

The international arbitration tribunal called the Hague tribunal, is not an established court sitting in Holland, as its name might seem to imply. It takes this name from the fact that it is the outcome of an international conference at The Hague, in 1899. Each of the twenty-six nations represented in the convention chooses four judges, to hold office for six years, which means one hundred and four judges altogether. Any two powers thus represented having agreed upon arbitration in a certain case, may refer it to a special court to be selected from these judges, each party choosing two, and these four choosing a fifth. When the special court is so constituted, the five judges meet, not necessarily at The Hague, to hear the arguments and decide upon the matter at issue.

The rebellion in Venezuela is again assuming such proportions as to threaten the overthrow of the Castro government. In the interval between the raising of the blockade and the return of the ships captured by the allies, the insurgents are said to have landed a considerable quantity of supplies for carrying on their campaign.

The report of the death of Bu Hamara, leader of the insurgents in Morocco, has been contradicted; and it is now said that the government forces have suffered another defeat.

Pope Leo XIII. has completed the twenty-fifth year of his pontificate.

A special colony of two thousand farmers and agricultural laborers from Great Britain is coming to settle in the Canadian Northwest. Many other British settlers will also come this year; and it is the first year in the history of the country that has seen the influx of settlers continued through the winter months.

The Alaskan boundary commission will meet in London. The President of the United States has appointed three commissioners. Of the three British commissioners, yet to be chosen, it is expected that two will be Canadians.

It has been freely said in Canada that two of the three commissioners selected for the United States are not "impartial jurists of repute," as required by the treaty; but are strongly prejudiced against the Canadian contention. Assuming this to be true, and that the two Canadian members, if such are appointed, may be as strongly biased in favor of the Canadian claims, an arbitrary court so constituted might still give a final decision; for it is hardly supposable that there will not be at least one on each side to give a fair and impartial judgment on the evidence submitted, and the agreement of these two would give the required majority. It is to be hoped that such an agreement can be reached, and the long standing dispute ended; though the strip of Canadian or Alaskan territory in debate is of very much less commercial importance now than it was when the matter came before the Joint High Commission at Quebec, in 1898. The change is due partly to the

fact that the first rush of gold seekers is over; but chiefly to better communication and increased trade between British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, in consequence of which the trade of the Alaskan ports of Dyea and Skagway has greatly fallen off. Apart from questions of fact and interpretation, which alone can come before the arbitrary commission, it would be of more value to Canada to gain access to a navigable channel among the fords of Alaska than it would be to the United States to retain the half abandoned sites of a trade that is now diverted.

Sir Oliver Lodge has thus illustrated the idea of the relation of electrons to atoms: Imagine a church 200 feet long, 80 feet wide, and 50 feet high; and scattered throughout the interior of this a thousand little electric charges, each the size of the ordinary full-stop of the newspaper. That is how electrons feel inside the atom; but they occupy the atom, nevertheless, as soldiers occupy a country; they make it impenetrable by reason of the forces they exert.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has purchased 14 steamships for the trans-Atlantic route, which, with those of the present trans-Pacific service, will give a continuous line from Great Britain to China under the company's management.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

A Teachers' Association has been formed in St. John, having for its objects social intercourse and improvement. Mr. W. J. S. Myles is the president and Mr. M. D. Brown the secretary.

Inspector G. W. Mersereau has finished visiting the schools in Restigouche County, and will give his attention to the schools of Northumberland County this month.

A large number of the friends of Inspector and Mrs. W. S. Carter gathered at their residence in St. John on Thursday evening, March 5th, and presented them with two handsome pieces of cut glass on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of their wedding.

Inspector L. S. Morse will visit schools in the Annapolis Valley until the 10th of April. During the latter part of that month he will attend to the schools on Digby Neck and on Long and Briar Islands.

Inspector Carter has completed his visitation of the country schools of Charlotte and St. John Counties, and is now inspecting the schools of the City of St. John.

Miss Lela B. Reagh, the teacher of the intermediate department of the graded schools at Middleton, Annapolis County, N. S., has resigned her position for the purpose of taking a much-needed rest. Miss Reagh has been in constant service as a teacher for about thirteen years, several of which were in the position which she has now resigned. She was a highly efficient teacher, and her resignation has been accepted with regret. Her position