

## EVENTS

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**T**HE cost of the British Mission to Tibet is now officially stated to be \$4,000,000. If the burden of empire is getting to be too great for the people of the United Kingdom to bear, as Mr. Chamberlain asserts, why do they put up with such expeditions as this? And if Canada is to contribute to the military expenditure of the empire would we be given a veto on such expenditure? If not we would be taxed for expenditure over which we had no control, a principle that no Canadian statesman would stand for a moment. The undertaking which the Dominion government has given to take over the defences of Halifax and Esquimaux is not open to any serious objection, as Canada is willing to defend her own shores and at the same time to afford Great Britain every facility in the use of these great naval bases for the British navy. At the same time it ought to afford practical work for the engineering graduates of the Kingston Military College. Canada is not unwilling to contribute to imperial defence, but it must be done along lines capable of being defended in a federal parliament on grounds of British constitutional usage.

**T**HE Standard Oil Company has a monopoly in the Kansas oil fields, and Kansas is endeavoring to break the power of that corporation over the wells and markets of that State. "The trust has all the pipe lines in the State, and it is the only refiner," we are told by the Philadelphia Ledger; "consequently it could and did charge the independent producers just what it pleased for the conveyance of the crude oil to its own refineries, and paid only what it pleased for the crude oil. Thus the producers were squeezed so hard that they either had to sell out the oil field to the trust at its own price or sell oil at a loss." Backed by public opinion, the Kansas legislature has proceeded to deal with the monopoly by passing new legisla-

tion. One act has just been signed by the Governor, providing for a State refinery having an output of one thousand barrels per day, operated by convict labor." Another new law makes the Standard's pipe lines for the conveyance of oil "common carriers," and not only fixes maximum rates for the conveyance of oil, but prohibits discrimination. As soon as the Standard heard that all the power of the State was being arrayed against it, it proceeded "to teach the State of Kansas a lesson," as one of the Standard officials is reported to have put it, by ordering a suspension of all operations in Kansas, and the crude oil producers were in consequence compelled to stop pumping oil and to discharge their help. The Kansas situation is taken as an entering wedge for the prosecution of a national investigation of the Standard Oil Company. On February 15 the House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by Mr. Campbell, of Kansas, providing for the investigation of the corporation from top to bottom.

**T**HE Canadian Northern R. R. amalgamating bill has been introduced into the House of Commons and given its first reading. It is a bill of considerable bulk and may well be as it is one of great importance. It provides practically legislature authority for connecting various branches of this great system. It is understood in the financial world that the bonds of this company find a ready sale in the London and New York money markets. The remarkable success of recent operations have evidently met with a welcome recognition.

**T**HE presentation by Liberal senators to Hon. R. W. Scott on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his birth was a well deserved compliment to the Secretary of State, who is also the Government leader of the Senate. Mr. Scott is a very hard working minister, always in his place in the Senate and always extending to his colleagues in the House that courtesy which is so becoming to an assembly of this kind. The attendance of the Prime Minister and other colleagues of the Secretary of State must have been gratifying to him.