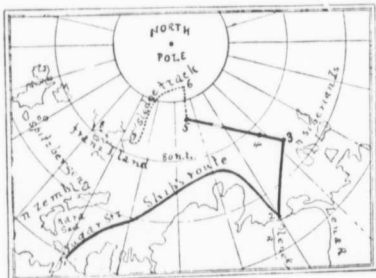


## Current Events

### THE NORTH POLE.

A great deal of interest has been taken in the voyage of Dr. Nansen to discover the North Pole. We take space in this issue of THE ENTRANCE for a few words on the subject. That our remarks may be clearly understood, we publish a map of the region through which Nansen travelled.



Dr. Nansen is a Scandinavian Arctic explorer. He contended that a current set in from the Siberian coast and extended across the Arctic Ocean. He would take advantage of this current to drift to the Pole. Accordingly a strong boat, called the *Fram*, was fitted out, and with a faithful crew and an ample supply of provisions, Nansen started on his voyage. On the 4th of August, 1893, he passed through Yugar Strait and sailed eastward. After a dangerous trip he reached the Olenek River on Sept. 15th. From this point he sailed north, passing the Siberian Islands. At figure 3 the *Fram* became frozen in the ice, drifting with it in a north-westerly direction. At the point 5 on the map, Nansen and one of his crew left the ship to explore the sea north of the route which the boat was likely to take in the drift. The dotted line marks the course taken by Nansen. In his journeyings he saw no sign of land, and as the ice-fields became rougher and rougher he concluded to return. He had reached latitude 86.14 degrees, the highest yet attained by man. Nansen and his companion made their way to Franz Josef Land, from which island they were brought back to Europe by the steamer *Windward*.

Nansen failed to reach the Pole, but he gained some interesting if not important information in reference to the Polar region, viz., that it is but an immense ice-field, and that the water is, contrary to prevailing opinion, not shallow but of great depth, soundings of 1900 fathoms having been made by the explorer. Nansen was nearly three years on this voyage of exploration. The *Fram* and her crew returned in safety to Europe.

### THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT IN LEGISLATION.

Our Governor-General is appointed by the British Government for a term of five years; the President of the United States is elected by the votes of the people for a term of four years. The Governor-General has a Cabinet of fifteen members, who advise him in his official acts. Only one of

these Ministers, or advisers, is chosen by the Governor, viz., the Prime Minister. The latter selects the remaining members of the Cabinet. The President, on the other hand, is assisted by a Cabinet of seven secretaries appointed by himself.

To confine our remarks more closely to the subject in hand, we would say that when a bill has passed through our Commons and Senate, having been voted on three times in each, it is presented to the Governor-General for his signature. He may sign it himself or withhold it for the Sovereign's signature. Should the Sovereign or Representative refuse to sign the bill, the only remedy Parliament has is to refuse to vote supplies, that is, the necessary money to carry on the government of the country. If there be persistent refusal, the probabilities of a rebellion would doubtless be favorable. Self-government means government by ourselves.

With our neighbors, when a bill passes both Houses it is presented to the President for his signature. If he approves and signs it the bill becomes law; if not, it goes back, with the President's objections noted, to the House where it originated. Here it is reconsidered, and if approved by a two-thirds vote it is sent to the other branch of Congress for reconsideration. If it is there dealt with in the same manner as in the former House, the bill becomes law. Limited space forbids further remarks on the subject.

### SHELLING OF ZANZIBAR.

The sultanate or kingdom of Zanzibar is made up of several islands, of which Zanzibar and Pemba are the chief. A few years ago the kingdom included a strip of land along the east coast of Africa, extending practically from the equator to a point ten degrees south (see Geography). In 1888, however, Germany and England took possession of this coast strip, the English taking the northern half and the Germans the southern. In 1890 England extended her rule some distance north to the Juba River, and at the same time established a protectorate over the coast islands, Zanzibar, Pemba, etc.

The City of Zanzibar is the largest and most important on the east coast of Africa. Its population numbers 100,000. The city stands about midway between the Suez Canal and Cape Town, and is thus a port of call for numerous steamship lines. Its own commerce in ivory, rubber, gum opal, hides and cloves is by no means small, amounting to \$6,000,000 per annum.

A few weeks ago the Sultan of Zanzibar suddenly died, some say from poison, and the throne was seized by his nephew. The English wished to have a say in this matter of rulership, and at once sent word to his majesty to haul down his usurping flag and to surrender at once. The Sultan replied to the British by firing on their gunboats, five of which lay at anchor off Zanzibar. After ordering all foreigners to seek the shelter of their respective nations' vessels, the British opened fire on the usurper. Said Khalid soon became anxious to get outside the range of the British guns, and it was not long before he gave up the struggle and surrendered himself to the German consul, by whom he will doubtless be passed over to British hands. One probable result of the incident will be the release of thousands of slaves in the kingdom, and perhaps the total abolition of the slave trade of the country. The British placed another relative of the dead Sultan on the throne.