

VI. ASIA AND AFRICA

JAPAN.—The cabinet of M. Saionje, although supported by a Seiyukwai (Constitutionalist) majority in the Diet, was wrecked by militarist opposition to retrenchment in the expenditure on the Korean garrison (see last RECORD, p. 767), culminating in the resignation of Lieutenant General Uyehara, minister of war. On December 20 Prince Katsura formed a ministry, in which M. Wakatsuki held the portfolio of finance and Baron Kotoas that of foreign affairs; in January the latter was succeeded by M. Takaaki Kato. Prince Katsura soon abandoned the hope of ruling without a struggle with the Seiyukwai majority in the Diet; but by proroguing that body repeatedly he postponed the crisis until February 10. On that date there was an anti-government riot in Tokio, in which several persons were killed and scores wounded. Prince Katsura then resigned and Admiral Yamamoto secured the support of a **coalition** of the Seiyukwai and the Kokuminto (People's party) for a ministry constituted as follows: Admiral Yamamoto, premier; Baron Takahashi, finance; Viscount Kei Hara, home affairs; M. Matsuda, justice; M. Okuda, communications; Baron Motoda, education; Baron Makino, foreign affairs; Baron Kikoshi, war; and Baron Saito, marine. The coalition ministry adopted a policy in which adequate provision for national defence was not to interfere with the lightening of the tax burden as proposed by the Saionje government. In the budget passed by the Diet on March 15 the government claimed to have effected a saving of \$25,000,000, but the total expenditure was increased by \$3,700,000.—Resentment against the proposed Californian land legislation (see *supra*, p. 355) was voiced in mass-meetings held in Tokio in April.

CHINA.—Realizing that the stability of his government depended upon maintaining friendly relations with the powers until an **international loan** could be negotiated, President Yuan Shih-Kai was not unduly strenuous in his objections to Russian aggression in Mongolia (see *supra*, p. 353). The foreign minister, Liang Men-ting, refused to carry out the policy of his chief and was promptly replaced by Lu Cheng-Hsiang. Meanwhile Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his patriotic socialistic party, which had joined with other groups to form the Kuo Ming Tang ("all one brotherhood"), had been agitating against the pacific policy of the government. It was alleged by this party that Yuan Shih-Kai was unduly strengthening his personal power by unlawful means. The assassination at Shanghai in March of ex-Minister Sung, which was laid at the door of the provisional president, further embittered partisan feelings. Finally, when the conclusion of the international loan was undertaken by the ministry on its own responsibility, the opposition threatened to refuse to recognize this action.—The first **Chinese Parliament** was opened on April 8. The sanguine disposition of the new legislature was evidenced by the introduction of a multitude of bills. Among these were proposals to nationalize the railways, to establish a state salt monopoly, to systematize the national and provincial taxes, to reorganize the universities and to connect them with the primary schools

by the foundation of provincial high schools, and to establish a bank with a capital of \$60,000,000 on the plan of the Bank of England—In spite of the antagonism of the British government, Chinese officials continued to oppose the **opium traffic**; in Changsha a woman was shot for persistence in the vice. In February it was reported that work on the Hukuang railway would be begun simultaneously by English, German and American engineers.—Lung Yii, formerly empress dowager, died in February.

PERSIA.—The shooting of Captain Eckford (see *supra*, p. 354) was the most serious illustration of a general condition of lawlessness among the tribesmen. Claiming that a firm hand was needed to maintain order, the reactionary element agitated strongly during the autumn for the return of Saad-ed-Dowleh, desiring to place him at the head of the government. This movement was further strengthened in December by insults offered to Treasurer-General Mornard (a Belgian) by Bakhtiari, who demanded a government appropriation for their own benefit. In January the ministry was overthrown and on the 17th a coalition government came into power, with Ag-ed-Alach-Sultan as premier. A Russo-British loan (see *supra*, p. 354) was negotiated by the new government for the purpose of adequately policing the caravan routes.

AFRICAN STATES.—The industrial prosperity of **Egypt** was indicated by the harvesting of the largest cotton crop on record and was further assured by the completion of the heightened Assuan dam, by which a million acres of the Nile valley were gained for agriculture.—In **Abyssinia** an attempt of Lij Yassu, the heir to the throne, to dissolve the body-guard of King Menelik resulted in a two-hour conflict between the troops of the heir and the body-guard.

[For colonies in Asia and Africa, see the United States, the British Empire and the Continental European states, *supra*.]

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