

the so-called barren lands. In addition to the whaling and walrus hunting which have been carried on there for many years, the waters of the bay will supply cod and salmon enough to attract large fishing fleets during the summer.

The Canadian government intends to send a steamer every year to the north of Hudson's Bay, to keep up communication with the mounted police post established there. The Neptune, on her recent voyage, raised the British flag on the Arctic Islands as far north as Ellesmere Land, taking possession of them as a part of Canada.

Crown Prince Gustav, the newly appointed Prince Regent of Sweden and Norway, is to marry the Princess Margaret, daughter of King Edward's brother, the Duke of Connaught.

The coal fields of China are believed to be seventy times as great in extent as those of Great Britain. It is expected that they will soon be extensively worked, and that China will export large quantities of coal and iron. The remarkable part of the matter is that the great coal and iron deposits of Northern China have remained so long undeveloped; for the earliest European travellers in that country brought back marvellous stories of the inhabitants digging stones out of the mountains to burn.

A remarkably rich mine of silver and nickel has been discovered in Northern Ontario, near Lake Temiscamingue.

In a limestone formation near Revelstoke, B. C. some mining prospectors have discovered a cave of immense size, said to rival the famous mammoth cave of Kentucky. It is two miles in length, with a width of nearly half a mile, and a depth, in some places, of two thousand feet.

Canada will receive an unusually large number of immigrants this year, especially from Norway, Sweden and Germany.

Thirty-two states have been created since the original thirteen states were organized into the United States republic, and now two additional ones are to be admitted into the union—New Mexico and Oklahoma, making in all forty-seven states. The former is large with an area of 122,000 square miles and a population of 200,000; the latter, which includes Indian territory, has an area of 70,000 square miles and a population of 800,000.

King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway, is growing old and feeble, and he has made his son, the Crown Prince, regent of the two kingdoms. Among the Norwegians there has been for many years past a growing feeling that the rights of Norway as a sovereign state were not fully recognized in the terms of the existing union. The retirement of the king, who was much liked by all his subjects, may have an unfavorable effect upon the relations between the two countries over which he has ruled for upwards of thirty years.

Treaties which the United States government had negotiated with Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Italy, Mexico and Denmark, by which certain disputes that might arise in the

future were to be referred to the Hague Tribunal for arbitration, have failed to obtain the consent of the United States senate. A reciprocity treaty with Newfoundland has met the same fate. The framers of the United States constitution were afraid to trust the government of the day to make treaties with foreign powers; so it is provided that no treaty can go into effect without the approval of the senate by a two-thirds vote. It may often happen, therefore, that the president and his cabinet find themselves in the humiliating position of having their treaties disallowed.

The southern part of Arabia is in revolt against Turkish rule. The object of the insurrection is believed to be the creation of an autonomous state.

At enormous sacrifice, and after over two weeks of fighting, the Japanese have won a decisive victory in Manchuria. The losses are very heavy on both sides; but, while those of the Japanese are the heavier, they have succeeded in outflanking the Russians and, perhaps, in cutting off their only line of retreat. Position after position, which the Russians spent the winter in fortifying, were abandoned before the impetuous onsets of the troops of Oyama, whose name will go down in history as one of the world's greatest strategists. The only resource left to Kuropatkin is to retreat to Tie Pass (pronounced Tee-eh) with the remnants of his army; but the Japanese have anticipated this move, as large forces of them have appeared in the vicinity of that great natural stronghold. Even if the Russians succeed in reaching it their powers of resistance against the victorious Japanese will be greatly lessened as they have burned vast quantities of provisions and stores, and lost many guns. The losses will greatly exceed 100,000 men, and Kuropatkin may have to surrender his whole army.

The decision of the international commission of inquiry into the North Sea incident supports the British contention, that the English fishing fleet committed no hostile act, that there were no torpedo boats among or near the fishing boats, and that the action of the Russian admiral in opening fire upon them was not justified. The Russian government has already expressed its regret at the occurrence, and will probably pay an indemnity to the sufferers.

Political disturbances in Russia continue, and seem to be spreading to all parts of the empire. An insurgent government has been formed in the Caucasus, where the revolt is at present most serious. The greater part of Russian Poland is under a form of martial law. An uprising of the peasants of the southern provinces is feared. It seems, indeed, that the whole country is ripe for revolution, and that the revolution has begun, that the Armenians, Circassians, Finns, Poles, Letts, Little Russians, Great Russians, White Russians and other races that make up the population of Russia-in-Europe and Trans-Caucasia, not to mention the less civilized people of Russia-in-Asia, could agree upon a settled form of government to take the place of the present autocracy, is quite