

tic scientist, and the experience gained will stand him in good stead on the present occasion. The expedition is to start about next August. Dr. Drygalski, the noted scientist, who has charge of the German expedition which is to co-operate with Lieut. Scott's, is said to be more forward with his preparations. With such men as leaders, and the able staff under their leadership, supplied with all the latest instruments and appliances that previous experience has suggested, this expedition should give some substantial additions to the comparatively limited knowledge of these mysterious regions at our command.

CENTRAL AFRICA.

THE protection of wild animals, birds and fish, in Central Africa, is a movement which should certainly have been instituted earlier and should command very general sympathy. At the International Conference, lately held in London, in which Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Congo State, Portugal and Spain were represented, a convention was drawn out, duly signed and issued as a parliamentary paper. It contains a set of regulations, including amongst other things, entire prohibition of destruction of certain animals, partial prohibition of others, fixing closed seasons to facilitate rearing of young, imposition of shooting licenses, export duties on hides, horns and tusks, confiscation of all tusks sought to be exported below a certain size and weight, restriction of the use of nets and pitfalls, supervision of sick cattle to prevent fear of contagion to wild animals, protection of ostrich eggs, and destruction of those of crocodiles, pythons, *et hoc genus omne*. This is a large order, and by no means easy of execution. It is, however, a step in the right direction. The wholesale shooting down of animals, male or female, without regard to the perpetuation of species just to satisfy the lust of senseless slaughter, or for purposes of present profit only, is much to be deplored, and means speedy extinction.

THE TRANSVAAL.

THE cable news from the Transvaal of late has been very meagre, both in quantity and quality, with the exception of the surrender of General Prinsloo, the Free State Commandant, and some thousands of men, just come to hand. With the overwhelming number of something like 255,000 troops in the field our natural inclination has been to wonder what they can all be doing, forgetting that in meeting such a wily foe as the Boer in such a country as his, there are many moves in the game which bear no immediate brilliant results, but lead up to the final checkmate, which must come shortly now. The rush to be in at the death and obtain some of the spoils which accrue to the victors is said to be great, but it is doubtless premature. Intending South African emigrants will do well to exercise a little patience before they start, for they will otherwise have to exercise it there under much more trying circumstances. A fuller inquiry into the conditions of life, the quality of the land, etc., etc., would in all probably stop many of them starting at all.

ITALY.

KING HUMBERT, of Italy, has just been foully done to death by the anarchist Bressi at Monza. The murderer has either been actuated by his own evil impulses or, as he states, the substitute for Sperandio, whose death prevented him carrying out his treacherous designs. When anarchy and rebellion are rampant in a country, extraordinary precautions are taken to protect the persons of royalty. But what precautions can avail against the black-hearted villains who work in twos and threes when suspicions are lulled, and shoot a man down just because he happens to be a king, without any regard to whether he is a despotic tyrant or one whose reign is as wise and beneficent as King Humbert's was?