

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

Our cover this week shows Lord Roberts reviewing the Boy Scouts representing Canada and other countries of the Empire last Empire Day. The moment is the salute to the flag.

A bottle thrown overboard from the French liner 'La Touraine,' on August 9, 1909, off the coast of Newfoundland, was picked up off the coast of Wales on March 25 last, in Fishguard Bay, Pembrokeshire. It contained the card of Paul Marro, a New York merchant, who will send \$5 to each of the two boys who found it.

By the collapse of a temporary trestle at Lake Macdonald, in northern Quebec, a train of six cars which were occupied by foreign workmen engaged on the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway was precipitated to the bottom of a ravine 75 feet below, and ten men were killed and 23 others injured.

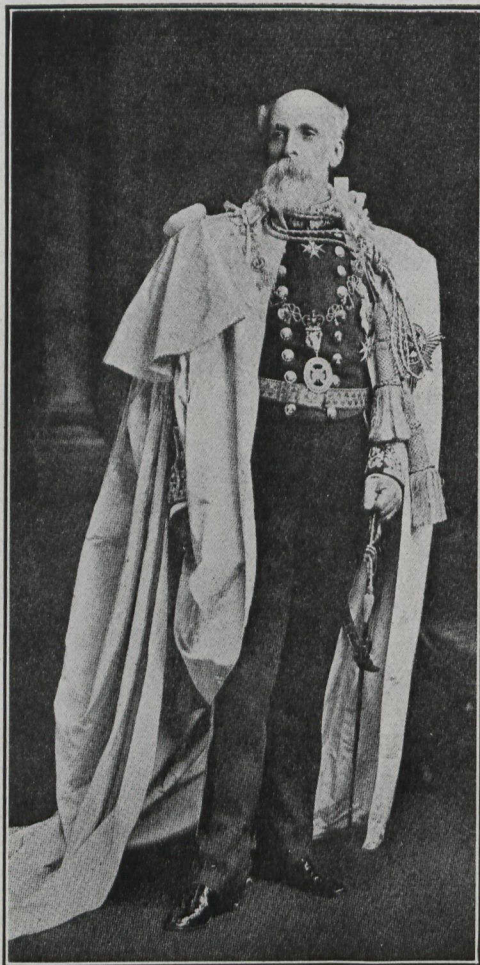
A French electric company is preparing to harness the river Jordan where in a very short space between the Waters of Merom and the Sea of Galilee the river descends 700 feet. A generating plant will be erected on the west bank of the river and will be connected with all of the chief towns of the country. Some \$1,000,000 will be required for the initial expenses. It is hoped that in five years the works will be paying well.

Seventy out of 116 Congregational churches in Canada were reported last month as voting in favor of the Union of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist bodies. The Methodist Ministerial Association of Montreal after an earnest discussion, recommended that the articles proposed as a basis of union be referred back to the Committee of Union or to a new Committee to be recast in 'briefer, clearer and more general form so that it may be accepted as a standard of doctrine without any wide dissatisfaction or mental reservation.'

St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, looked upon as the finest piece of architecture in the Russian capital, begun under Catherine the Great and completed under Nicholas I. in 1858, has been reported in a dangerous condition by an architectural commission; the cupola is cracked in several places, owing to the rotteness of the beams. The centre of the church will be partitioned off lest the piece of stucco work should fall during a service and produce a panic among the congregation, which, on great festivals, numbers 16,000 persons.

Mr. David Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, re-introducing last year's Budget in the Imperial House of Commons on April 14, declared that he realized that the present deficit of \$131,240,000 would be more than wiped out when all arrears had been collected, and that there would be an actual surplus of \$14,800,000. This surplus would have been \$21,000,000, he said, had the Budget not been held up by the House of Lords. The Chancellor commented upon the remarkable decrease of 32 percent in the consumption of whiskey. This he attributed mainly to the extra duty imposed. The gross revenue from spirits as compared with the estimated figures was \$14,000,000.

The thousand dollars reward offered for the discovery of a nest of the passenger pigeon has been claimed by Mr. C. S. Patience of a town in Ontario, the name of which is not yet to be made public. The reward is part of a subscription of \$3,800 by naturalists from all over the United States and Canada for the work of preventing the extinction of the bird. This particular breed of pigeon was very numerous in America up to the early '80's, but since then has been gradually dying out until now the species is very rare.



THE EARL OF MEATH,

Who has done so much to spread the "Empire Movement."

King Albert has approved the plans of the ministry of the colonies for reforms in the Belgian Congo, to become effective on July 1, when a large area will be opened to free commerce. The reforms include a reduction in the taxes which will be collected in money and not paid by labor; the substitution of native for white officials; the restriction of obligatory labor on the part of adults on the works dedicated to the improvement of their own conditions, and the suppression of polygamy.

Lord Kitchener was in the United States on his way back to England from India last month. At a dinner given in his honor by the Pilgrim Club, New York, Mr. Choate toasted him as a general who 'has never gone into action until he has got ready, who has never fought except to win, and in whose wake permanent and abiding peace has always followed.' 'On whatever service, wherever he is,' said Mr. Choate, 'his first service is to take good care of his men. Wherever he is Tommy Atkins is the best fed, the best taken care of, and the most popular fellow in the world.' In replying to these 'too flattering remarks' Lord Kitchener referred to the visit of the United States fleet to Australia where everyone was impressed with 'not only the great courtesy and frank good-will of the Admiral and his officers, but also the good behavior and smartness and preparedness for war of the men and ships of the fleet. The visit,' he said, 'undoubtedly created an excellent impression, for while it demonstrated to the world the power of the American Navy, it brought home to the people of Australasia the kindly feelings entertained toward them by the people of the United States.' Lord Kitchener in closing paid warm tribute to the efficiency of the instruction given at West Point.

It was reported recently from Fez that Madani Glaui, the Grand Vizier, had been poisoned by three of his wives and was in a critical condition.

The Albanian insurgents, according to late despatches from Constantinople, have settled their differences with the Turkish Government and dispersed to their homes.

It is announced that France will build no more torpedo boats, recognizing the fact that submarines have definitely superseded them in warfare. The present torpedo boats of the French Navy will have entirely disappeared, it is estimated, by the year 1923.

Sunday work is to be abolished on the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railway, and on nearly a dozen lines subsidiary to the United States Steel Corporation. The order, which was issued this week, affects, it is said, upwards of 100,000 men.

In the Canadian House of Commons the other day Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced that the new Department of Naval Service for Canada would comprise five different services, namely, the navy proper, the fisheries protection service, the hydrographic survey, the tidal survey and the wireless telegraphic service.

The United States battleship 'Indiana' went to sea on the 16th to test a ship brake, the invention of the late Mr. Lacoste, a son of Sir Alexandre Lacoste, Chief Justice of Quebec. The test was made off the New Jersey coast. The owners of the patent claim it will stop a ship within her length while going at full speed. The invention has been put on the 'Indiana' at the expense of the owners of the patent.

The expedition which started in December from Fairbanks, Alaska, to scale Mount McKinley, the highest peak of the American continent, has reached the top of the mountain and all returned safely. Four camps were established and a trail blazed to the crest. Up to 12,000 feet the climbing presented no unusual difficulties. For the next 4,000 feet the way led over steep ice fields. From the camp 16,000 feet up, the dash to the top was made. Mount McKinley terminates in twin peaks of equal height, one somewhat rounded and covered with snow, and the other composed of bars and windswept rocks. On the latter the Stars and Stripes was placed. The expedition, which was provided with Dr. Cook's maps and data, report that it utterly failed to verify any part of his story of the ascent. Mr. Harry Whitney is planning an expedition to the Arctic this summer to hunt big game, and incidentally will stop at Etah to recover Dr. Cook's instruments.

Expulsion of Jews from Russia, according to a despatch from Berlin, is taking place on a scale unprecedented in extent and cruelty. Almost every community outside the limited regions where Jews are permitted to dwell is daily the scene of wholesale evictions. In Kieff alone, 1,200 families have been deprived of the right of further domicile. One thousand six hundred families of Bokhara Jews have been driven from their homes during the last few weeks, and now find themselves in a desperate plight. Several Bokhara refugees arrived in Berlin last week with harrowing tales of oppression. Even in the so-called settlement districts, where Jews are supposed to enjoy the unmolested right of domicile, the expulsion regime is in full swing. The authorities have harked back to the notorious Ignatieff 'May laws' of 1882 and 1891, and with unrestrained cruelty are driving out the comparatively few Jews who inhabit the settlement districts, and are compelling them to seek refuge in the overcrowded cities, where starvation and pauperism sooner or later will compel them to flee the country.