

## CURRENT EVENTS.

The formal annexation of the Transvaal was proclaimed by Lord Roberts on September 1st, and the South African Republic belongs to the history of the past. Small Boer forces continue in the field, but the war is practically over. By the annexation of the two Boer republics, the Queen gains two million subjects, black and white; and the blacks will be glad of the change of masters.

The relief of the foreigners imprisoned in Pekin was accomplished on the 14th of August, the Russians, the Japanese, the British, the Americans and the French troops being represented in the relieving column. The Japanese began the attack, and seem to have held the bulk of the Chinese army engaged on the north of the city while the British and the Americans made entrance at the south. The first entrance of the rescuers was effected by a company of Sikhs, under the British commander, Sir Alfred Gaselee, who waded up a sewage canal under the Tartar City wall. Sixty-five of the foreigners had been killed, and many wounded, in the attacks on the legations, and the lives of the others were saved only by the timely arrival of the rescuing armies of the allies.

The Empress and her advisers fled before the arrival of the international forces, and took with them the Emperor, in whose name they are now trying to open negotiations for peace.

Russian troops have occupied the greater part of the province of Manchuria, and are preparing for a winter campaign. The great Trans-Siberian railway has been found inadequate for the transport of all the Russian troops required in China, and steamers have been chartered by the government for transport service.

Sian Fu, the fu or capital of the province of Shen Si (Western Province), which has been chosen as the place of refuge for the Empress Dowager, is the oldest metropolis of the Empire, and was the actual seat of government under four dynasties. The city is full of palaces, which have been carefully kept up; and, being a great centre of trade, it swarms with merchants, shopkeepers, artisans, and all the classes that help to insure comfort and luxury to a wealthy court. There are more people in Sian than in Pekin, and they are more prosperous. It has communication by water through the Hoang Ho (Yellow River) and the great canals with every portion of the empire. It is protected on three sides by mountains, and on the fourth by the river; and its distance makes it practically inaccessible to the armies of the maritime powers.

The bubonic plague has made its appearance in Glasgow, and a case is said to have occurred in London.

The United States government will send a transport to Cape Nome, Alaska, to bring back such of the gold seekers as are destitute, and to distribute provisions and clothing to the Indians.

The Pope recognizes the new King of Italy as king of Sardinia only, reaffirming the Papal claim to

sovereignty over what were formerly known as the States of the Church.

The boundary dispute between Venezuela and the United States of Colombia has been amicably settled, a large portion of the disputed territory falling to Colombia.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Warren is to succeed Lord William Seymour in command of the troops in British North America, with headquarters at Halifax.

An insurrection is said to have broken out in Persia, with the object of dethroning the Shah, who is unpopular because of his fondness for western ideas.

Explorations at Nippur, in Mesopotamia, are said to have brought to light a library of no less than 17,000 tablets upon historical and literary subjects, but few of which are later than 2280 B. C.

The first battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles will, in future, be designated the Royal Canadian Dragoons whilst serving in South Africa.

A striking evidence of the union of the various parts of the British Empire in their loyalty to their sovereign is to be found in the offer of the Maharajah of Gwalior to equip a hospital ship for service in China at a cost of 20 lakhs of rupees, (about \$600,000). This princely offer was made by his Highness on behalf of himself, his mother and his wife, in testimony of their loyalty to the Empress Queen.

The scarcity of coal threatens to become a public calamity in Germany.

Time in Spain, after the close of this year, is to be counted from one to twenty-four hours, the day to begin at midnight.

The Queen is now authorized to declare that Western Australia may be considered an original state of the federation, if the result of the referendum shall show that the people of that colony are in favor of joining the new commonwealth. It is, therefore, probable that the first day of the coming century will see all the Australian provinces, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, united in a federal commonwealth under the crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a freer government than that possessed by any republic in the world.

A general election will be held in Cuba, on the 15th inst., to elect delegates to the convention which is to draft a constitution for the proposed independent government of the island. There is some dissatisfaction amongst the Cuban leaders because of the wording of the proclamation calling the convention, which seems to offer them something less than complete independence; and one of the leaders has declared that "Time only will tell whether revolution against the Americans will be necessary."

The enactment or revival of compulsory military service laws in Chili and Peru is causing serious uneasiness in the other South American countries, particularly in the Argentine republic.