

# REVIEW OF THE CLOSING YEAR.

WE are now closing another year, which has been remarkable in many respects, and it is our intention to review briefly the chief events which have made the year so remarkable.

We purpose to direct attention to the happenings in our Island Home, in our Empire, and in the world at large, with which the sea-bound Empire is so intimately concerned.

The world at large has exhibited strange symptoms of unrest during the current year, and these manifestations have shown themselves in international disagreements, wars, and rumours of war, revolutionary efforts as wide apart as Mexico and China, and mutterings of discontent among the manual workers of the world.

## CHINESE REVOLUTION.

The most striking example of all has been the awakening of China, urged on by the teaching of the Japanese, and particularly stimulated by the successful entry of Japan into the class of the World Powers. A revolution of extraordinary magnitude has broken out among this ancient people, whose status had been apparently settled centuries ago for all time to come. But the unexpected has happened, and China bids fair to be the first great Asiatic nation to make of itself a republic. The object of the revolution is to drive the Manchu rulers from the throne and from the high offices, where they have lorded it over the wearers of the pig-tail for several centuries, and to establish a Republic on the form of that of the United States of America. The Manchus have tried, in vain so far, to stem the tide by recalling the great Chinese statesman, Yuan Shi Kai, from exile and using him as a mediator between the Chinamen and themselves. The latest intelligence seems to point to the failure of this effort and the desire of Premier Yuan to retire from the scene of conflict. The Revolutionaries have brought back to China Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who was forced to flee from China after the unsuccessful rising of 1907. He is now back in China and is spoken of as the President of the Provisional Government of China, which the Revolutionaries are seeking to establish while they are settling the forms and functions of a lasting government. It is strange to see as the man of the hour the man who was kidnapped in London by the Chinese Legation and liberated by Lord Salisbury, and over whom head money to the extent of the enormous sum of £50,000 sterling was hanging for years.

## ANGLO-JAP TREATIES.

The interest of the Empire in China is mainly in that of a customer, with whom it does \$80,000,000 worth of trade a year. In view of this and of the interest of Japan in its near neighbour, the independence of China is one of the objects of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, which was revised and renewed last July, after the British Ministry had taken the Dominion Premiers into their confidence.

The object of the Treaty in the main is the guarantee of Japanese territory in the Far East and of British territory in India.

## PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC.

China is but following the example of Portugal, which overturned its monarchical institution, exiled King Manuel, and declared itself a Republic. The new Republican Constitutional Chamber met last June, and the President of the Chamber read a decree abolishing monarchy, banishing the dynasty of Braganza, and declaring the form of the government to be a democratic republic. It is something to have a settled form of government, and Newfoundland is chiefly concerned in the duration of a settled government, the reign of law and order and the prosperity of the people of Portugal, as the latter are large consumers of our staple.

## THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

The gravest international crisis of the year was the Moroccan dispute, as it threatened to lead to a war of unprecedented magnitude in which Great Britain would have been one of the principals. By the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904, which settled the French Shore dispute in Newfoundland, Great Britain recognized the special interests of France in Morocco and promised to support them diplomatically. At that time the German Government declared itself satisfied.

After the Russian debacle in Manchuria,

the Germans began to challenge French supremacy in Morocco, and crises occurred in 1905, 1907, 1909 and 1911. Last July Germany despatched two warships to Agadir to protect German subjects. This led to extreme tension. Germany banked on the belief that Britain would not support France. On July 6, however, Premier Asquith stated in the House of Commons that Britain would fulfil her treaty obligations to France. As compensation for leaving Agadir, Germany demanded cession of territory in the Congo, international control of the Moroccan public services, and special commercial privileges in Morocco. The French Government flatly refused to admit of international control or to give Germany special trade privileges at the expense of Britain, but expressed a willingness to cede certain territory on the Congo.

On July 27th Mr. Asquith warned Germany that British interests would have to be considered, and Mr. Balfour declared that the nation was united on a question of foreign policy. Russia also announced its firm adherence to the Triple Entente. On Sept. 9th a panic occurred on the Berlin Bourse through fear of war. Naval and military precautions were taken by Britain, and just as war appeared inevitable, Germany backed down and agreed to the French offer.

Much dissatisfaction was expressed in Germany, the German Colonial Minister resigned, and Britain was roundly denounced as "the enemy" that backed France. After some statements by the German Chancellor and the Foreign Minister in the Reichstag, and pronouncements by Foreign Secretary Grey and Prime Minister Asquith, the crisis ended; but it has left behind it a bitter sting in Germany.

It is to be hoped that the wise counsels of Lord Lansdowne will prevail. He was the Minister most intimately concerned in promoting the "entente" with France, and he declared in the House of Lords recently in the "Grey" debate that it was the intention of the Government of the day to follow it up with a German "entente."



WE WISH ALL OUR READERS  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## ITALY SEIZES TRIPOLI.

No sooner was a settlement of the Moroccan trouble in sight than the world was startled by an ultimatum from Italy to Turkey. For half a century Italy has had her eyes on Tripoli, and in 1902 secured the consent of France and Britain to her occupation of Tripoli in the future. Last August, Italy intimated that when the Morocco question was settled she would require attention to her complaints about Tripoli. Italy complained that Turkey was unable to maintain order in Tripoli, that her subjects were ill-treated there, and that persistent hostility was shown to her trade. Moreover there was a report that Turkey was about to sell a port in Tripoli to Germany. On Sept. 22nd appeared the announcement in the Italian press that Italy intended to occupy Tripoli immediately. On Sept. 24th Italy objected to Turkey landing war material at Tripoli; next came the ultimatum, quickly followed by an act of war, the bombardment of the Turkish forts and the landing of a corps of soldiers. It is believed that Italy's action was prompted at this time by the fear that Germany would forestall her, and the howl of indignation at the action of Italy which emanated from Germany lent support to this belief.

## INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

Another feature of the year has been the industrial unrest which made itself felt both in the Old and the New World. In the main it arose from causes more easily stated than removed. The rise in the cost of living has not been covered by a rise in the earnings of the masses of people. Manifestations of this unrest have been seen in France. There was the revolutionary railway strike, suppressed by M. Briand, but which led to his downfall on February 24th. There was the outbreak in the Champagne region, and the bread riots in the North, and special efforts were made to reduce prices to meet the distress. Germany is facing a General Election in which the fight will range round the cost of living and the need

of relieving workers of the enormous taxation they bear. In America determined efforts are being made by the administration to break up the great trusts, especially food trusts, which hold the consumers' of the world in their grasp. The sensational feature of the year in the Labour World was the confession by the McNamara brothers of blowing up the Los Angeles Times for its fight against unionism. In Britain, 1911 has been a year of industrial strife. The Cambrian Miners' strike, which ended in September, lasted ten months. There was also the Seamen's and Dockers' strike, and the Railway strike, and the year is closing with a great lock-out in the biggest manufacturing industry of the country. In no previous year have there been strikes of such magnitude in the British Isles, and the most disturbing element of the situation was the introduction by Tom Mann into England of the French "Syndicalism" or "General Strike." Its paralyzing effect was felt particularly in the middle of August in what is known as the "Great Strike Week."

## A SILVER LINING.

Black as the year has proved in regard to the events we have briefly reviewed, the lowering clouds have not been without their silver lining. Chief among these has been the desire manifested by English speaking people to establish international good-will and to pave the way for the settlement of international disputes by the promotion of Arbitration Treaties. President Taft has been prominent in this respect, and the cordial desire to establish some lasting memorial of the hundred years of peace between England and America is a tribute to his heart and his head. The strength of this sentiment has already been tested by the rejection of the Reciprocity Treaty by the Electorate of Canada, after it had been passed by the Senate of the United States. The sentiment has stood the strain of the rejection of the trading overtures embodied in the agreement, and there is every prospect of a long continuance of this state of

amity between ourselves and our American cousins.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS.

Among the happier events of the year was the closing of the struggle between the House of Lords and the House of Commons on the powers of the former. At one time it seemed as if the Parliament Bill which curtailed the functions of the Upper Chamber would be rejected, and that the Government would have been forced to the extraordinary expedient of advising His Majesty the King to create a sufficiently large number of peers to overcome the opposition that was threatening. The dislike to draw the King into the arena of politics was probably the reason which guided the majority of the opposing peers to withdraw from a fight to a finish and to accept the inevitable. The course pursued by these peers saved the situation and demonstrated the sound sense which usually prevails when a crisis has arisen and a clash seems imminent.

Outside of the constitutional struggle the chief legislation of the year has been the great Industrial Insurance Scheme of Lloyd George, which has been passed with the object of making provision for the support of honest toil when unemployed through lack of work or disabled by ill-health.

We will close our review of home politics by a reference to the resignation of Mr. Arthur Balfour as leader of the Unionist party. The exit from leadership of the greatest parliamentarian of the day has been gracefully cartooned by Punch, who depicts a knight clad in armour passing from the arena with his helmet in his left arm, while his steed 'leadership' is being led away by an attendant squire. Underneath the picture is the legend, taken from the Passing of Arthur, "From spur to plume a star of tournament," and headed "The End of the Day."

## THE KING'S CORONATION AND THE DURBAR AT DELHI.

The most glorious function of the year was the Coronation of the King and the Queen in Westminster Abbey on June 22nd. It was one of the most brilliant scenes ever witnessed in that old fane, and was attended by representatives not only of the Powers, but of all the powers that be throughout the wide domains of His Majesty. On the day following, the King and Queen, accompanied by feudatory princes and representatives of the States of the Empire and the Crown Colonies, and followed by representatives of the naval and military forces, made a progress through the capital. A naval review came off next day. Then followed State Garden Parties, Gala Performances at the Opera, Thanksgiving Services and the Children's Coronation Fete, when the King and Queen entertained 100,000 of London school children at the Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace. Later on Their Majesties paid State visits to the Irish and to the Scotch capitals, and also proceeded to Carnarvon Castle, where the ceremony of Investiture of a Prince of Wales took place, a function which had been in abeyance for six centuries.

At present Their Majesties are paying a State visit to India, and a great Durbar was held at Delhi, the ancient capital of India, which the King proclaimed his capital for the future. The scene of the Durbar and the ceremonies which took place are said to have surpassed in magnificence anything the world had hitherto seen.

## OUR ISLAND HOME.

Turning from these scenes of pomp and pageantry and leaving behind us the storms which distress other lands, we turn to a haven of rest, where peace reigns, and the cruel stress of starvation is absent. Life is chequered with joy and sorrow. Sometimes nature is rosy and at other times gloomy. Let us glance briefly at our losses during the passing year. Quite a number of citizens who have occupied prominent places in the religious, public, professional and business life of the city have been called hence. The community sustained a grievous loss in the death of Canon Dunfield, so long connected with St. Thomas's Parish, and so constant in well doing in the educational, religious and social institutions with which he was associated. The Law Society met a heavy loss in the demise of its three senior members. Its President was first called away in the person of Sir James Winter, who had played a great part in the

## REVIEW OF

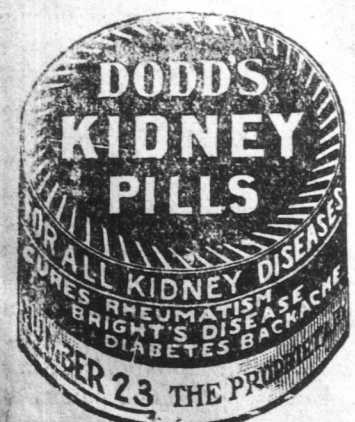
public, professional and educational life of the Colony. At the time of his immediate junior, Mr. A. J. W. K.C., was on a bed of sickness and he was never to rise. In the past, McNeily, Newfoundland lost a words, alert for her honour, and a loss of presenting her in her best. D. J. Greene, K.C., of the same professional honour as the two, predeceased him, was elected as a successor of Sir James Winter as President of the Law Society. In his death, Newfoundland lost a genial soul, who had played a professional life and in many public life both as Premier in the following the bank crash or as a member of the House of Assembly, the more exalted atmosphere of the legislative Council. The House of Assembly lost Mr. Edward Davey, than whom more honest man or one of more worth has ever sat within its walls. Other notables who have passed away are Mr. A. Marshall, whose last will and testament showed that he had taken thought for the morrow of the day whose care is entrusted to our various institutions.

## A PROFITABLE YEAR.

Passing from these sombre memories turning to the more joyful aspects of Island life, we are able to congratulate ourselves on a favourable year's work in fishery, where catches on the whole have been good and the returns have been fairly plentiful and this has no doubt artificially expanded by the expenditure of the Railway Loan on branch railwaying, and to that extent we have been on our borrowings and not on our earnings, and as a consequence the revenue is artificially swollen and gives a show of prosperity than the true power of the country warrants. A feature of the year has been the great demand by Gloucester for green fish, which has led to the disposal of much fish otherwise would have been held over for next season. The prospects in direction and generally for the banking industry are bright. The gloomy aspect of the picture is the incidence of heavy taxation, which adds materially to the cost of living, and the certainty in the future of having to bear even heavier burdens.

## LEGISLATION OF THE YEAR.

The Legislative mill ground out its modicum of legislation. Some of it useful; much of it mischievous. Among the latter may be classed the Cold Storage Act, the Crown Lands Act, and the Age Pension Act. Bad as was the Storage Act when it became law, it was much worse when the bill was introduced into the Legislature, where it met with hostile criticism. So pernicious were



Stewart's Kidney Cures Colds, Cuts,

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The Sunday form of music repeated deliver a synopsis of the church

Only One Laxative Cures a Cold

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