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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 1903.

OUR STRENUOUS NEIGHBOR.

Ex-Secretary Long told in a published letter how Theodore Roosevelt, then an under secretary in the Navy Department, advised a treacherous attack upon the Spanish navy before the declaration of war was made. Following this we have the absolute refusal of the Washington Executive to arbitrate the Alaskan boundary question and when at last the tribunal of six "impartial jurists of repute" was agreed upon we saw the appointment of such notorious partisans as Lodge and Turner, who would agree to nothing unless they could grab a portion of Canadian territory, and finally succeeded in bringing Lord Alverstone to accept their terms.

Close on the heels of this transaction we have seen the developments in Panama which the more respectable portion of the press of the English-speaking world has denounced in the severest terms. President Roosevelt's hand directed the course of the Washington Government in that matter which according to the New York Post "throw law, treaties and decency to the winds. Under such a robber sentiment," the Post proceeds, "we should be entitled to seize any land on earth which we happened to want, and which we thought ourselves possessed of sufficient brute force to take. It is a declaration of stark, lawless absolutism, tempered only by land hunger, which we have lived to see made by an American President." Such is the description given by one of the most able and honest of American newspapers, of the man now at the head of the Republic, and of his methods.

We in Canada have reason to take a deep interest in these matters. It is of vital consequence to us, having a powerful and not over-scrupulous neighbor, and having over four thousand miles of boundary along which the Dominion and the Republic are in touch is himself capable of being described as thus lawless and aggressive. It is of the gravest interest to us from the prospect of Roosevelt's re-election next year, making it probable that for five or more years to come an aggressive policy will be dominant at Washington. Already we see that the power which has so long and grievously menaced our interests in the North Pacific, in Behring Sea and the Alaskan boundary, is now looking to hem us in on the North Atlantic by the

contemplated purchase of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and by challenging our national rights in Hudson's Bay.

The linguistic element is more dominant in the Republic than ever before, and to this element, President Roosevelt is catering, not only from natural inclination but from a shrewd intuition that by this means he can best assure himself of re-election. As the Alaskan Journal puts it his unorthodox temperament, and his lawless ambition render him an unsafe pilot for the ship of state. "He seems drunk with sight of power, caught with the fallacy that might means right and ready upon the marauder pretext to plunge the country into war. He is dangerous." The feeling here expressed is widely prevalent in the United States. That such is the case should prove a warning to Canada, for we are next neighbor to the Republic in which for good or ill one man of restless and aggressive spirit has obtained so large control. If our statements are wise they will not too long neglect the obvious duty of looking to our defences.

The Conservatives of Prince County are expected to make their nomination of a candidate for the Commons to-morrow, thus completing their list of four standard-bearers for the Island. So far only one Liberal candidate has been formally put in nomination, Mr. Hughes, of Kings, at the convention some weeks ago. The fact that no Liberal nominations have yet been made for the two seats in Queens and the one seat in Prince County is interpreted by some to indicate that the election may not be very near as hand. Some political developments may follow H. N. Mr. Prefontaine's visit.

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