

CURRENT EVENTS.

A press despatch says that one-third of the six thousand people who attended a recent picnic at Calgary were former residents of the Maritime Provinces.

Seventeen United States battleships are to sail for the Pacific coast in December, by way of Magellan Straits.

All European residents are leaving Fez, the capital of Morocco, where the situation is becoming more alarming.

It is believed that the Newfoundland fisheries question will be referred to the Hague tribunal for arbitration. The Newfoundland people object to Sunday fishing by United States schooners while they are barred from it by law, and to any privileges which their own laws deny to them being granted to foreigners under the guise of treaty rights. They do not like to see others getting more from their fisheries than they get themselves; and the Hague court may uphold them.

The Hague Peace Conference is still in session, and has not yet reached any decision that seems of great importance. Its president, an eminent Russian statesman, is reported to have said that it is easier to make peace with one enemy than with forty-seven neutrals.

The nearness of the planet Mars has given astronomers a favorable opportunity of photographing its southern hemisphere, for which they have been waiting for many years. It is believed that the photographs will reveal much of interest, especially in regard to the so-called canals that are to be seen on its surface; for the photographs, by showing the effect of the light that falls through a long continued exposure, may be trusted to tell the truth where our eyes or our optical instruments deceive us.

In recent years astronomers have told us that the fixed stars, including our sun, are not motionless bodies, but have each a proper motion and a definite path. Now Sir David Gill makes the wonderful announcement that a great part of space, so far as we have visible knowledge of it, is occupied by two majestic streams of stars travelling in opposite directions, both streams alike in chemical construction and alike in process of development.

A mummy factory has been discovered in Paris. Mummies are made there and then sent to Egypt and sent back to France to be sold as the real thing.

Gypsies, so called because they were supposed to have come from Egypt, are now known by their language to have come from northern India. They first appeared in southwestern Europe about six hundred years ago; and are quite numerous in Hungary, where they have always been well treated, though banished from some other countries on pain of death. Now, however, because of a series of crimes attributed to them, the Hungarian government has ordered that the gypsies in that country must give up their nomadic life.

Raisuli, the Moroccan outlaw chief, has been visited by a special correspondent of the London *Daily Mail*, to whom he says that he has seized Sir Harry MacLean only to draw the attention of the Christian nations to the ill treatment he has received from the government, hoping that Europe will investigate and see that justice is done. It would seem, therefore, that the prisoner's life is in no immediate danger. Casablanca, the chief town on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, is now occupied by French and Spanish forces, and besieged by insurgents.

The announcement that the Dowager Empress of China, who is growing old and infirm, will soon retire from the control of affairs in the great eastern empire, and hand over the affairs of state to the Emperor, is a cause of much foreboding of evil. Her strong hand has held together the semi-independent provinces of which the Empire is composed. The change of government at this time, when the new education and popular unrest are combined with the old hatred of Manchu rule, may be fraught with danger. With a strong central government, the great events that have happened in Japan may reasonably be expected to be repeated in China: with a weak one, no one can tell what to expect.

A movement in Germany to have the study of English made compulsory in German schools meets with the approval of the German Emperor.

An Esperanto congress has just closed its sessions in England. By special permission of the Bishop of London, a service in Esperanto was held in one of the best known churches of the city.

The so-called Salton Sea, that vast lake formed by the overflow of the Colorado River, since the river has returned to its former course, must gradually disappear. According to one opinion it will dry up in about eight years.

Negotiations between Great Britain and Russia, begun by the Russian government, have resulted in amicably adjusting all differences on the Indian frontier and in Persia, and the delimitation of their respective spheres of influence in these regions.

The Congo Free State has ceased to exist, and the territory is now under the government of Belgium, or will do so as soon as the arrangements for the transfer of authority can be completed.

The negroes in Cuba, who, as a race, have taken an important part in Cuban insurrections, now claim more recognition in the government of the country and appointment to public offices.

With appropriate ceremonies, the people of Bath, Me., have been celebrating the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Popham colony, and the building of the "Virginia," the first ship built by Englishmen on the American continent.

It is probable that a new nickel coin, worth two cents, will be minted at Ottawa, as soon as the branch of the royal mint is established there, in November or December next.

Earl Grey, the Governor-General, believes that before the close of the present century Ottawa will be the capital city of a nation of 80,000,000.

Sir Edouard Girouard, the distinguished Canadian officer, is to supervise the building of a railway for the British government in Northern Nigeria. Its object is to develop the colony, and especially the cotton growing industry.

Thomas A. Edison, the famous electrician, has telegraphed to Amherst, N. S., his congratulations on the inauguration there of the first plant on the American continent for the generation of electricity at the mouth of a coal mine, and the distribution of the same to distant commercial centres. "It is a bold attempt," he says, "and I never thought it would be first accomplished in Nova Scotia, where my father was born over one hundred years ago."