

CURRENT EVENTS.

The province of Manitoba wants its boundaries extended to Hudson Bay, so that it may have a seaport and direct connection with the markets of Europe.

The reassembling of the Finnish diet, on the sixth of this month, is a matter of great importance to Finland. It was thought that the Russian government was opposed to its convocation; but the Czar, after convoking it for the above date, has done much to win the confidence of the Finns by decreeing that all expelled persons who have been elected delegates or are hereditary members may return to attend its sessions.

The body of the late Paul Kruger, formerly president of the South African Republic, has arrived in South Africa for burial in the Transvaal.

By her new treaty with Chile, Bolivia abandons her pretension to a Pacific port, and Chile agrees to build a line of railway to Bolivia, connecting its principal towns with the seaboard. The Bolivian section of this line is to become the property of Bolivia after twenty years.

The British troops are to be withdrawn from Egypt, with the exception of a small garrison at Cairo, and a police force similar to our mounted police, which will be called the Egyptian Military Mounted Police. The Egyptian army will remain as at present, with British officers in command.

Posts to mark the international boundary line are being made in St. John, by Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons. They are conical in shape, and between five and six feet high; and will bear on the opposite sides the words Canada and United States. Remembering just where they are to be set, along the Alaskan frontier, we might be willing to have them inscribed Canada on one side, and on the other side America. From the Canadian's point of view, it would be less provokingly definite.

The survey line for the eastern extension of the proposed new Grand Trunk Pacific railway, as might be expected, will run close to the northern boundary of the State of Maine; at one point, it is said, approaching within two hundred yards of the United States boundary.

There is much suffering in the west of Ireland again, owing to the failure of the potato crop. Famine prevails in small districts in Siberia, because of the scarcity of fish. But a worse state of affairs is reported from Porto Rico, where matters are much worse than under Spanish rule, and many people are said to be dying for want of food in a country which ought to be a land of plenty.

That the race wars in Macedonia are not due to religious antipathies between Christians and Muslims is shown by the fact that conflicts are now reported there between the rival Christian nationalities—Bulgarians, Servs and Greeks. Sad to say, there are atrocities committed among them equal to any committed by the Turks.

A new process of smelting and refining nickel ores promises to be of great importance to Canadian nickel interests.

In four provinces of China the viceroys have issued proclamations against the foot binding of girls.

By latest estimates, the world's population is a little over one thousand five hundred millions; of whom more than eight hundred millions live in Asia, nearly four hundred millions in Europe, something less than one hundred and fifty millions in Africa, the same number in America, north and south, and about six and a half millions in Australia and the Pacific islands.

Another specimen of the great octopus, long looked upon as a fabulous creature, has been taken in Newfoundland. It was of enormous bulk and weight, and one of its tentacles was thirty feet long.

Thirty hospitals in the United States and Canada will co-operate with a special commission of New York physicians in the study of pneumonia this winter.

A German professor claims to have proved absolutely that electricity and light are but different forms of the same force. Another scientist thinks he has proved the same of electricity and gravity. The idea is not new in either case, but the announcements are none the less important. The old notion of the sun radiating light into empty space would seem to be disproved, and we must think of space as being as dark as it is cold. Light, like heat and gravitation, is a reciprocal force, and can exist only where there is something to be lighted.

The Russian telegraph system in Siberia now extends eastward to Vladivostok, and a concession has been granted for its further extension through northeastern Siberia. The United States government has an overland telegraph connection with Nome, in Alaska. It is proposed to extend the latter to Cape Prince of Wales, and unite the two systems by wireless telegraph across Behring Strait.

A great hotel is to be built at the falls of the Zambesi, in time to accommodate the members of the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science which is to meet there next year. At the completion of this hotel and the railway bridge across the Zambesi, Victoria Falls will become a great resort for pleasure seekers. Every means will be used to preserve the beauty of the falls unimpaired; and to this end the bridge has been so placed that the railway cannot be seen from any point from which the falls can be viewed. Electrical power-houses will be erected, and power transmitted to the copper, gold and coal fields in the region; but this will not be allowed to interfere with the natural beauties of the place, as, unfortunately, it has done at Niagara. On the north side of the river, the railway is being pushed on toward Lake Tanganyika, where steamers will continue the line of communication, which is expected ultimately to reach northward to Khartoum.