

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

THE NEW ERA IN CHINA.

PEKIN, Monday.—A manifesto has been issued announcing the adoption by China of the Western calendar, 1912, being the first year of the Republic. Yuan Shih Kai has prepared a notification informing the Powers he has been elected President, and requesting their recognition of the Republic. This is unlikely to be given before the appointment of a Cabinet.

DEATH OF SECRETARY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

The death took place early this morning of Mr Abijah Murray, I.S.O., secretary of the Local Government Board. Mr Murray joined the staff of the Local Government Board (then the Board of Supervision) in 1873, and, after passing through the various grades he was in 1897 appointed to the position of chief clerk. He held that position when in June, 1909, he was appointed secretary to the Local Government Board in succession to Mr George M. Falconer-Stewart. Mr Murray had been off duty for about three weeks suffering from a chill, which he contracted when on a visit to England in connection with the work of his office.

Deceased was a capable and conscientious public servant, and was intimately conversant with the work of the Board, having been connected with it for such a long time. Deceased was for long a well-known member of the Queen's Edinburgh Volunteers, and was one of the most enthusiastic shooting men of "the boys of the old brigade." He was one of the founders, and was for long the secretary of the Queen's Rifle Club, one of the first of such combinations to be formed in the country, and one which in no small degree contributed to the shooting superiority of the "premier Brigade." As a Volunteer he was held in great respect and esteem by his comrades, and his quiet and effective management of the affairs of the club made the gatherings at Malleny and elsewhere days to be looked back upon with pleasure. He was for long a sergeant in the Civil Service Company, but latterly took a commission, which he held for some years. He retired shortly before the Volunteers were transformed into the Territorials.