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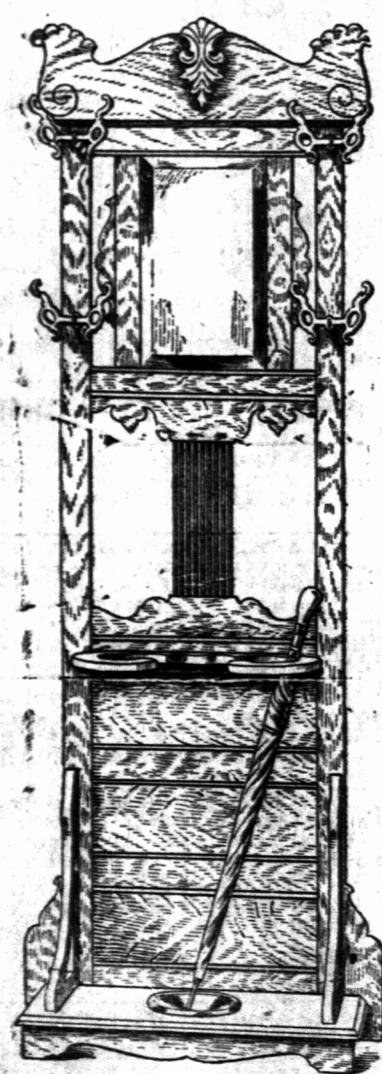
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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1899.

THEY WANT TO JOIN U.S.

'Now that I have a cow and a pig everybody bids me good morrow.' The saying was one of Benjamin Franklin's, illustrating the increased importance which comes from having acquired a little property. It may be made to apply to the Canada of the present as compared with the past. In the old days of French possession this vast domain was merely so many thousand leagues of snow. Down to a generation past our next neighbor to the South looked upon British North America as a wilderness with a fringe of settlement which he would at some convenient time add to his big farm as a sort of wood lot.

Down to that time there was no body so poor as to bid us "Good morrow." Then came confederation, and Uncle Sam saw that John Canuck was making a start in the world. He had already the traditional cow and pig. Uncle Sam made haste to buy Alaska lest Canada might get it and so become possessed of the solid northern half of the continent. Still all hope of the annexation of Canada to the Republic was not given up. And there were some, even within our country to whose insect souls, devoid of patriotism the word annexation had an attractive sound.

This is all changed now. It is well understood that the Canadian farm is not for sale. Canada's business is growing and expanding as it never was before. And we are looking to our boundaries, the line fence between British Columbia and the Canadian Yukon on the one side and Alaska on the other. There is a strip of territory there some 400 miles long and thirty miles broad which Canada claims but which Uncle Sam has in possession. And in this connection a strange thing has happened. It is not that our Yukon District wants to join in bonds of union with the United States. That desire might have taken possession of the people there thirty or forty years ago. Now we have Dyea and Wrangel,

two principal ports in the disputed territory, actually expressing a desire to be annexed to Canada. They want order and good, honest, efficient government. They like the Canadian method of governing and managing new territories, and though we say it that ought not, there is none better in the world. So strong is the feeling, too, that the citizens of Dyea at their own proper cost are sending delegates to Washington and to Ottawa, to bring about, if possible their transfer to Canada.

These conditions may or may not help us to obtain our rights in the Alaskan boundary dispute, but they serve to show how things are drifting. The young northern farmer whose first pig and cow awhile ago began to make his neighbors take notice of him, has today so many pigs and cows, such an expanse of wheatfields, that his wheat, bacon, cheese and butter, occupy a large space in the great markets of the world. Gallicians, Mennonites, Doukhobors and Finns, are flocking to the big Canadian farm as never before. Prosperity, freedom, just laws and honest capable government and abundant fertile lands have strong attractions for the oppressed, land-hungry masses of the old world and for the energetic, shrewd and pushing man of the new world.

Things are coming our way now. We have abundance of land, but are quite ready to fence in a piece of Alaska or the whole of it, for that matter, if its people want to come in under our flag. And if Maine, or New England should want to come in, of course it would be the best thing they could do and we have no disposition to prevent them. We are not covetous, but if there is to be such a thing as annexation hereafter in North America, it will mean an extension, and not a contraction of Canadian boundaries.

An Ottawa despatch tells that there is a difference between the English and French versions of the speech from the throne with which Lord Minto opened parliament. It is probably the result of a clerical error and of little consequence so far as the passage omitted from the English version is concerned. But it would not do to have the like happen frequently or by design. The incident may recall to older parliamentarians a debate which occurred in the Commons shortly after confederation in which exception was taken to the French version of the British North American Act. It was contended that the phrase "Puissance du Canada" has really a different and fuller meaning than the English words "Dominion of Canada."

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The Scientific American has recently given elaborate descriptions and illustrated accounts of the naval forces of the great powers concluding with Russia. In its latest number it compares the fighting strength of Britain with that of Russia and France combined, showing 290 effective British ships aggregating 1,557,522 tons displacement, against a Franco-Russian fleet of 230 ships of 1,185,538 tons. The conclusion reached is that "Great Britain, evidently, is holding her own with a safe margin to spare, having about twenty-five per cent more ships and thirty per cent more total displacement than France and Russia combined. To this must be added the incalculable advantage that comes from having ships built upon identical lines, with the same maneuvering qualities as to speed and helm (turning movements) and the same arrangement of batteries. If to this be added the gain resulting from the fact that the personnel is of one race and language, the actual superiority must be increased from thirty per cent to fully forty or fifty per cent."

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