

A MACEDONIAN REVOLT THREATENED.

Russia and Austria Massing Troops on the Frontier.

Sultan May Lose Throne—War Over Turkey Probable Within the Next Few Weeks—Impossible to Belittle the Alarming Nature of the Situation.

London, Feb. 9.—The probability of the maintenance of peace in Europe beyond the next few weeks is less, considerably less, than the probability of war.

This grave conclusion is the deliberate judgment of statesmen and private observers alike who are acquainted with the latest developments in the Near East.

There have been perennial war scares over the Balkan question for many years, until diplomats as well as the world at large have come to regard the cry of "Wolf!" with indifference.

It is impossible to ignore or belittle the alarming nature of the present situation.

The things to-day does not exaggerate when it says: "Every European chancery is aware that there is most imminent danger of a revolt in Macedonia on a totally different scale from the usual spring disturbances, and an opening up of questions that may lead to a struggle, the limits and issues of which a wise man will not pretend to forecast."

Extensive Raising Planned.

The preparations of the Macedonian Revolutionary Committee for a general rising in the spring are so extensive that it is impossible to keep them secret, and it is impossible to offset them except by a large army and campaign arrangements.

It is only necessary to point out the main features of the situation in order to demonstrate the imminence of the peril. The Sultan's atrocious misgovernment of Macedonia, despite all warnings and protests, has aroused both the Christian and Ottoman populations to revolt. The Bulgarian Government has given formal assurances that it will do everything in its power to avoid interference in the coming quarrel. It is quite beyond its power, as all concerned know, to prevent the Bulgarian people from crossing the frontier and making common cause with the Macedonian revolutionists.

Servia also professes its intention to stand aloof, but there, also, no Government is strong enough to keep the country out of the field after the fighting begins.

Too Late to Avert Outbreak.

It will naturally be enquired how it happens that the European concert, which especially champions the rights of the Macedonian Christians, has allowed the crisis to reach a point of such danger that now it is probably too late to avert an outbreak of the much-dreaded conflagration. It would have been much better, as the Times observes, if Europe had taken the whole population under its protection instead of only the Christians, inasmuch as the Ottomans are suffering equally from the atrocious misrule of a corrupt governing class. It would be unfair, perhaps, to question the sincerity of the efforts which Russia and Austria, as the powers chiefly concerned, are now making to avert the crisis. None know better than the authorities of those powers how futile at this late day must be the mea-

asures on which they have agreed. It has been decided to press upon the Sultan certain reforms, the principal being the appointment of a Christian Governor of Macedonia, with practically full powers. The concession, if it could be offered to Macedonia as an accomplished fact, even at this late day, might avert a revolution.

The concert of Europe, as has been many times demonstrated with appalling consequences, is a useless machine for any emergency requiring prompt action. Moreover, Abdul Hamid has successfully resisted its efforts more than once, even when it was unanimously in earnest. It is almost hopeless to attempt to wring adequate concessions from him now in time to induce the Macedonians to abandon their revolutionary programme.

Now Massing Troops.

It is clear that this is fully understood by the powers proposing these reforms, but Russia and Austria have already been massing troops on the frontier for a campaign, which they consider inevitable early in the spring.

The only object, apparently, of the recent announcement of the scheme of reforms by Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Foreign Minister, is to throw the onus back on us and blame for the war upon Turkey. This is rather a flimsy attempt to evade responsibility. There has been ample warning of the present crisis. Why were not the proposed reforms forced upon the Sultan's acceptance months ago, when they would have served to avert the now almost inevitable revolution? Russia will certainly be accused in the present situation of permitting the long-dreaded crisis in the Near East to arise in revenge for the temporary check to her Asiatic ambitions by the Anglo-Japanese alliance. There is no doubt that the Czar will endeavor to divide the spoils of war with Austria alone. Russian troops are now massing along the Rumanian frontier. In all probability they will strike at once for Constantinople. Austria is pouring troops into Bosnia, ready to advance at a day's notice, through the Snaajak of Novi Bazar.

The Sultan himself is by no means idle. He is preparing to put down in his usual savage fashion any rebellion in his dominions. There is no doubt of the result, however. If, while struggling with the revolting provinces, Abdul Hamid is confronted by the troops of Russia and Austria, the Turk will at last be driven out of Europe.

But what will be the effect of a Russian seizure of Constantinople? A few years ago it would have been the signal for a general European war. This is less probable to-day, but to again quote the Times, a wise man will not pretend to forecast the limits and issues of the questions which would be opened up. Great Britain might now content herself with full sovereignty in Egypt and the Nile Valley. All the powers would strenuously oppose her further aggrandisement, but what about the demands Germany and France would certainly make for a share in the Turk's spoils?

Brandon Asylum, and a \$75,000 land titles office in Winnipeg.

Mr. Godfrey, Chairman of the Toronto Public School Board, in his inaugural address, favored the amalgamation of the city's School Boards.

The Toronto Horse Show will be held this year from April 30 to May 2. This later date than usual will, it is believed, insure even a very much larger attendance than ever before.

Officers of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association wish to deny the statement that a large deputation of their association is to visit Ottawa next week to demand changes in the tariff.

Tuesday night he was rear braked on a freight train running from Tilsonburg to Harrisburg, and slipped off the caboose when the train was backing up to the station. He was picked up by the train crew and taken to the hospital. His injuries consist of a badly fractured head and four broken ribs.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The French torpedo-boat destroyer Espignole is standard of Cape Lardier, east of Toulon.

The London Standard's correspondent at Tientsin cables a rumor that the Empress of China is dead.

At Valladolid, Spain, unemployed persons looted bread wagons, and were fired upon by the gendarmes. The dispute between Brazil and Bolivia as to the sovereignty of Acre is assuming a critical phase.

Since the outbreak of cholera in the Philippines, less than a year ago, 130,000 cases and 8,000 deaths have been reported.

There are now over 200 cases of typhoid fever in China, N. Y., epidemic being due to contamination of the drinking water.

It is again asserted that negotiations are under way in London for the purchase by the C. P. R. of steamers for an Atlantic freight service.

It is reported that the United States Senate may ratify the Alaman treaty, owing to the determined opposition of the northwestern Senators.

An investigation into the "ragging" of officers by a mock court-martial has resulted in the forced retreat of Colonel Kinlock of the Grenadier Guards.

Interviewed in London, Mr. Mackenzie declared that his visit in England had anything to do with the reported sale of the Canadian Northern to the Grand Trunk Railway.

A Parisian paper says that owing to the possession by the Ministry of War of a document which is expected to throw new light on the subject, the Dreyfus affair will be re-opened.

THE PLAGUE IN JAPAN.

Infected Rats Found in Tokio—Coolies Torture Them to Death.

Vancouver, Feb. 9.—Mail advices received from the Orient by the steamship Empress of China are to the effect that the pest has broken out in Tokio with alarming results. Infected rats are being found in large numbers, and the Japanese coolies are so enraged at the authors of their troubles that they are torturing these rats to death by crucifixion and other cruel methods.

Among the victims of the pest was Dr. Yokota, who died of the disease while ministering in the infected districts. While he was dying the Mikado bestowed upon him the order of exceptional merit, the Sixth Order of the Rising Sun. He was a very distinguished scholar, and was but 45 years old. The Emperor is taking very active steps personally to suppress the pest.

In one section 2,000 houses of the richer class are surrounded by a metal fence sunk deep in the ground, preventing the pest-breeding rats from getting in.

his alone \$335,521 was spent. The number of pupils in attendance was 22,323, while the year before it was 2,723.

Leading with the question of centralized rural schools, the report says that during the last five or six years much attention has been given to the question. In the United States it is claimed that the organization of township schools has been advantageous, and steps have already been taken in Ontario to test its applicability and value.

The continuation class work in the Public Schools, under the direction of the Education Department, has been very successful. The studies of form one and two are taken up and last year there were 4,938 pupils taking the course, which is considerably more than in 1900.

The report also states that there are now 477 libraries in the Province. Of this number 415 sent returns to the department, and they contain 1,064,475 volumes and pamphlets with \$89,050 in 1900. The receipts amounted to \$225,796.29, and the assets were \$1,080,601.71.

SOME JAPANESE TRAGEDIES.

Forty-five Lives Lost by Capsizing of a Launch.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 9.—News was brought by the Empress of China, which arrived last night, of a disaster in Kobe harbor, on Jan. 19, as a result of which between 40 and 50 lives were lost. The steamers Yokohama, Maru, and Genka Maru were being repaired, and the steam launch Hayabusa was sent to take their workmen from one steamer to the other. When the launch was near the steamer the Genka Maru, which was being repaired, was struck by a strong north-west gale and capsized, which foundered in a few minutes.

Some of the men swam to the Genka Maru, others were rescued by the Sumitomo launch, but between 40 and 50 were drowned. Twenty-eight bodies were recovered. The scenes in the dockyards when the relatives of the dead struggled around the company's office are described as pitiable.

Fire occurred on January 17 in the Urushiu colliery, Fukuoka Ken, Japan, and 64 miners were burned to death. Two hundred and twenty miners were working in the mines, when a miner accidentally ignited a dynamite fuse, and an explosion followed. Many escaped, but gas fumes rapidly asphyxiated the rest. The mine's mouth blocked up the mine, imprisoning 64 men, who all lost their lives.

As a result of a combat between one hundred fishing smackets off the coast of Japan, a heavy loss of life has resulted. It was reported that 45 have been killed. The fishermen belonged to villages in Nagasaki prefecture.

WHY BRITAIN LOSES TRADE.

Liverpool Ship Owners Demand Imperial Control of Vessels.

Liverpool, Feb. 9.—The Liverpool Association here yesterday adopted a report strongly condemning the antiquated shipping laws, which are said to be gradually forcing the carrying trade of the world into the hands of foreign vessels.

The report also states that the British subjects are interested.

AGAINST BRIDGE WHIST.

Transforming Social Life in England.

Denounced from the Pulpit.

London, Feb. 9.—A satire on the London chase for "bridge," lately written by George Russell, has initiated a crusade, which is gradually developing. Clergymen in the home and abroad are beginning to denounce from their pulpits the evils of the game as generating a gambling spirit, especially among society women. Many stories are current of heavy losses and loss by members of society. In an interview Mr. Russell declared that it was impossible to exaggerate the evil influence of the game. It was transforming the social life, and destroying the taste for beautiful outdoor games.

RUBINO INTENDED TO KILL KING EDWARD.

Trial of Italian Anarchist Who Shot at King Leopold.

Would-be Assassin Glories in His Crime and Reils at Society—Says He Contemplated Murder of King Edward—Justified Assassination of Castlho—Unionist Elected for South Antrim—Land Question Figured in the Campaign.

Brussels despatch: The trial of Genoa Rubino, the Italian anarchist, on the charge of attempting to assassinate King Leopold Nov. 15, by firing three shots at His Majesty while the latter was returning from the Cathedral here, after attending a Te Deum in memory of the late Queen Henriette, was opened to-day in the Assize Court. Large crowds gathered in the vicinity of the court, to which only the witnesses, lawyers and reporters were admitted. A detachment of police of considerable strength maintained order.

Rubino replied volubly to all interrogations, and whenever he uttered the word "anarchy" he raised his voice as though exulting in his confession therewith. The prisoner bitterly assailed modern society as the cause of all evil, declaring he only attempted to take the life of the King because the latter was the highest representative of society. Rubino added that he had intended going to Italy for the purpose of making an attempt on the life of the Italian monarch, but he did not have sufficient funds. During the course of the prisoner's examination it developed

that he left the Italian army because his officers persecuted him. Rubino posed as a hero throughout his examination. He declared he gloried in his crime, and in the course of his denunciation of society exclaimed: "I am not the accused. It is you and the whole of your rotten society which keeps labor in slavery that stands accused before me and the anarchist party, and we condemn you to death."

The prosecution included in the indictment a letter from Rubino to a socialist newspaper published in London, justifying the murder of Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, who was assassinated at Santa Agueda, Spain, Aug. 8, 1897, by an Italian anarchist, and stating that he, Rubino, had contemplated killing King Edward on Nov. 25.

A Unionist Chosen.

Dublin, Feb. 9.—C. G. Craig, Unionist, has been elected to represent South Antrim in the House of Commons by a majority of 949 over Dr. Keightley, the farmers' and laborers' candidate. The Irish Nationalists supported Dr. Keightley, who was assisted by Thomas W. Russell, Liberal Unionist member of Parliament for the south division of Tyrone.

The campaign was fought on the land question, Dr. Keightley supporting compulsory sales. The vacancy was caused by the appointment of William G. MacArtney, the retiring member for South Antrim, as Deputy Master of the Mint.

ed here with a great deal of pleasure.

Alliance to be Dissolved.

Interpreted, this means that when Minister Bowen told the representatives of Great Britain, Germany and Italy on Monday night that the acceptance of the proposal that they be given two-thirds of the customs collections to be set aside for the payment of Venezuela's obligations, would mean that the European alliance would continue for six years, or as much longer a time as would be necessary to pay the claims of the allies, he made a home thrust. The statement quoted above indicates that what he said was not relished in London, Berlin and Rome. It is known that it was not in London. But the broad intimation of Mr. Bowen that the alliance was regarded as a menace to the United States, and his first assertion that great surprise and regret would be created presumably in this country, when it became known that England was willing to continue her partnership with Germany and Italy for a moment longer than was necessary, obviously had a greater effect in bringing from the British Government renewed assurances of friendship and distinguished consideration for America and Americans.

Baron Speck von Sternburg's activity in seeking to readjust the Venezuelan controversy in the shortest possible time has created a very pleasing impression here, and has done much to produce a kinder feeling for Germany. In fact, the energetic Imperial envoy has nearly succeeded in driving the bugaboo out of Washington.

SCIENTIFIC FARMERS.

Young Men of This Locality Passing Agricultural Exams.

The results of the Christmas examinations at the Ontario Agricultural College on the work on the fall term have been issued. Arranged in the order of general proficiency, those from this district are:

First year—13, J. F. Munroe, South-end, Welland, Ont.; 26, C. C. Nixon, St. George, Brant; 29, A. Robertson, Brantford; 31, A. F. Kitchen, George; 35, W. Bean, Haysville, Waterloo; 38, D. E. Weylle, Glanford Station; 47, R. B. Birley, Paris; 52, H. M. Metcalf, Grimsby; 62, L. B. Tufford, Beamsville (starred in veterinary anatomy); 63, N. D. Woolverton, Grimsby; J. P. Atkin, Aldershot, passed, part of work covered by certificates accepted as pro tanto.

Second year—5, E. D. Eddy, Scotland, Brant; 6, W. D. Albright, Beamsville; 10, R. W. Wade, Smithville; 15, F. H. Reed, Georgetown; 18, J. B. Hoodless, Hamilton; 34, G. G. Whyte, Paris, Brant; 50, G. Le Barberrec, Corwin, Hallowell; 54, R. W. Bartman, Hamilton (starred in soil physics and chemistry).

Third year—6, G. H. Carpenter, Fruitland; 10, T. B. Henderson, Rockton; W. R. Dewar, Fruitland.

3,000 DISEASED ANIMALS.

Slaughtered in New England—Owners Paid \$100,000.

Washington Feb. 9.—Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, who has returned here from Boston, where he supervised the fight against the foot and mouth epidemic, said that about 3,000 animals have been slaughtered in Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, and that the indemnity the government has paid the owners aggregates over \$100,000. He said that unless new cases develop it is probable that most of the quarantine restrictions now existing will have been removed in about 60 or 65 days.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

CANADIAN.

Fire did serious damage at Sydney, C. B.

A case of smallpox has developed at Hespelear.

The Legislature will probably meet on March 3rd or 4th.

North Perth and North Norfolk election petitions have been filed.

It is proposed to extend the Canadian Atlantic Railway to Saint Ste Marie.

The Toronto Trades and Labor Council by 77 to 7 voted to reject Mr. Carnegie's offer.

The Toronto grand jury endorsed the proposed bill advocated by the Prisoners' Aid Society.

York County Councillors discussed the establishment of intelligence bureaus for farm laborers.

Dr. J. E. Elliott was elected Chairman of the Toronto High School Board.

Rev. Dr. Langford, of Owen Sound, has been called by Stratford Central Methodist Church.

Judge McCrimmon has been nominated by the Chancellor to hear the charges of perjury.

Mrs. Richard Schrieber, of Queen's avenue, London, fell on the icy sidewalk and broke her hip.

Mr. Jesse Smith, hardware merchant of Wingham, fell on an icy walk and fractured his skull.

Judge Deacon, at Ottawa, sentenced Onesime Lefebvre to six months imprisonment and a fine of \$100 for voting twice on the referendum.

The strike of the Toronto garment workers has been practically settled by Mr. Robert Gloecking's intervention.

North York Conservatives nominated Mr. T. Herbert Lennox for the Legislature in opposition to Hon. E. J. Davis.

The Manitoba Government has decided to build a \$75,000 wing to the