

interesting to note that of the 162,000 miles of submarine cable in the world, 120,000 are owned by Great Britain, 15,000 by other European nationalities, and 22,000 by American companies.

It is curious, too, that the laying of the Atlantic cable rendered useless a scheme on foot at the time for constructing an overland cable through Canada, Alaska and Siberia. Scores of vessels were engaged in carrying supplies up the Stikkeen and Yukon, and tons of wire and insulators were abandoned in the woods. The Indians found the wire quite a treasure-trove for making fish hooks and the like. The same route is now being largely adopted for the telegraph to the Klondike.

THE KAISER IN PALESTINE.

The report is being circulated, says the New York *Christian Advocate*, that the Sultan of Turkey is determined to send 15,000 soldiers to Palestine in honour of the Emperor William's visit there. If this be true, it continues with genial satire, it seems to be in the nature of compensation for conspicuous services rendered to the Sultan by the Emperor William, "most serene emperor, most powerful king and lord," "our most serene, mighty, beloved emperor, king and master forever and ever," in his recent unpleasantness with Greece and "the powers."

The Turk is at his old trick in Thessaly, destroying villages, making desolation, and calling it peace. He has been carrying off, too, spoils of classic antiquity for his barbaric museum at Constantinople.

HYSTERICAL POLITICS.

Our French friends are surely getting hysterical over the Dreyfus question. Count Esterhazy proclaims that: "If Dreyfus were ever to set his foot in France again, there would be one hundred thousand corpses of Jews on the soil, if Zola is acquitted there will be a revolution in Paris, and the people will put me at their head in a massacre of the Jews."

The crowd who cheered such insane sentiments are surely losing their sanity. Yet the massacres of St. Bartholomew, the Revolution, the *Coup d'Etat*, and the Commune, show to what lengths this excitable people may go.

THE MAINE TRAGEDY.

The hearty sympathy of all civilized nations will be extended to the United

States in view of the tragical disaster to the battleship "Maine." There seems no doubt that its destruction was the result of an accidental explosion; it would be unjust to suspect anything else without positive proof. An iron ship in a southern harbour, subject to direct sunlight, becomes intensely hot between decks. When to this is added the artificial heat of even banked fires, the explosive point of coal gas can readily be reached. This tragedy is only a faint foreshadowing of what will probably result in the naval battle, when half a score of ironclads might go to the bottom in half an hour.

TO THE KLONDIKE.

The golden loadstone is attracting from the ends of the earth thousands of adventurers to the Arctic Eldorado of Canada. It will need a firm hand to maintain order among the thousands of gold seekers, some of them of a lawless and turbulent character. The efforts of the Canadian Government to gain ready access to the country by a wholly Canadian route, and to preserve the Pax Britannica among Outlanders of every race, will doubtless maintain the supremacy of British law that prevails beneath the Union Jack in every land where it floats. Not too soon will the missionaries of our own and other churches be on hand to give the ministrations of religion to the mining camps which will so greatly need them.

We apprehend much suffering, many disappointments, and not a few heart-breaking tragedies. Mr. Ogilvie estimates that of the 100,000 persons who may go 85,000 will be disappointed. His estimate of the gold product in ten years is \$100,000,000. That divided among two hundred thousand people would be five hundred dollars each, and it would cost them more than that to get it. We are afraid the reaction of this boom will be disastrous to Canada. While it lasts it may create a feverish excitement, but the bitter disappointment of thousands will make them curse the country whose staple industries of agriculture and forestry they rejected for the gold mining lottery with its few splendid prizes and its many total blanks.

If our American friends will be so unneighbourly, in violation of treaty rights, as to forbid transshipment of Canadian freight at Port Wrangel—a very appropriate name for such unneighbourly treatment—some *interim* arrangement will have to be made for the