

CURRENT EVENTS.

The Intercolonial will have running rights over the Canada Atlantic when that railway passes into the control of the Grand Trunk. This will give it access to a port on Georgian Bay.

The Hamburg-American line is to have a new steamship fitted with a massive balance wheel, to reduce the rolling of the ship at sea. Everybody knows, or should know, how the revolving wheel of the gyroscope resists any change of position. The same principle applied to this larger wheel is to keep the vessel steady.

The new vessel in which Commander Peary hopes to reach the North Pole has been launched from a Maine shipyard. It is the first ship ever built in America for polar work, and is considered the strongest ever built for that purpose.

Mukden, the largest city in Manchuria, and the ancient capital of the Manchu rulers who now govern China, was taken by the Japanese on the morning of March 10th, the Russians escaping by way of Tie Pass, which was later occupied by the Japanese with slight resistance. It is estimated that nearly a million of men were engaged in the battles around Mukden, and the Russian loss is placed at 150,000 men, of whom 35,000 were left dead on the field.

Mukden is a city more than a thousand years old. Its ancient palaces are full of rich treasures. It has wide suburbs, and a large population in which the Chinese now outnumber the Manchus. Harbin, the Russian stronghold in Northern Manchuria, three hundred miles north of Mukden, is a new Russian city, in the centre of a rich agricultural region. Its population is almost wholly Russian, and foreigners are jealously excluded. Whether the advancing Japanese forces will try to reach Harbin, or turn aside to invest Vladivostok, remains to be seen.

Serious uprisings continue in many parts of Russia, and the state of affairs is such as to quite overshadow the crushing defeat in the Far East.

President Castro, of Venezuela, has curtly refused the United States government's request for arbitration in certain disputes arising from the claims of United States citizens in that country. The matters are before the Venezuelan courts. In the meantime, Holland has a grievance against Venezuela because of the imprisonment of Dutch sailors, and threatens to send warships to demand redress. Venezuela is weak because of sparse population and misgovernment, but evidently feels strong enough to defend its territory. The country ranks fourth among the republics of South America in size, fifth in trade, and sixth in population.

Great Britain and Italy have come to terms with the Mad Mullah of Somaliland. He is to come under the protection of Italy and have access to the sea.

The death of Jules Verne brings to recollection the fact that one of the most famous books, "Around the World in Eighty Days," owed much of its popularity to the absurd improbability of the story. Now, however, the tour of the world can be made in less than eighty days by very quiet and ordinary conveyance.

The suggestion of making the greater part of the journey from Europe to Australia by rail is not so absurd as it might at first appear. A new Russian railway runs to the borders of Afghanistan. Surveys have been made for a railway across Afghanistan, a distance of some four hundred miles, to Peshawar, in India. From this point, with some short breaks, there are railways now running to Burma; and there is one already under construction which is to run down the Malay peninsula to Singapore. A short sea passage of forty miles from Singapore would take the traveller to Sumatra. Here there is no railway as yet; so the voyage might need to be prolonged to Java, which has a railway running through its whole length. From this to Port Darwin, where the Australian railway system begins, would be the longest set trip in the route. Possibly, by the time when the trans-Australian railway is finished, the rest of the journey will be practicable; and then, of the twelve thousand miles' journey from London to Melbourne, seven-eighths of the distance may be travelled by rail.

The preliminary survey of the projected Grand Trunk Pacific road from Lewis to Edmundston is nearing completion, and the surveyors report a very advantageous route.

The government of Newfoundland will revoke the fishing privileges so long enjoyed by United States fishermen in Newfoundland waters. The action is taken because of the adverse action of the United States senate upon the treaty which, in return for these privileges, was to have given Newfoundland fishermen free entry for their fish at United States ports. French fishermen did not enjoy the privileges now to be withheld from the New Englanders, the most valuable of which is that of purchasing bait for the deep sea fishing.

Let the child be taught to read fluently and to love good reading; let him learn to express clearly and forcibly his thoughts, both orally and in writing; let him be taught to observe, record, classify the phenomena of nature; let him be trained to understand his country's history, and the duties of a good citizen; let him be trained to keep his body sound and clean; let him be taught good morals and gentle manners, both by precept and example.
—Hon. H. R. Pattengill, Michigan.