

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

The session of the Alberta Legislature opened on Nov. 30.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who attained his 70th birthday on Monday, Nov. 20th, received many letters, cablegrams and telegrams congratulating him and wishing him long life and usefulness.

The Hon. Senator Sir John Carling, a former Postmaster-General and Minister of Agriculture, died in London, Ont., on Nov. 6 in his 84th year. He had been continually in parliamentary life since 1857.

Earthquake shocks more or less severe, although no damage to life or property has been reported, were felt in Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Vincent, and the Danish West Indies on the morning of Nov. 20th.

In a great storm which prevailed on the lower St. Lawrence last month, the Norwegian ship 'Antigua,' loading at Martin River, was driven ashore, fifteen of her eighteen crew being drowned, including the captain.

An island has suddenly risen from the sea in the Serpent's Mouth Strait, between Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast. The phenomenon was preceded by an extraordinary commotion in the sea, from which burst huge columns of flames and smoke.

The 'Canada Gazette' officially announces that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the naval forces of Canada receiving the style of the 'Royal Canadian Navy,' and of the ships of war of that navy being designated as 'His Majesty's Canadian Ships.'

Francisco I. Madero was inaugurated President of Mexico last month, succeeding President de la Barra, who filled in the gap after the Executive now sworn in had ended the rule of Gen. Porfirio Diaz. The ceremony was brief and simple, following precedent, and took place before the members of Congress in the Chamber of Deputies.

The total budget of the New York City government for the year 1912 is \$187,200,000. The tax rate will be between 1.85 and 1.88, an increase over the rate for the present year. The increase in the budget is approximately \$15,250,000, and is due, in a great part, to the fact that the salaries of the women teachers in the city schools is to be equalized during the coming year with the salaries of the men teachers.

Dr. James Williams, D. C. L., a contributor of over a hundred legal articles in successive editions of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' and many in law magazines and reviews, died in London on Nov. 3. He was the author of a number of books on law, including 'The Schoolmaster and the Law,' 'Wills and Succession,' 'Law of Education,' 'Institutes of Justinian,' 'Dante as a Jurist' and 'Law of the Universities.'

Mr. Andrew Carnegie announces that he has given \$25,000,000 to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, organized under a charter granted by the Legislature 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States.' This brings his public benefactions up to over \$200,000,000. The trustees of the new fund will carry on the work of founding libraries and endowing colleges.

The new Austrian Ministry is composed as follows: Premier, Count Steurgh; Minister of the Interior, Dr. K. Heinold d'Udyski; Minister of Commerce, Dr. von Roessler; Minister of Railways, Dr. von Forster; Minister of Education, Dr. Hussarek von Heinlein; Minister of Works, Herr Trnka, and Minister of Agriculture, Ritter von Zaleski Wenzel. The

Ministers of Justice, Finance, and National Defence remain the same as in the last Cabinet.

At a meeting of the Privy Council held at Buckingham Palace before King George sailed for India a commission was appointed which is empowered to summon and hold councils for the despatch of State business during the absence of the King. The members of the commission are Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord High Chancellor Loreburn and Viscount Morley of Blackburn, the Lord President of the Privy Council.

The trial by Naval Court-martial of the officers responsible for the grounding of H. M.C.S. 'Niobe,' last September at Yarmouth, N.S., took place last week on board the 'Niobe' and resulted in Lord Alastair Graham, officer of the watch on the night the ship stranded, being reprimanded, but allowed to keep his sword; Lieut. Charles White, navigating officer, reprimanded and dismissed from the ship; and Capt. Macdonald cleared of any blame.

A destructive fire broke out in the business section of London, Ont., on Nov. 3, and before the flames were subdued damage amounting to \$870,000 had been done. Five hundred people were thrown out of employment. The fire originated in the store of J. H. Chapman & Co., and when discovered the place was a seething furnace. The flames were shooting across the street. In a few minutes firemen had fifteen streams playing on the fire, but it was impossible to save the adjoining property. The plants of the Purdon Hardware Company, the Chapman Company, and many others were totally destroyed.

Judgment in the famous suit of the Rev. Dr. Workman, a former professor in the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, against that institution for libel and wrongful dismissal, was given on Friday, Nov. 10th, by Judge Weir, in which he found for the plaintiff in \$2,500 damages for wrongful dismissal and \$1,000 for the libel. The action was taken at the beginning of the year and tried before Judge Weir in the month of May, lasting nearly a week, evidence being given by the leading theologians of the Methodist Church in Canada. Ten thousand dollars was claimed, part for wrongful dismissal, and part for libel which the plaintiff alleged was found in the statements of the defendant regarding his beliefs and teachings, which were untrue. An appeal to a higher court will be taken.

Parliament was opened on Nov. 16 by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught amidst scenes of splendor and pomp and a large and brilliant audience. The Speech from the Throne was brief and was read by His Royal Highness, both in English and French, his French hearers being particularly delighted at his evident command of their language. The features of the speech were the announcement of the determination of the Borden Government to create a permanent tariff commission immediately and a new grain inspection law, calculated to make it more difficult for American companies to engage in the elevator business. There was no reference to the navy question, but legislation to foster closer trade relations with the British West Indies was announced.

H. M. S. 'Centurion,' Britain's twenty-second Dreadnought, was launched at Devonport on Nov. 18. The most remarkable feature of the new fighting vessel is the scores of watertight compartments of which she is composed. It is believed that she will not sink even if a hole should be broken in her below the water line. The 'Centurion' is a sister ship to the superdreadnought 'King George V.,' which was launched a short time ago. The designs of these vessels have been carefully guarded by the Admiralty, but it

is known that they are of about 23,500 tons displacement and 30,000 horse-power. Their armament will consist of ten 13.5 inch guns and twenty-four 4 inch guns. The thickest armor of the 'Centurion' will be 12 inches. She will have three torpedo tubes firing a 21 inch torpedo with range of 7,000 yards.

The steamer 'Medina,' carrying King George and Queen Mary to India, left Portsmouth on November 11, amid a royal salute by the guns of the warships and forts. The ships were manned, the bands played 'God Save the King,' and enormous crowds on the esplanade at Southsea cheered as the vessel passed out. Along the sea front off Spithead the first battleship squadron of eleven vessels and attendant cruisers awaited the 'Medina' and led her out to sea. The Admiralty yacht 'Enchantress,' with the lords of the Admiralty, immediately followed the 'Medina' and the four first cruisers, the 'Cochrane,' 'Argyll,' 'Defence,' and 'Natal,' which, in command of Sir Colin Keppel, will convoy their majesties to the Far East, completed the pageant. The fleet is due to arrive at Calcutta during the first week of December and two days later the party will proceed by train to Delhi, which they should reach on Dec. 7. There will be elaborate ceremonies at Calcutta, and the durbar proper, at which the King will formally assume the title of King-Emperor, will be held at Delhi on Dec. 12.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Unionist leader in the House of Commons, whose recent leadership has been marked by some internal party dissensions, having resigned the leadership on Nov. 9th, Mr. Andrew Bonar Law, a Canadian by birth, has been chosen to lead the Conservatives on the floor of the House, while Lord Lansdowne is to be the acknowledged leader of the Unionist party. Mr. Law was born in New Brunswick in 1858, being the son of the Rev. James Law. He received his early education in his native province and was subsequently sent to Glasgow for his college course. He engaged in business as an iron merchant in Glasgow, and was first elected to the House of Commons as the Unionist member for Blackfriars division, Glasgow, in 1900. Mr. Law has proved himself a brilliant speaker and a resourceful debater. Mr. Law now sits for the Bootle division of Lancashire, South-west. A strong protectionist, the Unionists consider Mr. Law their most persuasive speaker on tariff reform. Therefore, the party will more than ever be committed to tariff reform and expect that his leadership will infuse a strong fighting spirit in their ranks.

A number of suffragettes interviewed Mr. Asquith on Nov. 17, and demanded a pledge that he would undertake at the next session of Parliament to pass a bill giving equal suffrage to the sexes. Mr. Asquith told them that he stood, as always, against woman suffrage, because he thought it would not be for the good of the State. He added that the women, nevertheless, had a remedy in their own hands. The Government would leave the House of Commons free to amend the proposed manhood franchise bill so as to extend the franchise to women, if the latter were able to persuade a majority of Parliament to support their cause. At a subsequent meeting the Suffragettes declared war upon the Government, and Nov. 21st proceeded to the Parliament buildings. Not being allowed to reach the entrance to the House they became riotous, and, accompanied by a large rowdy element, armed with bags of stones, broke the windows in public offices, the Liberal headquarters, and many other buildings, nearly two hundred women were arrested, among them being Lady Constance Lytton, Mrs. Haverfield, a daughter of Lord Abinger, and Mrs. Lawrence. Many of the women carried stones attached to tapes which they used as slingshots.