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**Mr. Chamberlain's** Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has gone to Egypt for rest and to secure the advantages of a more genial climate.

## Health.

If some of the cabled accounts respecting Mr. Chamberlain's health are to be credited, his condition is sufficiently serious to cause his friends alarm. It is said that his appearance fully confirms the rumors in circulation as to the seriousness of his physical condition. It is pointed out that at such a time as the present when the Government may go to pieces any day, Mr. Chamberlain would never think of leaving the country except under positive compulsion. There is talk of his having never wholly recovered from the effects of an accident which he sustained at the time of the Coronation and of his having suffered from exposure to the tropical sun in South Africa or the Soudan. It is not unlikely that Mr. Chamberlain who is no longer a young man is worn down and in need of rest after the strain of the campaign in the interests of imperialism through which he has just passed. It is not unlikely that he has failed to make due allowance for the waning physical vigor that inevitably attends advancing years, and has accordingly overtaxed his strength. But it is also probable that his condition is by no means so serious as has been represented and that he will return from Egypt in the course of a few weeks or months eager to prosecute his propaganda against free trade.

## British Politics.

The vote in the British House of Commons on Mr. Morley's amendment condemning the Government's fiscal policy, was lost by an adverse vote of fifty one. The opposition vote included that of the sixty-nine Irish Nationalists who voted, not on the merits of the fiscal question, but to declare their opposition to a Government which declined to make home rule for Ireland a plank in its platform. The Government's trade policy, as set forth by Mr. Wyndham, is based upon Premier Balfour's Sheffield declaration, issued by him at the time of Mr. Chamberlain's withdrawal from the Government. It excludes Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of protection and preferential trade with the Colonies and departs from the free trade principle only in asking the power of retaliation in order to give effect to negotiations for profitable trade with protectionist countries. According to Mr. Wyndham's statement a duty of ten per cent on manufactured articles all round is no part of the Government policy, nor taxation of foreign manufactures, nor a tax on raw materials. The Government is pledged to exclude a colonial preference in the policy to be submitted at the general elections. However, Mr. Wyndham did not wish to speak unsympathetically of the advance made by Canada in the matter of a preferential tariff, and said that Parliament was not insensible to the enormous value of the sentiment underlying the idea of a colonial preference. It is evident that as Mr. Balfour and his colleagues read the signs of the times, the people of Great Britain are not yet ready to give hospitable reception to any policy involving a pronounced departure from the free trade principle. It is however more than suspected that among the members of the Administration there is much more sympathy for Mr. Chamberlain's propaganda than reflects itself in the Government's declared policy.

## Last Week's

### Elections.

By-elections were held in eight constituencies on Tuesday last. One of the elections was for St. John City, one in P. E. Island, four in Quebec Province and two in Ontario. The two Ontario constituencies—East Lambton and East Bruce—had in the last previous election been represented by Conservatives, all the others had returned supporters of the Government. The result of Tuesday's election was to take one seat from the Government and give it to the Opposition, Dr. Daniel being returned for St. John by a majority of 269 over Mr. McKeown, the Government candidate. This result is in marked contrast with that of the general election when the Liberal candidate—Hon. Mr. Blair—was returned by nearly a thousand majority. It would appear that disapproval of the Government's trans-continental railway policy, so strongly expressed by the late Minister of Railways, had been in part at least endorsed by the St. John electors, but no doubt other influences also were at work, which had their

share in bringing about the result of Tuesday last. While, apart from the St. John election, the Government papers generally express satisfaction at the result of Tuesday's elections, the Conservative papers take much encouragement from the fact that where Liberals were returned, it was in most cases by a diminished majority as compared with the last previous election, and that in the two Ontario constituencies the Conservative candidates secured considerably increased majorities.

## The Treaty

### With Japan.

The treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan was made two years ago when Lord Salisbury was still the controlling spirit of Great Britain's foreign policy. The treaty was made doubtless in view of the contingency—not to say the probability—of war between Russia and Japan and may be taken to indicate Lord Salisbury's conviction that Great Britain could not afford to maintain a neutral attitude in case a combination of powers should be formed for the purpose of crushing Japan. Now that the war has become an actuality, the text of the treaty referred to becomes a matter of special interest. The full text is as follows:

Agreement between Great Britain and Japan, signed at London, January 30, 1902.

The Governments of Great Britain and Japan, actuated solely by a desire to maintain the status quo and general peace in the extreme East, being moreover specially interested in maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of the Empire of China and the Empire of Korea, and in securing equal opportunities in those countries for the commerce and industry of all nations, hereby given as follows.

Article I.—The High Contracting Parties, having mutually recognized the independence of China and Korea, declare themselves to be entirely uninfluenced by any aggressive tendencies in either country. Having in view, however, their special interests, of which those of Great Britain relate principally to China, while Japan, in addition to the interests which she possesses in China, is interested in a peculiar degree politically, as well as commercially and industrially, in Korea the High Contracting Parties recognize that it will be admissible for either of them to take such measures as may be indispensable in order to safeguard those interests if threatened either by the aggressive action of any other power, or by disturbances arising in China or Korea, and necessitating the intervention of either of the High Contracting Parties for the protection of the lives and property of its subjects.

Article II.—If either Great Britain or Japan, in defence of their respective interests as above described, should become involved in war with another power, the other High Contracting Party will maintain a strict neutrality, and use its efforts to prevent other powers from joining in hostilities against its ally.

Article III.—If in the above event any other power or powers should join in hostilities against that ally, the other High Contracting Party will come to its assistance and will conduct the war in common, and make peace in mutual agreement with it.

Article IV.—The High Contracting Parties agree that neither of them will, without consulting the other, enter into separate arrangements with another power to the prejudice of the interests above described.

Article V.—Whenever, in the opinion of either Great Britain or Japan, the above mentioned interests are in jeopardy, the two governments will communicate with one another fully and frankly.

Article VI.—The present agreement shall come into effect immediately after the date of the signature, and remain in force for five years from that date.

## Barbarities

### in the Soudan.

The extension of British rule over savage and semi-civilized peoples in various parts of the world, while of course it does not at once elevate those people to a condition of civilization and insure a perfect administration of affairs, does at least mean the abolition of many cruel and inhuman customs, and establishes, so far as conditions permit, principles of justice and humanity. British rule for example quickly puts an end to such a condition of things as is described as existing in the city of Kano in the western Soudan a year ago, when the British took possession of the place because the Emir had refused to abide by the treaty which had placed his territory under British dominion. Sir F. D. Lugard who seized the city has written a description of the prison in which the Emir kept his prisoners. When he visited the dungeon he squeezed his way into it through a doorway only two feet six inches high and one foot six inches wide. The interior was divided by a thick mud wall, with a smaller hole through it, into two compartments, each seventeen feet by seven on the floor and

eleven feet high. The wall was pierced at its base with holes through which the legs of those sentenced to death were thrust and they were left to be trodden on by the crowd of other prisoners till they died of thirst and starvation. The place was perfectly airtight and without ventilation, except for the hole in the wall which served as a doorway. The total space was 2,618 feet, and when Lugard's troops took Kano, a hundred and thirty-five persons were confined in the dungeon every night. During the day they were turned out into a small adjoining area. Sometimes as many as 200 persons were packed into the dungeon at one time. As the ground was only 238 square feet there was not even standing room except by literally packing the prisoners like sardines in a box. Several of them were crushed to death every night and their bodies were hauled out in the morning. One of the open spaces in the town was the place where decapitations were regularly performed and another place near the great market was the site where the limbs of hapless prisoners were amputated almost daily.

## The War.

There has been comparatively little war news during the past week, which can be regarded as trustworthy. The loss of a Russian warship at Port Arthur is confirmed. Russian accounts say that she was blown up by coming in contact with a mine in the harbor. There are other accounts, however, which say she was torpedoed by the Japanese. Another attack was made by torpedo boats on the Russian war ships at Port Arthur on the night of Sunday the 14th inst. The Japanese official account says that two Russian ships were torpedoed and that at least in the case of one of them the attack was effective. A fierce snow storm, it is reported, prevented the Japanese making their attack on the Russian fleet as effective as it otherwise would have been. The Russian Vladivostok fleet has not been heard of since it destroyed a Japanese steamer in the Tsugaru Straits, but from the fact that Vice-roy Alexiief has reported having received by telegraph news of the destruction of the Japanese steamer it is inferred that the Russian fleet had returned to Vladivostok. The Japanese fleet has been strengthened by the arrival at Yokosuka of the two new cruisers built at Genoa and recently purchased by Japan from the Argentine Republic. From reports that appear to be trustworthy, Japan has been moving large bodies of troops to the mainland, but their particular destination is uncertain. There are reports of a large concentration of Japanese troops at Wensan on the northeast coast of Korea and also at a point on the northwest coast beyond Chemulpo. There are also rumors of the Japanese having established a force on the Liaoning peninsula in the neighborhood of Port Arthur. At present writing, however, all this is uncertain. It appears to be certain that Vice-roy Alexiief has left Port Arthur and gone to Harbin, a point on the railway some 600 miles north from Port Arthur and 400 miles from Vladivostok. It is believed to be the intention of the Russian commander to make Harbin the base of operations. This does not necessarily mean that the Russians will abandon Port Arthur, but it would seem to be a provision for that contingency. The Russians are expected to act upon the defensive while establishing their base of operations awaiting supplies and reinforcements.

The latest despatches published here at this time of going to press add little or nothing that can be accepted as trustworthy to what is given above. There are vague rumors of fighting on the Yalu River—the boundary between Korea and Manchuria—attended with a Russian loss of 2500 killed. There are other reports which say that Japan is massing troops on the Yalu. But these reports are not confirmed from any official source, and must be regarded as doubtful.

—The vice of cigarette smoking among children in England is judged by men of world-wide reputation to be of sufficient importance to call forth their efforts for its suppression. A manifesto has been issued on the subject, to which is attached the names of Lord Kelvin, Lord Wolseley, Mr. Justice Grantham, Dr. Bernardo, General Booth, Bishops and Members of Parliament and Mr. John Tweedy, president of the Royal College of Surgeons. It emphasizes the evident duty of parents to control their boys in regard to this habit which is doing so much to undermine their health and ruin their character.