

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

Mr. Elihu Root, United States Secretary of State, with Mrs. and Miss Root, were last month guests of His Excellency at Ottawa.

Lady Victoria Grenfell, daughter of Earl Grey, died at Ottawa of typhoid fever on Feb. 3. She had arrived with her husband, Capt. A. Grenfell, from Mexico only three weeks before, and is believed to have contracted the disease there.

The island of Simalu, one of the Dutch East India Islands, was engulfed in the tidal wave, which devastated the region on Jan. 11, and it is believed that 1,500 persons perished. Earthquakes continue to be felt.

Chicago University, having been excluded because of its denominational character from sharing in the Carnegie \$10,000,000 pension fund, is to be endowed by Mr. John D. Rockefeller with an extra \$3,000,000 for its own superannuated professors.

That the Mormon question is a live one in the Canadian North-West is shown by the recent purchase by Joseph A. Smith, the head of the Mormon Church in Utah, of the Cochrane Ranch in Alberta. This ranch contains 70,000 acres of high arable land, and is costing him nearly half a million dollars. That Mr. Smith is living in polygamy was proven in the United States courts within the past few months.

The Shah of Persia died in the Palace in Teheran on January 8, at 11.30 p.m. The new Shah was crowned on January 19, amid magnificent ceremonial upon the famous peacock throne of solid gold, crusted with precious stones. The Shah has begun his reign by letting his people know that he is anxious to have them at liberty to communicate with him unchecked by officialdom, and to this end he has had the Palace connected by telephone with the public square of Teheran.

The King and Queen are travelling incognito in France for a week before the opening of Parliament. The trip is described officially as purely personal and private. It is, however, recalled that the previous visits of the King to Paris have been followed by the strengthening of the Anglo-French understanding, and the general impression is that the present visit will assist in the extension of the understanding which some observers believe will ultimately end in an Anglo-French Military Convention.

In the Canadian North-west this winter has been the coldest in twenty years. Last week a Chinook wind turned the prairie in many places to slush, ten minutes after the Chinook dropped the same region was a glare of ice, and before night the drifts could be crossed on horseback. On Jan. 28 the town of Macleod, Alberta, was invaded by 6,000 head of half-famished range cattle. From walking through the crusted snow their legs were all raw and bleeding, and many have died every day since.

Reports from Shanghai, by way of Victoria, B.C., tell of the increasing horrors of the great famine in Central China. A correspondent of the 'Echo de China' says that in two districts, Sinchow and Paichow, starving people are eating their own children; also that plants and grass which have furnished food for many, have disappeared, and there are not even roots to eat. The famine-stricken people are being driven to the cities in the famine districts, the officials refusing to allow them to take to the roads. The correspondent says the stories of cannibalism are many. He investigated a number and many of them are absolutely correct. In the absence of ordinary food, he found human flesh actually being sold. Still later reports say that smallpox is breaking out in the famine camps. Three thousand destitute persons

are being driven towards their homes, and 250,000 in one camp alone are believed to be doomed. Heavy rains bring prospects of floods, and the prospects of relief works are being lessened by the rascality of officials. The agent of the American Bible Society in Shanghai cabled to New York on Jan. 23 pleading for help for the famine sufferers of Central China. The sufferings for the past five months are, it is declared, only a beginning to what must be expected unless help comes at once.

A hitherto unknown copy of the Latin correspondence between Luther and King Henry VIII. was sold at auction in London on January 30. The correspondence concerns the time when King Henry, prior to the English Reformation, won the title of defender of the faith, which has since been borne by all British sovereigns, from Pope Leo X., for attacking Luther's new theology. Luther's vigorous rejoinder is contained in the exclamation: 'O how I should enjoy covering the head of his English Majesty with dirt and filth.' The correspondence was printed by Pyndon in London, in 1525. Only three copies were known of before.

The French Government has ordered the old device on the coins, 'God Protect France, stricken off, and 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' put in its place. The new law separating the Church and State in France, and known as the Briand Law, was signed by President Fallieres on January 3, and promulgated. M. Briand, the French Minister of Education, has announced that all the bishops' mansions, rectories and seminaries taken possession of by the Government under the Church and State separation law, will be used for museums and for other educational purposes. The famous seminary of St. Sulpice will become part of the Museum of the Luxembourg.

News reached San Francisco on January 31 of a terrible earthquake on the Solomon Islands, which opened great gorges in many places, and changed the whole face of the islands. The news was brought to San Francisco by Mr. O. B. L. Moore, Governor of Samoa, from the captain of a trading schooner who had arrived from the Solomon Group at Apia just before Mr. Moore left. It is thought extremely likely that the earthquake was the one recorded on the seismographs in various parts of the world a month ago, of which no other trace could be found. According to the instrument at Apia, Samoa, it lasted for several minutes and was said to be the heaviest shock ever recorded.

A despatch from Lethbridge, Alberta, says that Dr. W. Watson, the Dominion bacteriologist there, has discovered in the blood of a rabbit the germ which causes the deadly sleeping sickness, which is such a scourge in many parts of Africa. The germ was obtained from the blood of a cotton-tail rabbit, captured by the scientists for purposes of experimentation, and having the disease of which the rabbits have been dying in great numbers throughout the country this winter. Every seventh year a scourge sweeps the rabbits almost out of existence. During one succeeding seven years the virus gradually accumulates in the rabbits till another scourge again decimates them. This happened this year.

Lady Burdett-Coutts, who died in London last month, was the daughter of Sir Francis Burdett, and at the age of 23, the year Queen Victoria came to the throne, fell heir to the vast wealth, and took the name of her grandfather, Thomas Coutts. She at once became distinguished by forwarding and directing vast philanthropic schemes, and for this was, in 1871, raised to the peerage, and the year following admitted to the freedom of the city of London, hers being, as Mr. Chamberlain on that occasion said, 'the first female name ever recorded in the lists of those whom the citizens

have so delighted to honor.' At the age of 67 she married Mr. William Ashmead-Bartlett, long her confidential agent, but many years her junior. She died at the age of 92, and had lived during the reigns of five British sovereigns.

Details coming this week of the earthquake at Kingston, Jamaica, on January 14, and the fire which followed, show that the disaster was greater than first reported. Over a thousand are believed to have been killed, and for days the air was heavy with the odor of burning flesh. Part of Port Royal, the town at the outer end of the sand-bar, forming a natural breakwater to the harbor, sank, causing the death of several more. For days the refugees were without water, and food was extremely scarce. The death list of English included Sir James Fergusson, Captain Constantine and Captain Young, of the Royal Mail Steamship service; Dr. Gibbs Varley, Dr. Menier, Dr. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson, Miss Locke, Mr. B. Varley, Mr. J. W. M. Bradley, and four children named Livingstonstone. One Canadian, named Truesdale, was pinned below a load of debris for 54 hours, and was half insane when rescued. Five or six others near him all died. The shock was felt over a radius of 10 miles, and over ninety per cent. of the city is in ruins. At Amotta Bay, on the north shore of the Island opposite Kingston, an old crater (of which there are no records of previous activity), is said to have been seen since shooting out smoke and fire.

Interest in the Jamaica disaster itself has been quite overshadowed during the past few weeks by the tilt between the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, and Vice-Admiral Davis, of the United States Navy. Admiral Davis offered men from his ships, and wished to fire a salute in honor of the Governor. The Governor declined both help and salute. Notwithstanding this a salute was fired (through a mistaken order, as the Admiral afterwards explained), and detachments were sent ashore heavily armed to 'guard the American consulate' and 'assist private individuals.' The Governor then sent a second message, politely requesting the United States Admiral to remove his men, saying that while he had no doubt various Kingston storekeepers would like to have their premises cleared by the United States Navy free of charge, the government of the island was quite equal to the charge of the whole city. He also reminded Admiral Davis that thieves a few months ago in the house of a New York millionaire would not have justified a British admiral in landing an armed force to assist the police of that city, whereupon the sailors were recalled to their ships. Many papers on both sides of the Atlantic are trying to magnify the affair into an international incident, but cooler heads look upon it as a purely personal affair. The London 'Globe' applauds the firmness with which the Governor asserted the rights of his Sovereign and flag in a position of peculiar difficulty, and the Home Government has announced that it is a matter purely private between the government and one of its officials.

Enormous avalanches of mud caused by heavy rains swept down from Mount Vesuvius last week, over several squares miles of country, uprooting trees, destroying farm buildings and killing farm animals. One man was carried out on this sea of mud for almost a mile, and was rescued by three courageous women at the risk of their own lives.



Our Cover Picture

The hockey player on the front is Mr. Grover Sargent, captain of the Montreal Hockey team, who is himself one of the cleanest and most brilliant players in Canada.