

RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS

[From November 6, 1912, to May 1, 1913]

I. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE BALKAN WAR—The offensive campaigns of the allies culminated during the month of November. The Greeks entered Salonica on November 9; Servian armies took Durazzo on the twelfth and completed the conquest of Macedonia by capturing Monastir on the eighteenth and Dibra on the twenty-eighth; and the Bulgarian army, after defeating the Turks at Tchorlu in the first week of November, went into winter quarters before the Tchataldja line of fortifications.—The **Greek navy** repeatedly engaged Turkish ships off the Dardanelles and continued to attack the **Ægean islands**; investing Tenedos November 6, forcing the Turkish garrison of Mitylene to surrender on December 21, occupying Chios on January 3 and investing Samos March 15.—An **armistice** was signed at Tchataldja on December 3, by which Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro and Turkey agreed to send delegates to a peace conference at London. During the armistice the armies were to retain their positions and the besieged fortresses were not to be reprovisioned. Greece refused to accede to this agreement while Janina remained in Turkish hands and continued her attacks on that city.—At the first session of the **Peace Conference** in London on December

16 the Greeks insisted on a share in the deliberations. The Turks, after some delay and efforts to obtain a counter-concession, yielded on this point. The territorial demands which the allies submitted December 23, comprising the cession of all territory west of a line from Rodosto to Cape Malatra, of the **Ægean islands** and of Crete, were refused by the Turkish diplomats, and the conference was suspended by the allies on January 6. On the sixteenth, the Porte was advised by the powers to yield on the question of the surrender and cession of Adrianople. After receiving the assent of a Council of Notables on January 22, the Turkish government proposed to compromise on the division of Adrianople and the autonomy of the **Ægean islands**. This was insufficient to satisfy the allies, and on February 3 there was a general **resumption of hostilities**. The Bulgarians with Servian help pressed the attack on Adrianople; two forts were taken on March 9; and on the twenty-sixth the whole eastern line of defenses was carried and Shukri Pasha was compelled to surrender with some 30,000 men. A vigorous attack was then made on the Tchataldja line; the town of Tchataldja was taken, and Bulgarian detachments occupied Delepes, Injes, Subachu and Serbele. Meanwhile the Greeks had captured Janina, March 6; the siege of Scutari had been urgently prosecuted by Servian and Montenegrin troops; and Greek ships in the Adriatic were coöperating with the allied forces in northern Albania.—The mediation of the powers

was impeded by their clashing interests. The moral support which Russian sentiment gave to the Greek-Christian Slavic Balkan states brought Russia into sharp conflict with the Austro-Hungarian "expansion to Salonica" policy. After the resumption of hostilities between the Turks and the allies, the attention of the powers was directed to the settlement of the conflicting claims to **Albania**. In deference to the strenuous representations of Austria-Hungary, they agreed to incorporate Scutari in an autonomous Albanian state and to forbid the acquisition by Servia of an Adriatic port, although Servia was to be given commercial access to the Adriatic over a neutral railway. In return, the Triple Entente secured for Servia and Montenegro the debatable territories of Ipek, Prizrend, Dibra and Djakova. The northern and eastern frontiers of the proposed autonomous Albanian state were formally agreed upon, March 26. The immediate result of this agreement was the relaxation of Austro-Russian tension and the simultaneous withdrawal in March of 36,000 Russian and 30,000 Austrian troops from the Galician frontier. With the consent of the Porte, renewed offers of mediation were made on March 1. Two weeks later the allies were willing to accept the good offices of the powers on condition that Adrianople and Scutari be surrendered, that the western boundary of Turkey be the Rodosto-Malatra line, that Crete and the Aegean islands be ceded and that an indemnity be paid by Turkey. The powers, unwilling to give Bulgaria a foothold on the Dardanelles, insisted on the line from Enos to Midia by way of the Maritza and Ergene rivers; and, as German interests opposed the union of the Aegean islands with Greece, the powers offered to establish later the status of those islands. On April 1, the Porte was ready to accept a direct line from Enos to Midia, and the allies were finally induced to agree to mediation, reserving the right to discuss with the powers the claim for \$300,000,000 indemnity, the disposition of the Turkish national debt, the status of the Aegean islands and the delimitation of the boundaries in Thrace and in Albania. On April 19 an **armistice** was signed at Bulair by all the belligerents except Montenegro. The decision of the powers to incorporate Scutari in Albania only incited King Nicholas to redouble his efforts to capture that city. An international fleet under the command of an English admiral attempted to punish this defiance by blockading the coast from Antivari to San Giovanni di Medua on April 10. Unintimidated, the Montenegrins continued the siege and captured Scutari on April 23. Austria-Hungary at once assumed a belligerent attitude and it was feared that further refusal of the Montenegrins to give up Scutari would precipitate an invasion.—In 1903 **Rumania** had declared that an alteration of the *status quo* in the Balkan region could not be tolerated. When the present struggle became clearly a war of conquest, Rumania demanded from Bulgaria, as the price of her neutrality, a slice of Silistrian territory. The critical situation which developed in February was ended by the decision of both countries, at Russia's suggestion, to refer the dispute to an ambassadorial conference at St. Petersburg.

GENERAL EUROPEAN RELATIONS.—The Balkan troubles and the conflict of Russian and Austro-Hungarian sympathies and interests (see *supra*) caused friction between the **Triple Entente** and the **Triple Alliance**. Germany and Italy came to the support of Austria-Hungary and made public, early in December, the renewal for twelve years of the Triple Alliance, which would have expired in 1914. The Triple Entente replied with renewed demonstrations of the cordial relations existing between its members: M. Poincaré was decorated by the tsar in February, and the distinguished diplomat and naval enthusiast, M. Delcassé, was appointed French ambassador at St. Petersburg. After a visit of Prince Hohenlohe to Russia, the strain was somewhat relieved by the Austro-Russian agreement for simultaneous reduction of their armies to the normal peace footing on March 12; but the two nations still watched each other jealously. In this situation, Germany felt obliged to increase its armament and to strengthen the fortresses on the French frontier. The French government responded with a three-year military service bill (see *infra*; p. 377). The animosity between **France** and **Germany** was further increased by a series of minor incidents, such as the accidental landing of German airships in French territory and petty demonstrations in France against German tourists.—**Anglo-German** relations were not improved by Mr. Churchill's statement that the dominion-contributed ships (with the exception of the New Zealand) were to be added to the 16-to-10 naval superiority of Great Britain over Germany which he had recently announced and to which the German government had tacitly agreed. Consequently, Mr. Churchill's proposal on March 26 for a one-year interruption of naval construction found little favor in German circles. An attempt to allay the fever of **militarism**, against which not even the small states of Belgium and Holland with their practically assured neutrality are immune, was evidenced in the peace demonstrations of Socialist mass-meetings in European capitals and in the one-day strike against war in France, as well as in the unanimous motion of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Council at the Hague that Great Britain should take the initiative in proposing limitation of armaments.

AFRICAN RELATIONS.—The long diplomatic duel between Spain and France over the **Moroccan** question (see last RECORD, p. 732) was finally decided in favor of the latter country by the signature on November 26 of a Franco-Spanish treaty of 29 articles. The boundaries of the zones of the two signatory powers were to be delimited by a mixed commission (which was appointed in April); it was agreed, however, that Spain should abandon important districts in the north and in the south, with the meagre compensation of Mt. Ghani (seven miles from Alcazar). The eastern boundary of the southern Spanish zone was to be approximately the eleventh meridian west of Paris. The dimensions of the Ifni enclave were fixed at 25 km. by 44 km. The details of the troublesome question of the status of Tangier were left unsettled, but it was decided in principle to place that city under a special international régime.—In the region south of

Morocco, the Northwest Adrar district, a French expeditionary force encountered stubborn native opposition.—The **Liberian** government found itself involved in difficulties with the German government by reason of insults offered by natives to German merchants and officers. The presence of the German gunboat "Panther," reinforced later by another gunboat and a cruiser, secured apologies from the Liberian government; but in March the little state retaliated by offering to an English firm a concession to exploit 12,000 square miles of the most valuable land in the republic.—News from Cairo in April that £8,000,000 had already been subscribed for the construction of a railway connecting Derna, Tripoli, with the Egyptian Maronit line seemed to indicate the drawing together of the British protectorate and the new Italian dependency. The same friendly disposition dictated agreements between Italy and her other North African neighbors. In November France and Italy agreed to guarantee each other most-favored-nation treatment in Morocco and in Libya.

ASIATIC RELATIONS.—The delay of negotiations for the conclusion of the six-power loan (see last RECORD, p. 733) kept the **Chinese** government in continued financial difficulties, which were only temporarily relieved in February by an advance of \$3,750,000 by London bankers. On March 18 the new administration in the United States withdrew its support from the international banking group (see *infra*, p. 355). The remaining five powers concluded on April 26 a loan of \$125,000,000.—In anticipation of the opening of the Chinese National Assembly on April 8, the United States, on April 2, invited the other powers to join in recognizing the Republic of China. On May 1 the American chargé d'affaires at Peking presented from President Wilson "a greeting of welcome to the new China."—The Russo-Mongolian treaty of November 7, whereby Russia agreed to support the autonomy of outer Mongolia, aroused considerable anti-Russian war-spirit in China. The massing of several thousand soldiers at Tsitsikar gave rise to rumors that the rebellious khutukhta of Mongolia would be coerced, but the troops were destined merely to combat roving bands of outlaws in inner Mongolia.—The Chinese attempt to regain control of **Tibet** was a failure. The few Chinese troops still operating in Tibet were repeatedly worsted. After replying on December 23 in an unsatisfactory manner to the British note of August 17 (see last RECORD, p. 733), the Chinese government sent Went Sung Yao to London to defend Chinese intentions with regard to Tibet.—Meanwhile the khutukhta of Mongolia and the dalai lama of Tibet had formed an alliance on January 21 for mutual protection, for the defense of Buddhism and for the furtherance of trade relations. Persistent rumors that Russia and Great Britain were conniving to alienate the two western provinces from China took surprising form in the semi-official announcement by the Peking *Daily News* of a secret Anglo-Russian treaty for mutual support in the English exploitation of Tibetan mines and in the Russian construction of branch lines of the Urga railway. Dr. Sun Yat-sen led a vigorous campaign for determined resistance to foreign ag-

gression, but it was recognized that the insecure financial footing of the government made effective opposition difficult.—Friction with Great Britain continued on the subject of the restriction of the opium traffic.—In March Dr. Sun Yat-sen followed up the efforts of Hu-Ying to bring about a **Chino-Japanese** entente, and according to the *Novoye Vremya* a treaty was concluded and a syndicate formed for joint undertakings.—In January the **Persian** government informed Great Britain that the tribesmen who shot the British Captain Eckford in December would be punished. It also requested a loan of \$1,750,000 for the reorganization of the gendarmerie; and in February the **British** and **Russian** governments declared their willingness jointly to advance \$2,000,000 to Persia. It was also made known that a Russian syndicate had received a concession for a railway between Julfa and Tabriz, and that British syndicates would be granted concessions for constructing the Mohammerah-Khoramabad railway and for opening up southern mines.

AMERICAN RELATIONS.—In the early part of the year the revolutionary movement in **Mexico** (see *infra*, p. 370) seemed to threaten the interests of American residents, especially on the west coast; and a number of warships were therefore despatched to Mexican waters. After the fall of Madero, in view of the possible necessity of intervention, 10,000 men were hurried to Galveston and patrols were strengthened along the frontier. On several occasions the latter came into conflict with Mexican troops, repelling them in one of the skirmishes with a loss of six killed. On March 30 General Huerta, the provisional president, complaining of the shipment of war materials to the rebels, requested a more vigilant guarding of the frontier.—On March 11 President Wilson made an important declaration respecting the policy of his administration towards the states of **Central** and **South America**. The United States had nothing to seek there, he said, except the lasting interests of the people. But coöperation would be possible "only when supported at every turn by the orderly procedure of just government based upon law"; and preference would be given to "those who act in the interest of peace and honor, who protect private rights and respect the restraints of constitutional provisions."—On March 6 Secretary of State Bryan set forth the objections of the United States to an amnesty bill which had passed the Congress of **Cuba** and which would have set at liberty several hundred political and other criminals (see *infra*, p. 371). President Gomez vetoed the bill. In April Great Britain remonstrated against the grant by the Cuban government of a railway concession conflicting with the franchise of the British-owned Cuban Central Railway.—During the revolutionary disturbances of November and December in **Santo Domingo** American warships were sent to protect the property of foreign residents and ensure the safety of the customs service, which is under American administrative control.—At the fifth **Central American Conference** held in San José de Costa Rica an agreement was reached for improving telegraphic service in the five states; the

adoption of identical naturalization laws was urged; and arrangements were made for joint consular representation by a Costa-Rican consul in Bremen, a Guatemalan in Vigo, a Honduran in Genoa, a Nicaraguan in Havre and a Salvadorean in Liverpool.—The German commercial treaty with **Guatemala** was extended until March 15, 1915. Late in April, the British government presented an ultimatum to Guatemala demanding the immediate payment of the long unpaid debts of the country.—In a note to Bolivia, Dr. Ayala, a former foreign minister of **Paraguay**, demanded the withdrawal of Bolivian troops from a disputed strip of territory in the Chaco region. It was unofficially stated that Dr. Manuel Gondra would take the Paraguayan portfolio of foreign affairs and attempt to settle the controversy. On April 23 the Right Honorable James Bryce retired as British ambassador to the **United States**, being succeeded by Sir Arthur Spring Rice. On November 15 ratifications of an agreement between the United States and Great Britain supplementing the Newfoundland fisheries award (see *RECORD* of December, 1910, p. 727) were exchanged at Washington. On December 9 Great Britain formally demanded that the United States either repeal the provisions of the Panama Canal Act granting free passage to American coastwise ships or submit the matter to arbitration. In his reply, on January 17, Mr. Knox, defending the American position, maintained that the situation had not yet assumed a phase which made arbitration necessary, no specific acts of alleged discrimination having occurred. In the British rejoinder of March 1 it was contended that, while no discrimination against a British vessel had as yet been committed, the passage of the law was in itself an act of discrimination contrary to the terms of the treaty. Arbitration was again urged. In January a bill repealing the controversial provisions of the act was introduced in the United States Senate by Mr. Root, but though debated, it was not brought to a vote.—In February the arbitration treaty between the United States and France was extended for a period of five years.—On December 29 it was officially stated at St. Petersburg that, notwithstanding the expiration of the commercial treaty with the United States, the minimum tariff rates would continue in effect.—On March 18 President Wilson announced that his administration did not approve the conditions of the proposed six-power loan to China (see last *RECORD*, p. 733) and that the responsibility which the encouragement of the loan would entail was "obnoxious to the principles upon which the government of our people rests." Following this declaration, the American bankers interested in the loan announced their withdrawal (see *supra*, p. 353).—On April 4 the Japanese ambassador at Washington lodged an informal protest with the secretary of state regarding proposed legislation in California which would prejudicially affect the treaty rights of his countrymen. Formal representations were made a few days later. The bill in question debarred all aliens ineligible to citizenship from leasing or owning land for more than one year. After an exchange of telegrams with Governor Johnson, the secretary of state set out for California where, in confer-

ences with the governor and legislature, he sought to procure such modifications as would meet the objections of Japan. A new bill, drafted on April 29, permitted all aliens except those eligible to citizenship to acquire and hold land only "in the manner and to the extent and for the purposes prescribed in any treaty now existing." After President Wilson had announced that this would not be satisfactory, an amendment was carried, on May 2, allowing aliens not eligible to citizenship to lease land for a period of three years.

II. THE UNITED STATES

THE ADMINISTRATION.—In January the secretary of commerce and labor affirmed the decisions of the immigration authorities at the port of New York, under which Edward F. Mylius, who had been convicted of a criminal libel upon King George V of Great Britain, and General Cypriano Castro, formerly president of Venezuela, were denied admission to the country as **undesirable aliens**. In both cases a successful appeal was taken to the federal district court. Mylius was admitted on the ground that the offence for which he had been convicted did not involve moral turpitude; Castro, on the ground that he had neither acknowledged the commission of the crime charged against him nor been shown by proper evidence to have committed it. The Mylius case was brought before the circuit court of appeals late in April.—On January 1 the **parcels post** system went into effect throughout the country. According to official estimates six million parcels were transmitted during the first week.—In December the government brought suit in the district court at Los Angeles to compel the Southern Pacific Railroad to release oil lands valued at \$250,000,000, it being alleged that the patents had been obtained by fraud.—In November simultaneous raids by post-office inspectors in twenty-two states resulted in more than one hundred arrests for the transmission through the mails of illegal medicines and medical devices.—Among the **appointments** made by President Taft in the last months of his administration were: Larz Anderson, minister to Belgium, to succeed Charles Page Bryan, resigned, as ambassador to Japan; Dr. Carl L. Alsberg as chief of the bureau of chemistry; and Carmi Thomson as treasurer of the United States. In December he named the nine members of the newly-created Commission on Industrial Relations; but these, like most of his late nominations, were not confirmed by the Senate. In December 36,000 fourth-class postmasters and 20,000 skilled laborers in the navy yards were brought within the **civil service** merit system.—On January 20 President Taft accepted appointment as Kent Professor of Law in Yale University.—**Woodrow Wilson** took the oath of office as president of the United States on March 4, the first Democrat to hold the office for sixteen years. His **inaugural address** urged improvement in political and social conditions, emphasis being laid upon the necessity of conserving not only natural resources but the health and efficiency of the people and of reforming the tariff and the