

A new imitation marble, claimed to have extraordinary hardness, can be made in half an hour from cinders with binding material and coloring matter.

The explorers who have discovered the ancient ruins in Peru report that the relics show a high state of civilization. The stones are exquisitely carved in the Egyptian style, and the work is far superior to that done by the Incas whose wealth fell into the hands of the Spanish conquerors.

A scheme has been approved by the government providing for the military training next July of forty thousand school boys in all parts of Canada. Tents and other equipment will be provided, and a serviceable uniform will be given to each cadet.

The premier, having been made a Privy Councillor, is now the Right Honourable Robert L. Borden.

The Bay of Sollum, on the frontier between Tripoli and Egypt, has been annexed to Egypt. It will probably be strongly fortified to protect the Suez Canal.

The Italians have made some advance in their occupation of Tripoli, but have not as yet attempted to occupy any other Turkish territory. Late despatches say that the state of affairs in some of the European provinces of the Turkish Empire may call for British intervention in behalf of the Christians.

In Persia the treasurer-general, who has been the cause of all the trouble between Russia and Persia, has been dismissed at the demand of the Russian government. The dismissed officer is an American; and his chief offence seems to have been incivility to the Russian consul. The incident has been the occasion of disorders in which the British are involved, for the trouble has extended to that part of Persia which is under British control. The British government has decided to increase the number of Indian troops in Southern Persia. Serious fighting has occurred between the Russian troops and the populace in Northern Persia.

The King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, as they are styled in India, are expected to leave for England on the twelfth of this month.

Mexican matters are much as they were a month ago, except that General Reyes, leader of the new insurrection, has surrendered himself a prisoner. It might be supposed that this was a very important exception; but his personal following was small, and his followers are still unsubdued, while there are other insurgents, little better than bandits, to keep up the fight in different parts of the republic.

The insurgents in Southern China have organized a provisional government, and installed Dr. Sun Yat Sen as President of the Republic of China. Meanwhile, the imperial forces are preparing to attack the insurgents, and restore, if possible, the authority of the Emperor. The outcome is largely dependent upon the ability of the insurgents to meet the expenses of carrying on the government and keeping their armies in the field. If they succeed, Southern China may become a separate nation, the north still adhering to the Emperor. Mongolia and Turkestan, which were dependent states, rather than parts of the Empire, are said to have declared their independence, and will probably come under Russian control. Dr. Sun, the new provisional ruler, was born in Hawaii before that country was annexed to the United States; and a large part of his financial support comes from his Chinese sympathizers in America.

Course for Land Surveyors.

The Nova Scotia Technical College opened a short two months course in Land Surveying last year. This seemed to meet such a general need that the same course is going to be given again this year during the months of January and February. The course opens on Wednesday, January 3rd, and closes on Saturday, February 25th. It is conducted especially for beginners who wish to qualify as Provincial Land Surveyors and for Mine Surveyors.

It was only a short time ago that the government passed a new act regarding Provincial Land Surveyors which carried very strict regulations concerning their qualifications and examinations. The Technical College at that time provided a course which would be just suited to the needs of young men who wished to secure certificates as land surveyors and for those who were already surveyors and who wished to study the subject further.

The splendid surveying equipment of the Technical College in the way of transits, levels, etc., will all be available for this short course and a special instructor will devote his whole time to this work. The class will spend part of the time in lectures and recitations on the theoretical part of the work but most of it will be spent outside in surveying and in the drafting room where maps of each piece of land surveyed will be drawn.

The course in the College is a very practical one. A man can learn how to make any ordinary kind of a survey much more thoroughly and quickly than by serving under a land surveyor, although he should follow up this course with practical experience in company with or under the direction of a practical surveyor.

This course in surveying would be excellent for a road master or inspector or a young man who looks ahead to such a position when any comprehensive scheme of "good roads" construction is carried out in the province.

The whole course of two months costs only \$15.00. Anyone who is interested in this subject should write to Principal F. H. Sexton, Technical College, Halifax, N. S., for a descriptive catalogue of the course.

The work at the last year was a great success and it is anticipated that a much larger number will attend this winter.