

Peat promises to be the fuel of the future in this country. At the dominion experimental station, peat fuel ready for use has been produced at a cost of less than two dollars a ton.

The three hundred Lapland reindeer brought to Labrador by Dr. Grenfell last year are thriving, and promise to solve the problem of making the interior of the country habitable. These animals furnish meat, milk, butter, cheese, leather, furs for clothing, and a far better beast of burden than the savage arctic dogs that kill game and make it impossible to keep domestic animals. Their food is the forest shrubbery, mosses, lichens and seaweeds. Dr. Grenfell predicts that Labrador will soon be exporting reindeer venison.

The arguments in the Atlantic fisheries dispute before the Hague Arbitration Tribunal are closed, and we may soon look for a decision. The questions involved are varied, and we need not be surprised if they are not all decided in favour of the British claims. One of these is that the rights given to the inhabitants of the United States under the treaty of 1818 do not extend to any fishermen on board United States vessels who are not residents of that country. Another is that United States vessels and their crews, when fishing in Newfoundland waters, are subject to the laws of Newfoundland. A third, that these vessels, when entering the harbours of Newfoundland, should report at the custom houses, and pay light and harbour dues. A fourth, as to whether they have the right to fish in the harbours, bays and creeks.

The last of our boundary disputes with the United States—or the last for a time, at least—has been settled by giving the disputed territory to the United States. It was a little island in Passamaquoddy Bay. It is said, however, that the government of the United States will dispute the Canadian claim to some of the islands north of Hudson Bay.

Captain Bernier, with the government steamer Arctic, has left Quebec on another expedition to the far North; his first purpose being to plant the British flag on islands farther north than those he visited last year. He expects to pass through McClure Strait and complete the northwest passage, passing on through Behring Sea to the coast of British Columbia. This he found that he could have done on his last trip, had his orders from the government permitted it.

The area reserved from settlement on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains extends from the international boundary to a line fifty miles north of Edmonton, and contains upwards of fourteen thousand square miles. It covers the sources of the important rivers that water the prairies; and its great object is to prevent the removal of the forest and the consequent drying up of the streams.

The immigration into western Canada in the last four months has been the largest in the history of the country. Nearly fifty thousand of the new immigrants came from the United States, bringing

with them, it is estimated, about fifty million dollars in cash. Of the other immigrants who arrived within that time, about thirty-five thousand were from the United Kingdom, and about ten or eleven thousand from other parts of Europe.

The Governor-General has started on a trip to Hudson Bay and the far north. He will return by way of Labrador and Newfoundland.

The full story of Peary's arctic exploration has at length appeared. It tells of careful observations at several places near the end of the earth's axis, and of how these observations were made and recorded. In reaching these places, he must have passed, as he says, very near the North Pole, if not over the exact spot. Whether the discredited Cook was really there before him, or supposed that he was there, and failed to bring back equally convincing proofs, or whether he puts forward his claim knowing it to be false, must remain for the present a matter of conjecture. Some day we may know more about it.

Knud Rasmussen, the Danish explorer, has left Copenhagen on an arctic exploring trip which will last six years. He will chart unknown waters, and make inland expeditions; and will build a substantial house on Melville, to be at the disposal of future arctic expeditions.

Captain Scott, who is on his way to the Antarctic regions, is to have competition in his attempt to reach the South Pole, for a Japanese expedition is to make the attempt.

It is understood that one of the members of the Canadian government will be present to represent the Dominion of Canada at the opening of the first parliament of United South Africa.

The coronation of King George is to take place sometime in June next. It is proposed that His Majesty shall then take the title of Emperor of the British, so that we may no longer have a British Empire without an Emperor. Another proposal is that he should be crowned King of Canada; or that the title borne by the late Sovereign, King of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, should be amended by mention of the names of the great self-governing Dominions, which, by their constitutions, are now kingdoms in all but name.

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A country teacher of my acquaintance asked a nurseryman whose son was in her school to talk to the pupils about the subject of budding and grafting. The man brought his knife and several young trees and actually set buds and coins, while the children crowded around breathless with live interest, listening attentively to his descriptions, and even trying a hand at the work themselves while the man directed them. Never was there a better nature lesson. Many teachers can follow this suggestion.—Selected.