

bly a good part of the new settlers now coming into the Northwest territories in such large numbers from the United States are returning Canadians.

At the present rate of destruction, it is estimated, the forests of the United States will have disappeared in twenty years. Canadian forests are therefore becoming more and more valuable. If properly protected, we shall have in our possession practically the whole of the future wood supply of the continent, and the greater part of the wood-working industries dependent on that supply.

Statistics show that though there are many thousands in Ireland who speak the Irish language, comparatively few are teaching their children to speak it. There are nearly a hundred thousand Irish speakers in County Kerry, of whom less than two thousand five hundred are children.

The presence of the bubonic plague in San Francisco is causing alarm throughout the country.

The Colombian government has declined the offer of the United States government of \$7,000,000 for the privilege of buying out the interest of the French Panama Canal company and completing the work. It is thought that Colombia will offer the right to construct the canal to the highest bidder. The United States required exclusive control of a strip of Colombian territory through which the canal would run from ocean to ocean. If a new company should be formed to finish the work with private capital, the control of this strip would of course remain with the Colombians. In this case, the United States government would probably undertake the construction of another inter-oceanic canal, by the Nicaragua route.

Branches of the Navy League are being formed in the chief cities of the Dominion, with the approval of members of the Canadian government. Similar branches exist in England, and in other parts of the empire. The purpose is to strengthen the Imperial navy by forming a reserve of trained seamen ready for service in time of war.

The boundary dispute between Chile and Argentina, which was referred to Great Britain for arbitration, has been thus settled. The decision gives to Chile a little more than half of the disputed territory, but not the most valuable portion.

Under the auspices of the British Cotton Growers' Association, an expert is going to Northern Nigeria to introduce the cultivation of cotton. Efforts will also be made to establish the cotton plant in other parts of British West Africa.

The Marconi wireless telegraph station, now about completed, at Glace Bay, Cape Breton, consists of four towers, over two hundred feet in height, the tops of which are connected by four bridges, from each of which are suspended fifty copper cables, converging as they descend and meeting in the operating room of the station. A similar structure has been erected at Poldhu, Cornwall, and is now ready for use. Wireless

communication between Canada and England will probably be opened to the public before many days. A despatch from the Governor-General of Canada to the King is said to be held ready for transmission as soon as the apparatus is ready for use.

Discussing the proposed extension of the Grand Trunk Railway to the Pacific, Sir Sanford Fleming advocates making the Intercolonial a transcontinental line, by carrying it across the new bridge at Quebec and thence by the shortest possible route to Port Simpson. By this route the distance from European ports to Japan and China would be shorter than by the Canadian Pacific route, and very much shorter than by the route via New York and San Francisco.

Discoveries of remarkable interest have been made in the ruins of Upper Egypt by Professor Petrie. In a royal tomb seven thousand years old, he has found jewelry of delicate workmanship, in which beads of precious stones were strung upon human hair and threads of gold twined together, the gold having been beaten out to the thickness of the hair. Cloth as fine as the finest cambric of modern manufacture was found in the same tomb. In another grave he found pottery which, from its shape and material, he believes to be of foreign workmanship; showing that commerce existed at that early period, and that civilization on the shores of the Mediterranean is some three thousand years older than was heretofore believed. He also found inscriptions that show that an alphabet from which our own alphabet has been derived, through those of the Greeks and the Phoenicians, and which had no relation whatever to the Egyptian hieroglyphics, was used in Egypt long before hieroglyphics were introduced; so that we are now able to carry the origin of our alphabet back to prehistoric man.

It has been established beyond question that Galileo was the inventor of the thermometer. Certain writings of his also show that the idea of communicating with a distant person "by means of the sympathy of two magnetized bars" had been suggested in his time, though he seems not to have looked upon it as a practical possibility.

The ashes of Columbus, taken from Havana after the fall of the Spanish dominion in Cuba, have been deposited in a special mausoleum erected for them in the cathedral at Seville, Spain.

Lars Moellers, an Eskimo, who published the only newspaper in Greenland, is dead. He began his journal with pictures only, and distributed it himself in different settlements. In each settlement he taught some one or more of the Eskimos to read. These taught their neighbors, and the newspaper thus found readers. Its publication will be continued by another Eskimo.

The Grand Trunk Railway of Canada is to be extended to the Pacific coast. The projected line will run from some point near Toronto to the northern district of the province of Ontario, and thence across the continent, one hundred miles or more to the northward of the Canadian Pacific road; crossing the moun-