

### A Use for Pictures,

My children always beg for "pictures" when we write compositions. I have cut pictures from old magazines, etc., using advertisements as well as others. Very often the children are proud to bring pictures they have cut out. I cut pictures of corn, melons, potatoes, tomatoes, pansies, sweet peas etc., from a seed catalogue. These pictures I let some of the girls paste (one at the top of each sheet of paper) in a tablet, and when composition day dawns they are passed to the class.—*Pop. Educator.*

### CURRENT EVENTS.

The Canadian Pacific is planning to put on their road next year a fast train that will make the trip from Montreal to Vancouver in seventy-six hours, which is a little more than three-fourths of the time now required. It is also proposed to adopt electricity instead of steam in the operation of its trains in some parts of British Columbia, where good water powers are available.

A new great seal of Canada has been received at Ottawa, bearing the effigy of King Edward instead of that of the late Queen. The old seal will be sent to the royal mint for defacement.

The King of Italy has given his award in respect to the new Anglo-Portuguese boundary in South Africa. The line will follow the Kwando river from the Zambesi to the twenty-fourth meridian east; thence running along the meridian as far as the thirteenth parallel of south latitude, and following that parallel until it reaches the frontier of the Congo Free State.

Lord Kitchener proposes the increase of the army in India to nearly double its present strength, as a necessary precaution against invasion; and the movement of forces nearer to the northwest frontier, as the point of greatest danger. It seems to be assumed that a Russian invasion is but a matter of time.

The first meeting of the Washington Conference, as it is called, for the arrangement of a treaty of peace between Japan and Russia, will be held at Portsmouth, N. H., early in August. The plenipotentiaries of both nations are now in America.

It is reported that the Prince of Bulgaria will shortly proclaim himself king, and, if necessary, fight for the independence of his country, now under the suzerainty of Turkey.

The revolution in Norway has not yet led to a disturbance of the peace. It is said that the throne has been offered to Prince Karl, second son of the King of Denmark. If he ascends the throne, the youngest daughter of King Edward of Great Britain, who married Prince Karl in 1896, will become Queen of Norway; while the Princess Margaret, King Edward's niece, who has married the son of the

Crown Prince of Sweden, is now the prospective queen of Sweden.

Commander Peary has set out for Greenland, where he will establish a base of operations and pass the winter, preparatory to making another attempt next summer to reach the North Pole. His vessel, the *Roosevelt*, is especially built for the purpose, and is supposed to be the fastest and strongest ship that ever sailed for the Arctic regions.

Two rival expeditions have just started for the interior of Labrador, both from the United States. One is led by the widow of the luckless explorer who last year lost his life in the wilds, and the other by the friend who was with him and brought his body back to the coast after nearly perishing for want of food.

John Paul, the Scottish sea rover, who is known in United States history as John Paul Jones, and regarded as the founder of the United States navy, but who was in his later years an officer of the Russian navy until virtually dismissed from that service, is now demanding more attention and reverence than he ever received in his lifetime. His remains have been found in France, where they lay neglected with his death in 1792. They have been received with great honors by a representative of the United States government, sent to France for that purpose, and will be brought to America for burial in the grounds of the naval academy at Annapolis, Md. No one in his own day, least of all himself, probably, would have imagined that his memory would be thus honored by the country whose service he entered to shield himself from a charge of piracy, and abandoned for that of the Empress Catharine.

A new explosive is said to have been invented in France, consisting of ammonium nitrate and powdered aluminum, the gases from the explosion of which are harmless. It has the further merits of being safe from spontaneous decomposition or premature explosion by shock or friction, of burning only with difficulty, and of not being affected by frost or dampness.

Adrenalin, a powerful astringent discovered a few years ago by a Japanese chemist, and found useful in delicate surgery as a means of stopping the flow of blood, has hitherto been prepared only by a very costly method. It is now reported that it can be cheaply made from coal tar.

The Canadian government will set aside an area of ten townships for settlers from Great Britain, the land to be selected by an imperial commissioner and the colonists sent out under the auspices of the British government.

The bubonic plague is constantly increasing in violence in southern Asia. An official report just published shows that there were over a million deaths from it last year in India.

An astonishing incident has occurred in the Russian Black Sea fleet. For two weeks, the Prince Potemkin, the largest battleship of the squadron, was in the hands of mutineers. The other vessels