

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

The Czar and Czarina are to visit England shortly, and will be the guests of the King and Queen during yachting week at Cowes.

At the Democratic National Convention in Denver last month, Mr. William Jennings Bryan was unanimously nominated the presidential candidate of the party. Two days later Mr. John Worth Kern was nominated candidate for the vice-presidency.

The Russian wheat crop this year is so bad, being from 25 to 50 percent below the average, that representatives in Odessa of American agricultural machinery manufacturers are countermarching orders. Grain dealers predict a famine.

The three Annamite officers, condemned to death for complicity in a plot to poison the members of the garrison, have been beheaded at Hanoi, Siam. Two hundred members of the garrison were taken ill recently and an examination of their drinking water showed the presence of poison.

Germany has ordered her officers to resume their former custom of wearing their swords while on active service. There is, of course, the officials say, danger of an officer so armed being an easy mark for the sharpshooters, but the moral effect on the troops is great enough to offset the drawback.

A company with a preliminary capital of \$125,000 is reported in process of organization to establish a line of passenger airships between Berlin, London, Paris, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Copenhagen and Stockholm. The Krupps and a number of bankers are said to be interested in the company.

The will of the late Mr. Grover Cleveland was probated last month. There is no indication as to the amount of property left, but the bulk is left to Mrs. Cleveland. Ten thousand dollars goes to each of his four children, the latter sums also to be in full control of Mrs. Cleveland until each child comes of age or leaves the mother's care.

Among the latest reports from Teheran, Persia, is one that the Shah has apologized for the disrespect shown to the British legation during the recent trouble, and has issued a rescript promising to rule justly and establish courts of justice. One of the latest from Tabriz says that Rachin Khan, in command of a large force, including several batteries of quick-firers, entered Tabriz on July 8, and was then bombarding the revolutionists who were massed in the Khiavani quarter, and a third reports that a revolutionary declaration has been placarded throughout that town, threatening the Russian consulate and the members of the Russian colony with death unless they desist from meddling in Persian affairs.

In Mexico last month, in the State of Vera Cruz, a lake of oil over a square mile in extent and of unknown depth, was on fire for five or six days, creating the wildest terror among the people of the region. Out at sea for two hundred miles the light could be seen. The oil field was being developed by the Pennsylvania Oil Company. The company had bored a number of wells, and all of them were flowing oil in large quantities. The product was placed in earthen storage tanks preparatory to shipment. A careless workman accidentally set fire to one of the wells, and the flames were communicated to the underground reservoir of oil. A terrific explosion occurred, which uplifted the earth's surface throughout the entire field. The explosion was heard 75 miles distant. The oil company lost \$200,000 worth of machinery, and the oil which has been burned will total millions of barrels. The whole oil field was destroyed.

The recent uprisings in Northern Mexico were, it has been discovered, incited by two Mexican agents of the revolutionary juntas in the United States, who travelled disguised as Baptist missionaries. These men, Eulalio Trevino and Cosme Pena, were recently captured in the town of Vanegas in the State of San Luis Potosi, and brought to Mexico City, where, under the sweating process, much valuable information has been elicited.

In the Dominion House of Commons a few days ago a measure was passed enlarging the boundaries of three provinces. Manitoba is extended to Hudson's Bay with a shore line on that inland sea of four hundred miles, stretching from eighty miles north of Fort Churchill to eighty miles south of York Factory. Ontario is to have the rest of Keewatin, and Quebec gets Ungava, which extends from the south point of James's Bay up to Hudson's Strait. This makes Quebec, territorially, the largest province in the Dominion.

Paraguay had a revolution last month, and fighting continued for two days. The troops of the Line Artillery bombarded the Government building in Asuncion, and the police made a gallant defence. The possession of the artillery gave the mutineers a decided advantage and they swept the streets with cannon balls. A large number of houses, in addition to the Government buildings, were badly damaged by fire. At the end of forty-eight hours the Government acknowledged its defeat. The conditions demanded by the insurgents included the resignation of General Ferriera and the assumption of the presidency by Emiliano Gonzales Navere, the Vice-President. The revolutionists guaranteed the lives of all government supporters. The United States and Italian legations at Asuncion were badly damaged by the bombardment, and an intermediary from the United States legation was killed by a grenade.

Mr. James Kier Hardie is trying to stir up trouble in political circles because he did not receive an invitation to the King's Garden party at Windsor. Last week the Labor Party in the House of Commons passed a resolution of protest, and Mr. Hardie has asked the Lord Chamberlain why he was not invited, and says if the answer is not satisfactory he will resign and offer himself as a candidate for re-election in his district, Merthyr Tydvil, on the straight issue of 'The King vs. the People's Representative.' A cable letter says: 'It is a pity that the verdict cannot be taken from the country at large, for the result would be the complete extinction of this peculiar figure in British politics.' The same letter says there is no doubt that the snub was intentional, and not merely social, but official. The reason, however, the writer thinks, is not that given by Mr. Hardie himself, that it was because he objected openly to the recent meeting of the King and the Czar at Reval. 'The reason,' the writer says, 'is fairly obvious to all those familiar with Mr. Hardie's public record for the past year. He was in India during the recent crisis, a crisis which threatened and still threatens the very existence of the British Empire. He publicly encouraged the rebellious population in language nothing less than seditious and traitorous. These were perilous times in India, and the ignorant native population had a grotesque idea of Mr. Hardie's political position and influence. While it is true that the King must hold himself aloof from all questions of domestic politics, there is no obligation, moral or legal, upon him to ignore sedition or treason. If the King should announce, which, of course, he will not do, that he had refused to invite Mr. Hardie to Windsor because of his disloyal conduct in India, the whole country would applaud him.'

At Cologne last week the new bridge under construction over the Rhine fell and a number of the workmen engaged on the structure lost their lives. The scaffolding supporting the powerful crane used in the erection of the central span of the bridge collapsed and carried with it several other spans. Many of the workmen who were thrown into the river were pinned underneath the scaffolding.

The names of the new Japanese Cabinet will, it is expected, be announced in a few days. The Marquis Taro Katsura, the new premier, is the man who was forced out by the popular discontent over the Portsmouth treaty. Now quiet has been restored and Saionji, who replaced him at that time, retires gracefully, and Taro Katsura steps into his old seat. The Japanese press are laughing at the shuffle and call it 'Yuwacho,' a term applied to wrestling contests where the results has been prearranged. The Cabinet, they say, is in the hands of the Elder Statesmen, a mere box of puppets.

The squabble between Lord Charles Beresford and Rear Admiral Sir Percy Scott is reported to be fast nearing the point when the Government will be forced to interfere. Lately, in consequence of an outspoken letter by Mr. Arthur Hamilton Lee, formerly civil lord of the Admiralty, the whole press has taken up the matter, and is demanding that the scandal be stopped, agreeing with Mr. Lee that it is not only sapping the foundations of discipline and good feeling in the navy, but is seriously menacing the national security. The fact that Beresford is not on speaking terms with Fisher, who is his official superior, and Sir Percy Scott, who is Beresford's cruiser squadron commander, is sufficient indication of the gravity of the position. Some of the papers, while cordially paying tribute to Lord Charles' past services, urge that if a reconciliation is impossible Lord Charles ought to resign.

A Pekin despatch dated 'May 30, delayed in transmission,' reports that the Dalai Lama is expected to visit Pekin before long. Since the spring of 1904, when Lhasa was desecrated by the entrance of the British expedition under Sir Francis Younghusband, the great Buddhist ruler of Tibet has refused to stay in the once sacred city, and has been, with an enormous retinue, wandering through China and Mongolia, an expensive and an unwelcome guest in which ever place his greatness condescended to honor with his presence. Pekin is no more anxious to have him than any other city, but political expediency will make it necessary for the Chinese authorities to receive him with at least a show of welcome. They will, however, do their utmost to persuade him to return to Lhasa, and if they can once get him to start for home, they will send along a numerous force of troops to see that he reaches there without stopping unduly on the way. The Chinese Government desires to reorganize the administration of Tibet, but it can do nothing without the Lama's co-operation. The throne is now resorting to blandishments to bring him to Pekin, even if he is not wanted there, in the ultimate hope that they can persuade him to go back home. No Dalai Lama has ever before left the region of Lhasa, and with one exception, no grand lama, of whom there are three, has ever visited Pekin. This exception was in 1779, and the visitor died of smallpox immediately after his arrival. The Dalai Lama is 32 years old, and is the thirteenth ruler of the Buddhist Church. His personality is shrouded in mystery, and not even his name is known. He is said to be obstinate, and the throne does not expect an easy time in getting him to do what it wants. He has been seen by a few foreigners.