

## PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

**Arctic Exploration.**—On July 29 a Canadian Government expedition, organized by the Department of the Naval Service in co-operation with other Departments, sailed from Port Clarence, Alaska, to the Arctic Seas, on a mission of exploration, expected to last for three winters and four summers. The expedition comprised a scientific personnel of 14 under the command of Mr. Vilhjamur Stefansson, known as discoverer of the "White Eskimo." Its main objects are to explore as much as possible of the unknown area north of the continent of North America and west of the Parry Islands, to gather scientific information and collections in the departments of oceanography, geography, geology, zoology, botany, ethnology and archæology and to take tidal meteorological and magnetic observations. For the purposes of the expedition three Canadian Government steamers were acquired, viz., the "Karluk" (321 tons), the "Alaska" (50 tons) and the "Mary Sachs" (41 tons). These sailed in two divisions, the northern division in charge of Mr. Stefansson himself with nine, and the southern division in charge of Dr. R. M. Anderson with four members of the expedition.

On August 2, owing to a gale in Ketzebus Sound, the vessels became separated, and the "Karluk" was caught in ice off Barrow and drifted with the flow, only obtaining clear water on August 7 for a day or two. On September 20, while Mr. Stefansson and three others were ashore hunting caribou, the ship not having moved for over two weeks, a northeasterly gale sprang up which lasted three days, after which the sea was discovered to be open with no signs of the "Karluk." On November 8, as no news had been heard of the vessel, Mr. Stefansson set out to join the southern party and arrived at Collinson Point on December 14. Here the southern party, the vessels "Alaska" and "Mary Sachs" being fast in the ice, had taken up their winter quarters on September 10. At this spot the winter's work was planned and much mapping, sounding, surveying and exploring was accomplished. The latest information received was that the "Karluk" had been crushed in ice early in January, while the crew and members of the scientific party had gone into camp on Wrangle Island with a plentiful supply of provisions. Captain R. A. Bartlett, who commanded the "Karluk," made his way over the frozen sea to the Siberia Coast and thence to Emma Harbour whence he sailed on the whaler Herman to St. Michael's, Alaska, and there established communication with the Department.

**Storms on the Great Lakes.**—Storms of exceptional severity occurred on the Great Lakes from November 9 to 12. They resulted in considerable loss of life and in the total wrecking of several large freight steamers owned in Canada. Altogether it is estimated that in these storms 90 lives perished, and that the value of property lost exceeded \$527,000.

**H.R.H. The Governor General.**—On October 25 H.R.H. the Governor General and suite returned to Canada after an absence in England of seven months caused by the serious illness of the Duchess of Con-