

pleted as to shorten the journey from New York to Cuba by ten hours. It was found easier to build foundations in the shallow waters of the sea along the line of the Keys than through the Everglades of Florida, and the little islands so connected are sometimes miles apart, so that an observer, standing on the railway, may have nothing in view but the track and the water on each side of it as far as the eye can reach.

A new household freezing machine uses carbonic acid stored under pressure. The sudden expansion of the acid when released produces great cold, and water is changed into ice in a minute.

There are more Moslems in India, according to the last census, than there are Christians in the whole British Empire, confining the word Christians to those who are professed members of churches.

The Transvaal government has modified its severe laws against Asiatics, and all prosecutions for violation of the objectionable registration system will be dropped.

By simply enclosing blackened pipe coils in a shallow box, with a double glass top, having an air space to prevent the loss of heat by radiation, steam has been generated under the direct rays of the sun. In warm climates, it is believed, a good working pressure can be thus produced, thus solving the problem of power for machinery in tropical lands.

Home weaving is being revived in Germany, the old-fashioned hand loom being replaced by a loom run by electric power.

An English electrician controls electric motors by sound. The sounds must have a constant musical pitch, and are received by a vibrator which affects an electric current as desired. A powerful sound generator, transmitting the sound through water to a floating torpedo, will, it is claimed, give action over several miles. In a small model, a propeller has been started, a rudder set as required, and an explosive charge fired, all by the voice, at a distance of some yards, in a tone little above a whisper.

Aluminium coins for use in Nigeria and Uganda have been struck in the Royal Mint. They are of small denominations, and are perforated so that the natives can string them together as they have been used to string cowries.

Extensive preparations are already being made for the Quebec pageant, in commemoration of the founding of the city by Champlain. Earl Grey is deeply interested in it. The Dominion parliament will make a liberal grant in aid of the celebration.

The assassination of the King of Portugal and his son, the Crown Prince, in the streets of Lisbon on February 1st, has apparently united all parties in the kingdom for the protection of the throne. Manuel, the only surviving son of King Carlos, has been proclaimed king; and Franco, the prime minister who has had almost unlimited power for the last nine months, and whose life was also threatened, has fled from the kingdom. The murder was the work of republicans or anarchists, whose shots also wounded the younger son, now king; and were per-

haps intended to kill both him and the queen. King Carlos was born in 1863, and succeeded his father, King Luiz, in 1889. He has been popular at home and abroad, and his reign has been very peaceful until the political unrest of the past year arose. It was his determination to trust his people and ride from the railway station to his palace without escort, though the premier had warned him of danger, that has cost him his life. The new king is nineteen years of age, and, like his father, is very much liked by the people.

Sir Harry MacLean, the British officer who had command of the body-guard of the Sultan of Morocco, and who was taken prisoner by Raisuli, the insurgent chief, has been released. The British government pays Raisuli \$100,000, and guarantees his protection and immunity.

Thirty-five thousand of the population of the city of Toronto are foreigners, speaking over forty different tongues. The Bible will be published this year in seventy different languages for use in Canada alone.

Another large influx of settlers from Europe is expected this year, and has already begun.

Telegraph communication is being rapidly opened up along the Soudan part of the proposed Cape to Cairo railway route. The railway, however, is no longer being pushed forward, and it seems doubtful that the project will ever be carried out without a break.

The latest estimate of Canada's forest area is but three hundred million acres. These forests must be carefully managed to ensure a permanent supply of timber, for our forests are no longer to be looked upon as inexhaustible.

An effort is being made, at the instance of the American Civic Federation, to save the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls from further injury by the erection of power plants on the Canadian side. The United States people have taken on their own side of the falls all the water they can take for that purpose without leaving bare rock, and they are quite willing now to make an international agreement that no one shall take any more.

Compulsory military training is to be introduced in Australia. It is estimated that in eight years the Commonwealth will have over two hundred thousand men ready for war.

#### SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Supervisor McKay, of the Halifax, N. S., schools, has been granted a three months' leave of absence, to begin about the 1st May next.

Mr. F. A. Dixon, M. A., of Sackville, has taken charge of the Bathurst, N. B., grammar school, vacant by the resignation of the late principal, Mr. D. L. Mitchell, on account of illness.

Premier Murray, of Nova Scotia, has promised old age pensions to miners and school teachers. This is advanced legislation, and is creditable to our provincial government.

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