

Kitchener on the success of his expedition. This of itself might not prove that an understanding between England and Germany has been come to, but it goes in corroboration of repeated statements to that effect. It is not probable that any close alliance has been made, but a general understanding would answer every necessary purpose. Germany has no double tariff to discriminate against half the world, where she may acquire colonial possessions or "spheres of influence," as France has.

The opposition to a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States appears to come almost exclusively from manufacturers on both sides of the line. By the Chambers of Commerce the project is extensively countenanced. The Chambers of Commerce are representative in a wide sense; the manufacturers are representative, too, but in a more special and restricted degree. It is something new to hear that American manufacturers fear the rivalry of Canada, but it is clear that such fear does now exist to some extent. In Canada, where, on the whole, manufactures are less extensively developed, fear of American competition is more natural. It is not general however, though when the tariff was last revised nearly every industry claimed protection. How is the farmer to be protected? The miller replies that the farmer's protection must come through the local purchaser of his produce. The appeal of special interests to the negotiators of a treaty, or rather to commissioners who have met for that purpose is, we suspect, a novelty of modern times. It is certainly anomalous. The persons selected to make a treaty are under the direction of the political authority, which is supreme; it is the political authority alone which can determine the policy of a treaty, commercial or other; appeals to them on matters of policy is in order; appeals to the negotiators of a treaty are very likely to be appeals to them to violate their instructions or to act contrary to their duty. Where the negotiators are members of the Government, as in our case at present, they must still be presumed to be guided by instructions framed and sanctioned by the Government as a whole.

BRITISH DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES.

British diplomacy is making conquests in various quarters. Just at the time when Omdurman and Khartoum have been captured, the news comes that Germany agrees to recognize the permanency of the British occupation of Egypt. It is added that England will next year ask Europe to consent to a curtailment of the jurisdictions of mixed tribunals, which have a certain oversight of Egypt. The Anglo-German agreement is said to comprise a complete understanding with regard to Africa. In return for certain concessions, as yet only partially disclosed, Germany agrees to leave England a free hand in dealing with the Transvaal. England's right to acquire the whole or part of Mozambique, by amicable arrangement, from Portugal, is recognized by Germany. To meet the award of the Swiss arbitrators concerning the Delagoa Bay Railway, a loan may be necessary, in which case it is to be jointly guaranteed by England and Germany; but in case of the cession of the whole or a part of Mozambique to England a loan might not be required. Germany is to get a further slice of West Africa, and if the Emperor can induce the Porte to facilitate German colonization in Asia Minor, England will assent. How will Russia and France receive this agreement? Russia will scarcely relish the project of German colonization in Asia Minor; and France is likely to sulk over the arrangement about Africa. Along with this startling, though welcome intelligence, comes the

statement that in China, Li-Hung-Chang has been dismissed, as too favorable to Russia. There is also a rumor, which is admittedly unconfirmed, that Germany has agreed to the construction of a railway through the German sphere of Shantung, in China, as a joint British and German enterprise. If the rest of the news regarding the Anglo-German agreement be correctly stated there is nothing surprising in the alleged understanding about China. Did Russia know that these negotiations were afoot when the Emperor issued his famous peace proposal?

ENGLISH AND FRENCH EXHIBITS.

From a commercial point of view there is perhaps no more noteworthy feature of the Toronto Industrial Fair for 1898 than the presence in the Main Building thereof of English and French merchandise exhibits on a very considerable scale. Whether this be regarded as an indication of increased transatlantic interest in Canada because of the recent course of events, or whether, taking a narrower view, we accept it as an evidence of the growing reputation of the Toronto Fair, the fact of these exhibits is to be welcomed.

As to the merchandise displayed, it is varied in character, the French section embracing furniture, hangings, silks, velvets, embroidery, musical instruments, perfumes and chemicals. These goods are characterized, as a rule, by the delicacy of taste in design and colors which may be called peculiar to that nation. The exhibit, which occupies much of the south-west portion of the main floor, is in charge of M. Saulay, who is, we are told, Commissaire Delegue de la Chambre Syndicale, in which M. Brisson, the present head of the French Government, is a prominent proprietor. The beautiful colored drawings shown of the buildings for the Exhibition of 1900 in Paris are well worth examination.

The goods shown on behalf of English manufacturers by Mr. Hond, of London, in the north-eastern portion of the same floor, form the same exhibit as has been made at the Winnipeg Exhibition of July, and are intended to be shown at Capetown, South Africa, in December. There are rope, twine, flax, a variety of felt goods, cotton shirts and textile wares and a handsome cabinet filled with bobbins. In another place are decorated tiles, inks, food-stuffs and druggists' preparations. We have no means of knowing how successful these exhibits have been in leading to business, perhaps it is too early to judge of this. But the fact of their existence is, as we have said, one of the progressive and interesting features of this year's Fair.

DRY GOODS MOVEMENT.

It is reasonably safe to say that when the dry goods importers are busy wholesale houses in other lines are busy, for the country storekeeper usually keeps other kinds than dry goods, and when he buys one is likely to buy the other. There is unmistakable evidence that Canadian dry goods houses are busy just now. In Montreal the millinery openings last week were regarded as very satisfactory, both the attendance of buyers and the volume of business being reported in excess of last year, when business was considered very good. An unusual number of dry goods buyers from a distance visited Montreal, making personal selections, and while the bills sold were not generally large the aggregate was decidedly so. Many of the Western representatives of Montreal houses are this week in Toronto, looking after customers at the Fair.

This week is a busy one, as last week was, in Toronto, where the wholesale houses have an unusual number of