

## CURRENT EVENTS.

Flowers picked in bud in Cape Colony have been carried to England in cold storage, and there brought into bloom. It is quite possible that flowers supplied in this way will be less expensive than those raised in greenhouses, so that we shall soon have tropical flowers in our northern markets, as well as tropical fruits.

A new smokeless fuel is made by mixing one part by weight of wet peat with two parts of bituminous coal, and heating in a retort to drive off the hydro-carbons that produce smoke.

Colour photography has made such progress that printing in colours from photographic plates may soon take the place of the half-tone process with which we are now familiar in our illustrated books and magazines.

The first year's work in the excavation of the ruins of Memphis has brought to light much of interest in regard to that city of the distant past. It is calculated that the exposure of the whole surface of the ancient city will be the work of forty years.

In this country of wooden buildings, our losses by fire are said to be ten times as great as those of Great Britain, and more than ten times as heavy as those in France and Germany. It might pay us to spend more money in building and save in insurance.

Within ten or fifteen years, says a United States authority, there will not be a stick of timber standing in that country east of the Rockies, unless something is done to avert the disaster. The people are waking up to the fact. Over a million pine and spruce trees will be planted this year in New York State by private owners, as a result of the plan of furnishing trees for planting free of cost.

Public drinking cups are now made of white paper, stiffened with parafine; and, being made by machinery, are untouched by hands until they reach those of the drinker.

The Queensborough bridge, in New York City, which will be formally opened on the 12th of June, has a greater capacity for traffic than any other bridge in the world. Its spans are 135 feet above the water, allowing the largest ships to pass under; and the longest span, from Manhattan to Blackwell's Island, is over a thousand feet in length.

The Prince of Wales has accepted chieftainship in the Turtle Clan of the Six Nations, and a letter signifying his acceptance was read with due ceremony at a meeting of the chiefs of the Six Nations in Ontario.

The oil shales of New Brunswick are found to be very rich, and the development of this supply of natural wealth promises to be an important industry.

The governments of Germany, France and Belgium are working along with the British government to find a preventive or cure for the sleeping sickness. The extermination of the fly, which is

the principal carrier of the disease, appears to be a hopeless task; and it has therefore been decided to remove all the surviving population out of the narrow belt of land in which the insect is found. This will leave the island and shores of the Victoria Nyanza without inhabitants, where there were a few years ago three hundred thousand souls.

The great dam at Assouan, in Egypt, which is now the largest in the world, is to be surpassed by one near Denver, Colorado, if the plans of its promoters can be carried out. The vast reservoir which will be created by the dam will be known as Standley Lake. The water of this and nine other reservoirs of the same system will irrigate two hundred thousand acres of land.

Lord Northcliffe, who holds an area of about three thousand miles in Newfoundland, is said to be about to take over the Reid Newfoundland Company's property, comprising lands in different parts of the island, which will make him the largest land owner in the world.

Upon the completion of the Transcontinental Railway from Quebec to Prince Rupert, it will be possible to make the journey around the world in thirty days. Think of leaving Quebec on Dominion Day, crossing Europe, Asia and America, and getting back before the first of August! From Quebec to Liverpool would take five days; from Liverpool to Vladivostok by way of the Trans-Siberian Railway, would take ten days more; from Vladivostok to Prince Rupert, about another ten days, and from Prince Rupert to Quebec, less than five days, and probably less than four. The trains on the Trans-Siberian road run only about half as fast as ours, otherwise the trip could be made in even shorter time.

The British government has appointed a commission to report upon aerial navigation.

The fearful atrocities in Asia Minor, which occurred shortly before the late Sultan of Turkey was deposed, and in which whole villages were destroyed and their inhabitants massacred, are said to have been permitted by the Turkish authorities in accordance with instructions from Constantinople. The parliament has ordered an investigation, and promises that all who are found guilty shall be punished. At the lowest estimate, the number killed amounts to many thousands.

Yielding to pressure from Great Britain and Russia, the Shah of Persia restored the constitution, which had been suspended, and has granted amnesty to the insurgents, thus granting all the demands of the reformers.

Next to the gold mining, the principal source of wealth in South Africa is sugar growing.

The Chinese have raised a loan from German, French and English capitalists for the construction of a railway from Canton to the rich provinces of the west, that are now practically inaccessible to trade, their only outlet being the difficult and uncertain river route to the coast.