

THE DAILY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 31 1898.

1898.

To-day the long record of 1898 is being rolled up, and before the year vanishes into the past we pause for a moment to review its most stirring events.

It has been a year "big with fate," not only because of the changes which it has seen, but because of the tremendous possibilities involved in its issues. Never in Britain's history has she been so often on the verge of a great war as in the past year; and yet, through it all, skillful hands have guided the ship of state, and the political sky is far more cloudless at the year's close than at the opening. In the early months interest gathered round the joint British and Egyptian expedition to the Nile to break the power of the Khedive, and restore the lost Egyptian provinces. Skillfully planned and carefully conducted, the progress of this enterprise was never checked. In April the victory of Atbara was won, and in September, at Omdurman, the Dervish power was completely broken; and the victors, after entering Khartoum in triumph, carried their victorious arms along the upper course of the White Nile, practically subduing the whole of the territories claimed by Egypt, except the provinces of Kordofan and Darfur, which lie west toward the Great Desert. The importance of this achievement can hardly be overestimated. On the one hand British prestige in Africa has been raised to the highest point; on the other, it has been made clear that British aims and British policy regarding Egypt will be carried out, despite attempted interference on the part of any other power. Our own Dominion claims no little share in the laurels; for to the skill, energy and perseverance of Lt. Girouard, is largely due the construction of the railway, without which Lord Kitchener's success could not have been achieved. The great project of Cecil Rhodes—a railway and telegraph from Cape Town to Alexandria—has now been brought within measurable distance, and the expedition of Major Macdonald from Uganda is rapidly filling up the chain of posts in the gap between Central Africa and the Egyptian Territories. On the West Coast of the Dark Continent we found ourselves face to face with France over disputed territories in what is known as the Hinterland of Lagos, the dispute being practically the control of Niger navigation. An arrangement was patched up which does not seem to have been final, and the question is apparently being reopened. On the south-east an understanding has been reached with Portugal whereby Delagoa Bay will at least not pass into other hands, and slowly the cordis are tightening around the Transvaal which must sooner or later be absorbed in the British South African Territories.

Asia, however, has been the chief scene of diplomatic contention. China, weakened by internal decay and honeycombed with official corruption seemed during the greater part of the year to be falling to pieces. Russia succeeded in practically obtaining control of Manchuria, and in getting a lease of the important naval station of Port Arthur, which commands the Gulf of Pecheli and the approach to Peking. To preserve the balance of power Britain secured Wei-Hai-Wei, which in turn commands Port Arthur. France in the south is eagerly seeking concessions, and to-day Russia, Germany, Japan, Britain and France stand eyeing one another, each watching for the next move. Meantime, His Celestial Majesty the Emperor seems to have been deposed; and the Dowager Empress sits on the Chinese throne. It is difficult to forecast the result. The Tartar, so long the dominant race in China, seems to be effete; and unless the native Chinese can rise to the occasion, the days of the Empire are numbered. Latest advices seem to point to a combination of the United States, Japan and Britain to restrain the advance of Russia and preserve, as far as possible, the status quo. In India the war with the hill tribes on the north was brought to a close, and though there were symptoms of discontent later on, the year closes peacefully. In the south-west of Arabia we have gained some accessions of territory.

In Europe, the irrepressible Turk made his appearance in a series of riots and Christian massacres in Crete. Admiral Noel, in command of the British fleet, quietly disposed of the whole matter by hanging a couple of dozen Turkish cut-throats, and the result has been that Turkey has left the island, bag and baggage. The firm though cautious hand of Lord Salisbury has guided affairs with consummate skill, while the outspoken

declarations of Mr. Chamberlain have awakened all sorts of criticism at home and abroad. The determined attitude of all parties over the dispute with the French, at Fashoda, and the unexampled war preparations of the navy have given a significant hint to the nations of the world that there are limits to Britain's forbearance, and that, though strongly disposed to peace, she is by no means afraid of war. Trade has been so prosperous that, despite the greatly increased military and naval expenditure, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to show a comfortable surplus of three and a quarter millions.

In Britain's domestic politics we note the appointment of Lord Curzon to the Vice Royalty of India, a step which elevates Lady Curzon, an American woman, to the most commanding position in the Empire. The resignation of the leadership of the Liberal party by Sir William Harcourt has drawn attention to the disorganized condition of the Opposition. Speculation is rife as to the future, whether Lord Rosebery is to extricate the party from the policy of the late Mr. Gladstone and lead them to the attack on a new line, or whether the peace-at-any-price wing and home rulers will endeavor to cling to the old policy.

In France, the year has been one of unrest, and the prospects at the close are far from reassuring. Foreign diplomacy seemed to try its best to discover how far it was safe to worry Britain, and, having succeeded, fortunately it backed down before it was too late. In Madagascar, at Fashoda and in West Africa a systematic course of annoyance was pursued, apparently in order to divert attention from troubles at home. The result was a series of humiliating back-downs which must be extremely galling to French "amour propre" and which may yet bear fruit in an unpleasant fashion.

The latest news from China once more darkens the horizon; but if it be correct that Britain and the United States are agreed upon a Chinese policy France must accept the inevitable.

The unearthing of the vile conspiracy which resulted in the condemnation of Dreyfus has shaken France to its foundation, and has revealed a state of affairs in military circles which would have been deemed a few years ago absolutely incredible. Duels, suicides and riots have resulted, and it is far from improbable that the next six months may see the Republic overthrown, and a Napoleon military dictator. Meanwhile Dreyfus has been granted a new trial, and is said to be on his way to Paris. The issue is yet an insoluble mystery.

Russia has furnished a dramatic surprise to the world in the Czar's proposals for a general disarmament. There can be no doubt that Russia needs peace if it be only to gain time to prepare for her enterprises. Of the personal sincerity of the young Emperor there seems to be little question; but the general distrust of the officialdom that apparently controls the Empire will militate greatly against any real result. Meantime the plan of a peace congress has been generally accepted. Russia is vigorously pushing her trans-Asiatic railway and is getting dangerously near the borders of Afghanistan and Persia. Her policy of aggression in China at one time threatened war with Britain, but at the close of the year peace seems to be more assured. Internally Russia is suffering from famine which prevails over a large area and there are not wanting indications that Nihilists and other revolutionary agencies are not dead, but only sleeping.

In Germany, the Kaiser has been striving to keep himself before the public eye, his last feat being his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He and the Great Butcher seem to have fraternized with a good ideal of cordiality; but Europe is growing accustomed to William's vagaries, and the price of Turkish securities has not risen. The close of the year sees a strengthening of the friendly feeling between our own land and the German Empire.

In Austria we note the continuance of racial dissensions which seems to indicate a change after the passing away of the present Emperor. The cold-blooded assassination of the beloved Empress by an Italian anarchist touched all hearts with genuine sympathy for the aged Emperor who this year celebrated the jubilee of his reign.

Italy still struggles with financial burdens and the prospect ahead is by no means bright. Some rioting took place in the Peninsula which was not quelled without difficulty.

Norway and Sweden are at sword's points over their constitution, and as the year closes it seems not at all unlikely that there may yet be an appeal to arms.

Denmark has lost its queen, Louise, "the mother-in-law of Europe" as she was well called. The phenomenal success of her

family somewhat obscured her own merits; but she was a woman of no mean ability and of sufficient influence to be cordially detested by Bismarck.

Of all nations in Europe, Spain has suffered most during 1898. The disastrous war with the United States stripped her of her last remnants of her once world-wide colonial empire and at the close of the year her distracted and uneasy condition makes her a dangerous menace to the peace of the world.

Turning to America, our neighbor republic has passed through her baptism of fire. The strained relations with Spain over the revolts in Cuba were aggravated to breaking point by the destruction of the battleship Maine, with almost her whole crew in the harbor of Havana in February. Some hopes of peace were still entertained, but in April war was declared. The success of the United States, assured from the outset by her vastly superior resources, was rapid and uninterrupted, one of the remarkable features being the trifling loss of life on the American side in the naval conflict. While deeds of heroism were performed worthy of the old stock, the management of the campaign was defective, and far more loss was occasioned by disease than by Spanish bullets. The close of the war leaves the United States in possession of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands. The most gratifying result of the contest has been the binding together of Britain and the United States. The powers of Europe, jealous of the Great Republic, were more than once on the point of interfering in favor of Spain; but the resolute, outspoken attitude of Britain kept them in check. Today, the prospects for a union between the two countries, not based upon paper treaties but upon ties of blood and community of interest, are brighter than ever before. Should Congress decide to enter upon a policy of extension of territory, new and difficult problems will lie before the Republic, and the complications of the position will naturally tend to draw her more closely to the side of Britain. With these great nations in close alliance, the outlook for the future will be bright.

The fall elections resulted in slight Democratic gains, but the most noticeable feature in the contest was the defeat of Van Wyck, the Tammany nominee for the Governorship of New York, by Col. Roosevelt, one of the heroes of the war. An Indian outbreak, a race struggle between negroes and whites, and the usual crop of lynchings, have cast a somewhat unfavorable light upon the internal affairs of the Republic, while an anticipated deficit of 112 millions of dollars, despite the heavy war tax, sums up the financial situation.

Central American states formed a league during the year, which lasted about a month, when affairs relapsed into their normal condition of disturbance.

Newfoundland seems to be awakening to new life. Under the energetic management of Mr. Reid, tri-weekly steam communication with the mainland has been secured and a railway opened through the entire length of the Island. A fleet of steamers for the navigation of the bays, and for the Labrador coast is being built, mines and other branches of industry are being opened up in many directions, and the present indications are that Newfoundland will make greater advances in the next decade than in the three last. The attention of Britain has been called to the intolerable outrage of the French Shore; and, as the result of a Royal Commission sent out to examine into this burning question, we may reasonably expect that its days are numbered.

In the West Indies, a great deal of distress has prevailed, and appeals have been made, with some success, for financial assistance from the Motherland. An agitation for union with the Dominion is in progress, and the time is doubtless not distant when all the British possessions in North America will be embraced in one league.

Turning to our own Dominion, the year has been a prosperous one. The harvests were good, and, though wheat was somewhat damaged by early frost, the general result was satisfactory. The increase in the volume of trade placed a large revenue at the disposal of the government, and swept away all the economical views which, when in Opposition, was a main plank in the platform. The outlay this year, in spite of pre-election pledges, will be the largest in the history of Canada. Preferential trade, so far, has utterly failed in accomplishing its object; and the reduction of postage to Britain and other parts of the Empire, while a concession to sentiment, is sure to be a minus quantity in financial results. The reduction of inland postage to two cents, which is announced to take effect tomorrow, is a step in the

(Continued on fifth page)



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7 15	Royalty Junction	10 15	2 16
7 52	North Wiltshire	9 20	1 40
8 04	Hunter River	9 05	1 28
8 38	Emerald	8 18	1 53
9 05	Kensington	7 33	1 23
P. M.		A. M.	
9 30	6 50 Ar.	Lv. 7 00	12 00
12 50	Lv.	S' Side	Ar. 10 30
1 37	Wellington		9 47
2 19	Port Hill		9 00
3 31	O'Leary		8 00
4 34	Alberton		6 55
5 30 ar.	Tignish		lv 6 00
P. M.		A. M.	
2 30 lv.	Charlottetown		Ar 10 30
4 10	Mount Stewart		9 05
5 22	Cardigan		7 35
5 45 ar.	Georgetown		lv 7 19
P. M.		A. M.	
4 05 lv.	Mount Stewart		Ar 8 35
4 43	Morell		8 17
5 12	St. Peters		7 48
6 40	Souris		6 20
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