

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

Senator Thomas McKay, of Truro, N.S., died on Jan. 15, aged 73.

President Taft has signed the proclamation admitting New Mexico to the Union.

A strike of firemen and engineers in Buenos Ayres has practically tied up railway traffic in Argentina.

Mr. Henry Labouchere, editor of London 'Truth,' died on Jan. 16th at his villa in Florence, Italy, aged 81 years.

Mr. Taft has definitely stated that he will again be a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

Dunfermline, the birthplace of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, will erect a statue to him in recognition of his many benefactions.

Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, the distinguished lady physician and dean of the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women, died in London on Jan. 8th.

The Russian steamship 'Russ' foundered during a gale in the Black Sea on Jan. 11th, with the whole of her passengers and crew, a total of 172 persons.

The Prussian Government has submitted to the Diet a bill which is designed to compel all loafers and men who fail to support their families to go to work.

A bill before the New York State Legislature, proposes the abolition of capital punishment for murder and the substitution of life imprisonment. Governor Dix favors the measure.

State and Church in Portugal are in bitter conflict over the new regulations governing public worship. The priests at several places have abandoned the churches and services have been suspended.

John MacNamara, of San Francisco, known to the police of many cities as 'Australian Mack,' has been arrested in New York charged with having dynamited and robbed on Sept. 14th of \$375,000 the branch of the Bank of Montreal in New Westminster, B. C. MacNamara has a long criminal record.

According to a Bombay report the Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior has cancelled his engagement to the Gaekwar of Baroda's daughter on account of the Gaekwar's connection with a divorce case in England, and his discourtesy to King George at the Durbar at Delhi.

Mrs. Samantha Stanton Nellis celebrated her 102nd birthday at Naples, N.Y., on Jan. 6th. She enjoys the best of health, and each fall earns enough to support her for the ensuing year by working in the grape houses of the Keula district, trimming and packing fruit for market.

A great increase on the figures of the previous year marks the shipbuilding return for 1911, just issued for the Clyde. The shipbuilding industry on the Clyde has had a record year. The total tonnage of the year's Clyde output is 640,000 representing 403 ships, as compared with the record of 619,919 tons in 1907, and with 392,000 tons last year.

Mr. Winston Churchill, as head of the admiralty, announces the formation of a naval war staff, which has long been demanded by naval writers and experts. This staff, which Mr. Churchill says will be the brain of the navy, will have three divisions, namely: Intelligence, which will deal with war in-

formation; operations, which will settle war plans; and mobilization, which will make war arrangements.

As a result of the recent census the subsidies of the different provinces of the Dominion with the exception of Manitoba, are to be increased by a total of \$1,188,570, which is divided as follows: Ontario, \$267,651; Quebec, \$285,125; Nova Scotia, \$26,207; New Brunswick, \$16,614; British Columbia, \$191,704; Alberta, \$87,635; and Saskatchewan, \$318,213. Manitoba loses \$4,605, and Prince Edward Island's subsidy remains stationary.

Five persons are dead and four are ill as a result of the greatest murder mystery Philadelphia has had in years. The police have little upon which to base a theory, except that a woman, Mrs. Bridget Flanagan, gone insane following the apparent desertion of her husband, placed cyanide of potassium in food and attempted to snuff out the life of every person residing at her home.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies has been dissolved owing to its having thrown out the constitutional amendment bill, providing that the Sultan may dissolve the Parliament in time of war. This was attacked by the members of the Opposition, and stormy scenes have accompanied the debate on the proposed modification of the Constitution. The Unionists decided to provoke a dissolution of the Chamber at all costs.

It is stated in London that negotiations will be opened between the British and German courts, as soon as the King returns from India, regarding the date and programme of the official accession visit of the King and Queen to Berlin. The visit will take place early in the spring and will last three days. Their Majesties will stay at the New Palace, at Potsdam. An elaborate programme of festivities is to be prepared, including an army review, a gala performance at the opera, official dinners and a ball at Berlin Castle.

The Spanish Premier having recommended the execution of one out of six striking rioters, condemned to death for murdering a judge and wounding several court officials in Valencia last September, the Radicals seized the occasion to wage a campaign against the government and work up popular excitement to a dangerous state. The premier realizing, as he said, that he had made a political blunder in excluding one man from reprieve, resigned, but on the earnest request of the King consented to retain office.

By a head-on collision, which took place on January 8th on the C. P. Railway at St. Vincent de Paul, near Montreal, five men were killed and ten more or less seriously injured. A passenger train from Quebec, instead of taking the siding at the station, went straight ahead and plunged into a train from Montreal, which was standing on the main line expecting the Quebec train to take the siding. The engineer of the Quebec train attributes the accident to the air brakes not responding owing to the frost.

There is much anxiety in England over the probability of the national coal miners' strike which is indicated by such results as are known of the miners' ballot that was concluded on Jan. 12th. If a national strike be declared, it must not begin before March 1, as the men have to hand in a month's notice, but already fears of a strike are causing both large businesses and householders to replenish their supplies of coal for the emergency. Prices therefore are rising, but there is strong hope that a settlement will be come to. No agreement has as yet been reached between the Lancashire cotton mill owners and operatives.

The funeral services of the late Alfred Tenyson Dickens, youngest son of the great novelist, were held in Trinity church, New York, on Jan. 5th, and were attended by a large number of notable persons. As Mr. Dickens's object in coming to America on a lecturing tour was to raise funds for impoverished granddaughters and other member of his father's family, it is believed wealthy Americans will take the matter up and so somewhat offset the debt owed to Dickens by millions of his readers and admirers on this side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie testifying before the Steel investigating committee in Washington, said that the day of active competition in big business had passed. He advocated an industrial commission to control prices, and told the committee about a deal with Mr. Rockefeller whereby he obtained control of Mr. Rockefeller's iron ore holdings in the Lake Superior region at a rate of 15 cents a ton—holdings which, when turned over to the Steel Corporation later, formed a large part of the assets valued at \$700,000,000. Mr. Carnegie laughed as he referred to the business triumph he had achieved over his 'fellow millionaire.'

The Madrid press is very pessimistic in regard to the Franco-Spanish negotiations on the Moroccan difficulty, but the Paris press considers the alarm is not well founded. The matter has reached a critical stage because Spain objects to three points considered by France as essential—namely, absolute equality for each of the two nations in their respective zones; second, the evacuation by Spain of Larache and El Ksar, and third, the cession by Spain of a portion of the Luri region claimed by France. It is, however, extremely probable that a compromise of these three disputed points will be reached through the mediation of the British ambassador at Paris, where it is confidently predicted that a satisfactory conclusion will be reached.

At the annual meeting in Belfast of the Ulster Unionists a resolution was adopted reaffirming the decision of 1892 not to recognize an Irish Parliament and demanding for Ulster folk a continuation of their exact existing rights and privileges as part of the United Kingdom. The resolution added that if the demand was refused 'the only alternative consistent with our rights as subjects of the King is for an Ulster provisional government to come into operation at an appointed day, and this once established we are determined to see it through.' The resolution concluded by saying that the above determination had been greatly strengthened by the adoption of the Lords' veto act and the recent Vatican decree preventing Catholics from calling ecclesiastics as witnesses in lay courts.

The elections for the German Reichstag which began on Jan. 12th, show enormous gains for the Socialists, but as second ballots have to be cast in many places the result of the elections will not be definitely known for some days yet. The semi-official Cologne 'Gazette,' the mouthpiece of the Foreign Office, calls upon voters to suppress petty party differences and to go to the polls with the 'peace-menacing events of last summer' rooted in their minds, to the exclusion of all other topics. The supreme need of the hour is the election of a Parliament thoroughly alive to the fresh sacrifices which the dictates of self-preservation require the Fatherland to make. The imperial Government's fear of Socialism and its apprehension that the Socialists will gain sweeping victories in the Reichstag elections are betrayed in an election manifesto. In it Socialism is declared to be the 'arch enemy of the State,' and the electors are adjured to accomplish its final overthrow.