

telegraph to the Government, apparently at present, and the railroad at the end of 50 years. Mr. Reid replies that the railroad, the telegraph, and the land, united, are essential features of his contract with the Government, and that any change in his position with reference to one of them, would destroy the whole fabric. We do not find clearly stated the conditions of these proposals; but unless there was to be compensation for the properties of which surrender was asked, it would be utterly unreasonable, and even as a basis for negotiation neither wise nor considerate. Mr. Reid rejects the whole proposition; and the Government threatens some legislative action in its own favor.

The Minister of Finance has made it known that arrangements have been made to establish a mint in Canada. The consent of Great Britain had to be obtained; and it seems as if the new establishment would be a branch of the British mint, for it will be authorized to issue sovereigns. Unfortunately, however, the sovereign is not a unit of our currency, from which fact some practical difficulties may arise. It will be desirable, if possible, to come to an understanding about the currency of the gold coins of each country, or the other, Canada and the United States. These coins should be rated at their value determined by the quantity and fineness of the gold they contain. Certain interests may oppose our gold coin passing in the States at its face value, for private reasons. But it would be an advantage to each country to permit the gold coin of the other to pass at its face value, supposing the values to be equally good, within its bounds.

Certain English firms, fearing American competition, for bridge and railway work, in South Africa, have gone so far as to intimate to the Government that the contracts ought to go to British firms, even if asking more money for doing the work. Mr. Wyndham takes his own way of intimating that the Government would not be justified in acting on this advice. He tells them that the way to keep the South African market is to do their work cheaper and quicker.

Ex-President Kruger, having shaken the Transvaal dust off his feet, has embarked in a Dutch warship for Holland. He appears to have gone on board secretly, fearing the indignation of his compatriots at his desertion of them. Where his gold went is kept secret; but if, as reported, the British Government objected to his taking it with him, other means of conveyance or disposal could be found. The significance of the demand that he should not be allowed to take any of the archives with him is shown by the enquiry at Pretoria as to the part played in the war by the Netherlands Railway Co.; but means of concealing or destroying such of them as were got out of Pretoria would be found. The remaining Burghers, who are acting as unlicensed marauders, destroying what they may, without any Government to authorize or sanction their acts, must soon be regarded in their true character, as outlaws, and liable to the penalties of outlaws.

The Electrical Construction Company of London, limited, are asking for tenders for the erection of a new factory. It is the intention to have a three-story building, 40 by 100 feet.

THE DOMINION ELECTIONS.

Each of the two political parties continues to claim, by anticipation, the victory, which only one can get when the ballots are counted. The discrepancies are so great as to make it difficult to believe that the predictions are put forth in perfect good faith; but be this as it may, little reliance can be placed upon estimates made under the excitement of the contest. Both parties continue to court the manufacturing interests, but the methods of their wooing differ. The great but sparsely-settled West contains the last relic of free trade; the people there having, or believing they have, no interest in protection. The manufacturing East is the seat of protection by which the manufacturers profit, whatever may be the case with others. After Mr. Hugh Macdonald had declared for free agricultural machinery, the chief of his party quickly followed with the explanation that this was only a personal opinion. Other candidates, on the same side, have echoed that explanation. There is one question on which the two parties differ. The Government makes British preference a free gift, as a token of gratitude; the Opposition insists on an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Whoever expects England to change her policy of free trade, for the sake of dickering with the colonies, must have strangely misread the actual facts of the situation. There is not the smallest present sign that anything of the kind is likely to be done. To give a preference is something within our own power; it has actually been given. No man is warranted in promising something not in his own power, something that depends upon the will of another. If we build upon the expectation of reciprocal preference, we shall be in imminent danger of becoming the victims of our own credulity.

Mr. Shaughnessy, president of the C.P.R., continues at variance with the Government about the exchange of traffic on the Intercolonial. He recently told a newspaper interviewer that the C.P.R. will not use the port of St. John for their export freight, this winter. Mr. Blair, Minister of Railways, is a candidate for the representation of St. John, and Mr. Shaughnessy appears to be working for his defeat, though he protests that the C.P.R. is not in politics, and that he would not move a finger to help either party. He took care to spring a demand upon the Government, just when the elections were coming on, and to back it up by interviews, for publication, in which he poses as the champion of the city where the Minister of Railways is looking for election. It is plain from the attitude of the president of the C.P.R. what way that corporation is looking in the present elections. Its influence is great, and the result of the elections may give us some measure of what its influence really amounts to. The Grand Trunk is not great in politics, in these days, but as it is antagonized, in this question between Mr. Shaughnessy and the Government, its position is defined for it, in opposition to its rival.

Mr. Tarte has played for the Quebec province representation, which he boasts of being able to capture, within a fraction of five votes. When Mr. Laurier said, at the Toronto meeting, that the French see the question of sending the contingents to Africa, in a different light to that in which we of Ontario see it, he accounts for the publication of the French Conservative pamphlet, which condemned him for sending them