

January, fifteen months ago; and began his overland journey on the twentieth of October. Following along the east side of a range of mountains, which seem to be a continuation of the Andes, and crossing this range at an elevation of some ten thousand feet, he and his four companions reached the Pole on the fifteenth of December, and two days later set out on their return. They did not meet the members of the British expedition, but the Japanese party landed near them a week after their arrival, its object being to explore the coast. Both Japanese and British have since been heard from. The former returned some weeks ago; and Captain Scott's vessel reached New Zealand on the last day of March, bringing word that he was remaining in the Antarctic for another winter in order to continue and complete his work. When last heard from, on the third of January, he had reached a point one hundred and fifty miles from the Pole, and was still advancing.

Both Dr. Cook and Commander Peary, on their return from the Arctic regions, reported land or indications of land west of the frozen sea over which they travelled; and Peary gave it the name of Crocker Land. An expedition is planned for this year to find and explore this land, if it really exists. It will be led by Borup and McMillan, two distinguished scientists who were with Peary on his last expedition. The Russians are also planning an Arctic expedition, with the object of reaching the North Pole from Franz Josef Land. We really know more of the South Pole and its immediate surroundings to-day than we do of the North Pole; for, though Cook and Peary agree in their descriptions of the place and their approach to it, there is room for two or three islands as large as Greenland in parts of the Arctic Ocean that have not yet been explored.

Wireless telegraph stations under the control of the British government will be opened at London, Egypt, Aden, Pretoria, Bangalore and Singapore. The scheme will be extended to other dominions and colonies of the Empire, as part of an Imperial wireless scheme that will render the government independent of cable service.

Our world is so small that new ideas spread quickly. Women who want to vote have been smashing windows in China. There the national republican legislature had passed a resolution in favour of woman suffrage, but restricted it to women who could read. This was not satisfactory; and the women forced their way into the assembly hall and broke up the meeting, which later was resumed under military protection. A bill before the British parliament to give the franchise to women of certain property qualification has been defeated, presumably because the recent riots in London have convinced the legislators that the class of women most active in demanding votes cannot be trusted with political power.

The newly adopted national flag of the Chinese Republic is made up of five stripes of equal width and of different colours—red, yellow, blue, white and black.

A movement to restore the Emperor of China to his throne seems to be gaining strength, and has a considerable army in the field to support it. Meanwhile the newly organized republican government is hoping for recognition from the powers. In this, many think, lies the only hope of the integrity of China.

The new Republic of Portugal is not yet assured of permanent existence. Plans to restore King Manuel to his throne are taking shape, and there is also a possibility that Spain may annex Portugal if internal strife gives an excuse for intervention.

The conquest of Tripoli has proved much more difficult than was anticipated. The Italian forces have met with more than one serious defeat.

The rebellion in Mexico grows more serious. The action of the United States government in forbidding the shipment of arms to either of the contending parties is virtually an assumption of responsibility for the lesser republics in America, and will consistently lead to intervention if the present state of anarchy continues. There is said to be a conspiracy to promote the secession of six northern states of Mexico, with independence for a time, and ultimate annexation to the North American republic, thus repeating the history of Texas.

Italy has a new shield that cannot be pierced by a bullet. France has a new weapon in the form of a dart with heavy steel head, to be dropped from a flying machine. The French government has recently made a large grant for the complete organization of its army air corps. Airships and aeroplanes are to be respectively the fourth and fifth arms of the military service.

The Danish motor ship *Zealandia* has proved a great success. She is now on her way to the East Indies. When she reaches Bangkok, it is said, the King of Siam will take passage on her for a trip to Japan.

The department of Agriculture is warning our people against the danger of planting imported potatoes from the other side of the Atlantic, which may be infected with the disease known as the potato canker. This very alarming disease has already been introduced in Newfoundland. Any potato having a large or small outgrowth where the eyes should be is to be regarded as suspicious, and should be destroyed by fire.

Dr. Grenfell estimates that the mossy barrens of Labrador will furnish grazing ground for millions of reindeer, and that the time may come when the United States will have to look to Labrador for its meat supply.

Delegates from the West Indies are in Ottawa, to confer with the Canadian authorities in respect to trade arrangements. The colonies represented are British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Christopher, Montserrat, Antigua and some of the smaller islands. Jamaica is not represented. Looking to the increased importance of the British West Indies which is expected to follow the opening of the Panama Canal, it is proposed that they be united in a confederation, to be called the West Indian Dominion; which, not including Jamaica and the Bahamas, would have a population of over a million, and an area half as large as France. Jamaica would remain a separate province or dominion. The Bahamas are now seeking admission as a province in the Dominion of Canada.

The total undeveloped water power of Canada has been estimated at forty million horse power. Over a million horse power has been developed, of which Ontario has half.

Plans have been completed for a new Welland Canal, to follow the present route for some miles from Lake Erie, and then deviate, entering Lake Ontario about three miles east