

nor-general, and brought on a condition which looks much like a popular revolt. In the process of the assimilation and Russification of Finland (vol. v, pp. 40, 234, 490, 502, 600), Count Bobrikoff, the governor-general, has been exceedingly drastic in his methods. As Russian officials describe him "he was personally haughty and austere and ruled firmly but justly." Unofficial dispatches from St. Petersburg say of him:

Lieut. Gen. Count Bobrikoff has been described as the most hated man in Finland. He was appointed governor general of Finland in 1899, when the Russification of Finland began. His measures for carrying out the Russian policy were necessarily severe. He abolished the Finnish army and compelled Finnish soldiers to serve in any part of the empire. He made Russian the language in all courts, and decreed that at the end of five years only Russian should be taught in the schools. When the citizens assembled to protest he dispersed them with Cossacks armed with knouts. He suppressed 150 Finnish newspapers. The last recorded act of Gen. Bobrikoff was in March of this year, when he issued a proclamation forbidding the people to darken their windows at "unusual hours." People who chose to go to bed before ten o'clock at night were subject to heavy fines. This step was due to the neglect of the Finns to illuminate their houses in honor of the beginning of the war with Japan.

His assassination occurred on the 16th, while he was entering the Finnish senate at Helsingfors. The assassin was Eugen Schaumann, a son of the Finnish Senator Schaumann. Two of Schaumann's bullets caused slight wounds in the neck and chest. The third penetrated the abdomen and necessitated a serious operation. The wounded governor-general was sent to St. Petersburg, but it was stated that his wounds were mortal. He died at 1 o'clock the following morning—the 17th.

The following letter, published in the Aftonbladet at Stockholm on the 20th, is said to have been sent by young Schaumann to the Czar. The published copy had been forwarded by Schaumann, so the Aftonbladet explained, to a friend not in Finland, with the suggestion that this was done because the writer doubted if the original would ever be allowed to

reach the Czar. The letter as published reads:

Sire:—Through the Senate, which is obedient to Bobrikoff, the latter has succeeded in creating lawlessness in Finland. Through lies and false representations Bobrikoff and Plehwe (minister of the interior) have induced your Majesty to issue ordinances incompatible with Finnish laws, which you promised at your succession to guard firm and unshaken. The best officials of the state have been removed without trial in favor of fortune-hunters and others ineligible to state offices under Finnish laws, and your most intelligent and truest subjects have been banished. Plehwe, whose duty it is to report to your Majesty all matters concerning the grand duchy of Finland, is not a Finlander, has no knowledge of Finland's laws and customs and has common interests with Bobrikoff. Therefore your Majesty does not get true knowledge of the real situation. As it is not probable that the real situation will be known to you in the near future unless Bobrikoff be removed, there is only one way to take in self-defense, and that is to render him innocuous. The remedy is violent, but it is the only one. Your majesty, I have done my deed alone after mature deliberation, and in the moment of death I swear there was no conspiracy. Knowing your good heart and good intentions, I implore solely that you seek information regarding the whole Empire, including Finland, Poland and the Baltic provinces. Signed with the deepest veneration, your Majesty's humblest and truest subject,
Eugen Schaumann.

It was reported from Copenhagen on the 20th that information had been received there of a revolt in Helsingfors, the capital of Finland. A band of Swedish revolutionists were reported to have sacked the offices of the governor-general on the 18th and killed eighteen employes, including a son of Admiral Pinken. They were also reported to have demolished the police offices, and it was believed that the revolt would spread. More serious news is anticipated, but all information was suppressed in official quarters.

The reports of fighting in the Russian-Japanese war (p. 171) are becoming intelligible, although nothing quite definite is yet at hand. While not relaxing their command of Port Arthur on the land side from Nanshan hill and the region of Kinchow (p. 134), the Japanese have made an aggressive movement northward to prevent the relief of Port Arthur by the

Russian army in their rear. In the course of this movement they fought a battle on the 16th, under Gen. Oku, at Vafangow, between Kinchow and Newchwang, in which they completely routed the Russians under Gen. Stakelberg. He had intended, according to his own report, to attack the Japanese right flank, but just as his troops were beginning their attack the Japanese fell upon his right flank with superior forces, and he was compelled to retreat to the north. His losses were heavy, but they are not yet reliably reported. According to Japanese reports the Japanese troops hung close to the rear guard of the retreating Russians, in a desperate effort to encircle the Russian right wing. This object seemed on the point of being accomplished when a violent thunderstorm, which broke in the middle of the night, choked up the roads that lay between the two armies and checked the advance of the Japanese. Freed from harassing pursuit the Russian army was enabled to retire gradually toward Haitchen; but it is announced from St. Petersburg that a sanguinary battle was in progress at that point on the 20th, and that the Russians were retreating still farther northward to Liaoyang. This is denied, however, by the Russian general staff at St. Petersburg; although there seems to be no doubt that severe fighting was taking place on the 21st at least as far north as Kaichow.

A rush out of Vladivostok under cover of night has been made by three Russian cruisers, which have since destroyed three Japanese transports, with a loss of life to the Japanese of about 900 out of 1,500. The transports were the Hitachi, the Idzumi and the Sado; the Russian cruisers were the Russia, the Gromoboi and the Rurik. At latest reports the Russian cruisers had not returned to Vladivostok, but neither had their whereabouts been discovered by the Japanese.

NEWS NOTES.

—The fifth annual automobile race for the James Gordon Bennett cup was won on the 17th by a Frenchman, Thery, who made 348 miles over a difficult and dangerous course in Ger-