



NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH



The King and Queen of Denmark are to visit England on June 8.

Mr. Winston Churchill, parliamentary secretary of the British Colonial Office, has been appointed a member of the Privy Council.

The Irish International Exhibition was opened in Dublin on May 4 last by the Earl of Aberdeen. It is the largest exhibition Ireland has ever had.

In Berlin the most serious labor difficulty in two years is on just now, in the shape of a lockout of bricklayers and other employees of the building trades in which 100,000 are affected.

The Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaivitch, second cousin of the Czar, was married on May 12th to Princess Anastasia of Montenegro. During the past year three attempts on the life of the Grand Duke have been made. The princess was recently divorced from Prince George Romanowski, Duke of Leuchtenberg.

Great Britain has placed orders at the Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards for two more battleships of the 'Dreadnought' type, as soon as the 'Temeraire' and the 'Bellerophon' now in building shall have been launched in August next. This is Britain's answer to Germany's refusal to discuss disarmament at the coming Hague Conference.

Sir Benjamin Baker, one of the world's great engineers, died in London on May 20. It was he who invented the pneumatic shield which has rendered so much assistance in tunnelling under rivers. The two engineering works by which he will be best remembered are the Forth Bridge in Scotland and the Assouan Dam on the Nile, of which he was joint engineer and consulting engineer respectively. He was born in 1840.

Guatemala has apologized to the Mexican Government for insinuating that the Mexican legation at Guatemala City was harboring the men who are suspected of attempting to assassinate President Cabrera of Guatemala, and the question of the extradition of José Lima, charged with complicity in the assassination of the former President of Guatemala, Manuel Barillas, while the latter was under the protection of the Mexican flag, is still pending.

King Carlos of Portugal, has accepted the invitation of President Penna, of Brazil, to visit Rio Janeiro in April, 1908, when the centenary of the opening of Brazil to the commerce of the world will be commemorated. His visit will be made an event not only in South America, but in the entire Western Hemisphere, as it will be the first time a European sovereign has crossed the Atlantic Ocean. It has not been determined whether the Queen of Portugal will accompany King Carlos.

The so-called barren lands of Canada, the vast stretch of territory lying to the north and east of Great Slave Lake, are to be the happy hunting ground of Mr. Thompson-Seton during the coming summer. He will go from Edmonton north by stage to Athabasca Landing, thence by canoe down Athabasca and Slave Rivers to Great Slave Lake. These barren lands get the name barren only because they are bare of trees, having the same climate as mountains above the tree line. But they are remarkably rich in grass and moss, and would make a home of comparative luxury for thousands of Norwegians who are at present living on farms the size of a city back yard.

In the recent Austrian elections, the first under the new equal and universal suffrage law, the Lower House of Parliament is practically reconstructed on new racial lines, and from now on it will consist of 516 members, of which there will be 233 Germans, 107 Czechs, 82 Poles, 33 Roumanians, 24 Slavendians, 13 Servo-Croatians, 19 Italians and 5 Roumanians. In 1896 it consisted of 353 members, made up largely of representatives of the great landed proprietors, the cities, and the chambers of commerce.

The Imperial Conference closed on May 14, after the adoption of the motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier recommending the subsidizing of an All-British route between Great Britain and Australia. The cost is to be borne by the different contributing governments in equitable shares. Mr. Deakin expressed the opinion that, on account of the two transshipments necessary, it could be only a mail and passenger service. Sir J. G. Ward said New Zealand wanted a 20-days' service, and was willing to pay £100,000 for it.

In Canton on May 2, a gunpowder magazine exploded with such force that houses a mile away had their roofs blown off. A number of important Chinese and foreign mercantile establishments were demolished. The bodies recovered from the ruins near the magazine were shockingly mutilated. The officer in charge of the magazine was among those killed, and when the body was recovered a pipe was found clutched in his hand, which suggests the possible cause of the explosion. The financial losses are enormous.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in replying in French, in London, to the toast of 'The Entente Cordiale,' said if there was any country where the entente was received with enthusiasm, it was Canada, for in Canada there were two million British subjects of French origin like himself, who retained the full pride of their origin. They accepted with entire loyalty all that the words 'British subject' meant, yet they retained their intense love for France. Their sentiments came, in the most free country under the sun, from Canada, which preserved them; from France, which inspired them; and from England, which respected them.

The Rev. Dr. J. L. Clark, of New York, who was called to account by his church for performing the marriage ceremony of W. E. Corey, president of the United States Steel Corporation, a divorced man, and Mabelle Gilman, has returned the marriage fee, begged the forgiveness of his church, and promised to humbly receive whatever censure the church should impose. The committee decided to recommend in its report to the congregation that, in view of the pastor's integrity and righteousness, and his letter of apology, no further action in the matter be taken.

The remains of the late Dr. William Henry Drummond were last week interred on the highest point in Mount Royal Cemetery, commanding on both sides a view of scenes amid which he spent his youth. Marking the lot will stand a Celtic cross of grey sandstone. Below the four-foot span, intricately carved, will be a symbolic square of entangled stags, foxes, birds and sheep. The inscription at the base is Drummond's line from 'Child Thoughts':—

'The shadows past, I see the light—
Oh! morning light, so clear and strong.'

Another fragment, not the Doctor's, but taken from his favorite Irish 'Songs of the Glens of Antrim,' by Moira O'Neill, was selected for the lower headstone:—

'Youth's for an hour,'

'Beauty's a flower,'

'But love is the jewel that wins the world.'

Mr. W. T. Stead addressed a Montreal audience last month, and from the number of times he was contradicted when he discussed Canada's relations with the Empire he said it was the liveliest meeting he had addressed on this side of the Atlantic.

The world mourns the death of 'Ian Maclaren,' Dr. Watson, the author of 'Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush,' 'The Days of Auld Lang Syne,' and so many other tales of Scottish religious life and character. Dr. Watson was on a lecture tour in the United States, and while in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was taken with tonsillitis. Abscesses developed, and blood poisoning followed. His wife was travelling with him.

Spain was wild with joy on Friday, the 10th, over the birth of a son to King Alfonso and Queen Victoria (Princess Ena of Battenberg, granddaughter of Queen Victoria). Madrid was delirious. Exalted ladies made such haste to the palace that they added to the holiday fun by completing their hasty toilettes as they drove through the streets. The populace yelled 'A little boy, a little boy,' the Premier announced in loud tones of triumph, 'Gentlemen, it is a prince!' the King smiling with boyish pride as he bore the precious burden on a gold salver, announced to his waiting officials, 'I present to you my beloved son, the Prince of the Asturias, and successor to the Throne of Spain, to whom my dear wife, Her Majesty the Queen has just given birth.'

The highest altitude ever reached by man is claimed for Dr. Bullock Workman and Mrs. Workman, just now in Paris on their way to London. Last summer they pitched their camp on snowfields in the unexplored Minkun range in Suru, Kashmir, at a height of 21,300 feet, and from there ascended various peaks. While Mr. Workman stopped to take photographs, Mrs. Workman climbed alone to a height of 23,000 feet. Later, they together climbed Chogo Lunga to the height of 23,304 feet. The coolies could go no higher than 19,000 feet. Ten thousand feet up they found people of a Mongolian type growing rye, wheat, oats and barley, and living in huts with fowls, white goats, marmots, and strange animals. Above 16,000 feet there was practically no life. Avalanches there stretch half a mile in width.

'On the straight road to ruin' is how Major-General Greely, commander of the Northern division of the United States Army, describes what he has personally observed during the past two years of the Esquimaux of Alaska. 'The after a course of United States rule. The same trouble,' he declares, 'predominates in Alaska to-day that has characterized the attitude of the United States Government towards all the aborigines with which it has come in contact. It never treats them fairly. Two years ago,' he says, 'the United States courts were a fiasco. It was a wonder to me that the entire lot of government officials were not hanged by mob law. I have been in mining camps, where, as the old saying goes, they "hung five men before breakfast" for less provocation than was imposed on the people of Alaska. The courts were only instruments of private interests.' General Greely said the 'blood thrilling' episodes of Alaska described by certain writers are exaggerations.

THE COVER PICTURE.

This figure, so full of life—the Strathcona trooper's horse frightened by the bursting of a shell near-by—surmounts the monument on Dominion Square, Montreal, to Lord Strathcona and the Canadians who lost their lives in South Africa during the war. It was unveiled on Victoria Day by Chief Justice Fitzpatrick, as Administrator of the Government of Canada. Over three thousand troops participated for the occasion.