

The Maritime Provinces.

In some dim æon of the distant Past
 God gave the waves in wedlock to the strand
 And blessed the mating, that the restless Sea
 Should harbour find about a stalwart Land.
 The Sea our Mother and the Land our Sire,
 The swelling breast unbounded, vital, free,
 That suckles life among her storm-cast babes
 And gives them guerdon of their worthiness.
 A pleasant Land! A strong and tender Land!
 The tempered seasons mingle and succeed
 In sequent equity of shade and grace,
 Green, sun-kissed, russet-golden, snow caressed.
 Some seek my Mother's deep-sea wedding-dower
 'Mid tempest and in smiling, sunlit ways,
 And some return low-laden to the land,
 And some fare forth to nevermore return.
 Some dally in the upland orchard-dales
 Or delve the mine or sow the golden grain,
 And all who labour, all who love or hate
 Shall reap the fitting harvest of their hands.
 And others—well all know them, though unnamed—
 Gifted with insight past their passing days,
 Statesmen who saw the Vision Realised
 You told, in council, what we are today.
 —Carrol C. Aikins in *February Canadian Magazine*.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The white phosphorus used in the manufacture of matches is the cause of a deadly disease. The discovery of a harmless substitute is, therefore, a matter of great importance to match factory operatives. The new preparation will come into use immediately throughout Canada and the United States, and probably elsewhere; the patentees of the process having freely made over their rights for the benefit of the workers. Flints are still used for striking a light in some parts of Europe; and flint working is also an unhealthy occupation, though one of the oldest in existence. It is said that flint-knapping, as it is called, has been carried on in Britain for at least ten thousand years.

A British engineering firm has won a medal for paving blocks made of clinker refuse from the burning of house refuse. It is claimed that they are noiseless and sanitary, and not in any way affected by rain, frost or sunshine.

No more horses will be bought for the New York city fire department. Gasolene will be used as the source of power for moving the fire engines and ladder trucks, making an estimated saving of five thousand dollars a month.

Clay tablets which are covered with inscriptions which are believed to date from the time of the Prophet Elijah have been discovered in Palestine by German investigators.

The Chinese Government has issued orders for the suppression of the opium traffic, and a petition signed by twenty thousand persons has been sent to King George, asking him to assist in putting an end to the opium trade between India and China.

Australia hopes to profit by a thorough exploration of the Antarctic regions, where whales, seals and mineral wealth can be found within five days' steam from Melbourne.

About a quarter of a million rats have been killed in one county in England since the fear of the plague which is carried by rats caused a campaign for their destruction; and it is estimated that something like £1,000 per week is saved in the damage done by the rats.

Very terrible are the accounts of the ravages of the plague that come to us from the north of China, where Chinese, Japanese and Russian soldiers are attempting to control the movements of the people and check the spread of the disease. It spreads with appalling rapidity, and the cases of recovery are few. The nations of the Western World must help to stay its course, or all the avenues of trade will give it passage, and the horrors of the Black Death will be repeated. The European governments are already recognizing this need.

To turn from the horrors of plague to the horrors of war is almost a relief. Slight disturbances continue in Mexico, perhaps hardly to be called a rebellion. In Honduras, rebel forces have gained some considerable victories; and there are other little wars threatened or in progress in Spanish America. In Arabia, the Turkish government is trying to recover the southern provinces, which have been in a chronic state of insubordination, and practically without government of any sort. In Persia, a somewhat similar condition prevails, but the government is not trying to restore order, and other nations may be involved.

The rapidity with which the British Navy is being strengthened by the addition of great war ships, and the corresponding increase in the navies of other powers, seem to show as never before that some great struggle is impending, and that the only way to prevent armed conflict is to be ready for defence. We have so large a part of the world's area and of the world's wealth that we must be prepared either to share it with others or to hold it by force.

In Toronto it is proposed that the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Queenston Heights shall be marked by the erection there of a monument to Brock, Tecumseh and other leaders who fell in the war of 1812. It is also proposed that the Dominion Parliament shall invite King George to visit Canada in 1914, the centennial of the conclusion of peace at the close of that war.

It is announced that H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught will succeed Earl Grey as Governor-General of Canada.

Some months ago the three principal republics of South America—Argentina, Brazil and Chile—formed a league which is there called the A B C Alliance. Now three more of the republics—Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador—propose to join this league, and it is suggested that all may ultimately be more closely united in a great Latin republic to be called the United States of South America. This would possibly compel the people of the United States of North America to adopt some name by which they would be distinguished from other Americans.

A tariff agreement between this country and the United States is now under discussion in the representative legislatures. It involves a large reduction in the duties on certain articles, but cannot come into operation unless adopted both by our parliament and by the congress of that