

N. E. F.—The leaves which I enclose were brought to me by a little girl. Can you tell me to what plant or tree they belong?

The leaves belong to a small tree which one does not commonly see in the gardens of these provinces, although frequently cultivated in the United States. It is a native of China and Japan and is called the Ginkgo biloba or Fan-tree. You will notice that the leaves are fan-shaped, and if you hold one up to the light you will see the curious parallel bunches of needles embedded in its substance.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The largest telescope lens in the world is at Treptow, near Berlin; and it brings the moon's surface to an apparent distance of fifty miles from the earth.

A special effort will be made to increase the growth of cotton in Rhodesia, so that the English cotton weavers may not be dependent upon the United States for their supply.

A deposit of tin recently discovered in Ontario may prove to be valuable. At present more than half the tin produced in the world comes from the Malay peninsula.

A vacuum cleaner for clothes, which cleanses them thoroughly with less wear and tear than washing, has been invented in Australia.

Soon after the coronation of King George, which is to take place in June, the investiture of the Prince of Wales will follow. The latter ceremony, which has not been in use for hundreds of years, will occur at Caernarvon in July; and its revival is taken to mean that Wales, as a separate part of the United Kingdom, is to have more recognition than it has ever received since the union.

The failure of the Labrador fisheries this season has brought great distress to the people of that part of our country, and the fishermen of the Newfoundland coast will suffer more or less from the same cause. Efforts are being made to find hardy grains that can be cultivated in Labrador; and Prof. Robertson, who has been looking into the agricultural possibilities of Newfoundland, reports that he is agreeably surprised at the farming opportunities which the island presents.

A daily steamer service between North Sydney, N. S., and Port au Basques, N. F., will be commenced next year.

Monday, the last day of October, will be Thanksgiving Day this year.

The Queen's Own Rifles, the Canadian regiment which went to England to take part in the army manoeuvres, received every possible mark of appreciation from King and people. It is probable that Australia will send a regiment next year.

Jackfish is a Canadian Pacific Railway station situated on a good harbor on the north shore of Lake Superior. A company has been formed to carry passengers and freight from this point to Hudson Bay by motor vehicles and motor boats. The motor cars will go to Lake Kenogama, from which place the service will be continued by boat through the lake and the Albany River to the shores of James Bay.

A Centenary Celebration Association has been formed for the purpose of commemorating on an adequate scale the successful defence of Canada in the war of 1812-14. It is proposed to hold a central pageant at Toronto, and local celebrations in the districts which were prominent scenes of the war, especially in the upper provinces. Finally it is proposed to invite representatives of the British, French and United States governments to meet at the Niagara frontier in 1915, to celebrate the peace which followed, and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the three nations which will have existed for a hundred years.

New York and Washington are to be connected by underground wires over which telephone and telegraph messages may be sent at the same time. Three telephone conversations may be carried on at the same time; and while these are going on six independent telegraph messages may be sent over the same wire without interfering with each other or with the telephone conversations. Probably all electric wires will be placed underground before many years as a matter of economy.

Oil will soon displace coal as a fuel for ocean steamships. It can be stored in tanks that will take up less room than coal bunkers; it can be taken on and fed to the fires through pipes, thus saving the wages of stokers; it makes a hotter fire than coal, and drives the ship faster; and it makes no smoke, and no dust or ashes.

The tunnel under the Andes for the new railway which connects Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres is eleven thousand feet above the sea, and is longer than either of the tunnels under the Alps. It is above the snow line, and the climate is so damp and cold that Italian laborers could not endure it, though they have driven most of the great tunnels of Europe. Chilean laborers suffered no great inconvenience, as they were accustomed to the climate; but in the deepest part of the tunnel English and Scotch miners were employed.

The award in the Atlantic fisheries dispute which was delivered at the Hague on September 7th, ends a controversy between Great Britain and the United States that has existed for nearly a hundred years. Of the seven questions submitted to the tribunal, the first and fifth were most important; and on both of these the award was in favor of the British. The first question was whether the British had power to make laws regulating the Newfoundland fisheries without consulting the United States; and the fifth was whether United States fishermen, while not allowed to fish within three miles of the shore, would have the right to fish in bays which are more than six miles wide at the mouth. The decision in favor of Great Britain on the first point establishes the right of Newfoundland and of Canada to make fishing regulations which United States fishermen are bound to observe; and the decision that the three mile limit is to be measured from a line stretching from headland to headland, instead of following the sinuosities of the coast, fixes the extent of the local jurisdiction which has so long been in dispute. Possibly, under the latter decision, it may be conceded by the United States that Hudson Bay is a bay under the meaning of the treaty, and not an open sea in which their fishermen are to have equal rights with ours.