

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

The \$50,000,000 loan to China by a group of American financiers, negotiations for which have been going on for some time, was signed in Peking on April 15.

As a result of a paralytic stroke sustained three weeks before, Sir Henri Elzéar Taschereau, K.B., P.C., LL.D., Seigneur of St. Marie de la Beauce, former chief justice of the Dominion and member of the judicial committee of the privy council of Great Britain, died in Ottawa on Good Friday.

Judge Niles in the Federal District Court in Aberdeen, Miss., has sentenced J. H. Miller, a member of the firm of Steele, Miller & Co., who was found guilty of fraudulently using the mails, to seven years in prison and to pay a fine of \$11,000. L. C. Steele and C. H. G. Linde, who accepted a verdict of guilty on the same charge, were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000 each. The men were members of the cotton firm of Steele, Miller & Co. of Corinth, Miss., which failed several months ago. It was charged at the time of the failure that fraudulent bills of lading, amounting to \$7,000,000, had been issued by the firm. Indictments were found against Miller, Steele, and Linde, charging that fraudulent bills of lading were sent through the United States mail.

According to a Washington correspondent progress is being made in the negotiation of the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States, and the administration is confident that the document will be completed in ample time for submission to the present session of the United States Senate for ratification. No obstacles, it is said, have been encountered or are in sight which would impede the successful passage of the treaty. The Anglo-Japanese treaty, it is stated, offers no stumbling block to the arbitration treaty.

The coroner's jury in New York that has been investigating the fire in the Asche Building, where one hundred and fifty shirt-waist workers, chiefly young women, lost their lives, have returned a verdict holding the proprietors of the factory, Isaac Harris and Max Blank, responsible for the death of Mary Herman, a young operator.

Captain Farron, of the French army aviation corps, fell 250 feet with an aeroplane and was crushed to death, midway on a trip from Orleans to Versailles. Carrying fifteen passengers 180 miles, the 'Deutschland II,' Count Zeppelin's latest dirigible, completed a successful trip along the Rhine, to Dusseldorf, Germany. At Lindenau, Saxony, Oswald Kent, an airman, made an interesting aviation experiment, exchanging electric signals with the officers in command of troops manoeuvring, informing them of the position of their opponents. Two aviators, Lieut. Byasson and M. Delarge, of the French army, were thrown to death through their aeroplanes capsizing in flights on Good Friday. Four German balloonists were fatally injured, when the car in which they were riding at Keck, Saxony, capsized. The accident occurred when ten balloons were ready to start on a distance competition.

It was announced by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons on the eve of adjourning for the Easter recess, that the Canadian census would be taken on June 1 and that the full enumeration would be made known about November 1.

Rasa Tessama, Regent of Abyssinia and guardian of the heir apparent, Crown Prince Lidj Jeassu, is dead. Prince Lidj Jeassu, who is the grandson of King Menelik, was anointed as heir apparent in October, 1909, and Ras Tessama was appointed and confirmed as his guardian at the same time. The latter had been at the head of the Government ever since, Menelik being incapacitated by paralysis.

The SS. 'Prinzess Irene,' of the North German Lloyd line, on her way from Genoa to New York, with 1,700 passengers, during a dense fog, ran into the Fire Island sand pit, 40 miles east of New York, where she remained for over eighty hours, her passengers meanwhile being removed by a sister ship and other vessels.

Sheldon, the get-rich-quick swindler who victimized many simple people in Montreal and other parts of Canada, has been brought back to Montreal from Pittsburg, Pa., where he was arrested while plying his old vocation, and will now stand trial with prospects of spending some years in the penitentiary.

Sharp earthquake shocks were felt in Rome on April 10 at 10.45 a. m. and 12 noon, causing much terror among the people. In the country around Rome the shocks were much more severe.

Tom. L. Johnson, the celebrated mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, who was both a strong advocate of 3-cent street railway fares and Henry George's single tax theories, died on April 10, after a long illness in his fifty-seventh year.

Gen. Booth of the Salvation Army, celebrated his eighty-second birthday on April 10 by addressing a great gathering of his followers in London.

The steamer 'Iroquois,' which plies between Sydney, B.C., and the Gulf Islands, foundered on April 10 owing to the shifting of her cargo while battling with a storm at the entrance to Chance Channel. Twenty persons are supposed to have perished, comprising members of the crew and passengers.

It is feared in Norway that there will be a general strike of workmen in the country in consequence of the lockout in the iron industry. Fourteen thousand men are now out. The questions involved in the dispute are minimum wages and minimum hours constituting a week's work, and payment for overtime. The Social-Democratic party is encouraging all workmen to strike. The struggle is generally deplored, as it comes at a time when the country is enjoying great prosperity.

A commission with a unique contract sailed from New York for Europe on April 8. It is engaged to reorganize the finances of the Persian government, and will go direct to Teheran. The task probably will not be completed in less than three years, and may take five. The finances of Persia had been in a chaotic state a long time before American experts were asked to straighten them out.

Mr. Balfour in a speech at Lambeth has laid it down that agitation against home rule is to be the chief plank in the Conservative platform in the prospective autumn campaign. Apparently it has been impossible to combine the Unionist party on any other point. Meanwhile in the House of Commons the party devotes itself to obstructionist tactics against the Government. It is now generally believed that when the Lords' veto bill has gone through the House of Commons the Lords will give it two readings and then subject it to drastic treatment in the committee stage. The Lords will then return the bill to the House of Commons as a reform bill. This will serve one purpose. It will take time and the issue between the two Houses will not be brought to a head before the coronation.

Mr. Charles Frederic Moberly Bell, managing director of the 'Times' since 1908, died suddenly in London last week. He was born in 1847 and had been assistant manager of the 'Times' for eighteen years when he was elected as managing director. He had been the 'Times' correspondent in Egypt from 1865 to 1890 and he wrote several books on that country.

The text of the Anglo-Japanese treaty was published in London last week. Considering that England is a nation without a tariff, and therefore has nothing to bargain, the concessions made by Japan to the British commercial and industrial interests are considerable. Japan has granted reductions varying from 12 to 30 percent. upon a large number of British imports. Nevertheless the duties remain much higher than in the old tariff. Great Britain has broken down the obstacles to the lease of Japanese land by Britons, the treaty providing that the subjects of each Power are free to lease land in either country. The treaty is to be operative for twelve years from July 17 next, but provision is made that should either Power so desire it may abrogate this lease provision of the instrument on due notice.

Senator Louis J. Forget, the noted financier and capitalist of Montreal, died in Nice, France, on April 7, where he had gone with the expectation of recuperating after a paralytic attack suffered some months previously.

The town of Heywood, one of the centres of the Mormon propaganda in England, has determined to put a stop to it and on Sunday gave the missionaries notice to quit, the rector of Heywood, with a large crowd of followers personally visiting the Mormon meeting-house for the purpose.

While five hundred men, women, and children were gathered for a festival in a thatched building in Bombay, it took fire, causing an awful panic, during which two hundred lives were lost.

Roused by the bringing in of imported workmen, twelve hundred striking civic laborers defied law and order at Prince Rupert, the Pacific terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway, last week, fought the police and the imported men with revolvers, rifles and stones. Several persons were injured, one, Policeman Phillips, receiving a bullet in the abdomen. Fifty arrests were made before quiet was restored. The strike was the result of a dispute over wages.

King George has revived Queen Victoria's regulation excluding from court persons who have been divorced. The Victorian rule was somewhat relaxed during the reign of King Edward VII.

An airship intended for trans-atlantic travel will be built at Berlin by a company which has just been incorporated. The new dirigible will be eight times as large as Count Zeppelin's 'Deutschland,' and will carry two hundred passengers, as well as a crew of one hundred. Equipped with thirty motors, it will be 775 feet long, and, Boerner, who has designed it, declares the airship will be able to travel from London to New York safely.

The Irish emigration statistics which have just been made public for the year 1910 go to show that the various land purchase and laborers' acts and the frequent prophecies of approaching home rule have not sufficed to keep young Ireland at home. The report shows that 32,923 emigrants, of whom 18,113 were men, left Ireland in 1910. This is an increase of 3,693 as compared with 1909. Of the total number of persons who left Ireland 86.9 percent were between the ages of 15 and 35 while only 6.2 percent were over 35. Only 285 of the total number were married.

Women barristers are not to be admitted to France's highest tribunal, the Court of Cassation. Mlle. Dyvrande, who practises in the Appeal Court, demanded permission to qualify for the Supreme Court. The council of order of the latter body decided that women were not qualified to practise before the Judges of that court, as the position is virtually a Ministerial office and is therefore reserved for men.