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THE SITUATION.

When the United States House of Representatives proposed to admit the Inman Line of Atlantic steamers to American registry, on condition that the owners would build two similar vessels in the Republic, the fact that these vessels form part of the British naval reserve was ignored. They cannot be released from the contract or detached from their present connection in this way. It is difficult to regard the attempt to make the transfer of flag of vessels belonging to the British naval reserve as otherwise than one which the honor of the nation making it ought to have forbidden.

The irrational frenzy that seized upon Newfoundland, some time ago, has just passed through a new paroxysm. While the new fit was on, discrimination against Canada was renewed and the illegal license fees were legitimized as far as the legislature can do it. If the object of the islanders were to show their utter incapacity to make use of the franchises with which they are endowed, they could not have succeeded better.

The Propaganda at Rome, backed by the Pope, has taken a step which may go far to solve the question of Separate Schools in America. The Catholics of the United States who have been supporting Separate Schools out of their own private means find the burden greater than they care to bear. Archbishop Ireland suggested a way out of the difficulty by having Catholic children taught in the Common Schools and religious instruction given after school hours, and this plan has received the approbation of the Propaganda and the Pope. Some difficulty may arise about allowing the public school buildings to be used for church purposes. It does not follow that the Roman authorities would accept the same arrangement where Separate Schools are guaranteed.

Seal life in the breeding grounds of Behring Sea is to be still further studied by an agent of the Canadian Government. Mr. Macoun has started on this mission, and will spend the summer at the Pribyloff Islands. In different years seal life may vary in some respects, and if so, it is desirable to note the differences so as to complete the evidence which may be necessary to produce before the arbitrators who are to pass judgment upon the question.

May Day in Europe, so much dreaded on account of threatened dynamite outrages, passed off peaceably, with but few minor exceptions. This result was due to the precautions taken to preserve the peace, capture dynamiters and put down riots. The windows of St. Martin's Church in Brussels were shattered by an explosion and \$20,000 damage done. At Rome an attempt was made to blow up the palace of Prince Massimo, and a bomb was thrown into a casino at Ancona. Unless some of the servants in the prince's palace should die of their wounds, May Day in Europe will have passed with the loss of only one life by anarchic violence, and in that case the victim fell by the weapon he used against others. In England, John Burns, the socialist, denounced the dynamiters before an appreciative audience. May Day furnishes a fair measure of the danger to be feared from the anarchist, when public vigilance is fully alert; there is really more danger from isolated outrages which send no warning shadow in advance.

Earl Grey has dedicated to Canada a pamphlet on the trade question. He is right in declaring that commercial union with the United States is incompatible with the independence of Canada. Annexation, he holds, would be a backward movement, in which she would lose all that has been gained by Confederation. A revenue tariff, sufficient to meet the expenses of the Government, would, he thinks, be the best thing for Canada. Under this policy, he assumes, we should be able to produce cheaply the many things which Americans require, and which, in spite of high tariffs, they would carry into the Republic. The difficulty or impossibility of collecting high duties on so extended a frontier would, in his opinion, lead to an abandonment of the attempt. It is scarcely worth while to discuss the suggestion of the veteran statesman; for at present Canada is in no mood to accept his advice. She is, rightly or wrongly, too much committed to protection to recede suddenly. The time may come when the advice now given may be accepted, but the when is a secret of the unknown future. A policy of which one incident would, as foreseen, be extensive smuggling, would bring difficulties as well as advantages; it would be hard to avoid unpleasant complications. We agree with Earl Grey in thinking that commercial union would prove a source of irritation and dispute. That policy finds no extensive response in the hearts of Canadians, and can now scarcely be called a live issue.

Mr. McCarthy's resolution in favor of appointing a Canadian on the staff of the

British Minister at Washington does not address itself to any practical object. It is founded on the parrot cry that, in negotiations with the United States, Great Britain always sacrifices Canadian interests. At no time was the story entirely true, and it is less true now than ever before. Canadian interests are fully protected at Washington, through the British embassy, specially informed whenever occasion occurs, by our Government. If a Canadian were made a permanent attache of the British embassy, he could know of the wants of Canada only as he was instructed; and it is difficult to see what would be gained by communicating with a subordinate official instead of the head. There is a sad lack of practical aim in fantastic proposals of this kind.

Baron Hirsch and his philanthropic associates have begun to direct a stream of emigration, consisting of Russian Jews, to the Canadian North-West. One hundred heads of families, it is announced, are already on the way. These are intended to form a colony of farmers, and we trust they will be found to adhere to this choice of an occupation. It is impossible to forget that scarcely any other country is willing to receive the Jews whom Russia has ejected. Next year, we are promised 10,000 of these people; but only on condition that the experiment now being made is a success. A single year is scarcely sufficient to furnish a fair test. To New York, Russian Jews have brought a malignant form of typhus fever, and Canada must be on her guard against a possible similar intrusion. There is nothing in the Jewish population of Canada that makes them specially objectionable. Will this be true of the new comers?

A debate has taken place in the House of Commons at Ottawa on some incidents of the reciprocity interview at Washington. The Canadian delegates had reported verbally that the United States refused to accept as a basis of negotiation anything less than discrimination against Great Britain, while Col. Foster has publicly made the remark that Canada had not authority to make a treaty. An attempt was made to find antagonism between the two statements. But it is hard to find what has no existence. Strictly speaking, Canada has not the power to make a treaty; but every one knows that this is only a question of formality and forms no obstacle in the way of an agreement. Mr. Blaine took the ground that the United States would not consent to reciprocity unless Canada would agree to discriminate against Great Britain. These are two different things. The two facts stand unimpeached. Mr. Blaine has had plenty of opportunity to deny the Canadian statement, if there was any thing to deny, and he has not done so.

Mining, in Nova Scotia, has received a severe blow at the hands of the Legislature. The royalty on coal, originally and in every possible form objectionable, has been increased thirty-three per cent. Such a tax hampers production and interferes with exportation. The lessees of the coal mines