

It is stated that when the war in South Africa is over King Edward and Queen Alexandra will visit the colonies and India, and that his majesty will be crowned Emperor of India while in that part of his dominions.

In Malta there is some dissatisfaction over a question of language. The people in general speak a language of Arabic origin, but most of the upper classes also speak Italian, which has hitherto been the official language. Maltese, Italian and English have been taught in the schools. It has been decided to substitute English for Italian as the language of the courts after a term of years, hence the dissatisfaction on the part of those who speak the latter tongue.

Serious disturbance is again reported in the Philippines, where a company of United States troops was recently attacked and defeated by a body of four hundred Filipinos.

A force of 1,500 Boers, under Commandant Botha, has attacked a fort on the Zululand frontier and been repulsed with a loss of one-third of their number. Boers have been raiding in Natal: and names of places that were the scenes of operations at the beginning of the war are now again mentioned in despatches. Rebels are gathering in considerable numbers at several points in Cape Colony; but the Transvaal and Orange River colonies are comparatively free from the enemy.

It may be well to look up maps of the Persian Gulf, for British warships are gathering there, and there are said to be 30,000 Turkish troops at Basra, on the river Tigris. It is thought to be the intention of the Turkish authorities to seize Koweyt, a maritime district just south of the mouth of the Tigris, under the rule of an independent Arab chief. This chief, the Sheikh of Koweyt, was defeated a few months ago in a conflict with the Emir of Nejd, in Central Arabia. The Sultan of Turkey, whose acknowledged sovereignty in Arabia extends only to the lower waters of the Tigris, apparently thinks this a favorable time for securing a strip of coast territory on the Gulf of Persia; but the British admiral on that station has refused to allow the landing of the Turkish troops at Koweyt. The position is important as lying near our Indian frontier. The Porte is insisting on the sovereign rights of Turkey over Koweyt.

The Dominion government is expected to give \$60,000 towards Capt. Bernier's Polar expedition, which is half the amount required. Lord Strathcona has promised \$5,000 when the other \$55,000 is raised.

It is rumored that France will demand that Turkey acknowledge French sovereignty over Tunis.

An automobile sleigh capable of high speed has been invented in Sweden. It is driven by petroleum, and has wheels that enable it to move on the snow.

Germany is said to have secured from Spain a purchase option on the island of Fernando Po, near the coast of the Cameroons territory (German West Africa).

The Russian ice-breaking steamer *Ermak* has returned from her arctic expedition, the voyage planned from Nova Zembla to the mouth of the Yenisei having been abandoned, owing to unbreakable ice barriers. The *Ermak* discovered, on the south-east of Franz Josef Land, several islands before unknown.

The relief steamer *Erik* has returned from Greenland with tidings of Lieut. Peary and his party. Peary sailed from North Sydney, C. B., in July, 1898, hoping to reach the North Pole from the north of Greenland. He went farther north than the farthest point heretofore reached in the western hemisphere, though not so far as either Nansen or Abruzzi. He has rounded and accurately mapped the northern limit of the Greenland archipelago, and in so doing has visited the most northerly known land in the world. He remains in the arctic regions, and will make another attempt to reach the Pole next spring.

The British torpedo boat destroyer *Cobra* has foundered off the east coast of England, and her sister ship, the *Viper*, was wrecked in the English Channel during the recent naval manoeuvres. They were the fastest vessels in the world. Others will be built to replace them.

The highest mountain in America, north of Mexico, is in Alaska, and has an elevation of 20,464 feet. It has been named Mt. McKinley.

William McKinley, the twenty-fifth President of the United States of America, died on the 14th of September from the effects of the assassin's bullet; and Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt succeeds him as president. Five presidents of the republic have died in office: Harrison, Taylor, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley—the last three by assassination. President McKinley's murderer was tried and convicted under the laws of the State of New York, and is condemned to death in the electric chair.

The profound sorrow felt by the people of the United States for President McKinley's death was shared by British subjects everywhere. King Edward and Queen Alexandra, who were in Denmark at the time, attended a memorial service at the English church in Copenhagen. Memorial services were held and signs of mourning displayed throughout Great Britain and Canada. Flags were at half-mast on all public buildings in Canada until the day of the President's funeral, which by official proclamation, was made a day of mourning; and the British Admiralty ordered the United States flag to be put at half-mast on the mainmasts of warships in the port of London, and the Union Jack and White Ensign half-masted, it being the first occasion of such an order for the president of a republic.

Chinese troops have re-entered Pekin, after it had been occupied by foreign troops for thirteen months. The United States and Japanese forces evacuated the Forbidden City on September 17th, and, with picturesque ceremony, handed it over to the imperial authorities. On the same day an important edict was issued by the Chinese government, commanding viceroys and governors to select the best students in every province and send them to foreign countries to study politics and science.

The ceremonies at Winchester, England, in connection with the national commemoration of the one-thousandth anniversary of the death of Alfred the Great, included the unveiling of a colossal statue that represents King Alfred as holding a shield in one hand, and lifting high with the other his reversed sword, thus transformed into the figure of a cross.