

Norsemen must have been on the New England coast, as they would not have found grapes growing farther north. Prof. Fernald has good reason to believe that their "wineberries" were not wild grapes, but probably the rock cranberries, which are very abundant in Labrador. From this and other evidence he concludes that our cold and lonely Labrador may be the site of Wineland the Good.

Fighting continues in Nicaragua, with the general results apparently in favour of the revolutionists. The sympathy of the United States authorities is, openly in their favour, and it is not improbable that the matter will lead to some sort of an excuse for interference and the occupation of the country by United States forces. Gen. Zelaya, the ex-president, has gone to Spain, where he has stated that the revolution was deliberately planned by the United States for the purpose of getting control of the country, so that they may build an inter-oceanic canal there for their own use, to the exclusion of other powers. This is almost incredible. It might be very undesirable to the United States to have a second canal across the isthmus, if it were to be open to the ships of other nations so as to afford competing route for trade; but one inter-oceanic canal at a time would be enough for even the United States government to build.

A fire in a Pennsylvania coal mine has been checked, after burning for upwards of fifty years and destroying about twenty-five million dollars worth of coal.

Madame Curie, the discoverer of radium, is said to have discovered another substance far more radio-active than radium itself. Meantime another French scientist is raising the question of whether radium really exists. His idea is that radio-activity results from some unknown chemical combinations in which the comparatively common metal barium is the chief constituent.

It is thought that the future supply of material for paper making may come from the bamboo jungles of the tropics instead of from northern forests. A Japanese company in Formosa is engaged in making paper from bamboo.

Mohammed Abdullah, known as the "mad mullah" of Somaliland, is again on the war path, and has destroyed a native town, the inhabitants of which were under Italian protection.

Dr. Charcot, of the French Antarctic expedition, has returned, having been very successful in his explorations, though he met with many hardships. He found new land, which he supposes to be a part of the Antarctic continent, and charted its coast for a hundred and twenty miles. His scientific observations were conducted with the greatest care, and will be of value.

The United States will send out an expedition to take possession of Wilkes Land in the South Polar regions; which is not surprising, as the land was first discovered by the United States naval officer whose name it bears. It is more surprising to learn that there is a bill before their senate to provide for annexing the Spitzbergen group to the United States. These islands have been claimed by both Russia and Norway, and were discovered by Dutch sailors in 1596.

It is finally decided that another Antarctic expedition will be sent out from the United States with the special object of trying to reach the South Pole. Capt. Robert Bartlett, the Newfoundland mariner who had charge of the steamer Roosevelt in the Peary expedition, and who, with the exception of Peary and Henson and their Eskimo companions, has been nearest the North Pole, will be in command of the ship. The leader of the expedition is not yet named.

Colonel Roosevelt, former President of the United States, is returning from his African hunting expedition, he and his companions having killed thousands of animals, of course in the interest of science.

Late advices indicate that the Emperor of Abyssinia is still living, and that his physician has been dismissed for attempting to poison him.

The Chinese authorities are taking a census of Chinamen living in Canada, the object being to determine how many representatives the Canadian Chinese may send to the Chinese provincial legislatures.

The most surprising news of the last month has been that of the arrival in India of the Dalai Lama of Thibet. It will be remembered that he fled from Lhasa, his capital city, a few years ago, on the arrival of the British expedition under Col. Younghusband; and that he visited Peking with a great retinue later, to make formal submission to the Chinese government. The Dalai Lama is the temporal ruler of Thibet; the religious head, regarded by the Thibetans as an incarnation of Deity, being the Tashi Lama, who lives at Shigatse. Dr. Sven Hedin describes the latter not as a divinity in human form, but as a man who in goodness of heart, innocence and purity approaches as nearly as possible to perfection. The Dalai Lama is evidently a man of different mould. He has been deposed by the Chinese government on a charge of preparing for revolt, and fled to India on the approach of Chinese troops that were sent to occupy Lhasa and enforce submission.

Official reports show that the total number of aliens admitted into the United States within the last seven years, most of them coming from southern and eastern Europe and western Asia, is over a million more than the total population of New England at the last census.

Within the last two years, the two greatest pulp mills in the world have been established in Newfoundland. They are situated at Grand Falls and Bishop's Falls, respectively; and each plant will employ about three thousand hands. The paper on which the London Times is printed will hereafter be made of Newfoundland pulp.

The boy scout movement organized in Great Britain by Gen. Sir R. S. Baden-Powell will be extended to all parts of the empire.

The latest publication of the Dominion Geological Survey office is a complete catalogue of the birds of Canada.

The Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain and the Royal Geographical Society of Italy have presented medals to Peary and Bartlett, as leaders in the Polar expedition which, whether it actually reached the North Pole or not, went farther north than any previous explorer had gone, with the possible exception of Dr. Cook.