

Canada has now in operation twenty-five thousand miles of railways, and seven thousand more under construction. The total number of employees is over a hundred and forty thousand.

The *New York World* calls attention to the fact that Canada has spent more than a hundred million dollars to provide ship canals from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, and that these canals are free to the vessels of the United States as well as to Canadian vessels. Canada, therefore, may very well protest against the proposal that the United States Government shall discriminate against Canadian and other foreign ships by preferential tolls on the Panama Canal.

The trial trip of a large sea-going motor ship in Denmark was so successful, that it is expected to lead to a complete revolution in navigation. The steamship may soon be a thing of the past.

Ground cork and a binding material have been made into a cover for bottles that guards against breakage and keeps the contents at a uniform temperature without using a vacuum.

The discovery that common straw can be so treated as to yield a fibre suitable for spinning is one that promises to be of far-reaching importance. The discovery is reported from Austria.

Twenty-four states of the American Union have enacted laws for the abolition of the common drinking cup.

Novocaine is the name of a new local anaesthetic, which, it is claimed, will make ether and chloroform quite unnecessary for dentists, and is only one-seventh as dangerous as cocaine.

While Great Britain and France are building up fleets of aeroplanes for military use, Germany, Russia, Austria and Japan are depending more upon large dirigible airships. Airships of the latest German model are very large and very swift.

Captain Roal Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, arrived at Hobart, Tasmania, on the 7th March, and announced briefly that he had discovered the South Pole. Pole reached 14th-17th December, which evidently means that he remained three days in the vicinity. Captain Scott, the British explorer, has not been heard from.

The State of Arizona has now been added to the American Union; and, after the fourth of July next, the flag of the United States of America will have forty-eight stars. While in area the new state is about equal to New York and New England combined, its population is less than that of New Brunswick. The pretty name is a bad word, significantly and etymologically, if, as is stated, it was formed from "arid zone." The land is fertile under irrigation; and the ruins found there show that it once supported a race of men far superior to the Indians in civilization. Excepting Alaska, there is no more United States territory left north of Mexico out of which to form another state. But Arizona was once Mexican territory, and there are many Mexicans who believe that the United States is looking for more.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has declared the annexation of Tripoli; claiming that in doing so it is simply

taking possession again of the ancient Roman provinces that had been thrown back into barbarism by the usurpers. These provinces are to enter upon a new era of civilization, which, like that of old, they are to receive from Rome.

Home Rule for Scotland and Wales, as well as for Ireland, is now demanded. Whatever the outcome, the present session of the British Parliament will be one of the most momentous in history.

Secretary Knox, a member of President Taft's cabinet, is on a mission of importance to the Central and South American states bordering on the Caribbean Sea. His purpose is to impress upon them the fact that they cannot rely upon the protection of the Munroe Doctrine in any course of action that does not meet with the approval of the government of the United States. That is, if they will not allow the United States to keep them in order, they must take care of themselves. This attitude may be due to a demand on the part of Germany that the United States obtain reparation from Mexico for injury to German residents or consent to a German expedition for that purpose. "Better a peaceful Mexico under the United States," says one German paper, "than one devastated by rebels."

Incredible as it seemed a few months ago, China is now a republic; if, indeed, it can be said to have any settled government. The Manchu rulers have abdicated, appointing, in the name of the infant Emperor, their prime minister, Yuan, to carry on the government of the country, no longer in the name of the Emperor, but in the name of the people. The republican leaders at Nanking, who, since their assumption of authority, have been the only recognized rulers in the south, have met the situation by the unanimous election of Yuan as president of the republic. Whether he is to rule in right of his appointment by the Emperor, or in right of his election by the revolutionists, both sides recognize that the only hope of peace is in his rule. The efforts of the latter to make Nanking the permanent capital of the country are giving the new president a serious problem to solve. The names of Peking, meaning the Northern Capital; and Nanking, meaning the Southern Capital, are a key to the situation. It is practically certain that the South will not yield to the North. It remains to be seen whether the North will yield. The late Li Hung Chang is reported to have said that there has been a republic in China before—many of them—but that it was in the days which are known as the "tiger eat tiger" period of Chinese history. The plan of dividing the country to avoid internal strife, which has worked so well in Scandinavia, does not seem to find favour in China.

Three Chinese warships have been sent to Java to demand an indemnity for the death of Chinese residents, said to have been killed by Dutch soldiers.

Manitoba is to be extended to the shores of Hudson Bay. So much of the Keewatin Territory as lies south of parallel of sixty degrees will be added to that province and the Province of Ontario; the new boundary line running northeastward from the former northeast corner