

A treaty of arbitration, similar to the Anglo-French treaty, has been concluded between Great Britain and Germany.

In accordance with the terms of the recent treaty with Great Britain, France is undertaking to restore order in Morocco; and French authority in the Moorish Empire will soon be extended after the manner of British rule in Egypt, probably opening the way for a French protectorate over Morocco. A French loan to the government has been guaranteed by the customs receipts, and a French officer appointed over the administration of the customs service. The growing power of the insurgents, though they wage war against each other as well as against the Sultan, threatens to drive the latter from his throne and bring about a state of anarchy which will prove France's opportunity, enabling her to bring law and order and the blessings of modern civilization to the rich and fertile but long misgoverned land of the Moor.

Paul Kruger, ex-president of the Transvaal Republic, died in Switzerland on the 14th of July, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. By permission of the British government, he will be buried in the Transvaal. To him, more than to any other man, was due the outbreak of the South African war; and but for him it might possibly have been avoided. That good will in the end come out of his action is not to his credit. He led his people into a fearful struggle for supremacy, and deserted and robbed them when that struggle failed; but unless he had been a great man he could not have led them so far. There will always be admirers of his sturdy character; and even those who do not admire him will be interested in the romantic history of this last ruler of the Boers.

The fearful predictions of a peasant uprising in Russia, where irresponsible rulers govern in the name of the Czar, seem to be brought distinctly nearer their fulfilment by the assassination of M. de Plehve, the Russian minister of the interior, in the streets of St. Petersburg. The murdered minister, powerful and tyrannical, knew himself to be in danger; but his precautions were not sufficient to save his life. To him, rightly or wrongly, was ascribed the fall of M. de Witte, the minister who advised the Czar to evacuate Manchuria, and thus avoid the war with Japan. He is also blamed for the massacres of the Jews, the oppression of the Poles, the spoliation of the Armenians, and the arbitrary measures for the extension of Russian forms of government to Finland which the Finns regard as a breach of faith. His death, caused by the explosion of a bomb thrown against his carriage, is thought to be part of a widespread anarchist plot.

A truce in Thibet, that promised a peaceful ending of the British expedition to that mysterious country, has been followed by the resumption of hostilities. The Thibetans would agree to open negotiations if the British forces would retire. The British would

not retire; but, since the Thibetans refuse to treat with them where they now are, will go on to Lhasa.

The King of Italy, as arbitrator in the Anglo-Brazilian dispute about the Guiana boundary, has decided in favor of the British claims.

Niuchwang, an important port at the mouth of the Liao Ho, which was occupied by the Russians some time after the beginning of the war, has now been abandoned by the Russian forces and occupied by the Japanese. This acquisition, giving to the Japanese another landing place for troops and supplies, is the only single event of importance in the campaign in Manchuria, unless the repeated rumors of the fall of Port Arthur have some foundation in fact. Japanese and Russian armies have continued their movements, the advantage in the outpost battles being generally with the Japanese. Three Japanese armies appear to be closing in around the Russian army commanded by General Kuropatkin; and he will be obliged to offer battle or make a hasty retreat to Mukden. In the meantime, the Japanese forces surrounding Port Arthur have been making great progress in their operations, and, if they have not already done so, will probably soon attempt to carry the fortress by storm.

A great battle began on the first of August between Kuropatkin's army and the Japanese. The fighting is fierce on both sides, and the result will probably be decisive.

The successive defeats of the Russians, it is said, are beginning to have an effect in Europe; and the division of the Turkish Empire, with but little regard to Russian interests, seems imminent.

A Russian volunteer fleet, so called, having passed through the Dardanelles as armed vessels, has been making seizures in the Red Sea which were the cause of much anxiety for a time, and called forth a vigorous protest from the British government. The chief English steamer concerned had cleared for Yokohama *via* Hong Kong, and had on board munitions of war which the Russians supposed were intended for Japan. Accepting, however, Great Britain's assurance that the war materials on board were government stores bound for the naval station at Hong Kong, Russia ordered the immediate release of the ship, after formal inspection in a neutral port. There is no doubt that large quantities of contraband goods have been sent to Japan; and the right to search neutral vessels for contraband of war is not denied. But the Dardanelles is closed by treaty against all ships of war; and it is an open question as to whether Russia has any right to transform merchant vessels into ships of war after they have passed the strait. It is believed that the vessels of the volunteer fleet will be withdrawn, and two Russian war ships that have left the Baltic Sea will probably take their place.

A much more serious incident was the sinking of the British vessel, the *Knight Commander*, in the Japan Sea, by the Vladivostock squadron, a week later.