

way up to Victoria Falls, and a steel bridge across the Zambesi at that point. Later, and probably before the end of the present year, they will carry the work to the bend of the Kafu, 300 miles further north, when Rhodesia will have a total of over 2,500 miles of railway.

The new Pacific cable from Canada to Australia, the "All-Red" cable, as it is called, because it touches only on British territory, is now open for regular business.

The United States will probably adopt the Canadian banking system, which is acknowledged to be the best in the world. It provides an elastic currency, a safe note issue, and the advantage of branch banks in small places, of which they feel the need.

It is estimated that sixty thousand people came to Canada this year from Nebraska, Minnesota and the Dakotas. Only about half that number have come from the British Isles during the year; but that is an increase of more than ten thousand over the British immigration of the preceding year. It is becoming known, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, that Canada's greatest tracts of farming lands are still untilled, her greatest mines yet undiscovered, her timber reserves of such vast area that the figures seem incredible, her waterways unequalled, and that life and property are safer in Canada, and the punishment of crime more swift and sure, than in any of the republics of the three Americas. Nowhere in the world, unless it be in South and Central Africa will the population increase so rapidly in the near future as it will in Canada.

Britain is now responsible for the welfare of over half of the two hundred million inhabitants of Africa. Forty millions are under the British flag, and British influence in Egypt and the Soudan touches a hundred millions more.

The ceremonies attending the completion of the great dam at Assouan took place on the 11th of December, in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Khedive, and Earl Cromer, the British agent in Egypt. The immense structure will hold back a thousand million tons of water, saving it for irrigation work. A canal with four locks carries boats past the dam. The supplementary dam at Assiout, not yet completed, will be half a mile long, or about half the length of the Assouan dam. Together they will add 2,500 miles to the area of land under cultivation in Egypt.

Great distress prevails in the sheep raising districts of Australia, owing to the prolonged drought. Sheep are dying of starvation, and the grain crops in some sections are a total failure.

A disastrous earthquake has occurred at Andijan, a town in Russian Turkestan, by which 15,000 houses were destroyed and 4,000 people killed. For ten days or more after the first shock, the ground continued to oscillate, and a general subsidence of the site of the town was feared.

The telegraph cable from California to the Hawaiian Islands has been completed, and the first message was sent over it on New Year's day. It is proposed to extend it to Manilla.

Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, has returned to England from his journey through Central Asia. The results of his three years of travel will involve a complete alteration of existing maps of that region. On the shores of Lob Nor, an ancient nor (or lake) in Turkestan, now dry, he found among the ruins of houses and temples Chinese manuscripts 1600 years old, which prove that Lob was then an important place on a great highway from Pekin to Kashgar. It is now a scene of awful desolation, with no sign of life of any kind. Lob Nor was known to earlier explorers as a wide shallow marsh, rather than a lake. This is the usual character of the nors of Central Asia, where streams lose themselves in the desert; though in some cases the shallow lakes thus formed are so salt that no vegetation will grow in them. Dr. Hedin will require several years to prepare his work for publication.

The proposed new railway to run north of Lake Winnipeg is called the Trans-Canada railway. Its western terminus is to be at Port Simpson, near the mouth of the Skeena; its eastern termini in summer at Quebec and Chicoutimi, and in winter at St. John and Halifax, by connection with the Intercolonial. It is already built from Quebec and Chicoutimi as far as Lake St. John, on the Saugenay. Thence it is proposed to run north-westerly, within the northern limit of cereal growing territory, with a short branch line to reach the navigable waters of Hudson Bay, at the mouth of the Nottaway river. This scheme is admittedly a rival to that of the transcontinental extension of the Grand Trunk, and claims government aid in preference to the latter, because it will lie wholly within Canadian territory.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

A conference, composed of representatives of the Atlantic Province colleges and superintendents of education, with Dr. G. R. Parkin, was held at Mount Allison University, Sackville, in December. Dr. Parkin, who had just returned from Oxford, described the arrangements that had been made at that university for the reception of candidates under the Rhodes' scholarship bequest, and the necessity of establishing some impartial system of selection. If the trustees of the bequest carry out their present intention, about 24 Canadian scholars will be continually getting the advantage of an Oxford education. The following conclusions were arrived at during the conference for the guidance of the Rhodes' trustees: 1. That one scholarship be allotted to candidates from each of the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island. 2. The competition for these scholarships shall be open only to graduates or under-graduates of at least two years' standing of degree-conferring colleges or universities. 3. The ordinary age limit of candidates shall be twenty-three years, provided, however, that in exceptional circumstances