

CURRENT EVENTS.

The triumphant march of the rebel forces in Mexico under Orozco has been checked by the Federal troops, and the insurgents are retreating toward Chihuahua. The smaller band under Zapata is still active in the south. A British gunboat has gone to the west coast to pick up refugees.

The revolution in Cuba has assumed such serious proportions that the United States is preparing for intervention if need be. Ten or more battleships are supposed to be assembled at Key West for that purpose; and President Gomez, of Cuba, has made a strong protest.

The only other American war now on seems to be in Santo Domingo, where the revolutionists have recently won in two battles with the Government troops.

The government of the United States of Colombia has never acknowledged the independence of Panama since President Roosevelt, as he has frankly said, took it and made it nominally an independent state. Now it is said that the Colombian government is ready to acknowledge the sovereignty of Panama, and that the United States of America will pay to the United States of Colombia an indemnity of thirty million dollars—that is, if the congresses of the two countries will agree to the arrangement.

There have been very serious uprisings against the French in Morocco, particularly at Fez and along the Algerian frontier.

The Italians have occupied a number of islands along the coast of Asia Minor, and the Turks are fortifying both sides of the Bosphorus. These are disquieting events, for they show that the war between the two nations is no longer to be confined to Africa.

Kenotoxine is the poison which a German scientist has found in overfatigued animals. Its antidote has also been found, and may be made to serve a useful purpose.

International regulations to prevent the extinction of the whale are now proposed. Over twenty-two thousand whales were killed last year, chiefly in the Southern Hemisphere, and this year's take is expected to be larger.

Two men attached to the Royal Observatory at Mount Vesuvius have descended the crater to the depth of a thousand feet and returned in safety, though at times almost overcome by the poisonous fumes.

The accuracy of scientific measurements is almost beyond belief. A balance has been constructed which will weigh to the fifteen thousandth part of a grain; and a thermometer of such delicate movement that it can record the change in the temperature of the sea, due to the presence of an iceberg so far away as to be out of sight. It is hoped that the latter instrument may be so developed as to be of practical use in navigation.

King Frederick VIII. of Denmark, died suddenly in Hamburg, on the night of May 14th. He is succeeded by his son, who will rule as Christian X. The late king was a brother of Queen Alexandra, and of the Dowager Empress of Russia and the King of Greece.

Reports from China tell of terrible sufferings from famine in some of the provinces, and in some districts many are dying for want of food.

Immigration from the United States to the Canadian West has been very heavy this year, most of the new settlers taking up land in Alberta or Saskatchewan. The attention of British immigrants is being directed to the Eastern Provinces more than in former years.

The government steamers Minto and Arctic, will both leave this month for the work of thoroughly exploring Hudson's Bay. One will examine and report upon the harbors of Churchill and Port Nelson, while the other will study the magnetic conditions and other features of Hudson's Bay and Hudson's Strait, and bring back definite information as to the length of the season of navigation on our inland sea.

Wireless stations are to be erected in the far north, through which explorers can make report direct to Ottawa, if the present plans of the department are carried out. The proposed stations will include one or more along the northern edge of Ungava, one near the mouth of Mackenzie River, and one on Great Slave Lake.

To protect and purify the French language is one of the objects of a large convention of French-speaking people recently assembled at Edmonton, Alberta. They will send delegates to the French convention which is to be held at Quebec on the twenty-eighth of this month.

Imperial Federation seems no longer a thing of the far distant future, when a responsible minister of the Crown has publicly stated that Canada is ready for it now. Under our system of government, politicians do not make idle statements, at least not when they are in power; and we may therefore expect soon to see some movement in that direction.

Under a new system of defence, the destroyers of the British fleet have commenced a continuous patrol of the coasts of the United Kingdom. Of the four active flotillas, two will have their base at the new naval headquarters at Rosyth, on the east coast of Scotland, the third at Harwich, another east coast station, and the fourth at Portland, on the English Channel. There are four other flotillas in reserve, making in all one hundred and sixty-five destroyers in the new organization, besides fast cruisers and submarines.

The act extending the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba was put into force on the fifteenth of May.

The colours of the five-striped Chinese flag are thus explained: The red is for China proper, the yellow for Mongolia and Manchuria, the blue for Turkestan, the white for Thibet, and the black for the semi-independent tribes of the western highlands. These people of the mountain regions are the descendants of the aboriginal inhabitants of China, and have their own language, or rather their own languages, their own dress and customs, and to some extent their own laws and rulers; but are hereafter to have equal rights as citizens of the new republic, and presumably are to be deprived of any special privileges which they enjoyed.