LEADING EVENTS OF 1904 PRESENTED IN SUMMARY

War in the East Has Occupied the Center of the World's Stage During the Twelve Months Just Ended—Progress of Arbitration—Commercial Prosperity of the United States a Gratifying Feature—Railroad Disasters Serious—Enormous Increase in Farm Wealth—Notable Names in the List of Those Numbered With the Dead.

War occupied the center of the world's stage in 1904. The long threatened conflict between Russia and Japan for mastery in the far east broke out early in the year and was waged in progress as the twelve month closed. Diplomatic relations were severed Feb. 6 and six days later the Japanese attacked and partly disabled the Russian warships at Port Arthur. A day after that they torpedoed two cruisers at Chemulpo, Korea, landed troops and began the first of a series of successful battles before the year was over to give them command over the Korean peninsula and the most important part of Manchuria.

The Battle of Yalu.

The first great battle of the war was fought April 30 on the banks of the Yalu river, near Antung and Wiju. The Japanese had crossed the river and drove the Russians in the direction of Feng Huangcheng. Later in the same month they also landed and captured Kinchow. The strategic point of Nanshan was followed by which victory again was on the side of the Japanese. It was in this fight, Dalny had been captured on the 30th of May. Port Arthur was then cut off from the land side. Meanwhile the invasion of Port Arthur from the land side was completed. From that time on Gen. Nogi to whom had been given the task of taking the place, Gibraltar of the east buried his soldiers by the score in order that it should be captured some of them but the main force was withheld until the end of the season when Gen. Stoessel, that it seemed, had prepared for. Could not longer resist storm. Other battles were fought in and though they were not so sanguinary as Yalu the Russian lines had to be more and more contracted before the Japanese crept closer and closer and finally gave them possession of the place permitting them to bombard and destroy the city and the vessels of the fleet in the harbor.

In the North.

In the meantime the other Japanese armies had marched from Korea into north, driving the Russians before them. The battle of Kiulien was fought on June 15. A week later Gen Kuroki and his army occupied the important mountain passes to the east and south of Liaoyang. After a long and tedious march Gen. Oku and Aug. 4 soundered Hsiaoshan, Yentai and Penhsihu. The European commander-in-chief of the Japanese army, Gen. Kuroki, on the Yalu. From Aug. 24 to Sept. 4 the opposing forces were in contact and about 40,000 men engaged about 24,000 were killed or wounded. The Japanese were outflanked by Kuroki and compelled to retire in the direction of Liaoyang. Marshall Oyama, who had been placed in supreme command of the forces in the field, followed as far as the Shai river and here Oct. 12 to 14 there was fought one of the bloodiest battles in history. Gen. Kuroki was in close proximity for the first time but the Japanese held firmly and the Russians retreated without a decisive victory for either side. The Japanese losses in this battle could be no more. The combined losses in Kiliaoli, Liaoyang and Shaho was an enormous total of about 1,000,000 men (of whom about half were in the Russian army). Before operations could be resumed the Russian army was reinforced with the armies still facing each other on the banks of the Shaho.

Russian Disasters at Sea.

While the Japanese were marching their reserves on and their reinforcements were being landed in Korea, the ships had been doubled or damaged at the beginning of the war and the fleet in Port Arthur and Vladivostok were not in the best of condition to meet the modern Japanese battleships and cruisers and destroyers. Early in the month. One of their best ships, the Petropavlovsk struck a mine and sank off Port Arthur April 13 and went down with Admiral Makarov and 600 of the 680 officers and men. Aug. 10 Admiral Wittkoft with the remnant of the Russian fleet attempted to escape from Port Arthur and was met a few miles out by Togo's squadron and defeated in a battle lasting over three hours. Six were dispersed, some of them seeking refuge in the neutral ports of the Chinese coast and others retreating to Port Arthur. He himself was killed on his flagship, the Tsarevitch, compelled to leave the battle and return to port. The Russian loss in this battle was about 400. Admiral Kamimura, who had sailed from Korea to the east coast of Korea, sank the cruiser Rossia and damaged the Gromoboi and forced to return to the home port in a badly crippled condition. The cruiser Bayan was destroyed by the Japanese cruisers Chiyoda and Tsushima off the island of Dagelet. Aug. 29 As already stated the Russian fleet in Chefoo's first time of refuge in Port Arthur was destroyed later in the year when the Japanese had gained positions on the land side of the harbor and from their vantage points successfully direct a fierce bombardment.

The Japanese also met with losses in the course of the war but in comparison with those of their opponents they were not severe. The cruisers Hiatsuma and Asama, May 15, and about the same time the cruiser Yoshino was sunk in collision with another cruiser. The battleship Yashima was also reported lost under circumstances which have not yet been made public.

Port Arthur Surrendered.

Gen. Stoessel was forced to hold Port Arthur with his decimated forces, surrendered to Gen. Nogi Jan. 1.

War between Great Britain and Russia was very narrowly averted in the year. The case had ordered the Baltic sea fleet to proceed to the Far East under the command of Admiral Rojestvensky. The Russian fleet was to pass through the North sea when one night it encountered a number of British fishing vessels. Mistaking them for Japanese torpedo boats the Russians fired on them, sinking one and killing two men. They then went on unmolested to the sea what the result of their action had been. The incident was the sensation in England and threats of war were openly made. It was thought at first the matter was referred to an international court of inquiry. Later on the foreign office in Paris only about a week ago, it was stated that the case resented in this court by Admiral C. H. Davis.

Arbitration Makes Progress.

Though war waged throughout the year the cause of peace was advanced by the adoption of many important international arbitration treaties. The first of these agreements was that between Great Britain and France signed Oct. 14 1903 All the terms are based upon the same model and are touched to abide by a cooling off period. Some of the year treaties of arbitration were arranged between the United States and France, Great Britain and Spain, Great Britain and Italy, Great Britain and Germany, France and Italy, France and Portugal, France and Sweden and Norway, Britain and Portugal, between a number of other nations. All the important powers of the world with the exception of Russia and Japan now have agreements of this nature. Russia at the time of war between the two countries named was considering the matter and doubtless follow the example of the others.

Peace Conference.

In January an international peace conference was held in Washington at which resolutions were adopted urging the establishment of a permanent tribunal to establish by peaceful means the settlement of all disputes among nations. In September President Roosevelt, in accordance with a resolution of the last session of the Interparliamentary union, who met in Boston, sent a cable message to the Czar requesting the Czar to call a peace conference, promised to call a similar conference himself when the time. This promise he kept by sending notes to the various governments later on, thus making the suggestion in general, they responded to the invitation, but declined to commit themselves to any specific time for the conference. Russia and Japan assented to the principle in their replies, but stated that the time of war became the subject of arbitration. Nothing came of it.

The Year in Europe.

In Europe it was a quiet year. There was rather uneventful. The church quiet in France. Efforts to upset the Russian government failed. The Russian problem seems to be in a fair way to be solved peacefully and peacefully. In Germany where commercial depression has been felt for some time things have taken a turn for the better. There has been no great disaster in Europe and few persons are without employment. The Czar's life was threatened, he was crushed king and for the present at least the Servian problem has been comparatively quiet.

Of importance to the families involved were the births of heirs to the throne in Germany and Spain.

In spite of the granting of greater freedom to the Russian people there was revolts in evidence and promised reforms and the death of Plehve, the minister of the interior, who was the author of the reforms, was assassinated July 24 in St. Petersburg. Disorders also in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other cities in Denmark, Aug. 4 the king of Denmark was injured and a number reported killed. Spain and Portugal self government was made for the zemstvos and were that. Aug. 4 the king of Denmark was injured. The struggle between the reform and conservative parties continued in the case of the features of Russian internal history.

Lovers, the mysterious city of Tibet, by a mission of the Dalai Lama military political expedition entered its arrival in Lhasa, was summoned and brought to the unwilling home to Lhasa.

Progress in Science.

In glancing back at the history of the year it is the discoveries in the world that stands out most conspicuously. At the end of the year the opening of work on the great Panama canal, the Lake Lanier dam, the Nile dam, which has brought the product out of the desert, the opening of the Simplon tunnel, the treaty between the nations and the Russian peace conference, the Russian peace conference, the fall of Port Arthur, the Russian fleet, the Russian fleet, the Russian fleet