

may be remarked here that they are all in the right direction, and will no doubt meet with the approval of the teachers generally. They have been conceived in a broad spirit and mark another step forward of our excellent school system.

#### THE SCHOOL STUDY OF CURRENT EVENTS.

Every good teacher knows and utilizes the two following principles:

1. The readiness with which the mind absorbs and reproduces a fact depends upon the number of links connecting it naturally with other facts already apprehended.

2. Consequently the rapidity of a pupil's progress depends largely upon the teacher's skill in relating the unknown to that in which the pupil is already most deeply interested.

In this connection we have already called attention to the importance of connecting the pupil's studies with the near in time and space—the action of natural forces around him and the history of his own times.

Interest your pupils in those events now transpiring which will remain as history and you confer on them the inestimable benefit of being able to distinguish between the trivial and important—the evanescent and the permanent; you enable them to become your most efficient helpers in their own education. Besides occasional references devote half an hour each week to the discussion of the news of the day. You will receive much assistance from such papers as *Our Times* published by E. L. Kellogg of New York. We select a few items:

#### ANOTHER PROVINCE FOR CANADA.

The farmers and miners of Algoma, a district of Ontario, are anxious to have that territory created into a province of the Dominion. Algoma takes in almost the whole of the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, and reaches westward to the boundary of Manitoba and northward to Hudson's bay. The district is adapted to agriculture, stock-raising, fruit-growing, mining, lumbering and fishing.

#### EGYPT IN THE BRITISH LION'S POWER.

The young khedive of Egypt, Abbas Pasha, lately received a very chilling snub from Great Britain. He appointed a ministry that was not considered in harmony with British interests in that country. The British ministry met and decided to inform the khedive that "his position as the ruler of Egypt depends upon the good will of Great Britain, and that the British government refused to recognize the reactionary ministry that he had appointed." The khedive yielded. This action of Great Britain is also humiliating to France, which has also been looked upon as a protector of Egypt, but France has her hands too full at home with Panama matters to make a serious protest.

#### CHICAGO'S MAMMOTH TOWER.

The World's Fair is to have a tower 560 feet high and a diameter uniformly of 200 feet, with a spiral double track 40

feet wide for cars, which will be propelled by electricity. The ascent to the top will be about a mile. Eight cars will be provided, half of them ascending as the other half descend. A train will be made up of the motor and four other cars, each car holding eight persons. At night these cars will be illuminated with incandescent lamps, and there will be powerful search-lights in the observatory on the top. The numberless gilded stars and pendent lamps will add to the brilliancy of the spectacle.

#### THE HOLY LAND RAILWAY.

The railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem is completed and passenger trains are running on it. It will be extended eastward to Damascus. When the first locomotive and train entered Jerusalem some Arabs exclaimed: "What is the great God doing?" "This is the work of Satan!"

#### SEEKING THE NORTH POLE.

Dr. Nansen has decided to reach the north pole by sea. His plan is to start from the Lena river in Siberia, to steer thence northwest to the Liakhov islands, and to Bennett island (thus advancing by the route of De Long's return in 1882), and thence to attempt the passage directly across the Arctic circle to the North Atlantic, which he hopes to reach in three or four years. The possibility of passing over the polar regions by this route is based on his belief in a rapid current and ice drift in that direction. Articles that were abandoned by De Long's *Jeannette* expedition north of Bennett island were found two years later on the south coast of Greenland to which place they must have been carried by the current. Nansen will go in a 250 ton boat well provisioned, and will take balloons and other articles to be used for retreat in case of disaster.

#### THE HEIGHT OF THE AURORA.

A Danish scientist at Gothab has measured the height of auroras with theodolites situated four miles apart. They were found to be from one to forty miles above the earth. At Spitzbergen they were found to be from three hundred yards to eighteen miles high. He infers that the aurora only appears at considerably height in the temperate zone, while in the auroral zone proper it is generally in the lower atmosphere.

#### THE SALTNESS OF THE SEA.

It has been found that the saltness of the sea diminishes from the surface to a depth of eight hundred to a thousand fathoms, and thence increases until the bottom is reached. The average quantity of saline matter is about three per cent.

#### VERTICAL WRITING.

Among the many great improvements in the new course of study for the common school of Nova Scotia issued by Dr. Mackay is the giving of the first place to *vertical* rather than to *slant* writing. He finds that it has been adopted for the civil service examinations, for the great majority of English schools, and by the advice of educational experts for many schools on the continent.

A very good article on this subject by John Jackson, F. E. I. S. published in the *Canada Educational Monthly* should be studied by all our teachers.

We give his most important statements:

Vertical writing is far and away the best style of writing possible for all commercial, professional, private and public