

Nicaraguan line? The notice given may indicate nothing serious, or it may mean much. Nicaragua might well shrink from the idea of a canal over its territory, fortified by a foreign power; for that would potentially place its independence at the mercy of that power.

The sight of a French fleet has frightened the Sultan of Turkey into admitting all the French claims, including what is known as the Lorando claim. But France, it seems, will now insist on compensation for the moral injury which the Sultan's subjects have caused her during the last three months. The claim of a French protectorate over the Catholics of the Orient is not new, and is one of those things which arms French diplomacy with a weapon which is not found in the hands of any other power. France is seizing a Turkish island, as a means of enforcing the admitted claims. There is a rumor that Russia and England back the claims of France, on some arrangement for mutual advantages, England's share being the retention of Egypt.

The engineers of the New York Central Railway Company are reported to be working out a plan for making the distance from New York to the Irish Coast in 100 hours. But New York is not to be the port of departure and arrival; to St. John, N.B., that honour is reserved. This has a direct bearing on the national port or ports of Canada, of which a new definition has just been given by a Minister of the Crown at Ottawa; according to him, a national port means any port on which public money is spent by the Canadian Government. If the New York project should mature and become a reality, it would be a great feather in the cap of St. John, though it would not settle for us the question of the national port, of which we have heard so much of late. This New York scheme will be watched with great interest by Canadians.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

A movement is being made to get the North-West Territories erected into a province. The advocates of the scheme point out that these Territories contain a population (150,000) larger than that of British Columbia when she was erected into a province. The principal reason why the change is demanded is the need of more revenue to carry on works of public improvement, as the Dominion subsidy, which would give the Territories, if provinces, more than they enjoy at present. Where there are two parties to a bargain, one of which is to pay and the other to receive a given sum, they are generally found pulling different ways; but if the ambition of the North-West Territories to become a province meet no other and more serious objection, the grant of the usual subsidy to a province can hardly stand in the way of the provincial status being accorded to these Territories. Such primitive improvement as roads and bridges have much to do with the progress of infant settlements; and if these cannot be adequately supplied in the North-West, the progress of the region must be retarded. If there were any insuperable reason why provincial rights should not now be granted, there might be grounds for increasing the lump sum which the Territorial Govern-

ments receive annually from the Dominion. Happily, there is no ground of antagonism, such as formerly kept United States territorial governments unduly from the privilege of Statehood; not even a question of race, that favorite resource of the few disturbing elements which we have among us. The concession of full provincial autonomy to the North-West Territories is only a question of time; and in these cases it is generally best to make the inevitable concession before the withholding of it has produced serious irritation.

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Lac Seul, which looks like a speck on old maps, is a large body of water. This distant lake the C.P.R. Company is to connect with the frontier, which by extension, means with the whole world. Mr. Ross, the Ontario Premier, speaking to an interviewer at Ottawa, said the line of water communication, of which Lac Seul is a link, and which conducts to James' Bay, by the Albany river, will be improved and made practicable by the Ontario Government. This it is thought can be done, at a moderate expense, by means of locks. When done, this will, of course, be only a summer route; but means of winter communication will soon follow. This will need to be from south to north, rather than from east to west. Mr. Vankoughnet, afterward Chancellor, used to say, when Commissioner of Crown Lands, that the province, as then settled, had so much more length than depth, that it needed to be developed to the north. Since the boundaries of the province were judicially settled, it has found a depth that was not dreamed of in Mr Vankoughnet's day, and one of the needs of the hour is to turn this vast territory to account. Mr. Ross regrets to see young men from Ontario seek new homes in the North-West; but a certain proportion will, in the natural exercise of individual choice, prefer the prairies of the West. We, with Mr. Ross, desire to see this option exercised with discretion, and without prejudice of the just claims of Ontario, but in spite of all that can be done young people setting out for themselves will follow their own bent.

With a vast northward and northwestern domain to settle, Premier Ross sees the necessity which Ontario is under of doing all she can to obtain a larger number of immigrants, and he is reported to have admitted in an interview a desire to obtain the aid of the Dominion Government to supplement the work being done by the Ontario emigration agents. He is reported to favor assisted immigration; in fact, he is quoted as saying: "It is the Ontario Government's purpose to assist, in a financial way, in bringing settlers to the northwestern portion of the province." We are further told that he desires to enlist the sympathy of the Minister of the Interior in a scheme of immigration broader than any that now exists. This looks to the peopling of New Ontario. The Government has been generous in placing parts of this new region under the charge of people who undertake to improve it. This has generally been done with a good object and not seldom with good results. But there is a limit which this generosity cannot reason-