

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

The anti-Asiatic agitation at Vancouver is at present in a state of abeyance. Sir Wilfrid Laurier received a telegram from Mayor Bethune, in which the latter advised the Premier that the 900 Hindoos landed from the 'Monteagle' were not paupers, but that the situation was serious from a sanitary standpoint if a proper place was not at once procured in which to house them. Sir Wilfrid replied that he was glad to learn that the Hindoos in question were not paupers, and that a special officer was being sent West to investigate. Mr. W. D. Scott, Canadian Superintendent of Immigration, believes that, if legislation were passed making it a condition of entry into the country that every immigrant must have a certain amount of money so as to prevent him from becoming a charge on the country, it would assist greatly in controlling the influx of Asiatics. Mr. K. Ishii, chief of the consular service of Japan, had a conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which afforded opportunity for a discussion of Canada's proposal to limit the number of Japanese entering this country to about six hundred yearly. The total number of Asiatics now in Canada is between 30,000 and 35,000.

Three of the Moroccan tribes on Tuesday, Sept. 24, accepted unconditionally the terms offered by France, and peace has been declared. These terms provide, among other things, that authors of outrages on Europeans shall be surrendered, and that two notables of each tribe shall be given up as hostages in order to secure the carrying out of the convention. There are still several tribes who have not yet accepted the conditions, and these have retired to such a distance that, in order not to lose touch with them, General Drude has received orders not to return to the main camp after each day's operations. M. Malperthuy, the French consul at Casablanca, is of the opinion that the three tribes may be allowed to retain their arms provisionally to preserve order in their territory and force the other tribes to submit. It is said that the famous consignment of rifles at Mazagan has been carried off and that the weapons are now on their way to Morocco City. The empty cases were left behind. The governor will be held responsible for the disappearance of the weapons.

In the government investigation of the Quebec Bridge disaster, a number of witnesses testified as to either seeing, or having heard of, defects in chord No. 9 in the main cantilever pier. On Sept. 17 the Commissioners visited the injured workmen at their homes, and in the hospital at Levis, to procure evidence of the nature of the collapse. The next day at the Bellair yards; and on the day following the bridge site and the storage yards occupied their attention. The engineers who were available at Quebec, have been under examination, and all appear to agree that, although certain deflections in chord 9 were discovered, no particular anxiety was felt by those highest in authority on the spot. The Commission concluded their labors at Quebec on Sept. 24, and transferred the scene of the inquiry to Ottawa, New York, and Phoenix, Pa., will also be visited.

Judge Longley, on Sept. 23, gave his decision in the famous Steel-Coal case at Sydney, N.S. He finds in favor of the Steel Company on all points, and holds that the coal supplied the latter was neither of quality nor quantity demanded by contract. The Coal Company is ordered to pay all damages thus caused, and to live up to its contract in future.

A despatch from Tokio, dated Sept 17, says that twenty-seven of the crew were killed or injured on board the Japanese battleship 'Kashima' by the explosion of a twelve-inch shell within the shield, after target practice near Kure at 4 p.m. on Sept. 9.

The 'Lusitania,' the latest in Cunarders, made her maiden voyage from Queenstown to New York in five days and fifty-four minutes, being six hours and twenty-nine minutes better than the previous record held by the 'Lucania,' of the same line. It is expected that the 'Lusitania' will do better than this, as her speed was considerably reduced owing to bad weather she encountered when off the Great Banks. The dimensions of this mammoth ocean greyhound convey but a vague idea of her size—the figures are as follows:—Length, 790 feet; breadth, 88 feet; depth (moulded), 60 feet; gross tonnage, 32,500 tons; displacement tonnage, 45,000 tons; load draught, 37 feet 6 inches; height of funnels, 155 feet; diameter of funnels, 24 feet; heights of masts, 216 feet.

Owing to the admission of the police that they are unable to prevent the dormitories attached to the institutions of higher education being used as meeting and hiding places for revolutionaries, the Council of Ministers has ordered the closing of all such dormitories in St. Petersburg and Moscow. In accordance with this order, the police have closed the dormitories in the Polytechnic School, in St. Petersburg, containing 1,000 rooms, and the evicted students are finding difficulty in procuring rooms owing to the vigilance of the police. In Moscow the dormitories have been handed over to the City High schools.

High treason, reads the indictment which Prince Eugene Troubetsky has to face for writing an article which appeared in a Moscow weekly paper. The article states that the Russian Government committed 'an irreparable blunder when they dissolved the late Parliament, and proclaimed a new electoral law. The Prince, who is a councillor of the Empire, was at one time a candidate for a portfolio in the late Premier Stolypin's Cabinet.

It is reported from Paris that a commission of pardons consisting of four high functionaries of the Ministry of Justice have recommended a commutation of the death penalty in the case of Soleiland, who brutally murdered a girl of twelve. The case has attracted a great deal of attention, because there is no official executioner now, and in order to carry out the sentence the guillotine would have had to be re-established.

A head-on collision between the south-bound Quebec express and a northbound freight train of the Concord division of the Boston and Maine Railway, occurred four miles north of Canaan Station, Vt., early on Sept. 16, due to a mistake in the train despatcher's orders. From a demolished passenger coach there were taken twenty-five dead and dying, and twenty-seven other passengers more or less seriously injured.

Thirty persons were drowned and a hundred houses burned early on the morning of Sept. 17 at the Kosakabl mine, near Kotaro, Japan. A fire started in the mining works, and while attempts were being made to save the mine the water reservoir was broken, flooding a portion of the village. Many women and children were among the victims.

Mr. Marconi announces that he will commence sending commercial messages between Canada and Clifden, Ireland, in about three weeks, or as soon as the Sydney station is open. Messages sent from Sydney will be received at Clifden, Ireland. The Poldhu, Cornwall, station will be used as a relief station to Clifden. At Clifden the British Government will distribute the messages.

General Booth, speaking before the Canadian Club at St. John, N.B., announced that he hoped soon to establish a University of Humanity, with affiliated colleges in every part of the world, in which would be taught how to alleviate the miseries of the people.

At the international tuberculosis conference at Vienna, Dr. Pirquet read a report of his experiments in inoculating infants with tuberculin to detect the presence of tuberculous germs. The experiments showed that inoculation had no effect on healthy children, but where germs existed reaction was shown by soreness and scarifications, although no fever or other harmful effect followed.

Some idea of the disastrous effects of the recent floods in Japan may be gathered from these figures: The killed number 348; the injured, 70; missing, 173; buildings destroyed, 1,376; washed away, 3,142; flooded, 173,339; embankments broken, 1,570; and bridges washed away 975. Notwithstanding it all, the rice crop is expected to be slightly above the average.

It is announced that, at the annual meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Montreal, on October 2, the shareholders will be asked to sanction the building of two twenty-two knot vessels for the Atlantic service so as to make the passage from Liverpool to Quebec in five days. The company expects to cut down the time from London to Brisbane to twenty-four days.

A man and a woman lost their lives late on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 21, at Toronto, and the steamer 'Picton' (formerly the 'Corsican'), of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, was badly damaged by fire. A cleaner on the boat admitted at the coroner's inquest that he accidentally started the fire by trying to fill his torch with coal oil while lighted. The property loss, including the steamer and cargo, will probably reach \$110,000.

King Leopold has made another momentous move on the Congo question by turning over the 'domain of the Crown' in the Congo Free State to a joint stock company in which he is alleged to be interested. This is the most important section of the Congo, ten times larger than Belgium, and its transfer deprives Belgium of the most profitable part of the independent state.

Spain is planning to build a railway across the Pyrenees into France.

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