

were sent throughout the country announcing the event. From early morning deputations from all parts of the country and from Dalmatia, Albania, Old Serbia and Italy, many in their national costumes, marched past the palace, **singing and cheering**. King Nicholas received the various deputations and told them that Montenegro would devote itself solely to the advancement of culture. After the proclamation of the kingdom, the new government buildings were inaugurated in the presence of the representatives of European powers in the Balkan States. The Minister of War presented King Nicholas with a sword in the name of the army." The Montenegrins are a Slavic people and speak a Serb dialect. They belong to the Orthodox Greek faith, and are described always as sturdy and honest, and as wringing only a very scanty subsistence from their rocky hillsides.

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Korea at Last Absorbed by Japan.

The final act in the prolonged absorption of Korea by Japan (vol. x, pp. 875, 1234; vol. xi, p. 11; vol. xii, pp. 40, 1068, 1256; vol. xiii, p. 160) was consummated on the 29th when Japan officially declared the annexation of Korea as an integral and sovereign part of Japan, under one of its secondary names—Cho Sen. The former Emperor of Korea, Yi Syek, has issued a farewell rescript, acknowledging that he has ceded his sovereignty rights. He is to be styled as "King," and the princes of his house are to be treated as Japanese princes. Announcement has been made to foreign Powers that existing Korean schedules covering imports from foreign countries, and that regulations governing the coasting trade, will be continued for ten years.

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Korea, called the "Hermit Kingdom" because of the detachment of its civilization, has occupied the large peninsula lying between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, and has therefore been the natural "hinter" mainland of the island Empire of Japan. Its possession has consequently been an objective for Japan ever since the needs and the greeds of Western civilization struck that Far-Eastern nation in the middle of the last century. The immediate steps to its possession have run as follows as grouped in "The Statesman's Year Book" for 1910: Under the Russo-Japanese treaty of peace of September 5, 1905, Russia acknowledged Japan's paramount interests in Korea, and engaged not to obstruct nor interfere with the measures of guidance, protection and control which Japan might take in Korea. The Anglo-Japanese agreement of August 12, 1905, contained similar recognition on the part of Great Britain. On November 17, 1905, there was signed between Korea and Japan an agreement placing in the hands of the Japanese Government the control and direc-

tion of the foreign relations of Korea. By this agreement it was provided, *inter alia*, that a Japanese Resident-General should be stationed in Seoul, and the first Resident-General (Marquis Ito) took up his appointment on March 2, 1906. On July 31, 1907, a further agreement was concluded with Japan, by the terms of which all administrative measures and all high official appointments were to be subject to the approval of the Resident General, and Japanese subjects were eligible for official positions in Korea. As a result of this agreement Japanese officials filled the post of Vice-Minister in the Government Departments. A new Convention was concluded on July 12, 1909, whereby the Government of Korea delegated to the Government of Japan the administration of justice and prisons in Korea. Then came, as reported above, the final acts of annexation.

NEWS NOTES

—Cholera continues in Russia and Italy (p. 805), and a few cases have appeared in Prussia.

—The International Congress of Sailors and Marine Firemen met at Copenhagen, Denmark, on the 24th.

—Eugene V. Debs has completely recovered from the capital surgical operation he underwent recently (p. 733), and has returned to his work.

—The convention of American Municipalities (vol. xi, p. 661) was in session at Minneapolis last week. One of the subjects for discussion was the commission form of government.

—The forest fires reported last week (p. 805) in the Northwest have been dying out or coming under control. Over two hundred lives have been lost, including 86 employes of the United States forest service.

—At the general elections in Portugal (p. 805), held on the 28th, there was a large increase in the Republican vote. Although all returns were not in at the last reports, a victory was assured to the Ministerialists.

—Mayor Gaynor was removed on the 28th from the Hoboken hospital where he has lain since the attempt upon his life (p. 794), to his country home at St. James, L. I. Though still weak, his recovery is reported as assured.

—The strike of tin and sheet steel workers in the United States Steel Corporation, which has been on since July 1, 1909 (vol. xii, p. 926) was officially declared off on the 24th by President McArdle and other members of the Amalgamated board.

—The first section of a Grand Trunk train, running between Chicago and Montreal in two sections, while pausing for repairs, was collided by the second section, near Durand, Mich., on the night of the 24th. Six persons were killed and eight injured.

—Congressman Joseph C. Sibley (p. 806) was held for trial in \$1,000 bail by the Warren (Pa.) magistrate before whom his preliminary hearing was set on the charge of bribing voters. His private secre-