

CURRENT EVENTS.

The war is over. The Boer leaders surrendered on the last day of May, and there is peace to-day throughout all the King's dominions. The very liberal terms granted to the Boers, which induced them at length to become our willing fellow-subjects, secure to them rights which they denied to others, including the franchise, and the use of both the Dutch and the English language in courts and schools.

The war began with the Boer invasion of Natal, in October, 1899. This was immediately followed by the invasion of Cape Colony. Mafeking and Kimberly were attacked by the invaders, who had for two or three years been preparing for the war; Ladysmith, in northern Natal, was invested; and the British, ill prepared for defence, suffered a long series of reverses. In February, 1900, came the relief of Kimberly; the defeat and capture of Cronje and his army of three thousand men, in which the Canadians took a prominent part; and the relief of Ladysmith. Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, was occupied in March; Mafeking was relieved in May, after a siege of 186 days; and in June Lord Roberts occupied Pretoria, the Transvaal capital. In September of that year the Transvaal was formally annexed to the British dominions, and the war was officially closed; but the Boers have kept up a guerilla warfare with more or less success until the present year. The gallant stand of the Canadians at Klein Hartt's River, on the 31st of March, was the last important event of the war. The Boers have chosen a good time for making their submission. The South African summer is now over, and they are so reduced as to be hardly able to carry on another winter campaign; and the approaching coronation no doubt has had an influence in disposing the conquerors to leniency.

Arrangements are being made to send representatives of each unit of the British army in South Africa to participate in the coronation festivities in London.

The Canadian teachers sent to South Africa have arrived in Cape Colony.

The city of St. Pierre, Martinique, with 30,000 inhabitants, has been utterly destroyed by a volcanic eruption. Mont Pelee (Bald Mountain), a volcanic peak near the city, had been showing signs of activity for some days. On May 8 an explosion occurred, opening up a new crater on the side of the mountain next to the city. A blast of hot steam, burning sulphur fumes and powdered stone swept everything in its track. Ships in the harbor were sunk or burned. One only, with a few survivors, escaped. The mountain has since been sending out showers of ashes and streams of hot mud, and all the surrounding country is a barren waste. Another volcano, on the island of St. Vincent, is also in eruption, and has covered the northern part of that island with ashes. Here the eruption was perhaps not

less violent, but there was no large town near. About 4,000 people perished. The parliament of Canada, which was in session at the time, made a liberal grant in aid of the sufferers. The St. Vincent volcano, locally known as La Soufriere (the Sulphur Mine), was in eruption in 1812, but there was not such wide devastation then as at the present time.

Only less terrible than the volcanic disturbances in the West Indies, was the earthquake in Guatemala, of which detailed reports are now being published. Four towns were destroyed, with great loss of life. In one of them, Quezaltenanga, it is estimated that 2,000 people perished. This took place about three weeks before the destruction of St. Pierre. Still greater loss of life is reported from Schemacha, a town in Trans-Caucasian Russia, where a volcanic eruption and a series of earthquake shocks occurred in February.

Lord Pauncefoot, British ambassador to the United States, died in Washington on the 24th of May. He has done much to bring about that friendly feeling which now happily exists between the two great branches of the English-speaking world. At his funeral, every possible honor was accorded by the government to which he was accredited.

The act of legislature making Intercolonial standard time the official time for the Province of New Brunswick when the railways of the province will adopt the same time. Thereafter it will be twelve o'clock in New Brunswick when it is eleven o'clock in Maine, where Eastern standard time is established by law.

The United States will join Canada in putting a stop to the practice of killing fish with dynamite in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

The discovery of a finely tempered copper pickaxe in a small lake in Michigan recalls the fact that the art of tempering copper is now among the lost arts. It was re-discovered some years ago by a Canadian, who is, perhaps, still living in the Province of Quebec; but he kept his process secret, hoping to obtain for it a large amount of money. In this he was, of course, disappointed; for steel susceptible of tempering can be produced at the present time at much less cost than copper.

The Danish legislature has not agreed to the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States without a vote of the inhabitants, and the matter is delayed. It is now proposed to extend the time allowed for the ratification of the treaty.

The unveiling at Washington of a statue of Rochambeau, the leader of the French forces in the war of the American Revolution, has given occasion to acknowledge what the United States as a nation owes to France. This includes not only early friendship and recognition, but effective help in the field and on the ocean, and, in short, the very existence of the American republic as an independent sovereign power.