

RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS

[From November 8, 1910, to May 1, 1911]

I. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AMERICAN RELATIONS.—Conferences, begun in Ottawa in November and resumed in Washington two months later, resulted in the conclusion of a **reciprocal trade agreement** between **Canada** and the **United States**. It took the form of a note from the two Canadian ministers who conducted the negotiations for their government, setting forth their understanding of the terms, and a note from the American secretary of State accepting their interpretation. These documents were submitted to the legislative bodies of both countries on January 26 for ratification by appropriate legislation (see *infra*, pp. 355, 356 and 372). The agreement places upon the free list 116 articles, including all kinds of grain, cattle and all other live animals, fish, potatoes and other vegetables, dairy products, eggs, hay, fresh fruit, rough timber, tin plate, wire and cottonseed oil. The duties collected on these commodities in the last fiscal year amounted to \$1,476,000 in the case of Canada and \$4,236,000 in the case of the United States. The agreement also provides for a reduction of the duties on about 450 articles, including meats, farm machinery, cutlery, building stone, clocks, matches, automobiles, lumber, coal and cement. Taking the figures of last year, the reductions would amount to about \$1,000,000 in the case of Canada and \$600,000 in the case of the United States. The agreement affects 91 per cent of the American import trade with Canada.—In view of the **disturbances in Mexico** the American forces on the frontier were somewhat strengthened early in February. On March 7 over 20,000 men were ordered to San Antonio and other points, while a squadron of four fast cruisers was sent to Galveston. This extraordinary mobilization was stated to be for the purpose of field instruction. It developed later, however, that the president wished to prevent the violation of American neutrality and also to protect American interests in Mexico if occasion should demand it. Assurances were given to President Diaz that the military movement had no significance which "should cause concern" to Mexico. The presence of this army on the frontier, however, gave undue prominence to a controversy occasioned by the capture of two Americans by Mexican federal troops. The State Department demanded their surrender, as having been taken on American soil; this the Mexican government refused, asserting that they had been captured on Mexican soil while aiding the insurgents. During a battle at Agua Prieta on April 13 three Americans were killed and a number wounded at Douglas, Arizona, by stray bullets. Strong representations were thereupon made to both

federalists and insurgents that battles must not be fought so close to the boundary line that the lives and property of Americans would be endangered.—President Taft's suggestion that a treaty should be concluded between **Great Britain** and the United States providing for the arbitration of all disputes was warmly endorsed by Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, and by A. J. Balfour, leader of the opposition. Negotiations between the two governments were begun in April.—A new treaty with **Japan** was ratified by the United States Senate on February 24. Along with the treaty went a note from the Japanese ambassador expressly setting forth that the present arrangement whereby Japan herself restricts and controls the emigration of laborers to the United States would be continued under the new treaty.—The republics of **Haiti** and **San Domingo** were on the verge of an armed conflict in January, as a result of a boundary dispute of long standing, but a temporary settlement was reached through the good offices of the United States.—In January the United States protested to **Guatemala** against the alleged support of revolutionary movements in Honduras.—On February 18 Manuel Bonilla, leader of the **Honduras** revolutionists, Lee Christmas, his aide, and two others were indicted at New Orleans for violation of the neutrality laws in connection with a filibustering expedition of the gunboat "*Hornet*." On February 3, at the request of President Davila, President Taft tendered the good offices of the United States in restoring peace; and as a result an armistice was arranged between the government and the revolutionists. In the peace negotiations, which reached a successful conclusion on March 4, Thomas C. Dawson represented the United States. At the close of this RECORD a convention arranging for a loan to the new government awaited action by the Senate at Washington.—On December 31 the United States formally recognized the Estrada government in **Nicaragua**. In January an American adviser was appointed to assist in putting the finances in order.—The government of **Panama** made a special effort in December to establish friendly relations with **Colombia**, but Dr. Carlos Mendoza, its special envoy to Bogota, was unable to negotiate a satisfactory treaty.—Diplomatic relations were resumed in December between **Bolivia** and **Argentina**, the former acknowledging that Alcorta's decision in the Bolivia-Peru boundary dispute was non-partisan (see RECORD of December, 1909, p. 733). In April a protocol was signed between representatives of Bolivia and **Peru** for the peaceful settling of all outstanding difficulties, differences of opinion being submitted to the Hague Court.—The frontier dispute between Peru and **Ecuador** (see last RECORD, p. 728) remained unsettled, the latter country refusing to consider the suggestion of the United States, Brazil and Argentina that the matter be referred to the Hague Tribunal, and the two governments continued to make counter charges of invasion of their boundaries.—By way of protest against the proposed lease of the Galapagos Islands to the United States for a term of ninety-nine years, mobs hooted the president of Ecuador and stoned his house at Guayaquil on January 27.

The plan was therefore abandoned.—The close commercial connection between **Brazil** and Europe was emphasized in January by the completion of a new cable, financed by the **German** government, linking Pernambuco with Cologne by way of Liberia and the Canary Islands.

EUROPEAN RELATIONS.—In the European press there was much comment concerning alleged signs of weakness in both the Triple Alliance and the Triple *Entente*. On the one side, **Italy** was said to be irritated by the refusal of the German and Austrian emperors to attend in person the jubilee of Italian unification (see *infra*, p. 376); and the mayor of Rome made the situation worse by naming a street after an Irredentist fanatic who tried to assassinate the Austrian ruler in 1882. On the other side, some uneasiness was caused in France and Great Britain by the meeting of the **Russian** and **German** emperors and the announcement of a friendly settlement of points of difference between the German and Russian governments. That the policies of Germany and **Austria-Hungary** were in harmony was testified, on the occasion of Emperor William's journey in March to Corfu, by his cordial meeting with the Emperor Francis Joseph at Vienna and Schönbrunn and with the Archduke Francis Ferdinand at sea.—Generally unfavorable criticism was called forth in the non-German newspapers by the speech of Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg in the Reichstag on March 30, in which he opposed the American, British and French proposals for disarmament and compulsory arbitration.—The Turkish government declared in November that further attempts on the part of the **Cretans** to sever their connection with the empire would be sternly repressed.—The Montenegrin government on April 1 called the attention of the Powers to the serious situation occasioned by the **Albanian** revolt and the influx of Albanian refugees from Turkey into Montenegro. Similar movements of Albanian refugees gave rise to disorders on the Greek frontier.—Joint delimitation commissions were appointed to fix the boundaries between Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey and Greece, respectively.—The **Norwegian** press has been in a ferment on account of a Russian plan to establish a strong naval base on the island of Kildin, in the Arctic Ocean near the point where it joins the Atlantic.

ASIATIC RELATIONS.—Early in February the relations between **Russia** and **China** became greatly strained on account of difficulties in renewing the treaty of 1881, which was about to expire. The Russian demands embraced (1) the right to impose unlimited import and export duties in specified regions; (2) guarantee of the extra-territorial rights of Russians in China, and of the hearing of legal suits involving Russians and Chinese by mixed tribunals; (3) free trade in Manchuria and the extra-wall provinces; (4) establishment of three new Russian consulates; (5) manifestation of due respect to all Russian consuls on the part of local authorities; (6) the right of Russians to acquire real estate in Manchuria and the extra-wall provinces. The Chinese government set up counter-claims for indemnity on account of expulsion of Chinese inhabitants from towns on the

east side of the Amur and on account of destruction of Chinese property during the Russo-Japanese War. The Russian government delivered an ultimatum on March 13, threatening armed force; and a week later China agreed to substantially all the Russian demands.—It was reported the same day that **Japan** was about to press several demands upon China, including the extension of the Port Arthur and Dalny lease, full control of the Dairen customs, an increase in the number of consuls in Manchuria and the substitution of Japanese soldiers for Chinese police in the Antung-Mukden railway zone. It was also affirmed that the contention that China is unable to suppress the bandits in Manchuria would serve as an excuse for an increase of Japanese and Russian military forces throughout that region.—A new commercial treaty between Japan and Great Britain was signed at London on April 3. The former country had given notice on February 20 of her intention to renounce the special Canadian trade convention of 1905.—The assassination of the **Persian** minister of finance on February 10 by two Russian subjects served to increase Persian hostility to the occupation of the northern provinces by Russian troops.—A convention was concluded at Potsdam on January 13 between Russia and Germany concerning the **Bagdad Railway**. The former undertook not to oppose the project but rather to guarantee proper connections through Persian territory. The treaty rights of Great Britain in the matter were expressly safeguarded.

AFRICAN RELATIONS.—In **Morocco** chronic conditions of civil war, tribal brigandage and lack of protection to foreigners have occasioned energetic action on the part of Spain and France. In April, Spanish reinforcements were pushed into the Melilla district, and a French army of 5000 was despatched to Fez, where Sultan Mulai Hafid was besieged by a new pretender, Malai Ismail, and the Berber forces. Meanwhile, the French have completed the final link in their chain of railways connecting the Gulf of Tunis with the Moroccan boundary, thereby facilitating the "peaceful penetration" of the Shereefian empire. It is expected that in the near future the railway will be extended to Tangier, making that place a great port of northern Africa.—The boundary disputes which **Liberia** had with France and with Great Britain were adjusted in January. Throughout March and April negotiations proceeded with those countries and the United States in order to solve financial difficulties.

II. THE UNITED STATES

THE ADMINISTRATION.—Early in November **President Taft** visited Panama and examined the construction works in the canal zone. Dining with President Arosemena on November 16, he declared that the American people would feel utterly dishonored in annexing the republic of Panama unless a situation arose which left them no alternative; and such a situation, he was confident, would never arise. Speaking in Washington a month later and in New York on January 21 he urged the fortification of the canal on the ground that neutralization would not ensure its safety in