in this country? It seems more probable that this should have happened than that the disease should have originated in a country where no evidence of its existence is found. We need not expect that the requirement of scheduling will be removed in favor of Canadian cattle in England for some time. If the disease made its appearance here, Pasteur's preventative of inoculation ought to be resorted to, that being the only effectual safeguard against its ravages.

Apprehension and alarm are the elements, by the admission of President Cleveland, it is, at this juncture, necessary to combat in the Republic. When Congress meets next month the general belief is that it will proceed at once to repeal the silver purchase law. This will quiet apprehension and subdue alarm, so far as they are traceable to, or believed to be connected with, the Sherman silver purchase law. It may

be that there are other causes of disquietude. But nothing is so dangerous as panic, nothing so causeless, so unreasonable, so difficult to control; and it is impossible to say where the line between well grounded and groundless distrust can be drawn. But the mere fact of calling Congress to apply a remedy to a known and admitted evil, has acted as a general tonic and tended to brace up the weakened nerves of the financial world. Mr. Bland says he will continue to fight for the free coinage of silver; but he is playing a desperate game, in which there is not one chance in a thousand of success. The closing of many silver mines is a natural result of the overproduction of that metal; and the disaster which the event brings to individuals, is aggravated by a futile attempt, kept up for years, to force the price of silver abnormally above its market value.

A second account of what Provincial Treasurer Hall of Quebec has done, in his mission as a borrower in Europe, has been published. He has, it seems, arranged for an extension for two years of the \$4,000,000 loan negotiated by the Mercier Government, on the original terms. This is a temporary expedient, like the original loan, and it leaves the question of a longer term loan still open, and sure to recur in a practical shape in two years. The Credit Lyonnais, the agency by which the temporary loan was made, and, presumably, renewed, is willing to undertake to float a long term loan; but obviously the time for doing so has not proved propitious, else this would naturally have been undertaken at once, rather than what has been done. As matters now stand, a new loan will be necessary to pay off the four millions, on July 15, 1895. What the Mercier Government tried to get, when it negotiated the four million dollar loan, was ten millions. Four millions was not all that the province required when Mr. Hall set out on his mission, and what he was reported to have obtained in England must, if the statement was correct, have been an addition to the temporary renewal of the four million dollar loan.

Whatever truth there may be in the statement, dished up in a variety of forms, that Mr. Duncan McIntyre made a mission to England to try to capture a controlling interest in the Grand Trunk Railway, no one pretends to have had the admission from the putative author of the project. Mr. McIntyre is credited with having made provisional or contingent arrangements with other roads, which were to have gone into effect in case he had succeeded. The failure of the project is declared in positive terms. One feature of the intended change, it was alleged, was to transfer the management of the company to this country. It can hardly be otherwise than that a great railway managed at a distance of thousands of miles from the scene of its operations, must often be at a disadvantage. The difficulty of transferring the control to this side of the ocean is that the owners of the property live on the other side, and that they naturally wish to have a hand in the management. The Canadian Pacific has

given the world some new experience in this particular; and there can hardly be a doubt in the mind of any observant Canadian that it is more effectively managed at Montreal than it could be in London, and the success which has attended the working of this vast system contains an element of encouragement which produces on sensible business men an effect which may cause its methods and example to find imitators.

Mr. Phelps has concluded his argument on behalf of the United States before the Behring Sea Arbitration Court. He claimed that the right of protecting seals and making seizures of sealing vessels extended to the open sea. He went farther and contended that the right of protection might, under certain circumstances, extend to the territory of a friendly power; and he cited the instance, presumably of the "Caroline," which he describes as having been captured by the British because she was preparing to take part in the Canadian Rebellion. The "Caroline," in point of fact, had been aiding the rebels of 1837 who had taken up a position on Navy Island, in the Niagara River, above the Falls, and was plying between the island and the American shore. She was captured at Schlosser, on the American side. The American Government never admitted the right of capture exercised on this occasion, and the British Government finally declared, through the mouth of Lord Ashburton, in 1842, that an apology for the act ought to have been offered before. The American Government spoke of the "outrage" at the time, and for years after, as one that would almost justify a declaration of war. As a precedent, the capture of the "Caroline" cannot be made to serve the case of the United States in the seal fishery. And if the argument is not intended to show that a sealer which has been in Behring Sea could be captured on our coast, after her return, it has no meaning.

A French Canadian of Quebec professes to have discovered the art of hardening copper so that it will cut steel and resist bullets better than steel. This, if true to the extent claimed, can scarcely be called the rediscovery of a lost art, for in spite of all that has been said about the hardening of copper, in past times, there is no evidence to show that such an art ever existed. But it is claimed for the present process, that besides hardening, it tempers copper, giving it all the force of steel springs. The discoverer made a cart of copper, including the tires, which are very thin with copper springs. The man fell sick after he had started for the Chicago Exhibition, and had to come back. Should he die, we trust the secret will not go to the grave with him.

For the second time, the electors of Toronto are to say, at the ballot box, whether they desire the street cars to run on Sunday or not. The vote will be taken on the 2nd August, and will be confined to qualified voters; the street railway company agreeing to pay the expenses of the polling. This second submission is due to