

By WARWICK JAMES PRICE



IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 1905

- Russo-Japanese War brought to a close by the Treaty of Portsmouth. Nihilists and Anarchists active in Russia and Spain. Great Strikes in Russia lead to what may be the wind up of the Empire. Industrial Strikes in several countries lead to loss of life and enormous money loss. Reform Political movements in this country swamp the bosses in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and Maryland. Federal Reform includes trial and conviction of officials and Senators. Insurance Investigation discloses unsuspected graft in a year of graft exposures.

NINETEEN-FIVE must be written large in all future histories. It has been the ending of a war, which, during its 570 days of blood, had cost the world 600,000 lives and \$2,000,000,000. It has seen the rebirth to distinctive integrity of a venerable northern people. More than either of these, it has witnessed the death throes of an autocracy, ruling 140,000,000 citizens of the 20th century as though the Middle Ages had not passed into the dim yesterday. For any of these happenings the year would be remembered; for the three together it never can be forgotten.

Nor has its course in the United States been less memorable. It has brought a change of greater import than could be flung through merely geographical. It has seen born to active good a revolution of public opinion against all those present-day evils usually grouped under the word "graft." The Federal war against the "Beef Trust" has emphasized this. The popular outcry at the disclosures following an investigation of life insurance even more pointedly showed the National Temper, while yet further evidence came unmistakably in November, when "graft" went down in defeat in four great states.

From War to Peace. Arrived with warlike news: Port Arthur had surrendered. It brought, too, the Russian rout at Hun River, while February's closing days saw the opening moves in that gigantic battle-game which culminated (March 5) in Japan's victory at Mukden—in physical magnitude the greatest battle of history, its appalling casualties totalling at a figure surpassing 300 such disasters as that of Chicago's Tunguska disaster.

To clinch Japanese success came the meeting of Admirals Rozhdestvensky and Togo in the Sea of Japan (May 27). The North Sea Commission had by arbitration established the boundary between the two seas—and then fell the crushing blow which practically ended the war. The destiny of our empire depends upon this action. You are expected to do your utmost, read the Mikado's flag as the shot was fired that opened the action. Not many hours later "destiny" had been assured.

This was the last engagement of consequence in the Russo-Japanese conflict. Gyams worked on towards Vladivostok, and a Japanese force captured Suifu, but these items read small beside those which relate to the peace conference, resulting (September 5) in the Treaty of Portsmouth. President Roosevelt had proposed this meeting to the two powers at odds, in June, and, on August 16, at Portsmouth, N. H., Baron Komura and Minister Takahira, on behalf of the Mikado, and Baron Rosen and Sergius Witte, for the czar, opened their parley. For 20 days diplomacy thrived and perished. Certain points were promptly disposed of, but the question of indemnity loomed larger as the hours passed, and only Japan's moderation and Mr. Roosevelt's earnest solicitation at St. Petersburg and Tokyo eventually prevented the matter of dollars and cents bringing the conference to a fruitless close. The Mikado's representatives, however, completed what his fighting men had begun, and seal was set on one of the great transactions of history. Asia's future had been changed. Europe's "balance of power" had been reset. One nation had been born, and influence set to work within another having much to do with a rebirth there. License versus Liberty in Russia—S C

Little by little, forced from one another after another, the one-time autocrat of all the Russias yielded to popular choice. Political prisoners were freed, press censorship abolished, Finland practically restored to her ancient autonomy, and, at last (October 25) Witte, the proponent of the Russo-Japanese war, resigned, and the evil genius of Russian progress, has resigned, in spite of the loss of the Egyptian autocracy, and promised land of constitutional monarchy.

THE Tokio rioting, which greeted the terms of the treaty, held but a dim suggestion of the year of internal struggle through which troubled Russia has passed. The war with Japan, bringing increasing evidences of autocratic corruption and incompetence, was but one cause of the outbreak. January came in with ruinous industrial depression, yet taxes were increased. Labor went on strike, and police oppressions were multiplied. Finland and Poland festered in feverish unrest. Nihilistic activity was renewed, the church was openly criticized. All these elements contributed to the rapid march of events, resulting today in the end of Caesardom, as the world has been accustomed to think of it.

Reforms Here at Home. The reform entries in 1905's ledger here in America have been a marked feature of the year. With only six states clean of graft-manias—Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan and North Carolina—the entire country manifested an honest purpose to bring to book all officials deviating from the path of rectitude. Election law saw "bossism" in varying degrees of corruption, swept from power in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and Maryland; Kansas has waged war against the Standard Oil and Milwaukee's grand jury has indicted 17 members of the "leading citizens" for various public offenses. Of the municipal battles for civic virtue, that in Philadelphia attracted wide attention, since the barbers of the old "Quay machine" had so entrenched themselves in power as to feel free to act in open defiance of common right. In April they opened a campaign to acquire the city gas works under guise of a long-haul

lease, but the attempted steal was so obvious and immense that it was met by the swiftest and most thorough revolution in American civic annals. Elihu Root, previous to his acceptance of the State portfolio, helped Major Weaver lead the investigators, and threw after them came to light, culminating in the disastrous failure of the Interlake Bank—systematically debauched by the machine. When the smoke of the ballot-battle cleared away "the corrupt organization masquerading under the name of Republicanism" was utterly routed. "Bossism" Durham announced his retirement.

George R. Cox, Cincinnati's boss, has also "retired from politics"—through the combined attacks of Secretary Taft and the city's honest citizens, led by President Dewey. Again, Everett Colby, running for State Senator in New Jersey, demonstrated that the strongest political machine can be mastered by the right man, his triumph and that of W. J. Jerome, re-elected District Attorney in New York City, more than made up for the defeat of Partridge, reform candidate for San Francisco mayor, at the hands of Eugene Schmitz—a man indicted under six counts, any one forming ground for his impeachment for maladministration. The same developments, saw in Maryland the defeat of the "Fox Amendment" looking to the disqualification of the colored vote, and the Kentucky fusionist victory over the "Bloody Hargraves" autocrats of Breathitt County.

Insurance on the Rack. NINETEEN five has proved "strenuous" for life insurance. When (February) the "Alexander petition" was presented by the officials of the Equitable Company to their directors, asking that James Hazen Hyde be not re-elected vice-president, and that the society be mutualized, no one foresaw the consequences. But the airing of that "family line" showed up such sordid pieces that the whole question of the business of writing insurance was thrown into a new light. President Alexander was replaced by Paul Morton, who left the Cabinet to take up that work. Mr. Hyde's interests were taken over by Thomas F. Ryan, who placed the stock with three voting trustees, including ex-President Cleveland. Such directors resigned as A. J. Cassatt, Jacob Schiff, Cornelius Elias, H. H. Harriman, and H. C. Frick, and "high property" was made of a committee report exposing details of extravagance and favoritism hitherto undreamed of even by those reasonably intimate with "high finance."

Changes Diplomatic and Political. WHEN, in the Spring, Count Cassini, Russia's veteran Ambassador at Washington, was moved to Madrid, Baron Rosen succeeding him, the first step was taken in a considerable number of diplomatic changes made during the year. Our legation in Tokio has become an Embassy, with Lloyd Griscom as first Ambassador, and both Brazil and Japan have done the same thing here, the former sending Dr. De Arago to our capital, and the latter sending General de Goyena. Joseph H. Choate from St. James is the chief of leading importance. He was succeeded by Whiteley Reid, who was replaced in France by Robert S. McClure. G. V. L. Meyer going from Italy to Russia, and Henry White being promoted from first secretary in London to Rome. Edwin H. Conger, after a brief service in Mexico following his longer term in China, has permanently retired from the corps.

Government Takes a Hand. REFORM has been noticeably active, too, in Federal circles. The impeachment charges presented by the House against Judge Swain, of Florida, and heard before the Senate, early in the year, may be taken in evidence of this step while resulting in his full acquittal. The "house-cleaning" in the Post Office and Public Printing Bureaus are more pointed proofs, the "trial" in the case leading to four dismissals and the supported charges of "extravagance and lax management" in the other resulting in the dismissal of several officials. An even more noteworthy instance of the Government's intention to realize Roosevelt's demand for the "square deal" came with the case of the Panama Canal. Its direct cause was a legal battle between an American asphalt company and the Caracas authorities, in which the latter were found guilty in part; the direct cause was a charge preferred (April) by Minister Bowen against Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Charles J. Frazier (D.), of Tennessee; William Warner (R.), of Missouri; J. M. Geary (D.), of Oregon.

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EVENTS THAT MAKE 1905 MEMORABLE

- Enormous Crops come to the country, thus insuring general prosperity. President Roosevelt's Remarkable Southern Tour and Secretary Taft's Philippine Visit. Germany's War Lord has a disastrous little war in Africa. Curzon gets out of Asia, leaving the field in British India to Norway secedes from Sweden and chooses a new King for Kitchener, and slips into the Moroccan Question. The body of Paul Jones found in Paris and brought to America. Great New Ships; Progress in the fight with disease; storms and earthquakes and death of many eminent men round out a Remarkable Record.

To the South of Us. IN the lands to the immediate south of us, the two happenings of 1905 of largest importance are the reform of the Mexican currency, placing that country on a gold basis, and the practical recognition by this government of active duties in maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine. This latter move, constituting Uncle Sam "the policeman of the Western Hemisphere," appears in the background of a protocol (January 26) between the United States and Dominica. This provides for a temporary fiscal protectorate of the Caribbean republic by the United States—in other words, placing San Domingo for an indefinite period in the hands of the United States, which appears in the background of a protocol (January 26) between the United States and Dominica. This provides for a temporary fiscal protectorate of the Caribbean republic by the United States—in other words, placing San Domingo for an indefinite period in the hands of the United States, which appears in the background of a protocol (January 26) between the United States and Dominica.

accomplished anything permanent. It is here that political trouble may confidently be expected in Europe. This is not, however, the only uneasy point in the Continental situation. The allied powers have forced the Sultan to cede them financial control in Macedonia; armed mountaineers have kept alive the perennial warfare in the Balkans; and long-continued periods of industrial depression in Spain, Ireland, and England have brought a scourge of famine to the one, fearful distress of poverty to the second, and, to the third, a menace from "the unemployed" which yet may become a governmental issue. In France the divorce of church and state lurches its way along with rather better promises; in Italy, on the other hand, ecclesiastical and civil powers have drawn together through the agreement of Victor's court to recognize Papal titles.

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The Kaiser in the Lighthouse. THE German war-lord has taken the center of the stage with characteristic regularity as month has followed month. The marriage of his heir (in June) gave him one opportunity, but the affair in which he played most prominently his part was that Franco-Moroccan matter already referred to. It is believed he took the stand he did, insisting upon recognition in all arrangements between Loubet and Abdul Aziz, thinking that Russia's isolation through her war in the East, would allow him to control the balance of power on the continent; certainly, too, he hoped to wound the Anglo-French entente. At one time complete success seemed in his grasp, and at least his diplomacy accomplished the downfall (June) of Foreign Minister Delcasse, the ablest of modern French statesmen. But England's friendship for her new ally strengthened under pressure of danger, while Portsmouth brought Russia again into European calculations—and the Kaiser found himself little better off than before his gambit. Though Germany is this much "to the good," that she is to be recognized in the forthcoming international Moroccan conference.

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