

CURRENT EVENTS.

Unlike the governments of other countries, the government of the United States cannot conclude a treaty that will be binding without the approval of the senate. The general arbitration treaty with Great Britain and her dominions has not met with that approval; and, unless the United States senate shall approve of it later, it will not go into effect.

The House of Lords has accepted the bill which limits its powers, and the measure has received the King's assent. Hereafter, a bill which does not please the members of the upper house, instead of being thrown out, can be delayed for two years. If the House of Commons then still persists in passing it, it may become law without the consent of the lords.

Reciprocity with the United States in the exchange of natural products, and its probable effect upon Canada if adopted, are practically the only issues before the electors, in the pending general election for members of the Dominion Parliament. When the United States was more prosperous than this country, the Canadian authorities repeatedly asked for reciprocity and it was refused. Now that Canada is the more prosperous, the United States asks for it, and it is left to the Canadian people to say whether they will consent. The present government believe they will do so; the opposition think that they will refuse. The appeal to the people upon a question of public policy is known in politics as the referendum. The present appeal is, therefore, practically a referendum.

The widespread disturbances in Mexico continue. Comparing the situation in that country with that in Texas half a century ago, a leading New York newspaper thinks it just as certain as sunrise that Mexico will be annexed by the United States. This page of the REVIEW is not concerned with *future* events; but the existence of such a feeling, or rather its frank expression, is a current event of such significance as to seem worth noting.

Portugal has had its first presidential election. The new president has entered upon the duties of his office; but there is a strong party in favour of the monarchy, and it is not improbable that an attempt will be made to replace King Manuel upon the throne.

The revolution in Hayti has been completely successful in so far as military operations are concerned. President Simon has been deposed and has fled from the country. It is by no means certain that the victors can agree among themselves as to who shall be their next president. The cause of the uprising is said to have been popular disapproval of certain railway concessions granted to Americans.

The Canadian cruiser Niobe was seriously damaged by striking a reef off Cape Sable, N. S. She has been taken to Halifax for repairs.

The exiled Shah of Persia, attempting to recover his throne, has won the first battle with the government forces.

It is well known in Germany that a war with France over the Moroccan question means a war with Britain, not, perhaps, because our country is directly interested in the territory that is in dispute, but because British

commercial interests would be endangered by an extension of German power and influence along the West African coast. It is not yet thirty years since the Germans acquired their three small territories on the west coast, Togoland, the Cameroons and German West Africa; to which German East Africa was added later. The total white population of these four colonies does not exceed twenty thousand; but German steamships trade all along the coast, and British trade is feeling the competition. If war should come, the winning nation would have a practical monopoly of the steamship trade of the entire west coast.

Excavations in Asia Minor brought to light some years ago the fact that the Hittites were a powerful people, ruling over that country and disputing with Egypt and Babylon the possession of the lands that lay between. Numbers of the state archives of the Hittites, written on clay tablets, have been found in the ruins of their ancient buildings; but their script has not yet been deciphered, and our only knowledge of them comes from some of their documents written in the Assyrian language, which refer to their foreign affairs. A special fund is now to be raised in London for the study of the Hittite remains.

French airmen are still far ahead of all others in the new art of flying, but England will be one of the first to carry mail in the air. This is but a temporary arrangement. The aerial post will, for a few days, receive mail at the central post office in London and carry it to Windsor, whence it will be forwarded to all parts of the world. The postage is higher than the ordinary rates, and the net profits will be devoted to some public charity. Flying is also becoming a popular amusement, and aerial journeys can now be made at the rate of half a guinea per mile.

Russia has plans for a large sea-going protected cruiser that will be capable of submersion in three minutes. This submarine cruiser is to be four hundred feet long, and will have a speed of twenty-five knots on the surface, and fourteen knots when submerged. Somewhat similar plans for a submersible battleship are in the possession of the British admiralty.

Strikes of dockers and railway men in England have been so serious during the last month that traffic was interrupted and troops had to be called out to suppress disorder. Far worse, however, was the situation in France, where the systematic destruction of property is a part of the organized work of the strikers. According to official figures, no less than three thousand attempts have been made to wreck railway trains since last October in different parts of the country; and there, as in England, soldiers were needed to protect the public, whose rights in ordinary strikes neither labourers nor employers seem inclined to respect.

The beginning of the month sees very grave uncertainty as to the outcome of the Morocco incident. The issue of war or peace may be decided before the REVIEW goes to press. Britain, France and Germany are preparing for war. So is Belgium, for its fields would be invaded if Germany wished to use them as a base of operations against either England or France. Though Morocco were the cause, Belgium might be the centre of the war.