



NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH



Recent cannibal feasts are reported from Papua (New Guinea), and a punitive expedition has been sent to the coast.

Mr. Charles Tait, the Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, died on February 10 from injuries received during the earthquake.

Viscount Goschen, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer, died suddenly last month at his home, Hawkhurst Heath, England, at the age of 66 years.

Count Tolstoy, son of the Russian novelist and reformer, has been indicted for high treason for printing his father's political pamphlet.

The Hon J. B. Snowball, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick died suddenly while on the way to church in Fredericton on Sunday evening February 24th.

A hurricane in the South seas last week completely wiped out Cookstown in North Australia. Though the damage to property is estimated at \$2,000,000, no lives were lost.

A terrific explosion in the Woolwich Arsenal on a recent Sunday wrecked the chemical research building, and broke almost all the windows in the town, but no lives were lost.

On the Calabrian coast of Italy, on Feb. 9, a tidal wave following a storm has done great damage, the fishing village of Marina di Catanzaro having been practically carried away. Fortunately the inhabitants were able to get to the hills, and the loss of life was slight.

The rapid growth of the Canadian West is shown in the fact that during the coming summer one hundred towns will be founded along the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific between Winnipeg and Edmonton, besides all that will spring up along the extensions of the roads already running.

M. Alexandrovsky, the Governor of Panslav, Russia, was shot and killed while leaving the theatre on Feb. 7. The assassin, who was not identified, while trying to escape killed the chief of police and a policeman, wounded the manager of the theatre, and then shot himself.

In Paris, in well-informed circles, it is being declared that M. Briand, the Minister of Education, has drawn up and issued to the Prefects a new document for the leasing of churches which meets both the delicate requirements of the situation and the susceptibility of the members of the French Episcopacy, but the terms have not been made public, and its issuance has not been confirmed officially.

New York City was the scene of a railway horror on the evening of Feb. 16, when an electric express on the New York Central, while running at the rate of 70 miles an hour, jumped the track at 25th and Webster Ave., killing 20 persons and injuring 150 more. Among the dead is Mr. Myron E. Evans, president of the Cape Breton Railway Limited, and one of the most eminent consulting engineers in the country.

Over one hundred souls perished in the wreck of the Steamer 'Larchmont' on February 12 on her way from Providence, R.I., to New York. The survivors, who drifted in a life boat into Block Island harbor, had with them the dead bodies of several men who had died of cold and exposure since leaving the steamer, and the tale of suffering and death is one hardly to be equalled in the history of New England waters. The 'Larchmont' sank after collision with the schooner 'Harry Knowlton' off Quono-chongtang, R.I.

Sir Robert Hart, Director General of Chinese Customs, will leave Pekin for England at the end of this month on a two years' leave of absence.

The Mexico Department of State on Feb. 8 reported that President Diaz, acting on the direct suggestion of President Roosevelt, had sent a note to the governments of Costa Rica, Salvador and Guatemala, asking them to use every effort to prevent an armed clash between Nicaragua and Honduras, with the intimation that past treaties must be lived up to, and that their dispute must be referred to an arbitration board.

The British steamship 'Berlin' was wrecked off the Hook of Holland on February 21st, and only fifteen out of the one hundred and forty-three persons on board were saved. The vessel broke in two after striking the corner of the pier, and three women remained on the wreck forty-seven hours before the lifeboat crew, stimulated by the words and example of Prince Henry, Consort of the Queen of the Netherlands, succeeded in reaching them.

At L'Orient, France, on Feb. 8, by an explosion on board the torpedo boat No. 339, of the French Navy, nine men were killed and two others injured. The craft was launched a short time ago, and was undergoing a full power steam trial in the roadstead. A technical naval committee was on board. A safety tube burst, and a mass of flame was forced into the stokehold. The engineer and eight stokers were burned to death.

A big whiskey smuggling scheme is reported to have been discovered in London. By a system of underground pipes, it is said, the whiskey was conveyed from a distillery to a duty-paid warehouse, whence it was distributed to the trade, thus escaping the tax of \$2.75 per gallon. The revenue authorities are said to have demanded the payment of a fine of \$300,000 on the smuggled liquor. The matter will probably be brought up in Parliament.

The latest socialist outrage occurred on Feb. 8 in Paterson, N.J., when Mr. Robert Cortesco, justice of the peace, was almost literally blown to pieces in his office by the explosion of an infernal machine sent to him by express. He died at midnight. The officers say that the detonation was heard for blocks. Revenge for aid given the police in securing foreign law-breakers is thought to be the cause of the murder. The judge had actively aided in the capture of Italian law-breakers recently.

In Rome, on Feb. 17, there was a small riot over the decoration by the anti-clericals of the monument to Bruno the philosopher, who was martyred by the Inquisition. A procession of Socialists, anarchists, students, and the usual hangers-on marched through the streets shouting 'Death to the Pope!' 'Hurrah for socialism,' and at the Capitol's loggia overcame the police in a scuffle. The crowd was kept within bounds by the carabinieri, and the whole demonstration is said to have in no way hastened the attempt to follow France's example in the separation of Church and State.

The British Parliament was opened on February 12 by the King in person, with the usual brilliant ceremonies. The King's speech foreshadowed a session devoted to Ireland, Army reform, temperance, and the problem of the House of Lords. Referring to the Kingston disaster, the speech recognized with gratitude the sympathy shown by the prompt offers of assistance from the United States Navy, said the occasion had called forth many proofs of practical good will from all parts of the Empire, had been met by the sufferers themselves with self-control, and with courage and devotion by Governor Swettenham and his officers.

Sir William Russell, the noted correspondent of the London 'Times' at Bull Run, the Crimea, Koniggratz, the Indian Mutiny, Sedan, Egypt, 1883-4, and South Africa 1879-80, is dead at the age of 86 years. He was attached to the suite of the Prince of Wales (King Edward) on his visit to Egypt, and the East, 1868; was charged by Nubar Pasha with the selection of guests at the opening of the Suez Canal; accompanied the Prince of Wales as Honorary Private Secretary to India in 1875-76, and was an officer of the Legion of Honor. Among his publications are: 'Letters from the Crimea,' 'British Expedition to the Crimea,' 'Diary in India,' 'Diary—North and South,' 'Diary in the Last Great War,' 'Hesperothen,' 'Adventures of Dr. Brady,' 'A Retrospect of the Crimea,' and 'Totleben's Sebastopol.'

Much sorrow is being expressed in Canada over the tragic death of Surgeon Flood, R. N. of the North-West Mounted Police, word of whose death near Fort Churchill on November 29 last reached Winnipeg last week by courier. Dr. Flood, with Major Moodie and Mr. Thibaudeau, an engineer, had left Fort Churchill on Nov. 28 to explore for timber. On arriving at their camp up country they found that the grub box had dropped off the sled. Laughingly Dr. Flood turned with his dog team to go back over the trail, refusing to allow his companions to come back with him. He never returned. A snow storm covered up the trail he had expected to retrace and three days after a search party found him with his leading dog beside him both frozen stiff. The other dogs had gnawed themselves out of harness and sought safety.

In Japan last week troops had to be despatched from Tokio to suppress riots in the Ashio copper mine district, where miners were dynamiting property and running amuck generally. The cause was said to be part socialism and part whiskey. A Harbin despatch says the Japanese are erecting two monuments at Port Arthur, to the memory of the Russian and Japanese soldiers who fell in the siege. In proximity to the monument to the Russians, a Russian chapel will be built, bearing this inscription: 'In memory of the heroes who met their death in defence of Port Arthur.' The Budget has passed the House of Representatives without curtailment, an occurrence without precedent since the opening of the Diet. It provides for the expenditure of \$305,000,000, sixty-five millions more than last year, and twice as much as was required to cover all expenses prior to the Russo-Japanese war.

In the British House of Commons last month Mr. Augustine Birrell, the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, introduced a measure for the management of the estate of any person, who, by reason of age, sex, or any physical or mental infirmity, or such habits as he may have had, caused, or was likely to cause, injury to the property or well-being of inferior tenants. 'I feel no aversion,' said Mr. Birrell, 'to make myself responsible for the passage through this House of a bill which would propose to treat Lord Clanricarde after the fashion of the Bombay Court of Wards. I would not propose to expropriate him, I would simply take from him the management of his estate. It has been pointed out that this estate is haunted by the ghosts of murdered men. It is not for us or for anybody to determine who are the real murderers. It is enough to know that such an estate is a danger to the community.' In this suggestion is to be traced the experience of Sir Antony Macdonell in controlling lunatic or drunken rajahs in India. A London despatch of Feb. 16 says Lord Clanricarde considers this action of Mr. Birrell as 'an atrocity' and 'an eastern barbarism,' but that his opinion excites little sympathy, as 'his lordship's agrarian methods in Ireland have long been regarded as hardly defensible even by his own side.'