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He has also twenty-two wounds as a reminiscence of his experience among the inhospitable Thibetans. It is stated that Mr. Landor had been commissioned by the London Daily Mail to endeavor to reach Lassa, the capital city of Thibet, where, in the midst of great wealth and magnificence, the Grand Llama resides. At Lassa also is the great Temple of Buddha, a vast edifice with a gilded dome,—its interior said to be filled with idols, treasures and works of art. There also are famous schools of the Buddhist religion and philosophy.

intersected by the Canada Atlantic railway. A great part of the county, it would appear, has been burned over and the condition of ruin in which the whole district is left is sad to contemplate. What a few hours before was a smiling country, clad in the crimson of autumn, is now a charred and blackened waste. The barns garnering the season's crops have been destroyed. Many of the settlers have lost their houses, furniture, stock and everything but their land and their lives. They will need much assistance, which also must come promptly if they are to escape extreme suffering.

Mr. Blake's Appeal. In a letter published in the Toronto Globe, Hon. Edward Blake appeals to Irish Canadians on behalf of the struggle for home rule in Ireland. The approaching session of the Imperial Parliament Mr. Blake says will be an Irish session by virtue of the prominence which will be given to county government, Imperial taxation and other matters which particularly affect Irish interests. Whether or not, in the action taken upon these subjects, the immediate aims of the Irish party are attained, the ultimate result of their discussion, Mr. Blake thinks, cannot but be favorable to the cause of home rule. The great race convention held some time ago in Dublin has borne good fruit, he believes. Factional strife has grown less bitter. There is more of a disposition on the part of the factions to co-operate. With the most influential men of Mr. Redmond's party working effectively for unity, and with the masses of the people earnestly desirous of joining hands, Mr. Blake does not believe that a few individuals will much longer succeed in keeping them apart. But the results of past mistakes are still to be contended with. There is need of funds with which to pay the indemnities of Irish members of Parliament and for other expenses. This need is made more urgent by the distress, next door to famine, with which the country is threatened. Mr. Blake is therefore making this appeal to his Irish-Canadian fellow-countrymen "to associate themselves with him in a renewal of those proofs of loyalty to the cause which have so distinguished them in the past."

Affairs in Spain. Since the assassination, in August last, of Spain's Prime Minister, Senor Canovas del Castillo, one administration, under the leadership of General Azcarraga, has lived out its brief existence and ceased to be. In his administration of affairs Azcarraga followed in the steps of Canovas, but, lacking much of the masterful personality of the latter, the policy which had met with formidable opposition in the hands of Canovas became still more unpopular under his successor. With many Conservatives of the less extreme type the policy of the Government in reference to Cuba was especially unpopular. This dissatisfied contingent was ably led, and the result was so to weaken the following of Azcarraga as to make his continued leadership impracticable. It was at first thought that an administration might be formed under Senor Silvela or Marshal Martinez de Campos, statesmen of a less rigidly Conservative type than the late Prime Minister, but those gentlemen declined to undertake the task, and, on the advice of Marshal Campos, the Queen Regent called upon Senor Sagasta, the Liberal leader, to form a government. Sagasta has had a long experience in public affairs, and in point of ability and character is said to take rank among the best of Spanish statesmen. It is believed that, in view of the desperate condition of affairs in Cuba and the menace of revolution at home, the succession of Sagasta to the leadership will mean the inauguration of a much more liberal policy in government than has hitherto obtained in Spain and her colonies. Whether any concession that can now be made will save Cuba to Spain is, however, a matter of grave doubt. Gen. Weyler, Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish forces in Cuba, has been recalled and Gen. Blanco named as his successor. But Weyler has declined to resign and will probably use all influences within his power to enable him to retain his position. What the outcome will be is doubtful.

The Seal Question. The seal question continues to evoke a good deal of discussion which is not conciliatory in tone or promotive of kindly feelings between this country and the United States. At Washington, Great Britain's refusal to participate in a Behring Sea Convention in which Russia and Japan are also to be represented, is charged to Canada, and threatenings of retaliation are breathed out against us if this country should have the temerity to take a position which would thwart the purpose of her big neighbor in reference to the seal fisheries. Canadians are not likely to lose much sleep by reason of these threatenings, which probably do not emanate from such a source as would render them alarming. It is shrewdly suspected, however, that the policy of the United States Government on the Seal question is being dictated much too largely by a powerful company which has secured a monopoly of the sealing business on the Pribyloff Islands and desires to bring about such a condition of affairs as shall virtually free itself from competition on the part of Canadian sealers. On the basis of the Paris award Canadians have the undoubted right to hunt seals in Behring Sea, and on this understanding Canada makes no objection to a conference with the United States, such as was agreed to by the British Government, to receive the testimony of experts and consider what additional measures, if any, it may be necessary to take to preserve the seal life of the Behring Sea from too rapid depletion. But our Government, it appears, does object to Russia and Japan being invited to take part in the conference under such conditions that they may vote with the United States to the prejudice of British and Canadian interests. It has been boldly stated by some leading United States papers that Great Britain first agreed to the conference which the United States Government is now calling for, and afterwards, prompted by Canada, withdrew consent. But the New York Herald shows that it was not such a conference as is now proposed—with Russia and Japan included, and with power to revise the sealing regulations—to which Lord Salisbury agreed. According to the Herald, which is not likely to be unduly biased in England's favor, it is the United States Government and not Lord Salisbury against whom the charge of inconsistency in this matter justly lies.

An Inhospitable Country. In almost every country of the world today the traveller may pursue his journey in perfect, or at least comparative, safety. One of the few exceptions to this rule is Thibet. There western foreigners find little hospitality, and the European who has the temerity to explore the country must be prepared to take risks involving the most serious contingencies. A recent despatch from Bombay gives an account of a terrible experience met with in Thibet by Mr. Henry Savage Landor, the well-known artist and traveller, and a grandson of Walter Savage Landor, the poet. In the course of a tour of exploration through the country, Mr. Landor found himself abandoned by all his party, with the exception of two coolies. Finally he was arrested by the Thibetans and sentenced to death. After being tortured with hot irons, he was conveyed to the execution grounds, and the carrying out of the sentence was only prevented at almost the last moment by the Grand Llama, who commuted the sentence to torture by the rack. The result was serious injury to Mr. Landor's spine and limbs.

The Russell County Fire. The very dry weather which for some time past has prevailed in the more central portions of this continent has made the conditions unusually favorable for the spreading of prairie and forest fires. From Michigan, Indiana and other States, and also from Manitoba very destructive fires have been reported. But the most disastrous of all appears to be that which last week swept over Russell County, Ont. Some three hundred square miles of country, it is stated, have been burned over, several small towns or villages have been swept away, the loss of property is very great and at least nine persons are said to have perished in the flames. Russell county lies along the bank of the Ottawa river, one corner of it being only a few miles from the capital. It is

—We are informed that half fare rates will be granted by the Dominion Atlantic Railway to persons attending the Installation services at Wolfville, on Thursday, the 15th inst. Persons going from St. John can take passage by the Prince Rupert on Thursday morning.