

CURRENT EVENTS.

Monday, the ninth of October, is Thanksgiving Day in Canada, following the plan recently adopted of choosing a day which will give a week-end holiday in the middle of autumn.

The name of Berlin, Ontario, has been changed to Kitchener. It is proposed in South Australia to give English or native Australian names to a number of places that now have German names. It is to be hoped that the English names selected will not be names of places in England or elsewhere; for, on general principles, such transplanted names as London and Paris, or New London and New York, are quite as objectionable as Berlin.

Unfortunately, there is a serious shortage of the wheat crop in our western provinces. This will add to the hardships in that part of the Dominion which are due to the war, and which have caused a large emigration this year to the north-western parts of the United States, principally of those who had come from that region when times were more prosperous in Canada.

Without waiting for the arrival of the vessel which was being sent from England, Sir Ernest Shackleton made a third attempt to rescue his men who had been left on Elephant Island, in the Antarctic Ocean, and succeeded in bringing them back in safety to Punta Arenas, Chile. His two earlier efforts failed because of the ice conditions.

Donald B. MacMillan, the Arctic explorer who sailed from New York in 1913 in search of Crocker Land, and who found that it has no existence, is expected to reach port in Newfoundland or Cape Breton about the last of this month. He is returning on a Danish steamer chartered for the purpose.

Steffanson, the Canadian explorer, is continuing his work of exploring and mapping the new land which he discovered north of the mouth of Mackenzie River. He will probably not return until next year.

An agreement for linking the railway systems of Sweden and Russia by bridging the river which forms the boundary line has been ratified. This will give another avenue for Russian trade during the winter months.

The corner stone of the parliament building at Ottawa was laid on the first of September fifty-six years ago, by the late King Edward, then Prince of Wales. It has been moved to a new position, a hundred feet east of its former position, and was there relaid on the first of this month by the late King's brother, the Duke of Connaught. His Royal Highness will probably leave Canada before the end of this month, having completed his term of office as Governor-General, and will carry with him the best wishes of all Canadians.

The Panama Canal is again blocked by a land slide.

A conference now in session is expected to settle the differences between the United States and Mexico.

A conflict between Chinese and Japanese troops in Manchuria may have important results, as it leads to the discussion of Japanese claims to special privileges in Manchuria and Inner Mongolia.

The Germans and their allies are no longer winning. This, perhaps, is all that can be said of the general situation. The end of the war may be yet a long way off; but we seem to have the advantage now in every field of action, and if we can keep up the struggle long enough we shall win. The greatest

losses are usually on the side of the offensive, and our lists of casualties are already showing the cost of a forward movement. The British losses on all fronts in August, in France, Macedonia, Egypt, Mesopotamia and South Africa, were nearly one hundred and twenty-eight thousand.

Important events have taken place within the last month, which are taken as indications of greater events impending. The arrival of Italian and Russian troops at Salonica is reported, and the Italians are pushing forward their army in Albania. Roumania joined the Entente Allies by declaring war against Austria on the twenty-second of August, and sending a large force across the border into Hungarian territory; and on the same day Germany declared war against Roumania, and Italy declared war against Germany, after apparently waiting for months for Germany to make the declaration. The Austrians were not prepared to meet the new enemy; and within a week the Roumanians had advanced so far as to occupy all the eastern part of Transylvania, a province of Hungary which is largely peopled by Roumanians, and which Roumania will claim as her share of the spoils.

The entrance of Roumania into the war increases the number of warring nations to fifteen if we count the little republic of San Marino as one. The others are Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Japan, and now Roumania, making eleven in all, against Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. Perhaps we should add Persia, which, though it has not declared war, has been actively engaged from the first in resisting the Turks; and also Arabia, since the Grand Sherif of Mecca has proclaimed its independence and declared war against Turkey. Greece may be added to the number before many days. The Greek people have always been favorable to the Allies, and the German agents who have succeeded in influencing the Greek King and his advisers to maintain a more or less threatening neutrality are being driven out of the country or imprisoned. The Bulgarians who have invaded Greece have already come into conflict with Greek soldiers, and a declaration of war is expected to follow.

The conquest of German East Africa by the British, Belgian and Portuguese forces is nearly completed. Dar-es-Salaam (meaning the Harbour of Peace), the principal port and the ocean terminus of the principal railway, has been occupied by the British. The advance here within the past month has been more rapid and extensive than in any other theatre of the great world war; but there is still a formidable body of native troops under German leaders in the southern part of the territory.

The battle of Verdun still continues, though the Germans are losing ground; and the battle of the Somme, in which the Germans are slowly falling back before the French and British forces, is now the scene of the fiercest fighting on the western front. The Russians are still advancing in Galicia and in Armenia, and a Russian army is helping the Roumanians to defend their southern frontier against the Bulgarians. The Italians have won their first great victory by taking the Austrian city of Gorizia; and the Allied army at Salonica, which with the addition of the Greeks will number nearly a million men, is about to move for the reconquest of Serbia and the closing of the Teutonic avenue to Constantinople, the opening of which was to the Germans the greatest success of the war.