

have been carried on for a year or two under the direction of Prof. Graham Bell. It is the first successful attempt to fly that has been made in Canada with a machine heavier than air, the earlier flying machines made at Baddeck having flown but a short distance and proved more or less unmanageable.

Preliminary surveys for a route for the proposed Hudson Bay railway are completed, and there was found no obstacle to a comparatively cheap and easy construction of the line. The alternative routes to Fort Churchill and to Port Nelson have been surveyed; and it is found that the latter lies through a better country, the last hundred miles of the Churchill route showing no land fit for cultivation. The approach to Port Nelson by sea is shallow, and would require dredging for nearly ten miles; nevertheless, this is thought to be the preferable route. The surprising statement is made that a canal could be made from Hudson Bay to Lake Winnipeg, along the Nelson River, and thence along the Red River to Winnipeg, so that ocean-going steamers might load there, giving the western provinces the immense advantage of direct shipment to Europe.

The World's Parliamentary Congress will meet in Ottawa next August. There will be delegates from the Russian Duma, from the new Turkish parliament, and from the older parliaments of Europe, as well as from the legislative bodies of the several American republics, and possibly others from Asia and Africa.

The members of the Hague tribunal, who will meet next year to settle the Newfoundland fishery dispute, have been selected. They are Dr. Lamash, of Austria, who will act as president; Dr. Drago, of the Argentine Republic; Jonkher de Savornin Lohnman, of the Netherlands; Judge Gray, of Delaware; and Chief Justice Fitzpatrick, of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The solar electric generator is a newly-invented machine designed to generate electricity directly from the rays of the sun, and store it for lighting and for small power plants. Its inventor is George S. Cove, a resident of Boston, who has also invented a plan for developing power from the tides of the Bay of Fundy, which promises to be of great value.

A new material, made chiefly of paper, has been used in Germany in the construction of an air ship. It is very light, very rigid, can be manufactured cheaply, is fireproof and proof against damp, and is said to be more durable than steel.

A new invention designed to prevent collisions at sea depends upon the fact that sound travels at about one thousand feet per second, while the action of the wireless telephone is almost instantaneous. When the navigator receives the electric signal, he need only note how much time elapses before the sound reaches him through air or water, and so estimate the distance of the ship from which

the signal comes; or the dial of his instrument may be made to show distance instead of time. When the signal is next heard, he knows whether the distance has increased or diminished, and thus is notified if there is danger of collision.

An interesting alteration in the official flag of the Commonwealth of Australia has been authorized. In future, the big Federal star in the flag will be seven-pointed, instead of six-pointed, as at present. Six of the points represent the states, and the seventh the territories of the Commonwealth.

Who owns Spitzbergen? The question is to come before an international conference in Christiana. Norway claims the island—or, rather, group of islands—on the ground that for the last hundred years the coasts of the archipelago have been mainly frequented by Norwegians; but it was discovered by the Dutch in 1596, and the Russians claim it by right of an earlier discovery.

Following a rule now in force in Great Britain, the militia department at Ottawa has ordered that hereafter the Royal Standard be used only when the King or Queen is present, or when a member of the royal family is present representing the Sovereign. Formerly there were certain stations in Canada, including the fortifications at Halifax, at which it was correct to fly the Royal Standard on certain days in the year. Now the correct flag for every day will be the Union Jack.

The railway from Cape Town to Cairo will probably be completed within three years. It will be the longest railway in the world, having a total length of about 6,400 miles.

Some time ago a workman in the province of Quebec discovered a process of tempering copper, and a carriage with copper springs made by him was shown at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. He is said to have died without disclosing his secret. Now it is claimed that a man in New Jersey has discovered a similar process. This is one of the lost arts of the ancients; and the fact that it was known to the ancient inhabitants of America, as well as to those of the Old World, helps to support the theory that there was intercourse with Asia, by way of Behring Sea, long before Columbus discovered America.

The annexation of Oeno Island, a small island in the Low Archipelago, northwest of Pitcairn Island, is reported by the British consul at Tahiti. Another and more important extension of British territory, or of British influence, is the annexation of three Siamese states, with a combined area of fifteen thousand square miles, to the Malay Federated States which are under British rule.

It is again reported that there is a race of dwarfs on the upper Amazon, of unknown language and history, and with an average stature of not more than four feet, and form and features that might be likened to the brownie pictures with which we are familiar. A recent traveller claims to have seen as many as five thousand of them at one place.