

CURRENT EVENTS.

A large part of the cities of Hull and Ottawa was swept by fire on the 26th and 27th of April, destroying much valuable property and leaving about twelve thousand people homeless and without means of support. The Chaudiere Falls, separating Hull from Ottawa, was spanned by a handsome suspension bridge, which has been destroyed. Prompt relief for the sufferers was sent from other Canadian cities and from England; but there will inevitably be much suffering because of the loss of employment involved in the destruction of the mills, factories and lumber yards of the burnt district.

The imperial German flag has been raised in Samoa, and undisputed German rule established over all the islands except that reserved to the United States of America as a naval station.

Three men are under arrest for attempting to blow up a lock on the Welland canal, at Thorold, Ont. It is believed that they are Boer sympathizers from the United States; though it is absurd to think that the destruction of Canadian property could in any way help the Boer cause.

A little war has arisen in the neighborhood of the Gold Coast, West Africa, where the Ashanti tribes are in arms against the British. The conflict is said to be a struggle for the possession of the golden stool of Ashanti, a great nugget of gold which was used as a throne, and which the British had declared forfeited as indemnity for a former war.

After a delay of six weeks at Bloemfontein, which time was needed for resting and strengthening his army and establishing his lines of communication, Lord Roberts has commenced his forward movement, his advancing forces presenting a front of forty miles. The Boers abandoned Brandfort, which was occupied by the British forces on the 3rd of May; and on the following day the mounted infantry, among whom are the Canadians, reached the banks of the Vet river, eighteen miles beyond, and fifty-three miles north of Bloemfontein.

Winburg is occupied by the British, cutting off the Boer forces to the southeast, and opening up a line for communication with Gen. Buller's forces in Natal.

While the main army has been comparatively inactive, there have been many minor engagements in the southeastern part of the Orange Free State, the general results of which have been favorable to the British arms.

In one of the recent engagements, the first Canadian contingent carried the enemy's position by a gallant

charge, in which their commanding officer, Col. Otter, was twice wounded. Col. Buchan is now in command, and the contingent is with Lord Roberts, attached to the division under command of Gen. Smith-Dorien. The Canadian Mounted Rifles and a part of the Royal Canadian Artillery are believed to be also with Lord Roberts; one battery of the R. C. A. is in Rhodesia, taking part in Gen. Carrington's expedition, and the Strathcona Horse is believed to be still at Cape Town or now on its way to the front.

France has begun the acquisition of Morocco, by taking possession of a part of the oasis of Tuat, an outlying dependency, the chief importance of which lies in the fact that it commands the best caravan road to Timbucto and the thickly populated fertile regions around Lake Tschad.

It is expected that over two thousand people from Ohio and the adjoining States will come to Canada during the present year to form a settlement in Alberta, North West Territory.

It is announced that work will soon commence on the bridge to be built across the St. Lawrence river at Quebec.

By the death of his father, the Marquis of Lorne, formerly governor-general of Canada, has succeeded to the title of Duke of Argyll.

Events are moving rapidly in China. The question which the near future is to decide is whether the advance of western ideas that has already begun shall continue under native rule, as was the case in Japan, or will cause a disruption of the empire and a consequent division of its territory among the nations of Europe that have already established "spheres of influence" there. With a population equal to that of the whole British empire, a united and progressive China would be a great power in the world.

The latest reports from the famine district in India say that distress is spreading, and five and a half million people are now receiving help. Relief from the United States and from Germany, as well as from all parts of the British Empire, is pouring in; but the need is still urgent.

G. M. asks the REVIEW if he can become a member of the Provincial Teachers' Institute without being a member of a County Institute. In answer, we may say that arrangements will be made at the meeting of the Institute for the enrolment of *all* teachers holding a provincial license who present themselves and pay the usual fee.