

CURRENT EVENTS.

By a decisive vote in the general election, the people of Canada have refused to sanction the reciprocity agreement with the United States, and the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been defeated at the polls. Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the opposition, will, therefore, be called upon to form a government and carry out the wishes of the people. In this, one important difference between our form of government and that of the United States is clearly shown. The government which is now taking office, as a result of the elections of the 21st of September, begins its work at once. A change of party was made in the United States House of Representatives last November, yet President Taft and his cabinet, who belong to the defeated party, are still in power, and cannot be displaced until a year from next March, or four months after the next presidential election. Furthermore, the people of the United States may be as much opposed to the reciprocity agreement as we have shown ourselves to be, yet they have no constitutional means of saying so. In their country there is no such thing as an appeal to the people.

Our recent census shows, of course, large gains in all the western provinces. The large increase in the Province of Quebec will raise the basis of representation in the House of Commons, in which Quebec is entitled to sixty-five members. This will result in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each losing two seats, and Prince Edward Island losing one, Ontario may also lose one or two, while the provinces west of Lake Superior will gain about twenty-seven members.

The census of South Africa shows a population of about six millions, of whom about four millions are blacks, and over half a million belong to other coloured races.

The Canadian government steamer Arctic, with Capt. Bernier in command, has arrived in Quebec after fifteen months in the far northern waters. About three hundred miles of coastline was surveyed.

The New York naturalists who have returned from the the Arctic coast of Canada, report having explored the Horton River for four hundred miles of its course, finding it far larger and longer than the Coppermine River. They also found an unknown river emptying in Langton Bay.

The premier of New Zealand has asked the British government to place the Tolga Islands under the control of the Dominion of New Zealand.

Italy has declared war against Turkey, and has sent a fleet and an army to take possession of Tripoli. However slight the provocation, if it be slight, most of those who recall the long history of the pirates of the Barbary coast will be satisfied to see the last of Turkish rule in Northern Africa, if it can be brought about without a great war. There is fear, however, that hostilities cannot be confined to Tripoli, and that other nations may be involved. Tripoli is about four times the size of Italy, and has a much larger Italian than Turkish population. Before the Mohammedan conquest it was a rich and prosperous province of the Roman Empire.

It is believed that France and Germany have come to an agreement on the Morocco question, and that a large

strip of French Congo territory will be ceded to Germany in exchange for the German recognition of French claims.

Social and political unrest are dangerously prevalent in other European countries which have no immediate interest in either Morocco or Tripoli. Spain is under martial law. Great strikes in different quarters of the kingdom, and a well developed revolutionary movement in Barcelona, threaten a civil war. The formal adoption of the constitution of the new Portuguese Republic and the election of its first president were followed by the recognition of the Republic on the part of Great Britain, France and other powers; but the Royalists are seeking to overthrow the Republicans, and the latter are so divided amongst themselves that the situation is serious. In Russia, the assassination of the premier has brought a renewal of the political disturbance which may at any time result in civil strife. Labour troubles in France and food riots in Austria help to show how widespread is the feeling of popular discontent.

China has had another terrific flood of the Yangtze River, with the loss of many thousands of lives, and the wide destruction of crops. Added to this is a serious insurrection in the province of Sze-Chuan, the cause of which is said to be the granting of railway concessions to foreigners—a cause, by the way, which is said to have much to do with the recent revolution in Mexico.

The attempt of the former Shah of Persia to regain his power has apparently ended in complete failure. His forces have been defeated in several battles, and their military leader taken prisoner.

Seven thousand miles of railway have been constructed in China within the last six years, and a hundred thousand miles of postal service established.

A Harvard chemist claims to have discovered an explosive three times as powerful as dynamite, yet safe to store and handle. It will stand 275 degrees of heat without igniting, and can be hammered on an anvil without explosion.

A new vessel which is to run between Montreal and Lake Erie has neither steam nor sails. Her motive power is an oil combustion engine, or two sets of such engines; and, as she shows no funnel and has but two very small masts, she is a strange looking ship.

Under the terms of the International Fisheries Treaty concluded with the United States in 1908, regulations governing the fisheries in international waters were drawn up, to become effective after concurrent proclamations by the Governor-General of Canada and the President of the United States. The necessary legislation was passed last year by the Dominion Parliament. The United States authorities, however, have failed to pass the legislation required to put the treaty into effect.

The International Waterways Commission, the new body formed to determine disputed questions between the United States and Canada is now complete. The commission will take up questions relating to the development and use of the waterways between the two nations.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the new Governor-General of Canada, is expected to arrive at Quebec on Friday, the 15th of this month, and there take the oath of office.