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**Revolution Threatening in France.** Mr. Henry Norman, the London correspondent of the New York 'Times,' is a diligent collector and a clever teller of the news and gossip of the political world. He appears also to be a careful and intelligent student of passing events. His conclusions as to the significance and the probable outcome of political situations are not, however, always correct. Whether or not his recently published statement respecting the imminence of a *coup d'état* in France and the intention of the military chiefs to overthrow the republic and place Prince Victor Napoleon upon the throne are justified by facts remains to be seen. Mr. Norman, however, declares very definitely his conviction that his information respecting the matter is wholly trustworthy. In making this statement concerning the intention of the military chiefs, Mr. Norman says: "I fully realize the gravity of this statement, but I make it upon information which would convince the most skeptical if I were at liberty to publish it. I say this is their intention,—a fixed, determined, passionate intention." But it is very possible, Mr. Norman thinks, that something may occur to prevent this intention being carried into effect. "For example, the French civil authorities may take their courage in both hands and denounce the danger to the whole people and make a public appeal to the army before the military conspirators can do so. In that case the army would probably rally to the republic in such proportion as to render a military appeal obviously futile beforehand. Or the civil authorities may convince the Court de Cassation that the release of Dreyfus or the pronouncement of his innocence would result in the overthrow of the republic the next day, in which case it is conceivable that even the highest judges in France would feel compelled to choose the lesser of two such gigantic evils. But unless some such counsel of despair prevails, you may look for another French revolution within a period to be measured by days; for what I know is that the chiefs of the French army are absolutely resolved that Dreyfus shall never be brought back. The whole of the real power in France at this moment is in the hands of Gen. Zurlinden, the Military Governor of Paris. He is a strong man, a reckless man. M. De Freycinet, the Minister of War, is a child in his hands, as may be gathered from De Freycinet's nickname among the soldiers, 'The Little White Mouse.' Gen. Renouard, the chief of the General Staff, whose powers combine those held in England by the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General, is a weak officer controlled by his comrades, and has recently ordered certain movements of troops calculated to facilitate their plans." Mr. Norman thinks that the revolution would be a bloodless one. "The magazine rifle and the automatic gun have made civilian revolutions impossible forever. The days of street barricades are past. What would happen if the revolution really occurs would be the declaration of a state of siege by Gen. Zurlinden, and a proclamation to the country that as a Republican Government no longer is able either to cause France to be respected abroad or to preserve the army from outrage and the people from disorder at home, the army takes charge of the safety and honor of France until the people decide for themselves what form the future Government shall take. The principal Revisionists would be arrested and certain newspapers suppressed, while the troops occupied the Elysee, the Chamber and the telegraph offices. Prince Victor would immediately cross the frontier." At such a juncture, it is considered possible that another claimant for the throne, the Duc d'Orleans, who has many supporters, including a large majority of the R. C. clergy, might put in an appearance and race Prince Victor to Paris. "But all signs point to the Bonapartist revival as being much stronger than the Orleanist."

**The Nations Still Arming.** Despite the Czar's proposals looking to disarmament, the nations of Europe, including Russia, go on adding to their military and naval equipments, at the expense of immense sums which must be added to national debts, increasing correspondingly the burdens of taxation already, in most countries, grievous to be borne. The advance of military science involves frequent changes in armaments, for as soon as our nation has determined to adopt an improved weapon, other nations must of course follow its example or be placed at a great disadvantage. The statement that German field artillery would be armed with the new quick-firing guns at the beginning of the year, is quickly followed by the announcement that the French field artillery will also, before spring, be equipped with new armaments to place the French army in this respect on a condition of equality with that of Germany. Experts estimate that the new batteries will be at least three times as powerful as those at present in use. The cost of the new guns, and other expenses involved in the change will, it is estimated, bring France's expenditure in this connection up to about £10,000,000. In Great Britain serious attention is being given to these important changes. British artillery point out that, against these new guns, the British artillery, as at present equipped, would be swept off the field, and they urge that the British field gun must be brought up to a level with those being adopted by France and Germany.

**The World's Bread-Basket.** The supply of food is never so universally abundant but that many of the inhabitants of the world are constantly suffering for lack of the necessities of life. But, as compared with other years, there is no doubt that the present food supply is abundant, and the speculators, who are ever ready to rob the poor of a part of their scanty living in order to add to their own millions, will hardly be able so to manipulate the market this year as to raise the price of flour greatly above present rates. According to statements of Mr. Bear, an English agricultural expert, in an exhaustive article recently published, the wheat production of 1898 was the greatest on record. "Beginning with Great Britain, the official estimate is 73,028,856 bushels, the greatest quantity produced since 1885, when the wheat area was considerably larger. With the small contributions of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, the total for the United Kingdom will come out at about 75,000,000 bushels. France, according to her Minister of Agriculture, has a crop of 360,000,000 bushels, the greatest produced in any year, except in 1874, when about 600,000 bushels more were grown. For the whole of the Russian Empire the production will be about 456,000,000 bushels, the greatest crop ever grown in that vast country. For Austria-Hungary the estimate is 164,000,000 bushels, a quantity often exceeded, though much greater than that of 1898. Germany's crop of 110,000,000 bushels is considerably above the average, while Italy's production of 113,000,000 bushels is fair. The world's rye crop is estimated, by one of the best authorities of the corn trade news, at 1,344,000,000 bushels, the greatest quantity produced since 1894. The Indian corn crop is estimated at 2,360,000,000 bushels, a larger total than that of 1897, but much smaller than the crop of 1896 or of 1895. The oat crop is estimated at 2,632,000,000 bushels, the greatest total on record, and the barley crop at 864,000,000 bushels, also the greatest ever produced.

**News from the Yukon.** Reports from the Yukon Country stated that remarkably mild weather had prevailed there during the first part of the winter. A Vancouver,

B. C., despatch states that Mr. R. P. McLennan, one of the principal merchants of that city, has just returned from Dawson. Leaving there early in December, he found the travelling very hard because of the lack of frost, and was twenty-nine days in reaching Vancouver. He and his party, including Mr. Aulay Morrison, M. P., came on with two dog sleighs, but had soon to abandon all heavy stuff as the snow was too soft for good travelling. At Sixty-mile they found the river open, with not even a fringe of ice around its shores. They were obliged, therefore, to take to the bank, and made only ten miles a day to Lake Bennett, which was entirely free from ice at the end of December, and they sailed across it in a barge. Mr. McLennan reports that the miners are very busy indeed on the creeks around Dawson now. There is work for everybody. Even the 20,000 idlers of the summer can find employment. So great is the activity that the output for 1899 is expected to double that for 1898.

**In Reference to the Fisheries.** The Premiers of the three Maritime Provinces and the Attorneys General of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have lately been in Ottawa in conference with the Minister of Fisheries and Marine. The object of the conference, it is understood, had reference to the control of the fisheries in these provinces and particularly to the interpretation of certain portions of the deliverance of the Imperial Privy Council on that subject. An Ottawa despatch states that the result of the conference is an agreement to refer the points which do not seem quite clear in the Privy Council's decision to the Minister of Justice for elucidation, and if his interpretation prove unsatisfactory to either party concerned, the matter may be carried to the Supreme Court. It is stated that, "probably the most important point in dispute is as to whether the Privy Council decision contemplated a transfer to the provinces of the sea fisheries within the three-mile area and whether the provinces are justified in claiming the right to administer the bounty derived from the interest on the Halifax award. If the provinces are to assume control of these, it would become their duty to protect them against foreign spoliation. It is probable that the Dominion will retain control of the preservation service at least for the present. The provinces meanwhile will receive power to issue permits for salmon fishing in the rivers and beyond their mouths and for the oyster fisheries in the small bays. The Dominion will continue control of the lobster fisheries. No change will take place till the Justice Department has spoken as to the meaning to be placed upon the Privy Council ruling; and until the provinces have provided the necessary machinery for the regulation of whatever falls to their share." It is also stated that the provincial ministers asked in the matter of disputed accounts between them and the Dominion that steps be taken to investigate the same, and if they should be found justifiable that reference be made to arbitration, as was done in the cases of Ontario and Quebec.

—A despatch from Manila, of January 8, says: Col. Potter, the special emissary of General Otis between Manila and Iloilo, arrived this afternoon with despatches from the latter point. The situation when he left there was practically unchanged. The streets were barricaded and it was reported that the principal buildings had been "kerosened," the insurgents having threatened to destroy the whole business section by fire at the first shot of bombardment. The banks were shipping their treasure to the United States transport Newport and other vessels. The family of the American vice consul has gone on board the Newport. Col. Potter reports that President McKinley's proclamation had to be type-written aboard ship, as the printers on shore declined to do the work, and when the text of the proclamation was read to them ridiculed the notion that conciliation was possible.