

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Ex-Queen Isabella of Spain, grandmother of King Alfonso, is dead.

Ninety-five Japanese prisoners have been sent to Tomsk, Western Siberia, for imprisonment.

The Anglo-French Treaty is looked upon with much suspicion by the Russians, who see in it only a plan to alienate France from Russia.

Correspondents of Paris papers now in Russia state that a large number of armored automobiles have been despatched to the Far East.

The British force which went to suppress the rising of the natives in Nigeria who were stirred into rebellion by the outbreak of the Hereros against German rule, lost four men killed and forty-eight wounded in the first encounter. The Okpotos, the tribe which is most violently disaffected, continues to resist the advance of the expedition.

Japan has ordered two new battleships from English firms. The vessels will be exceedingly powerful, their length exceeding that of the largest British battleships by twenty feet. The armored belt at the water line will be nine inches thick, with six-inch armor extending to the level of the deck. The main batteries will be arranged so as to discharge eleven tons of projectiles per minute.

In their struggle against the Hereros, the Germans have again lost heavily. While a column under command of Major Von Glazenapp was marching along thicket-lined roads in the direction of Oniatu, it was suddenly attacked by natives concealed among the thickets. After a long fight, the Hereros were repulsed, but not until the Germans had lost thirty-three killed and fifteen wounded. The Hereros left ninety-two dead on the field.

It is hoped that the Turko-Bulgarian Convention signed at Constantinople on April 8th will be effectual in bringing about peace in the Balkans. It provides for amnesty to all Bulgarians compromised in the Macedonian rising of 1903, excepting persons guilty of using dynamite, the repatriation of refugees, the removal of frontier restriction of Bulgarian trade and travel, and the application of the Austro-Hungarian reform scheme to Macedonia. Bulgaria undertakes to suppress revolutionary movements in her territory, and to prevent the smuggling of arms and explosives across the frontier.

By the Anglo-French Treaty, signed at the Foreign Office in London on the 8th of April, the long-disputed Newfoundland French-shore Question has been finally disposed of. The terms of the treaty, so far as Newfoundland is concerned, are as follows: (1) France renounces her rights to the French shore, with the exception of the right of cleaning and drying fish on the shore. (2) France retains the right of fishing in the territorial waters of the French shore. (3) France secures, on the other hand, the right of French fishermen to obtain supplies of bait on that coast, and the right to fish in those waters, not only for cod, but also for lobsters. Shipowners and sailors whose interests are impaired by the new state of things will receive an indemnity, the amount of which will be determined by a commission of French and British naval officers, with the option of an appeal to an arbitrator to be designated by the Hague Tribunal. Other provisions of the treaty are: The right of France to guard the tranquility of Morocco is recognized. France, on the other hand, will not impede the action of Great Britain in Egypt, and must erect no fortification on the Moroccan coast along the Straits of Gibraltar; Great Britain adheres to the Convention of 1889 for the neutrality of the Suez Canal, and the freedom of trade in Egypt and Morocco is guaranteed for thirty years. In more southern Africa, France obtains important concessions which will give her access to that portion of the Zambezi River which is navigable to ocean-going ships; also, a better route through the fertile country leading to Lake Tchad. The announcement of the terms of the treaty has been met with much enthusiasm in England, where the King is being much lauded as a successful diplomatist in the interests of peace.

Admiral Togo is continuing his attacks upon Port Arthur. On April 15th, he advanced with fourteen battleships into position before the town, and for three hours bombarded it, the forts and the remnant of the Russian fleet replying to the attack. A few Chinese were killed during the bombardment. Particulars as to the sinking of the Petropavlovsk, which have been received from both Russian and Japanese sources, differ somewhat as to the cause, but little as to the result of the great blow which has fallen upon Russia. The Russians assert that the catastrophe was purely accidental, and that no naval conflict took place, except that which concerned the sinking of the torpedo-boat destroyer, Bestrashni, which, becoming separated from the Russian fleet, was discovered by the Japanese as she tried, under cover of a

fog, to return to the squadron, and was thereupon surrounded and sunk, only five of the fifty men on board being saved. The Japanese Admiral, Uriu, on the contrary, asserts that the Petropavlovsk struck a mine laid at the entrance of the port by a fleet of Japanese torpedo boats, which, after making a demonstration and accomplishing their real purpose, retired to the main squadron, there awaiting the terrible disaster which met the Petropavlovsk. Survivors of the ill-fated vessel state that the reason why the loss of life was so great was that officers and crew were admidships at breakfast when the explosion occurred. First a terrible roar from the boilers was heard, followed immediately by a deafening detonation from the magazines. Those on deck were hurled into the water, where they swam and clung to wreckage thrown up from the vortex into which the vessel had disappeared. Not a man who was amidships escaped. The famous Russian battle-scene painter, Verestchagin, who was Vice-Admiral Makaroff's guest, was lost, along with Makaroff's complete staff of twenty-eight officers. Only 52 were saved out of a total number of 650 who were on board, Grand Duke Cyril, heir, after Grand Duke Michael, to the throne of Russia, being one of those picked up by the torpedo boats which immediately pushed out to the rescue. Russia, where Admiral Makaroff's widow was the first to hear of his death, is prostrate with grief, but is still confident as to ultimate victory. "There are more Makaroffs in Russia," the people say. But the whole hope is now centered upon the army on land, where the Russians feel they have the advantage. Port Arthur, however, is said to be completely demoralized. The confidence of its defenders is shaken, and the deepest gloom prevails. The Japanese are unanimous in their praise of Admiral Makaroff, whose ability and courage were much admired by them. Vice-Admiral Alexieff has been ordered to take control of the Port Arthur fleet until a successor is appointed to Makaroff, but there are, at present, only two uninjured vessels in the harbor of Port Arthur.

NOTES AND NEWS.

"He that can work is born king of something."—Carlyle.

"Worth begets in base minds, envy; in great souls, emulation."—Fielding.

The Duke of Sutherland is making a tour of Canada, and professes to be much pleased with it.

"Nobleness of character is nothing else but steady love of good and steady scorn of evil."—Epictetus.

Peterboro ratepayers will vote on the by-law to guarantee \$100,000 bonds of the sugar company on May 5th.

A large deposit of coal, covering an area of eighty-five square miles, has been discovered near Controller Bay, Alaska.

Viceroy Alexieff has prohibited, under pain of severe punishment, the sale of spirits to soldiers operating in his viceroyalty.

The Right Hon. J. S. Ch. m. b. r. n. (on his way back through Italy, addressing Vesuvius)—Call yourself a volcano? You wait till I get home.—Punch.

Mr. W. T. Macoun, horticulturist at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, states that the severity of the past winter has affected fruit trees from points in Quebec to Leamington, in Western Ontario.

The Minister of the Interior has promised a grant of \$5,000 a year for two years to the Canada Immigration Society, which is engaged in bringing settlers from the Western States into Canada.

On April 12th, the Allan Liner, Pretorian, with 450 immigrants, arrived at Halifax. The immigrants are nearly all English and Scotch farmers in good circumstances. They left almost immediately for Winnipeg.

The Educational Association of Ontario has recommended that the study of Latin shall be made compulsory in the High Schools of the Province. Chancellor Burwash has been made president of the Association.

A new process of meat preservation which it is claimed will revolutionize the packing industry and go far toward solving the problem of supply for armies in the field has been discovered in Germany by Prof. Emmerich.

The Ontario Fisheries Department has granted permits to several companies to clean out the German carp from Lakes Erie and Ontario. These fish have become a nuisance, and are driving black bass and other game fish from the waters, hence the action of the Department.

Mr. Thoe. De Schryver, of Auckland, N. Z., representative of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in New Zealand, stated in Toronto lately that the colony at the antipodes is enjoying a great wave of prosperity, and that its trade with Canada has been greatly extended as a result of the preferential tariff.

The Canada Woollen Mills Co., which has mills at Carleton Place, Hespeler and other points in Ontario, has decided to sell out because of lack of orders. For three years the company has been carrying on business at a loss in the hope that the tariff on British woollens might be raised. Unless a buyer is found, 700 men will be out of work.

On April 11th, for the first time since his coronation, the Pope went to St. Peter's to say mass, the ceremony being in celebration of the thirteenth

centennial of St. Gregory the Great, who died 604 A. D. More than 70,000 persons were present in the Basilica, but the entrance of the Pope, by his request, was greeted with no acclamation such as was permitted in the days of Pope Leo.

On April 10th, a sudden jam of ice on the St. Lawrence River above Victoria Bridge caused the inundation of several towns near Montreal, and destroyed a mile of the G. T. R. On the same day, the dam three miles above Smith's Falls, Ont., which holds back the waters of Rideau Lake, gave way, and, as a consequence, a portion of the town was flooded and much damage done. Floods in the vicinity of Belleville and at Tweed, Ont., have also wrought havoc in carrying away bridges and destroying property.

Mr. J. W. Tyrell, the explorer, writing to the Toronto Globe, re the Hudson's Bay territory, recommends it as a land of great resources, especially in minerals and fur-bearing animals, and, along the coast regions, in fish of all kinds. There are in the vast territory, he says, a million and a half square miles of land, capable of sustaining an immense population. In conclusion, he gives this opinion: "I am convinced that the sooner we provide ourselves with some adequate means of access to this great realm of isolation, the better it will be for the trade and commerce of our country, and for the thousands of those who may go up and possess themselves of our 'Great Northern Heritage.'"

Seedsmen and the Seed Bill.

On Tuesday, the 12th inst., a deputation of the leading Canadian seedsmen waited upon Hon. Mr. Fisher to present their views on the seed question and to protest against the passage of the bill which the Minister of Agriculture introduced into Parliament last session. Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Sir Wm. Mulock, as members of the Government, were also present. All the phases of the question were freely discussed, and the conclusion was reached that all were aiming at the one object—the improvement of the quality of the seed sold to Canadian farmers, and that there was a possibility of methods being adopted that would be satisfactory and advantageous to all concerned.

As the bill was introduced a year ago, the seedsmen consider it an insurmountable hardship, and that they would be so required to revolutionize their business that they could not carry it on, and that as a result the agriculture of the country would be greatly injured instead of benefited. The large wholesale houses could not hold their entire supply of seed on hand sufficiently long to test its purity and vitality, and they would be compelled to incur heavy penalties for what it was beyond their power to prevent. Objection was also raised to farmers being practically exempt from the provisions of the Act when they carried on a business for which seedsmen were liable to incur penalties. More particularly was this considered unjust because it is a fact that a great deal of the poorest, uncleaned seeds thus become distributed and with them many noxious weeds. This sort of trade would be encouraged by the passage of the act, as seedsmen would have to be more careful regarding the seeds they purchased, and much of the lower-grade seed would be left in the hands of the producer to be traded around among his neighbors without having been cleaned, and at a price with which the firms selling only the higher-grade seeds could not compete.

Attention was also very properly drawn to the lack of care exercised by very many growers of seed and to the opening there was for educational work in improving the conditions under which much of our seed is at present grown. The seedsmen were unanimous in recommending that a minimum standard be set to which all seed offered for sale should conform, and this standard be set by a committee of seedsmen, farmers and officials of the Department of Agriculture. They also suggested that the customs duty be made specific, instead of ad valorem, as it is at present, which would discourage the importation of lower-grade seed.

In replying to the delegation, Mr. Fisher stated that he had had a great many representations made him by farmers' associations and individual farmers in all parts of the country asking that the bill be made law as speedily as possible, and there seemed to be a general sentiment in favor of some such measure. What was wanted, however, was a workable act, else its usefulness would be lost, so that if any suggested amendments could be incorporated into the measure he would be only too glad to accept them, as he strongly objected to coercive measures, and did not want in any way to hamper legitimate trade. The suggestion to fix a minimum standard was, he believed, a good one, but was not complete, as there was too many grades of seeds undefined, all seed that was sold going as one grade as far as Government standard was concerned. The trade in seeds had improved wonderfully in the last few years, and if the objects sought in the bill could be attained without legislative measures he would be very glad. At present, however, a person getting a poor grade of seed by mistake had no recourse, but must simply accept his misfortune; he believed, therefore, that some measure was necessary.

As the seedsmen represented were entirely in favor of the principle of the bill, they accepted the invitation of the Minister to discuss in detail its clauses with some of the officers of the Department. It is expected that the bill as it will be amended will embrace some of the suggestions of the seedsmen to enable them to carry on and improve their trade under its provisions.