

# NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

Mr. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, returned to Ottawa from England on August 4th, and, in an interview, said: 'Mr. Borden made it clear that Canada has irrevocably made up her mind to stand with the Empire in fair as well as foul weather, and that in any grave emergency she would do her duty. He also made it plain that for a permanent policy a basis would have to be settled upon of co-operation in aid of Imperial defence with a consulting voice for Canada. Mr. Borden's statements were well defined, and I think the British people appreciated them. The conferences which were held with the Admiralty and the Imperial Defence Committee were for the purpose of securing information and finding out the real state of affairs. The question will now have to be shifted to this side of the water and considered by the whole cabinet, and it will be impossible to make any statement for some time.'

The Local Government Board of Liverpool has reported a case of bubonic plague. It is that of a seven-year-old boy. The child was supposed to be suffering from appendicitis, but an operation disclosed symptoms of the plague. Precautions are being taken by the authorities to prevent the disease from spreading.

The White Star Company has issued orders that the third steamer of the Olympic class under construction in Belfast, shall be provided with a double skin rising well above the water line. This is in accordance with the suggestions in Lord Mersey's report.

The convention of the new National Progressive Party, of which ex-President Theodore Roosevelt is sponsor, began its session in the Coliseum at Chicago on Monday. Governor Hiram W. Johnson, of California, has been slated for vice-president, Judge B. B. Lindsey, of Denver, Col., for permanent chairman.

The report of the majority of the committee of the United States House of Representatives which has been investigating the Steel Trust for over a year, was submitted to the House on August 2nd. It is a very voluminous document that deals with the Steel Trust from its inception, and describes the various steps by which Mr. J. P. Morgan and his associates built up the corporation. In addition to recommendations for legislation suggested as remedial, the Democratic members of the committee made general accusations against the men responsible for the organization. Mr. J. P. Morgan and his associates are held up as being the beneficiaries of enormous profits realized from the overcapitalization of the subsidiary companies of the Steel Corporation, and later of the corporation itself.

The House of Commons has passed the second reading of the Trades Union Bill, which empowers unions to employ their funds for certain political purposes. This partially reverses the effect of the court ruling known as the Osborne judgment, which declared that it was illegal for affiliated trade unions to compel unwilling members to contribute to a political fund.

Five Englishmen who arrived on August 4th at Eckernforde, Germany, on a yacht from Copenhagen, were arrested on suspicion of espionage while they were photographing a naval shooting stand. They are in prison at Kiel.

The United States Senate has by a vote of 43 to 14 adopted a provision giving the President control of all affairs at Panama with power to appoint a governor to 'complete, govern and operate' the canal and canal zone. This plan had already been endorsed by the House of Representatives and the future of the Panama Canal will thus rest in the hands of a 'one man government.'

Four militant suffragettes were put on trial on Tuesday, in Dublin, charged with having committed serious outrages at the time of the visit of Mr. Asquith. Gladys Evans was found guilty of setting fire to the theatre where the Premier was to speak. The charge against Mabel Copper was withdrawn. Lizzie Baker pleaded guilty to damaging property and the jury disagreed in the case of Mary Leigh, but she was tried for wounding Mr. Redmond by throwing a hatchet into the carriage which he occupied with Mr. Asquith. The culprits were sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Nicaragua again has a revolution on its hands, but it is expected to be of brief duration. United States sailors have been landed at Managua to protect American interests.

The Italians after a vigorous fight on August 6th at Zoara, Tripoli, have occupied the town, the Turkish and Arab soldiers retiring to the desert.

Mr. John W. Herron, father of the wife of President Taft, died at his home in Cincinnati, on August 5th, after an illness of several years. He was 85 years old. Mr. Herron was for many years one of Cincinnati's most prominent attorneys and was United States district attorney under President Harrison.

Mount Etna is again in eruption, fire, smoke and lava pouring forth from the main crater and a new mouth has opened on the northeast side of the mountain, throwing out lava and hot stones. At present there seems to be no danger from the disturbance, but as several earthquakes followed the eruption, the population of Calania are greatly alarmed.

There is intense excitement in Montenegro, and dangerous complications are feared as a result of Turkish troops crossing the frontier in pursuit of guerilla bands.

The first reciprocity agreement with Canada has been carried in the Legislative Council of Trinidad by 3 votes against 5 and in the Chamber of Commerce by a majority of one vote. The opponents of the agreement argued that it would be of no benefit to the colony outside of the sugar industry, and would probably be harmful to the cocoa and coconut industry. The supporters of the agreement urged that its acceptance would show the imperial sentiment of Trinidad, and that it would be the first step toward general trade within the British Empire.

Asked in the House of Commons by Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke whether the resignation of Mr. James Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States, was impending, and whether his successor had been appointed, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replied:—'Mr. Bryce is returning to Washington early in September to resume his work there as Ambassador.'

The Turkish island of Nicaria (also known as Icaria) in the Aegean Sea has proclaimed its independence of the Turkish Government. The inhabitants, who number about 13,000, seized and imprisoned all the Turkish officials. The island which has an area of about fifty square miles, is famous in mythology for the death of Icarus, whose waxen wings melted while he was flying. At the present day it is occupied almost solely by charcoal burners of Greek nationality.

Bishop Casey, of St. John, N.B., has been appointed archbishop of Vancouver, in succession to Archbishop McNeil, who was recently transferred by the Holy See to Toronto. Bishop Casey will be succeeded as Bishop of St. John by the Rev. Father Leblanc, parish priest at St. Bernard's, Digby County.

Lord Stratheona celebrated his 92nd birthday on August 6th.

The Boy Scouts of the County of Kent in England, are carrying out this week a big scheme of mobilization and communication prepared by Commander James Galloway, a retired officer of the British Navy and other officers. The boys were sent off to watch the southeastern coast of England in sections extending from New Romney round the Forelands to the Isle of Sheppey, and their duty is to pass information between the coast and London and between towns in the County of Kent, and to form lines of communication with adjacent counties. Stations have been established at half-mile intervals, with three scouts posted at each. In time of war, with an attack by warships on the coast, and the resulting cutting of communications, it is believed that this human chain would be invaluable, and, if it is successful on this occasion, it is to be made an annual affair.

The old palace of Peter the Great, on Petrowski Island, which he used as a summer residence, has been destroyed by fire. The fire started in a lumberyard and spread to warehouses and other buildings until it reached the palace. The famous old structure contained a number of paintings, but none of them was of great value. The fire burned several hours. The damage is estimated at \$1,000,000.

A large party of members of the Educational Institute of Scotland arrived in Montreal from Glasgow on August 5th. They will visit various parts of Canada before returning home. They were preceded a few days before by a large party of English teachers who are making a tour of the country.

Ottawa is again suffering from a typhoid fever epidemic, notwithstanding strenuous efforts by the civic authorities to improve the sanitary conditions as well as the water supply.

At a dinner in the Carlton Club to Mr. Borden and his colleagues, at which over three hundred distinguished guests were present, Mr. Bonar Law proposed the toast to the guests, and in doing so said that, although members of a political party, it was not as partisans that they welcomed them. 'We take no share in Canadian politics, and the last thing in the world we should desire is a political alliance between the Conservative party in England and the Conservatives of Canada. What is necessary to-day is co-operation, not only in time of war, but in peace as well. That is why we advocate imperial preference. We look forward to the time when the self-governing dominions will share their responsibility in the Empire. It is a good omen for the Empire that a great Canadian leader has come to discuss the question of imperial defence. The position is serious, but it has one advantage, that outside pressure tends to weld together the different parts of the Empire.' Mr. Borden in responding expressed great appreciation to the Carlton Club for the honor conferred. The Premier emphasized the work of Confederation in Canada, and suggested that it might prove an inspiration to guide in the wider and greater task of imperial consolidation. We will return to Canada with valuable information. We will confer with our colleagues upon the proposals and will arrive at a result, I believe, which will make for the strengthening of the Empire. I believe the future organization of the Empire and the preservation of its world wide influence depends in no small measure indeed upon the attitude of the people of the British Isles.

Following the report of Lord Mersey on the loss of the SS. 'Titanic', Mr. Buxton, president of the Board of Trade, has appointed a committee of experts headed by Professor John Harvard Biles, vice-president of the Institution of Naval Architecture, to advise with him in the interests of saving life at sea.