

tralian government, they will visit Sydney and Melbourne; and from there will probably proceed to the Philippines and to Japan, returning to the Atlantic by way of the Mediterranean.

An amusing incident occurred in Galveston, Texas, on St. Patrick's day, when the captain of a British steamship, who ought to have known better, thought he was honouring the United States by hoisting the Stars and Stripes under the Irish flag. He learned that it is an insult to any national flag to hoist it beneath another. The port authorities compelled him to take down the United States flag.

It is announced that British soldiers will again garrison Halifax, and the dockyards at Halifax and Bermuda be taken over for use of the British fleet; and British cruisers are said to be on their way to Vancouver Island, recent events making it desirable to have a strong fleet of observation on the North American Pacific coast.

It is proposed in Australia that the Commonwealth shall aid in maintaining the naval and military forces of the Empire; and for that purpose shall keep up a force of twenty thousand men, and fifteen vessels for coast defence.

The bridge across the East River at New York, which is now nearly completed, is the largest cantilever bridge in the world. The length of the main span is 1,182 feet. The central span of the railway bridge at Quebec was to have been 1,800 feet; but that distance may have to be shortened if the bridge is to be re-built.

From the explorations in Egypt, two very important discoveries are reported. One is a vase of marvelous workmanship, supposed to have belonged to Cleopatra, its surface ornamented with what is believed to be an authentic portrait of Caesar. The other is certain manuscripts of Old and New Testament scriptures that will rank with the earliest manuscripts known, and may throw light upon obscure passages in the sacred text.

Some thirty miles south-west of the city of Mexico, excavations are revealing a buried city of the Aztecs. The work is being done by the Mexican government, and there are now engaged in it more than a thousand men. The point of central interest is a pyramid called the Pyramid of the Sun, which is said to rise to a height of 245 feet, and cover an area of ten acres. It stands at the head of a main avenue that stretches for four miles through the buried city, according to descriptions given by a recent visitor; and is surrounded by other pyramids which were long thought to be hills. Official reports of the work will be eagerly awaited by those who are interested in ancient Mexico.

Work has been started on the highest tunnel in the world. It will connect Arica, Chili, with La Paz, on the shore of Lake Titicaca.

A railway from Medina to Mecca is to be completed in time for the next pilgrimage. Last year the number of pilgrims to Mecca was officially estimated at 280,000.

A translating machine has been invented by a student of Columbia University. It has keys, like those of a typewriter, bearing Chinese characters; and when a key is struck it leaves on paper an impression of all the possible meanings of the character. It is believed that it will be of practical use in trade with China.

Sir Hiram Maxim has invented a noiseless gun, or, rather, an attachment to a gun barrel which makes the discharge almost silent, by checking the explosive force of the gases just as the bullet leaves the gun. With noiseless gun and smokeless powder it will be difficult to tell just where a bullet comes from; and the terrible possibilities in the use of such a murderous weapon are said to have made the inventor hesitate about making his invention known.

About a year ago the work of confining the Colorado river to its former course was completed, and its waters sent down their old channel towards the sea, after having been diverted into the Salton basin for some time. Certain changes had in the meantime taken place in the delta of the river, as a result of which the principal mouth of the river is now some twenty or thirty miles farther to the southeast, and the area of the delta increased. This, however, is of no great importance to the inhabitants of the region, as there are no towns near the river's mouth. The result of the temporary flow of the river into the Salton Sink was to make a lake of fresh water about forty-five miles long, and from ten to fifteen miles in width, with a depth of eighty feet in the deepest part. Incidentally, this Salton Sea gives an excellent opportunity to meteorologists for studying evaporation over a large area. According to present estimates, the new lake will have entirely disappeared in about twenty years.

The coal fields of the Nicola valley, British Columbia, are yielding an excellent quality of bituminous coal, which finds a ready sale along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The government of the United States will be asked to establish a permanent national bison range in Montana, as our government has done in Alberta. A similar preserve was established last year in Oklahoma. With proper protection, the buffalo increases rapidly. The fine herd purchased by the Canadian government, numbering about four hundred, is the largest in captivity. The wild herd in the Peace River country—the only wild herd of any considerable size in the world—is estimated to contain about the same number. The Oklahoma herd is very small; but there are nearly a thousand buffaloes in private parks in different parts of the United States, including a herd of less than two hundred in New Hampshire, which is the largest in the world, with the exception of those in Canada.

Five hundred coins of the time of Alexander the Great have been found in an old well in Egypt, where they had lain hidden for two thousand two