ON THE CANADIAN-PACIFIC RAILWAY: PASSENGERS ENJOYING THE VIEW AT STEPHEN, ON THE SUMMIT OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

M. FAURE AND M. LOUBET.

The sudden death of M. Félix Faure, President of the French Republic, on Thursday evening, Feb. 16, of apoplexy, two hours after the seizure, has caused much regret and anxiety all over the world, felt in England, by the Court and by the whole nation, as seriously as in any country. Her Majesty the Queen was almost the first among the Sovereigns of Europe, on Friday morning, to telegraph a message of condolence to the French Government and nation, and to Madame Faure, upon this distressing event. The Prince of Wales, Lord Salisbury, Sir E. Monson, the British Ambassador in Paris, and the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris lost no time in communicating their feelings of sympathy, and of sincere regard for the deceased statesman. The body of M. Faure, after lying in state at the Elysée Palace, was interred in the Père la Chaise Cemetery, with a public funeral, on Thursday last, the previous religious ceremony having been performed at Notre Dame Cathedral. On Saturday, at the Congress Hall of the National Assembly at Versailles, the members of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, sitting together, elected a new President of the Republic, M. Emile Loubet, who has been President of the Senate since 1896, and was Prime Minister in 1893. He received 483 votes, against 279 given for M. Méline, and 50 for other persons. The Ministry of M. Dupuy is still in office, for the present.

The new French President comes from as simple a stock as his predecessor's. Felix Faure was the son of a Norman tanner. Emile Loubet springs from the peasantry of the Midi. But it would be difficult to find two men less alike. The late President had many worries. He suffered something strongly resembling blackmail at the hands of the unscrupulous Drumont. He was deeply compromised by the illegality of the Dreyfus court-martial. To these serious anxieties was added the torment of a desire to rank with crowned heads. It is said that M. Faure corresponded a great deal with most of the Sovereigns of Europe. We can easily believe it, but we cannot believe that M. Loubet will follow the example. M. Faure cherished the idea that his personality counted for a good deal in the Franco-Russian "alliance." He mourned the etiquette which compelled him to wear evening dress amid the brilliant uniforms of the Russian Court festivities. His simple mind was distracted by elusive visions of equality with the Czar. All these things did a good deal to warp a genial nature which was not sustained by intellectual cultivation. M. Loubet, foolishly denounced as unintellectual, is a man of wide reading, who is more likely to find solace for political disquiet in his books than in writing letters to Kings and Queens. He is a lover of music, and can forget in the joy of a symphony the venomous attacks of a Beaurepaire. As Prime Minister seven years ago, he made no special mark, but as President of the Senate he won the highest respect for his judgment and moderation. By some observers he is thought to be a weak man, who will be a tool and a stopgap for the supple Dupuy. But it is some indication of strength that he has held himself above the violent discords excited by the Dreyfus affair. Moreover, he is a staunch Republican, and his victory over M. Méline is a victory for the Republic over the extraordinary confederacy of half-hearted friends and avowed enemies of the existing form of government in France. The Ligue de la Patrie Française is a coalition of malcontents, who wait for an opportunity to destroy the Republic. The sudden death of M. Faure took them by surprise, and the furious campaign of calumny which they have started against M. Loubet is prompted by chagrin. The position of the Republic is stronger for M. Loubet's election; hence the virulence with which he is now assailed. One great quality which is conspicuously lacking in France is political courage, and if the new President should reveal that he possesses this in a high degree, he will render his country a notable service.

In our double-page Illustration the picture of President Faure on Peterhof pier is a copyright stereo-photograph by Messrs. Underwood and Underwood. We are indebted to Mr. Philipp Horvath of 18, West Bolton Gardens, S.W., for the photograph of the shooting-party at Château de Tilleul.

THE ICHANG GORGES.

The entrance to the Ichang Gorges, in Central China, is so different from anything one has seen up the Yangtse River that it is hard indeed to think one is still in China. Ascending the Gorges, the cliffs and mountains assume the most grotesque shapes, and form a veritable giant's causeway, worn in and out by the mighty rushing stream for centuries, above which tower lofty peaks, sheer precipices, and huge cones 1500 ft. to 3000 ft. high, some snow-capped and others fringed with trees; the hardy mountaineers' huts are perched high on the cliffs, or stuck like swallows' nests in some protected corner. One most remarkable cone is called "The Needle of Heaven." Many are the legends of tiger-men, covered with hair and having tails, told by the simple people, who firmly believe in the existence of such imaginary beings. At the steepest parts the boats are towed by coolies. We also present our readers with an Illustration of Mr. Pritchard-Morgan's "yamen" in Peking, which has there been jocularly called the "Welsh Legation." The group consists of Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, known as "the Welshman"; Mr. Gwynne, Reuter's agent there and also a Welshman; Dr. Morrison, the able correspondent of the *Times*, an Australian; and Sir Chengtung Liang-cheng, K.C.M.G., who, it will be remembered, was knighted by the Queen at the last Jubilee. The latter gentleman is under engagement to the Szechuan Administration as Chief Chinese Secretary, and is now preparing to leave Tientsin, where he has been what is known as an expectant Taotai, to reside with his family permanently in Szechuan. Our Illustrations of the scenery of the Ichang Gorges are from water colour drawings by Mr. J. Smedley, of Shanghai.

A GIFT TO THE CZAR.

On the day, some weeks ago, when the Russian Memorial Church built at San Stefano, near Constantinople, to commemorate the valour of the soldiers killed in the war of 1878, and the consequent Treaty of Peace, was consecrated in the presence of a member of the imperial family of Russia, there was in preparation, but not yet ready to be presented or sent to the Emperor Nicholas II., an appropriate gift to his Majesty provided by a public subscription among the Bulgarian nation. This gift, the work of preparing which has since been finished, consists of an album, containing seventy leaves, upon which are displayed 310 water-colour drawings of landscape scenes, local monuments, buildings, and other views in Bulgaria, including three houses occupied by the Emperor Alexander II. during that campaign over twenty years ago; they have been drawn by the Bulgarian artists of repute, Mitow, Michailow, Bienenbaum, Bolangari, Oberbauer, Drog, and Choreschny. But the most elaborately artistic part of the work is the splendid cover and binding of the volume, which is shown in our Illustration. It was designed and modelled by the eminent sculptor, Boris Schatz, of Sofia, in the style of an antique Bulgarian Church-book of the Holy Gospels. The cover is of bronze, richly decorated with ornaments of gold, silver, and enamel; in the centre, on the front, is a bas-relief, with the figure of a Russian soldier, seated upon a gabion, holding in his arms a Bulgarian orphan child, and sharing his own ration of bread with the desolate little boy. Below this group is inscribed, in words and letters of the ancient Slavonic language, intelligible to both nations, the motto, "Brotherly Love." To the right and left are the names of fifty-seven places where battles or skirmishes were fought in the war of 1877 and 1878. Above the bas-relief is a medallion, with the portraits of the Emperors Alexander II. and Alexander III., and below it is another medallion, showing that of Prince Ferdinand, the present ruler of Bulgaria. The Album will be exhibited in the Hall of the Sobranjé, or Bulgarian Parliament, before it is sent to Russia.

COVER OF AN ALBUM PRESENTED TO THE CZAR BY THE PEOPLE OF BULGARIA.

Photograph supplied by Rudolf Lotheit, Sofia.

STUDIES AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.
IX.—THE POLAR BEAR.

Whiteness at all seasons of the year and at all times of life is a very rare feature among mammals; one of the few in which this occurs being the Polar bear. Evidently the absence of colour is due to environment, this species seldom, if ever, ranging southwards of the regions of Arctic ice and snow; and from the fact that even the newly born cubs are of the same creamy whiteness, it is manifest that the creature has been a denizen of these cheerless climes for an incalculably long period. Indeed, the only evidence of kinship with other bears, as regards colouration, is the tendency to the development of a brown tinge on the hairs of some very aged individuals of the Polar species. To enable it to maintain a foothold on the ice this animal has a sparse coating of hair on the soles of the feet, which in other bears are completely naked. The head, too, is longer, and the grinding teeth are proportionately smaller than in ordinary bears, all these facts pointing to the long isolation of the ice-bear.

Whether this animal hibernates during the dreary and dark Arctic winter is a moot point, but the probability seems to be that it remains active at all seasons, although the females retire to a comfortable (!) ice-cave to bring forth their young. To seals and young walruses the Polar bear is a terrible foe; and the quantity of seal-flesh it will manage to put away is said to be astonishing. In spite of its huge size and formidable teeth and claws, the walrus-hunters never hesitate to attack a Polar bear, even when armed only with a lance; and generally manage to come off unharmed and victorious.

So long as they are provided with plenty of cold water, these bears flourish remarkably well in this country. R. Lydekker.

THE 'VARSITY MATCH.

The Inter-University Association football match was played on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Queen's Club, and resulted in a win for the Cambridge team by three goals to one. The weather was very foggy, but a goodly number of spectators turned out to witness the play. From the start Cambridge showed the better combination, and during the first half Moon and Blaker had both scored. Jameson's fine goal was registered for Oxford during the second half, but the Dark Blues did not score again, and Gosling completed the victory for Cambridge. Vassall (Oriel), the Oxford captain, showed some fine play forward, but found a watchful opponent in Vickers (Clare). Blackburn (Oriel) was the best back on the field.

THE BLIZZARDS IN NORTH AMERICA.

Canada, and the United States on the Atlantic side, even so far south as Florida and Alabama, have been visited by a blizzard which continued three days and nights uninterruptedly, and ceased on the night of Monday, Feb. 13; but the work of clearing away the accumulated snow during last week employed four thousand men in New York alone, and ten thousand on the lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company only. Very few ships entered or left the harbour of New York in those days. In Canada, at different towns on the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, the visitation was severe; and the destruction of forest trees, as well as the overthrow of telegraph-posts, rendered travelling very dangerous. One post dragged down others, and the confusion was extraordinary. An Illustration of a street in Hamilton, Ontario, thus obstructed by the fall of posts, will be found among the engravings we now present to our readers.

THE MUSCAT INCIDENT.

The question of Muscat has been exercising the official mind, and that to some purpose. The public may have forgotten it amid the stirring events of the week, but the Government was alive to its importance. Colonel Meade, the British Political Resident in the Gulf of Persia, who hurried to Muscat so long ago as Feb. 6, has been making constant representations to the Sultan to secure the withdrawal of the promise which was given to the French. To lend force to his arguments, he availed himself of the services of Rear-Admiral Douglas and her Majesty's ships *Eclipse*, *Sphinx*, and *Redbreast*, which are lying in the port of Muscat at the present time. Finally, under threat of a bombardment of the forts by the British Admiral, the Sultan revoked the grant of a coaling-station to the French, in spite of the protests of the French Consul. This decisive action on the part of the British authorities shows that the situation was much more serious than it seemed. France and Russia are trying to spread their influence at other places in the neighbourhood, notably at Busreh, the principal Turkish port on the Persian Gulf. The importance of this town is shown by the fact that its exports amount to more than a million pounds every year. More than half of the exports consists of dates and wool. The dates have long been celebrated. Marco Polo, who visited the place in the thirteenth century, speaks of them as the best in the world.