

CURRENT EVENTS.

The newspapers of the day are furnishing excellent material for a Canadian history scrap book, so far as relates to the early history of Quebec. The French founders of Quebec were the missionaries and explorers of the country; and the more we know of their life and work in contrast with the life of the early Dutch and English settlers along the Atlantic coast, the better we can understand what they have done for the Canada of to-day.

To correct the boundaries on your map of Canada, draw a line along the sixtieth parallel, in continuation of the northern boundary of Saskatchewan, for the new northern boundary of Manitoba; draw a diagonal line from the old northeast angle of Manitoba to a point on the shore of Hudson Bay about half way between the mouth of the Nelson and the mouth of the Severn, for the new boundary between Manitoba and Ontario; and erase the old northern lines of Ontario and Quebec. In its newly acquired territory Manitoba has two sea ports on Hudson Bay—Fort Churchill, at the mouth of the Churchill river, and York Factory, at the mouth of the Nelson. The latter, because of shoals, is of comparatively little value. When the proposed Hudson Bay railway is built, Fort Churchill will be an important shipping point for the few weeks of safe navigation each summer in Hudson Strait. The former District of Keewatin is about equally divided between Manitoba and Ontario; the whole of the District of Ungava is added to the Province of Quebec.

The alleged discovery of a rapid process of preparing linen fibre from the flax, which was expected to take the place of the old process that has been in use from early Egyptian times until the present day, does not seem as yet to have revolutionize the industry in the United States; nor does it seem to be true that by this process the stalks of flax grown for seed can be used for the production of linen fibre. It is more probable that the thousands of tons of flax stalks that go to waste annually can be profitably used in the manufacture of paper, for which the supply of wood pulp is insufficient.

A careless workman accidentally set fire to an oil well in Mexico, and an explosion occurred which was heard for seventy-five miles. The whole oil field was destroyed, it is said; and the quantity of oil burned amounts to millions of gallons. A terrible destruction—but how much worse is it than we may suffer almost any day by someone carelessly setting fire to our forests? Recent losses from forest fires in New Brunswick and the adjoining territories should make everyone more careful.

The Dowager Empress of China has accepted a fine yacht given her by the Emperor of Japan as a token of his appreciation of the enormous donation sent from China for the relief of the famine in northeastern Japan in 1906.

A distinguished clergyman who is well acquainted with the country has said: It is difficult to take in

the moral greatness of the people of China. They are the only people who have never deified vice, who have never placed unsavory stories of vice in their classics, who have never publicly sanctioned immorality. Their ideals have been scholarship, peace with the world, and righteousness; and it may be their mission to impress these upon the world.

The Mohammedan faith is said to be making more converts than all other religions combined. It has civilized immense regions of Central Africa, building up the scattered pagan tribes into powerful communities, and driving out the use of alcohol and all the debasing practices of pagan peoples.

Count Zeppelin's airship is an acknowledged success. On a recent trial trip it remained in the air for twelve hours and carried fifteen passengers. So steady is it in its movements that the passengers can sit or lie down or walk about. The German Emperor has been deeply interested in the progress of Count Zeppelin's invention and other governments as well as that of Germany are preparing for the possible use of the airship in warfare.

Hardly has the aerial warship been made practicable, and plans for its adoption been matured, when a Swedish inventor has produced an aerial torpedo, which, it is said, will be used by the Swedish and German armies.

The death of ex-President Grover Cleveland in June, leaves no ex-President of the United States now living. He will, perhaps, be longest remembered for his famous Venezuela message, calling for arbitration in the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela; an interference which might have involved his country in a war for which it was unprepared, but which was accepted by the British as committing the United States government to the principle of arbitration. He opposed the annexation of Hawaii as a great wrong to a feeble and independent state; but Congress took the matter out of his hands and made itself responsible for the annexation.

The United States fleet is now on its way across the Pacific, and will return to the Atlantic by way of the Mediterranean.

Three hundred and fifteen British war vessels, the largest fleet ever assembled, have just completed their movements in the North Sea, the avowed object of which was to show whether the coasts of the United Kingdom were seriously open to attack by a German fleet. The movements of the defending squadron were directed by wireless telegraph from London, three miles distant.

Quiet has been restored along the Afghan frontier, where an uprising threatened to bring on another Afghan war.

Affairs in Persia are in worse condition. The town of Tabriz is in the hands of revolutionists, and the overthrow of the Shah's government is not impossible. In Persia, as in Russia, the granting of representative government has not satisfied the extremists among the populace.