

Subsequently a vast military rebellion arose in India. This was followed by the assumption of direct authority over India by the Crown, and Queen Victoria was later declared Empress of India.



General Sir John French
Commanding the British Forces
on the Continent

In 1875 Disraeli made his master stroke in the purchase of the Suez Canal.

Acts of political rather than of international importance, held the attention of England until in 1899, when the Boer war broke out in South Africa. The discovery of gold in the South African Republic was followed by a great influx of English miners and speculators.

Trouble quickly arose between the native Boers and the progressive Britons. These complained that they could not obtain naturalization, were given no share in the government, and yet bore a large share of the taxation and were forced to render military service. After a raid of the Transvaal by Dr. Jameson, which was unpunished by England, the Boers became more arbitrary than ever, although the foreign population outnumbered the natives two to one. England demanded the right of suffrage for her citizens; the Boers refused. War broke out in October, 1899, the Orange Free State joining her sister, the Boer Republic. This war lasted for three years. The English won in the end. Peace was concluded in 1902, the Transvaal and Orange Free State becoming colonies of the British Empire. The Boers since then have become the most loyal subjects of Britain. The leader of the Government was formerly one of the chief Boer generals, and South Africa is now flourishing under the great freedom enjoyed under British rule.

At this time Russia was occupying Manchuria. This was looked upon with disfavor by England and the United States, who urged the policy of the "open door."

Queen Victoria died in 1901 and was succeeded by King Edward VII. Japan in 1902 increased its European prestige by a treaty with Eng-