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THE SITUATION.

On the attitude of Canada, in the event of a necessity to defend the empire of which we form part, the House of Commons, at Ottawa, has taken care that there shall be no excuse for doubt. The patriotic note sounded by Mr. McNeill was caught up in every part of the House, and, as it rose higher and higher, its resonance betrayed no rift in the lute. All the speakers deprecated war, especially with our own kindred across the border; but all, not the less, made it plain that our sole desire is to live our own life, and work out our own political salvation as a part of the British Empire. Care was taken that no word should be let drop which could give offence to the most fastidious foreigner, in any part of the world. Let us hope that this unanimous expression of preference, and of readiness to obey the call of duty, will serve to dispel any illusions which may exist elsewhere as to the real sentiments of Canadians. Should this effect be produced, the expression of the unanimous resolve of Parliament will not have been made in vain.

Suddenly and without note of warning, a new boundary dispute between the United States and Canada has been sprung, by the Congressional representative of Minnesota at Washington. Claim is laid by Minnesota to an island or islands in Rainy River, which both the American and Canadian Governments have hitherto treated as belonging to Canada. The question is where is the main channel between these islands to be found, that being the boundary under the Treaty of Ghent? This takes us back to the year 1813, and if depth of water constitutes the main channel, some changes may have been wrought by the sweep or turn of the current in the space of 83 years. The bill of complaint makes reference to British commissioners settling this part of the boundary in 1842. If reference be here made to the labors of Mr. David Thompson, who was the British commissioner for determining the boundary line, he did not act alone, but had an American representative aid him in the work. Thompson is noted for having always done his work well, and we are not aware that a single error has been found in it to this date. A boundary settled in the ground fifty-six years ago, and accepted as correct by both the countries

interested, cannot surely be open to be challenged now, when the physical conditions may have changed. If the main channel depended on the relative depth of water, and if it was proved to have silted up so far as to make it of less depth than another channel, now under the altered conditions the deeper, would the boundary which was made coincident with the former shift to the latter? In such case, a little dredging, such as has been done in the St. Mary's river, would restore the original condition on which the boundary line was settled. The quantity of land which it is possible to bring into dispute has evidently been much exaggerated. It is not probable that this new boundary question can assume a serious aspect. The presence of gold on one of the islands is apparently responsible for the boundary discovery, which some American surveyors are alleged to have made.

French authors, publishers and booksellers make a vigorous protest against the proposed compromise plan of Canadian copyright, and it is thought that the French Government will endorse their views. The principal objection is to the manufacturing clause, in the interest of Canadian printers; and it is contended that Canada must either submit to the terms of the Berne Convention or forego the privileges of that agreement. It cannot be denied that the economic effect of multiplying editions, in different countries, will be to reduce profits. The author's right stands alone, the creation of his own brain; the printer and publisher are necessary aids in bringing it to the reader. But when the author has got one printer to do the needful work, he does not require another. Why should a second printer, for whom he has no need, fasten himself, parasite-like, upon him? Economically, his intrusion is not necessary or advantageous. The Canadian compromise proposes to admit him; but the French publisher, the French author and the French bookseller reply that Canada cannot have the benefits of the Berne Convention without complying with the common conditions of that agreement. An effort will be made to induce German authors to accept the views expressed by those of France. Should any of the parties to the Berne Convention refuse to permit the proposed Canadian compromise to be acted upon, Mr. Hall Caine's efforts may, after all, go for nought. Hitherto Canada has found it difficult to get out of the Berne Convention; she may find it not less difficult to get discriminating terms in her favor while remaining in.

To the reasonable demand of the United States Government for authority to issue three per cent. bonds, the Senate has replied by the side-wind of declaring in favor of a free issue of silver. This is a distinct step towards the adoption of a silver basis; and if ever the House of Representatives is brought into harmony with the Senate the final step will be taken. The vote of the Senate means that payment of the national obligations ought to be made in silver, and if that were done, the necessity for issuing bonds would cease. That is the logical meaning, and indeed the avowed intent. The whole history of this bond bill wears a sinister aspect. In the House of Representatives, the bill was met by wild acclaim; for unanimity in so good a cause reasons might have been found, but its expression was too sudden and too impetuous to justify the belief that it embodied deliberate conviction. Still if the method was faulty, the end it led to was right. The Senate, acting wholly in the interest of the producers of silver, aims to make fifty cents worth of silver do the duty of a dollar in gold. The sound money men would act a wise part if they showed a willingness to get rid of the greenbacks by degrees, and not show so much anxiety to fill their place at once by