

in the service of the state, and he has held important positions in his country's service. As Foreign Minister, he was accused by his countrymen of too great forbearance in dealing with the questions in dispute between Japan and Russia, but his critics now recognize that his coolness prevented a premature outbreak of hostilities, and are ready to trust him in negotiations for peace. Baron Rosen has an imperturbable face. A closely cropped set of whiskers hides his play of expression. He seems less troubled by his responsibilities than any other of the big four. Takahira looks more like a man of ability than any of the other Japanese. He is broad of build and has a massive head for a Japanese. The striking feature of his face is his eyes, which are like the searchlights of a battleship, maintaining a steady glare, which confuses the most expert questioner. He rarely smiles and appears always to be in deep thought.

The members of the Zeigler Arctic expedition which reached Franz Josef Land two years ago, have returned in the steamer sent to their relief; their own vessel, the "America," having been crushed in the ice. Though they did not reach the Pole, their leader, Anthony Fialia, claims that they have been successful in surveying the archipelago north of Asia and discovering four new channels.

The total eclipse of the sun, on August 30th, will have been observed, if conditions were favorable, in Labrador, Spain, Tunis and Egypt. It is hoped that photographs of the sun's corona, taken at Labrador and in Egypt, with an interval of two hours between the exposures, will be of great value in determining the nature of that mysterious phenomenon.

The four Russian battleships and two cruisers sunk at Port Arthur are found to be uninjured. They were sunk by the Russians pending the expected recovery of the command of the sea; and are now, under new names, to be added to the Japanese fleet.

The visit of the French fleet to Portsmouth, which has recently brought together the war ships of France and Great Britain in token of international friendship, following a similar visit of a British fleet to Brest, may have an important bearing upon world politics—for a navy is not useless in times of peace. A great British fleet and a great French fleet lying side by side, or, as in this case, with the ships intermingled, shows not only to their own people, but to other nations, that their united force may be called into action should occasion require. Two other movements of British ships may be looked upon as peaceful demonstrations of naval power. The channel fleet is now on a visit to the Baltic; while a powerful squadron under Prince Louis, of Battenburg, is now in Canadian waters, and will visit the United States.

The new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan will be inaugurated on the first and fourth of this month, respectively. Hon. A. E. Forget, the pre-

sent governor of the Northwest Territories, becomes the first governor of Saskatchewan, and Hon. G. H. V. Bulyea first governor of Alberta.

The area of the two new provinces which enter the Dominion in September: Alberta is the larger, having an area of 253,500 square miles, while Saskatchewan has 251,100 square miles. There are three provinces which contain greater areas: British Columbia, the largest, with an area of 372,620 square miles; Quebec, 351,873 square miles; Ontario, 260,862 square miles. For the sake of comparison we give the area in square miles of the other provinces: Manitoba, 73,732; New Brunswick, 27,985; Nova Scotia, 21,428; Prince Edward Island, 2,184.

AN APPARITION.



THE TSAR—Oh, William, William, our little game is up! see who's coming round the corner!—*Weekly Irish Times*.

Each of the new provinces is nearly six times the size of New York or Pennsylvania, five times as large as the State of Illinois, seven times as large as Indiana. The only state that exceeds them in size is Texas (268,242 square miles). Each is twice as large as England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland put together with their population of 42,000,000 people; each exceeds the German Empire with its population of nearly 57,000,000, and its area 208,738 square miles, or France with 39,000,000 people, and an area (Corsica included) of 204,092 square miles.

There are said to be ninety-six steamships in the world of more than ten thousand tons burthen. Of these, Great Britain owns just one-half, Germany about one-fourth, the United States one-eighth, and the others belong to Holland, France, Denmark and Belgium, in the order named.