

The Shah of Persia has visited England, and has well been pleased with his reception and with the country. It is too soon yet to estimate the political consequences of the visit.

Among the nations of the earth, Canada stands eighth in respect to the registered tonnage of shipping. Great Britain, of course, heads the list, followed by the United States, Germany, Norway, France, Italy, Russia and Canada. The total number of Canadian vessels is nearly seven thousand, and their value about \$20,000,000.

Britain has heretofore been dependent upon the United States and Egypt for her cotton supply. Experiments this year have proved that excellent cotton can be grown in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Over ten thousand men went from the eastern provinces to help in harvesting the enormous grain crops of Manitoba and the Northwest. The wheat harvest, in many districts, is the largest on record, and well sustains Canada's claim to be the future granary of the empire.

The Pacific cable to connect Canada with Australia and New Zealand will probably be completed before the end of the current year, the last portion of it having been shipped from London last month, via the Suez Canal. The longest section of the cable will be from the south coast of Vancouver Island to Fanning Island, about 3,500 miles; and the others, from Fanning Island to Fii, 2,003 miles; from Fii to Norfolk Island, 963 miles; from Norfolk to the northern part of New Zealand, 537 miles, and from Norfolk to Australia, at a point near Brisbane, 834 miles. The latter section has been completed and is now in operation.

Work will soon be commenced upon the new Trans-Canada railway, which is to touch James Bay and Lake Winnipeg, open up the valley of the Peace River, and run to Port Simpson, on the Pacific coast, following a route four or five hundred miles north of the Canadian Pacific route.

The emigration from England to the United States for the first half of the current year shows an increase of about twenty per cent. over that for the corresponding period of last year; and the emigration to Canada, an increase of over fifty per cent.

The Boer generals, Botha, Dewet and Delarey, who are visiting England at the invitation of the British government, met with a hearty welcome everywhere. They were received by the King on board the royal yacht at Cowes, after which Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener accompanied them to London. Their visit will, no doubt, do much to bring about cordial relations between the two races in South Africa.

The chairman of the royal commission to investigate the conduct of the war in South Africa, and report upon the claims for losses by Loyalists and Boers, is the Earl of Elgin. Lord Elgin was born in Canada in 1840, when his father was governor of Canada.

General Booth, the founder and leader of the Salvation Army, will shortly visit Canada. He has just acquired in Western Australia a tract of land upon which he will establish a great Salvation Army colony, which he will people from the London slums.

The artificial production of silk and of camphor are among the new achievements of chemistry.

The first case to come before the international arbitration court at the Hague is one submitted by the United States and Mexico. It arises from claims to certain funds originally granted for missionary work in California, before the conquest of that country by the United States. The arbitration court to which these claims are now referred was established at the time of the international peace congress at the Hague.

It is reported that the site of the boundary mark set up by the Russians when Alaska was Russian territory has been found by some traveller, and that it proves the Russian occupation of all the strip of land now claimed by Canada in the Alaskan boundary dispute. And yet the United States refuses to submit this claim to arbitration, which is all that Canada has asked.

The Chinese government has decided to appoint a foreign adviser to the Minister of Mines, and Wallace Broad has been selected for the position. He is a native of St. John, N. B., and a graduate of the University of New Brunswick. He was formerly on the staff of the geological survey of Canada, but of late has been engaged in similar work in Rhodesia and West Africa.

A party chosen from among the Boers who were captured at Paardeburg and imprisoned at St. Helena, and another party from the prisoners who were at Ceylon, will visit Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, to look for desirable locations for Boer settlements. The irreconcilable Boers who are unwilling to live under British government will, it is thought, form a settlement in Madagascar.

Streets are to be made of steel. It is not proposed to pave them with steel; but to provide steel tracks, about a foot in width which truck wheels can follow. The cost, it is estimated, will be about one-half that of constructing a macadam road; and the durability much greater.

THE PLANETS IN SEPTEMBER.—Mercury is even-star throughout the month. On the 20th he passes close to the bright star Spica. This will be an interesting sight, though one must look sharp to see it in the twilight. Venus is morning star, rising less than two hours before the sun, and brightest of the planets. Mars is morning star in Cancer, rising about 2 a. m. on the 16th. He is gradually increasing in brightness. Jupiter is in Capricornus, in the southern skies, and is the brightest object in the evening skies. To the right is Saturn, in Sagittarius.