

CURRENT EVENTS.

The Legislative Assembly of Quebec proposes to offer encouragement to literature, science and art through a system of public competitions and prizes.

Governor Fraser, of Nova Scotia, has issued an appeal to the descendants of Celtic families in the province for funds to aid a monument to restore the historic church of Saint Columba, at Iona, to its original form.

The rush of immigrants from the United States to the better land north of the Canadian boundary is greater than ever before.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, in recent years, has made a special feature of flowers and shrubs along its lines, with very pleasing effect. The annual distribution of seeds is now going on, and this year they expect to have more railway gardens than they have yet had, especially in the sparsely settled districts along the main line.

The Cunard liner "Mauretania" has made the trip across the ocean to New York in one minute less than five days, an average speed of a little over twenty-four knots. The White Star Line, it is reported, is about to build four great steamers for the route between Liverpool and Montreal that will have a maximum speed of twenty-four knots.

After fifty-four years in the ice fields of the Arctic ocean, the ship "Investigator," the famous exploring ship of Sir Robert McClure's expedition, is free. A full report of her condition has been brought out by the Northwest Mounted Police and transmitted to the British Admiralty. Several of the wintering steam whalers are keeping near her, hoping to be able to tow her back with them to British Columbia. McClure was the first to pass from Behring Strait to Baffin Bay, though he was obliged to leave his ship in the ice.

The postmaster-general has ordered that mail carriers shall not carry liquor with the mails. Any infringement of this order will be punished by cancelling the mail contract.

Capt. Mikkleson, the Danish explorer, who was at the head of the Anglo-American expedition in search of an unknown land north of the Beaufort Sea, though he failed to reach the supposed land, still believes in its existence. He will try to reach it by ship instead of by sledge journey; for he has proved that it lies beyond deep water, if it is there at all. He does not think that the North Pole can ever be reached by an explorer carrying the necessary scientific instruments to make the feat of any value. Without these it would be a wasted accomplishment.

A special issue of postage stamps will commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec.

The Duke of Argyll and Lords Aberdeen, Lansdowne, and Minto, former governors-general of Canada, are at the head of a movement to raise in Great Britain a substantial public contribution to-

wards the sum needed to transform the battlefields at Quebec into a public park.

The programme of the ter-centenary celebration at Quebec is arranged. The Prince of Wales will land July 22nd. On the 23rd the fetes will be formally opened, and the landing of Champlain will be represented. A military review, in which 25,000 Canadian troops will be reviewed, will take place on the 24th; and on the 25th there will be a review of the fleets. The next day being Sunday, there will be commemorative services in the cathedrals. On the 27th there is to be a naval display; and the Prince of Wales will leave on the 29th. Costumes for the pageant are being made in England; and it is said that the display will be the finest ever seen in the New World.

Our government has not been the only one to find how difficult it is to arrange with the government of the United States for an international agreement that shall include all subjects in dispute. In 1905, as is now disclosed, the United States representative in Venezuela had arranged the preliminaries of an arbitration treaty for the settlement of all controversies between the two countries. When the protocol sent from Washington reaches Venezuela, however, it was found to cover only one case—that of a certain asphalt company in New York which claims a valuable concession in Venezuela; and later it was learned that this document was drawn up by the lawyers of the asphalt company. The President of Venezuela was indignant, and has ever since obstinately refused to make any agreement whatever with the government of the United States. The matter has now reached a stage where either an apology or a display of force is needed to open the way for further negotiations.

The invention of the noiseless discharge of firearms is credited to Hiram P. Maxim, of Hartford, Conn., son of Sir Hiram Maxim. Another United States inventor claims to have a noiseless gun that will discharge two million bullets an hour. The wars of the future will be brief and terrible.

Hayti, or, should we write it, Haiti, and pronounce it as a word of three syllables, is still a danger point, as evidenced by the presence of foreign war vessels in its harbours to watch the course of events. Its ruler, President Alexis, is said to have threatened a general massacre of the inhabitants if any attempt is made to displace him; and it is believed that he could carry the threat into execution, unless a general rising of the people should prevent it.

Russian troops are endeavouring to suppress a rising of Persian mountaineers. No aid is expected from Persia, Russia having assumed the responsibility of maintaining order in the northern provinces.

Paris, now one of the most beautiful cities in the world, will spend a hundred million dollars in the next few years in the improvement of its parks.