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The Court. Speaking of the movements of the King, Mr. I. N. Ford, the London correspondent of the New York Tribune, says that London has become once more the chief royal residence, so that the King will be close at hand where his ministers may consult with him. The King is said to be thoroughly interested in State affairs, and those who know him well say that the business of the State will not be neglected by him and that it will tend to lengthen rather than to shorten his life. The same correspondent says that Queen Alexandra was greatly depressed when the reign opened and was not disposed to take part in State functions, but the King has insisted upon making her a prominent figure at Westminster. The Queen's interest in affairs of State has been stimulated, the King is making full use of her popularity, and the Court will be strongly influenced by the Queen's will and taste. This is the judgment of those in daily contact with the Sovereign, and it is considered a good augury for the new reign.

Winston Churchill in Parliament. Mr. Winston Churchill who, it will be remembered, is a son of the late Lord Randolph Churchill, and has also made a considerable mark in the literary world as an author and war correspondent, made his maiden speech in the House of Commons last week, speaking for forty minutes on the South African situation. His speech came as a reply to a speech by Mr. David Lloyd George in criticism of the conduct of the war, in the course of which the burning of farms and the keeping of Boer women and children in British laagers on reduced provisions, had been denounced in severe terms. These charges had produced a general uproar and demands from Mr. Broderick, Under Secretary for War, that Mr. Lloyd George should substantiate his assertions by evidence. Mr. Churchill said that no other nation had received so much verbal sympathy and so little practical support as the Boers. He maintained that the war in South Africa had been carried on with unusual humanity and declared his belief that at no distant date there would be an Anglican, loyal, peaceful and prosperous Transvaal. Mr. Churchill's speech is said to have been well conceived and full of good points. He commanded the attention of the House and satisfied his friends that the expectations which his name and achievements had raised would not be disappointed.

China. The negotiations between the envoys of the Foreign Powers at Peking and Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang, the Chinese plenipotentiaries, have not progressed satisfactorily, apparently because the hands of the so-called plenipotentiaries have been tied by their government and they are unable to give the satisfaction demanded by the Foreign Powers in the punishment of the persons held to be principally responsible for the Boxer uprising and the outrages committed upon foreigners. It has been stated that in view of the present unsatisfactory situation, Marshal Von Waldersee, Commander-in-Chief of the allied forces in China is preparing for a military expedition into the interior of the country. It is disputed whether this indicates an actual purpose on the part of the allied powers to engage in aggressive warfare or whether it is expected, by means of the threat of war, to bring the Chinese Government to terms. Either alternative seems serious enough. If a scare merely is intended, and it should not produce the expected results, the effect could only be to weaken the position of the foreign envoys at Peking. Crying wolf when there is no wolf is never a dignified, and rarely a successful, procedure. It seems quite certain that Russia will not be a party to any scheme to force the Chinese to terms by war,

as her interests are concerned in maintaining at least a semblance of friendliness toward China, and in this as in other matters France will follow the lead of Russia. Nor does the United States Government favor the employment of military force toward China in order to secure the concessions that have been demanded by the Powers. It is reported from Washington that the United States Government, through its minister at Peking, has intimated its disapproval of a hostile expedition such as that said to be contemplated, taking the ground that there is no sufficient reason to conclude that the Chinese Government is not acting to the best of its ability in the direction of securing the punishment of the guilty and of making satisfaction for the recent outrages. The more recent despatches however represent that China has indicated a willingness to carry out the conditions imposed by the Foreign Powers, which is taken to indicate that the threat of war has had the desired effect in bringing the Chinese Government to terms.

A War of Tariffs. The war of protective tariffs, in which the United States and Russia are concerned as principals, is an interesting spectacle to the rest of the world, and it is something more than that to the sugar and the iron and steel combines of the United States. The Russian Government, in order to encourage the sugar trade of the country, gives a rebate in the internal revenue tax on all sugar exported. In view of this the United States Government decided that Russian sugar coming to the United States must pay extra duty to the amount of the rebate allowed by Russia. This action has been very promptly met by the Russian Minister of Finance, M. De Witte, issuing a decree that an additional tariff of thirty per cent. be placed upon certain articles when imported from the United States. These articles principally if not wholly belong to the iron and steel trade, and include American hardware, iron, steel, boilers, forgings, castings, tools, gas and water meters, dynamos, sewing machines, etc. The immediate effect of this decree, when it becomes operative on March 1st will be, it is said, to increase by 50 per cent. the Russian duties on American machinery, steel and iron goods. As the Russian duties were already very high in comparison with those imposed on these articles by other countries, it is considered that the tariff on American products of this kind will be practically prohibitive. The volume of the American exports to Russia in the articles concerned is said to have amounted last year to about \$30,000,000, with the prospect of large increase, the cutting off of which would of course be a serious matter. The relations of Russia and the United States have been in all respects friendly, and there is not supposed to be any desire on the part of either government to injure the commercial interests of the other. The incident is however an illustration of embarrassing situations which are likely to arise when nations undertake to protect certain interests against the competition of the world. The war of retaliatory tariffs is not likely however to prove profitable for two great countries to engage in, and the United States and Russia will probably find some way to adjust their commercial difficulties.

The Nationalization of Railways. On Tuesday last Mr. McLean, member for East York in the Dominion House of Commons, moved a resolution in order to a discussion of the question of government ownerships of railways. Mr. McLean referred, as he had done on a previous occasion, to the great American Syndicate of capitalists, headed by J. Pierpont Morgan of New York, which had obtained control of immense banking, copper, oil and coal and other business in the

United States, and which was reported to be contemplating the acquisition of a controlling interest, in the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was charged, Mr. McLean said, that the Canadian railways, subsidized by the public money, were today discriminating against Canadian canals and ports, but how much worse would this be if the great American Syndicate should secure control of Canada's railways. Mr. McLean said that his argument in favor of Government ownership was based upon two considerations: 1. To stop the discrimination against Canada by Canadian Railways. 2. To prevent the possibility of the Canadian railways falling into the hands of the Americans. Numerous press comments were read to show that the danger of foreign control is generally recognized, and Mr. McLean argued that the only satisfactory solution of the problem which existing conditions presents was to be found in Government ownership of the country's railways. The C. P. R., he said, could be acquired for \$30,000,000, and the Grand Trunk for \$20,000,000, but leases of these roads could be secured for a nominal sum if the Government would assume their liabilities. Mr. McLean maintained that New Zealand and other countries had successfully nationalized their railways. The nationalization of the railways would insure the railways and canals of the country being run harmoniously and as complementary to each other, which he believed had not been the case in the past, and whatever the dangers of political corruption connected with Government ownership might be, he believed they would be far less than that which was threatened by the great corporation which was likely to control the roads. Mr. McLean's presentation of the subject appears to have been received by the House with a measure of favor, though it was pointed out that his speech had gone much farther in the direction of the nationalization of railways than his resolution, and the Minister of Railways contended that Mr. McLean had dealt with the subject academically and had failed to indicate any practical method by which the nationalization of the railways might be effected.

South Africa. Late reports official and otherwise from the arena of hostilities in South Africa indicate that DeWet and other Boer leaders are being hardly pressed, and that as a consequence of recent engagements their forces have been seriously broken and scattered. Lord Kitchener reports that DeWet's attempted invasion of Cape Colony has ended in failure. He is reported to have been engaged on Saturday by Colonel Plumer, near Disselfontein, on the south bank of the Orange River, with the result that the Boer forces were scattered, with the loss of a quantity of ammunition and fifty prisoners, while DeWet himself escaped across the river in a boat and fled with a few hundred followers. General French reports that the result of the columns under his command sweeping the country to the eastward is that the Boers are retreating in scattered and disorganized parties to the number of some 5,000 in front of him. The general tone of the late despatches, and especially the fact that the invasion of Cape Colony has evidently failed, encourages the hope that the Boer resistance, which has been kept up mainly by the stubborn infatuation of DeWet and Steyn, has about reached its limit and that the Burghers will now recognize the futility and criminal folly of prolonging the conflict.

The Bogus List. On Friday last at Fredericton, the Supreme Court delivered judgment in the Rothesay Electoral List case. The judgment of the court was for a rule absolute to quash the paper purporting to be the revisors' list of the parish of Rothesay and the non-resident list of the parish of Rothesay. In delivering this judgment the Chief Justice denounced in the strongest terms the attempt which had been brought to light to substitute for the true one a bogus list of the non-resident voters of the parish. He is reported as saying: "It is the plain duty of the crown officers to probe this matter to the bottom. The guilty parties should not go unpunished. If a man steals from his

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