

# NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

With this issue the 'Canadian Pictorial' enters many new homes. To those who have not seen it before, we may say that our object is to present, pictorially, the news of the day, edited from a Canadian point of view, for Canadians or those interested in Canada and the British Empire. We are not yet at our best, but our readers may expect the highest class of work. Our aim will be to publish a monthly that will not be merely of passing interest, but worth preserving as an illustrated historical record. Our readers, old as well as new, will be interested in the Christmas suggestion on page 26, and to all we heartily say—

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Bulgarian Cabinet has resigned because it had not the support of parliament. M. Petroff, Minister of the Interior, is forming a new one.

Japan, it is reported, has decided to build a new battleship to exceed the displacement of the new British battleship the 'Dreadnought' by 3,000 tons.

President Roosevelt has arrived home well pleased with his trip to Panama and Porto Rico. He will recommend in a special message to Congress that Porto Ricans be granted full American citizenship.

Joseph F. Smith, the president of the Mormon Church, was arraigned last week before the District Court of Salt Lake on the charge of polygamy. He acknowledged the crime, and was fined three hundred dollars.

The steamship 'Bavarian,' of the Allan Line, which has been ashore on the Wye Rock in the St. Lawrence since Nov. 3 a year ago, has just been floated by Mr. Leslie, of Kingston, and taken to Quebec to dry dock.

Notable among the King's birthday honors bestowed last month is the knighthood conferred on Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., and C. M. G. conferred on Dr. Samuel Edward Dawson, King's Printer and Comptroller of Stationery for the Dominion of Canada.

Professor Giovanni Rossi, the famous zoologist of the University of Naples, was stabbed and killed on Nov. 16 by an anarchist named Lagana, who returned to Naples a short time ago from Paterson, N.J. His crime, in the eyes of Lagana, was that he condemned the crimes of the anarchists as barbarous.

A scheme is on foot to improve the navigation of the Richelieu River by deepening the channel from Lake Champlain to St. John's, a distance of 22 miles, from St. John's to Chambly Basin, a distance of 12 miles, and then to construct a canal from Chambly Basin right across to Longueuil, opposite Montreal.

The Chicago Drainage Canal is at the present time draining water from Lake Michigan at the rate of 5,000,000 cubic feet per second, and the Chicago authorities are working to obtain permission to double this amount. The probable effect of this enormous quantity of water being diverted from the St. Lawrence waterway is causing much anxiety in shipping circles.

Prince George of Serbia has been declared insane. There is said to be consternation at court over the matter. The prince will be sent to a foreign sanatorium. He manifested his insanity by his dealings with his servants and officers in attendance, calling them 'Serbian dogs.' He contracted large debts. It is reported that his brother Alexander will be declared heir to the throne.

Great damage was done last week by a storm along the south of Europe. Many boats were wrecked, and on the Riviera all the familiar fashionable promenades and favorite resorts were destroyed along ninety miles of coast, the loss being estimated at \$5,000,000. Submarine boats escaped by diving and remaining below until the worst passed. Heavy snow storms and land slides were common throughout the Alps, and over a foot of water stood on St. Mark's Square, Venice.

A bomb was exploded in St. Peter's, in Rome, on a recent Sunday. The edifice was crowded, and an indescribable scene of confusion followed. The church is so large, however, that there was ample room for the crowd to scatter, and no one was injured. No trace of the perpetrator of the deed has been found. The Pope has kept one of the nails with which the bomb was charged as a souvenir.

Germany is suffering from a meat famine since the passage of the law, following the Chicago packing-house exposures, which forbade the importation of foreign meat into Germany, and in remote districts people are said to be eating the flesh of dogs and cats. To meet this state of affairs word came this week that residents in Charlottenburg, the fashionable suburb of Berlin, were themselves going into hog raising.

Mr. N. Darnell Davis, Auditor General of British Guiana, calls attention to the fact that December 19 prox. is the 300th anniversary of the sailing from Blackwall, England, of the 'Sara Constant,' the 'God-speed,' and the 'Discovery' for Virginia, and suggests that on that day all British and American ships, wherever they may be, dress ship in commemoration of the inception of British colonial enterprise in the new world.

The latest phase of the Newfoundland fisheries problem is the arrest of two Newfoundland fishermen to test the constitutionality of the Modus Vivendi. The men on Nov. 3 shipped aboard the 'Ralph Hall,' a United States herring vessel outside the three mile limit, and for having on Nov. 12 put herring on board her in violation of the Bait Act have been fined \$500 each, with the alternative of three months in prison. The case will be appealed.

A very valuable set of original manuscripts and private letters of Robert Burns has been secured by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, at a cost of \$200,000. It is believed to be the intention of Mr. Morgan to bequeath them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and that their importation is the forerunner of the arrival of numberless other European treasures of literature and art which Mr. Morgan is reported to have accumulated on the other side. The value of his collections is said to be nearly \$15,000,000, but the heavy tariff has deterred him from bringing them over.

A terrible railway wreck occurred near Woodville, Indiana, on Nov. 12, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. Owing to wrong orders a west-bound immigrant train loaded with Russian Jews, Servians and Poles crashed into an east bound freight. More than half of the 165 unfortunate foreigners aboard the train were either killed outright or burned to death in the fire that followed, and the bodies of 45 of these were burned beyond all hope of recognition. Thirty-eight persons were injured, several fatally, and the eighty others who escaped unhurt lost almost everything they had with them.

A disaster occurred in Puget Sound on Nov. 18, by which 43 lives were lost. The ore steamer 'Jeanie,' of the Alaska Coast Company, collided with the passenger steamer 'Dix,' bound from Seattle to Port Blakely, early in the evening. There was hardly time to launch life rafts or boats before the 'Dix' was almost entirely submerged. The passengers from the 'Dix' who could swim made their way to the sides of the 'Jeanie,' and were dragged aboard. The 'Jeanie' was not moved until after all who had reached her had been hauled aboard. Then she cruised about picking up several who had managed to stay above water. The master of the 'Dix' was saved.

Word just received from Captain Bernier on the Dominion Government cruiser 'Arctic,' from Pond's Inlet, Baffin's Land, under date of Sept. 29 last, reports noteworthy success in his exploratory expedition in Arctic waters. He has taken formal possession for Canada of Melville, Prince Rupert, Patrick, Eglinton, Emerald, Byam, Martin, Bathurst, Cornwallis, Griffiths, Lowther, Young, Garrett, Russell, Davey, and Bylot Islands, all lying west of Baffin's Land. At Erebus Bay, Captain Bernier restored the Sir John Franklin monument, replaced the stone, and repainted the headstones of the men's graves. Captain Bernier expects next July to push north from Baffin's Land towards Lincoln Island and Jones Sound on the north-west coast of Greenland. The 'Arctic' herself is safe and sound and her captain says is doing her duty well.

The career of Herr Steubel, the German Minister at Stockholm, was badly shaken by the Tippelskirch scandal, when he was director of the Colonial Department, but the final blow is said to have been dealt when the Kaiser was on his cruise in Norwegian and Swedish waters. The story is that one day Herr Steubel boarded the Imperial yacht, but forgot to take with him a large number of despatches addressed to the Emperor, some of which announced the birth of his grandson, while others congratulated him upon the event. While taking dinner with the Emperor, the minister casually remarked that His Majesty must feel pleased at seeing the town beflagged in honor of the birth of a son to the Crown Prince. The Kaiser became furious because of the information reaching him in this extremely informal manner, and because of the minister forgetting to bring his despatches. He sent for the messages, which numbered 400. The first one he opened was from the Sultan congratulating him. His Majesty thereupon telegraphed to the Crown Prince saying: 'I have just learned from the Sultan that a son has been born to you.' Herr Steubel was ignored for the rest of the day by the Kaiser and everybody else on board the yacht.

In England the excitement over the Education Bill, and its mutilation by the House of Lords, increases. An emergency meeting of the National Liberal Federation was called in London on Nov. 27, at which a resolution was unanimously adopted urging the Government to reject the amendments of the Lords, and 'resolutely to determine that the present Parliament shall not come to an end until steps are taken to bring to a final arbitration, the question whether the House of Peers should any longer possess the right to veto the will of the people as declared by the House of Commons. The meeting was the largest and most representative of its kind which has assembled during the last twenty years. The speakers warmly denounced the action of the Peers, declaring that the House of Commons should not waste another day on considering the amendments to the bill, which should be returned to the House of Lords without debate, and that the Liberal Government ought to apply the only remedy, which must be drastic and final. A letter from Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, while expressing surprise at the violence of the protestations, said: 'We will have no tampering with the main principles upon which our bill is founded. If within those limits an arrangement can be reached all well and good. If not, it will be for us to see that on this question of education, and on others, a way is found by which the wishes of the country may be made to prevail.'