

Resources such as these conclusively prove that he is very near the end of his tether.

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### AUSTRALIA.

THE Australians are beginning to reap the first fruits of their patriotism. The Secretary of War is offering the different colonies a very liberal supply of artillery and infantry commissions, in order to fill up the many vacancies caused by Boer bullets. The war has already been very far-reaching in its effects. It has originated a spirit of militarism in the colonies which will be for their permanent good. A course of military discipline, taken at war time, is the best possible training that young men brought up to the wild free life away back can have. The Bubonic Plague is asserting itself more and more in Sydney, and will do so until the drastic measures now being played with are thoroughly carried out. Federation draws its slow length along. It is matter which cannot be settled off-hand. The delegates are having by no means an easy time of it. Amendments galore are being proposed by the law officers in the Commonwealth Bill, which the delegates for the most part are doing their utmost to oppose. Mr. Reeves, presumably at Premier Seddon's instigation, is fighting for a clause enabling any State in general—and New Zealand in particular—to come in at any time on the same terms that would be required if it joined at the first inception.

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### FRANCE.

THE animosity shown by France to England has curious and obviously weak outlets, as depicted by her vain appeals to Germany and Russia to take advantage of England's pressing business in South Africa to noble Egypt, in order to fill in the time till she herself has built a fleet which will enable her to come in at the finish, and cause the utter collapse of the nation which, without some such salutary check, bids fair to rule the world. Ever prescient Stead has reviewed

the situation of his country, and taking as an example a few of the early inexperienced reverses in the Transvaal, points out with what apparent ease the latter part of France's programme could be carried out. This, no doubt, will be encouraging to the would be victors, but is scarcely calculated to cause much dismay to the majority of his fellow countrymen, who have more faith in the resources of their country, and less prophetic knowledge of detail. Russia and Germany wisely declined to take a prominent part in the little scheme proposed, not wishing for any interruption in their present wrapt attitude of watching the course of events, and learning object lessons in nation building, while they have such an excellent chance.

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### AMERICA.

THERE does not appear as yet to be any diminution of that excessive and ambitious energy—that living at exceptionally high pressure which characterises our cousins over the water, and which able men have prophesied will tell, and eventually cause great deterioration of the race. The nation is at present progressing by leaps and bounds, by no means blindly, every step in their progress is marked with caution and an eye to the future. Not the least of the objects of the Nicaraguan Canal Treaty, drawn up by Secretary Hay and Lord Paunceforth, is the idea of an Anglo-American alliance. The purchase of the Chatham Islands as a coaling station, and other moves in the same direction, are significant of careful provision for the future. One reads with a curious sense of the complete contrast to the prevailing scramble for the almighty dollar, of the founding of an Edward Bellamy Settlement in the vicinity of Chicago. The founder, the Rev. A. A. Keane, is confident of success in his attempt at equality in every respect, notwithstanding the fact that so many similar schemes have failed. He claims to have already educated his congregationalists up to the community-living point, and thinks the rest is easy. Time will show.