

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

At the opening of the Austrian Reichsrath on June 19, the Emperor Francis Joseph urged a settlement of the long vexed language question. 'It is,' he said, 'my earnest desire to give one day to my people as a precious legacy their national assets completely assured, and thus to guarantee national peace to all of them.' Speaking of the export trade of the country, His Majesty said he favored encouraging it by subsidies.

The Russian Douma was abolished on June 16 by order of the Czar, because, on Friday it had rejected, with only 130 opposing votes, the Premier's ultimatum for the immediate suspension of fifty-five Social Democrat deputies, who are charged with organizing themselves into a secret criminal body known as the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Party, to act in concert with criminal organizations throughout the country to produce armed uprisings among the peasantry, workmen and soldiers, with a view to overthrowing the government and the monarchy. The new Douma, which is to meet on November 14 next, is to be elected under the new election law, which provides against 'the submergence of the educated classes by the uneducated masses.' The news did not disturb St. Petersburg in the slightest, but caused considerable excitement in Odessa. In Poland there is deep gloom because its representation in the Douma is reduced to almost nothing.

After the Boxer war China agreed to pay indemnity to the United States amounting to \$24,400,778.81. Now the United States has notified China that as a token of sincere friendship these figures have been revised, and brought down to \$11,655,492.69, which will save China a sum of over twelve millions, and four per cent. interest on the same.

In the British House of Commons last week, Mr. John Morley, Secretary of State for India, defended the sharp treatment he had extended to the Indian agitators, and refused to offer an apology for it. He was confident that the bulk of the population in India were on Great Britain's side. He did not say they liked the dominant power, but that did not matter. They knew their interests were bound up in the law and order which the British maintained. It was a dream of some educated Indians that they could carry on the government of the country better than the British, but they could not work it for a week. 'British rule in India,' he said, 'will continue, ought to continue, and must continue.'

The Australian Mail Line, a new British steamship service, is about to be started between San Francisco and Australia, to take the place of the American-Oceanic Line, which recently went out of operation. The first ship will sail on August 1 next, and a monthly service will be maintained.

The rebellion in the Chinese provinces of Kwang-tung and Fukien is gathering force. Around Swatow and Amoy they are murdering the officials, burning official buildings, and occupying towns and villages. The taotai of Swatow is said to be only reporting losses suffered by the revolutionaries, fearing that the news of their depredations would lead to foreign interference. The revolutionists are reported to be closely in touch with the Boxers in the north, who, it is said, are in league with every person of importance in Canton. The rebellion is against the Manchu dynasty, and is said to be among those who have been, through the influence of the Dowager Empress, put out of office. In southern Fukien the revolutionists are known as the White Fans. They are well organized, and well fed, and though badly armed, are preparing to attack Chang chow, a part of Amoy. Their leader is Soon Wen, a man who has been educated in Japan.

In Portugal the political situation is said to be dangerously near a crisis. The Premier, who belongs to the new party recently evolved from the two old parties, found himself paralyzed by Republican obstruction, and offered his resignation to the King. The King, refused to accept it, whereupon the Premier dissolved the Chambers, without fixing any date for an election. The Premier is now said to be disposed to govern for three years without a parliament, and, while he is bribing the farmers by remitting the customs, officials by an increase of pay, and workers by the promise of pensions, the King is visiting the barracks to conciliate the troops. Probably the greatest obstacle to a dictatorship is the fact that the army and navy are profoundly disaffected.

King Edward has sent to the Bouton Episcopal Church at Williamsburg, Va., a beautiful Bible, in commemoration of the tercentenary of the establishment of the Anglican Church in that state. The book is bound in red Niger leather, with decorative treatment of interlaced lines tooled in gold. The doublures and fly leaflets are of undyed Levant morocco. The clasp are of gold. On the back are the arms of Virginia, and the following inscription tooled in gold on a red inlaid Niger panel appears on the front fly leaf:—'This Bible is presented by His Majesty King Edward VII., King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Emperor of India, to the Church of Bouton, Virginia, a shrine rich in venerable traditions of worship, in solemn memories of patriots and statesmen, and in historic witness to the oneness of our peoples. The King will ever hope and pray that the ties of kinship and of language and the common heritage of ordered worship and of ennobling ideals may, through the saving faith of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, revealed in these sacred pages, continue to unite Great Britain and America in a beneficent fellowship for setting forward peace and good will among men. MCMVII.'

The Emperor of Germany is planning to build an automobile speedway thirty-one miles long, with a series of dangerous curves, descents and hazards, with grand stands to accommodate a million spectators. The whole is expected to cost \$5,000,000.

The wine growing region in the south of France last month was the scene of grave troubles; the riots were followed by the revolt of a whole battalion of soldiers, the 17th Infantry, but these were overpowered and quickly despatched elsewhere. The matter was hotly debated in the Chamber of Deputies. The Government said 'law must be enforced,' and emerged from the encounter with a vote of confidence of the Chamber by a majority of 101.

Daniel Osiris, the Jewish banker and philanthropist, of Paris, who died some time ago, leaving property valued at \$13,000,000, has left over a third of it, \$5,000,000, to the Pasteur Institute.

The Second Peace Conference opened at The Hague on June 15. M. Nelidoff, the head of the Russian delegation, who was unanimously chosen president, gave a blow to the 'pacifists' by scouting the possibility of ultimate disarmaments 'as a star floating far above this mundane sphere to be always striven for but never attained. Nations, like individuals,' he said, 'are human, and not the most judicial system ever invented could put an end to strife and violence. When honor and vital interests are at stake,' he declared, 'regardless of consequences, neither the former nor the latter will recognize any authority except personal judgment and personal feelings.'

In the United States interest continues to centre in the Stuenenberg murder trial in Idaho. Harry Orchard was on the stand for many days, testifying to an unprecedented list of crimes committed by him, and extending over a number of years. The wife of the murdered governor is quoted as saying that the trial is but the beginning of a struggle between organized labor and the nation that will end in a rebellion.

General Booth has arrived home in London after his tour of Japan and Canada.

Prince Fushimi, after a triumphal tour through Canada, sailed from Vancouver for home on June 26.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in the British House of Commons on June 24, brought in his resolution to test the feeling of the House as to the curtailment of the power of the House of Lords. The resolution declares that the House of Commons alone is authorized to express the sentiments of the country; that when differences occur over any bill, the matter shall be discussed between the two houses; if no agreement is reached, the bill shall be re-introduced and sent a second time to the House of Lords with the declaration that should a second conference fail, the House of Commons would pass the bill over the heads of the Lords. Such a plan, with the period of parliament reduced to five years, the Premier believes, would effectively prevent an effete government which had lost the country's confidence from forcing through unpopular and improper measures.

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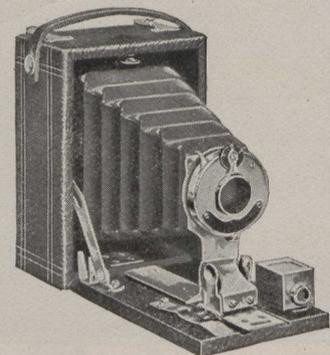
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