

Among the Spaniards fighting in Morocco there are many nobles enlisted as privates in the ranks. They are members of one or other of the three orders of chivalry in Spain who are bound by their membership to fight to drive the Saracen from Spanish soil, the Order of Santiago, the Order of Calatrava and the Order of Alcantara. They feel that their duty requires them to go to the front in person, and they go willingly because the war is against the Moslem in what they consider to be rightfully a Spanish land.

The Transandine Railway, the new transcontinental railway of South America, which is to connect Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres, is to be opened for traffic on the first day of January. It is 888 miles in length, and will shorten the journey from Europe to Australia by about a thousand miles.

Another English steamship has penetrated far into the heart of the South American continent by following up a tributary of the Amazon, and thus reached inland waters before unknown to European navigation. She carried railway material to Porto Velho, a new town on the upper waters of the Madeira, one thousand six hundred miles from the Atlantic, and not far from the Bolivian frontier.

One of the greatest dams in history is soon to be built in the valley of the Rio Negro, in the Argentine Republic, as part of an irrigation system by which an area of nearly two and a half million acres will be watered.

The great Kiel Canal, from the Baltic to the North Sea, is to be deepened and widened, at a cost which will exceed the original cost of the work. This is made necessary by the increased size of the German war ships for which it must give passage; for the canal has become and must continue to be an important factor in the national defence.

Serious revolutions have broken out in Hayti and in Nicaragua. That in Hayti is as yet confined to a limited district; but the Nicaraguan uprising seems to be general, and business is completely paralyzed.

Immigrants are entering Siberia at the rate of half a million yearly. With a climate much like that of Canada, and about the same area, great natural resources, and a great railway stretching through its fertile plains, like Canada it is rapidly developing and will be one of the best countries in the world, if it may not already be so classed. Many of the new towns along the railway have more than a hundred thousand population.

The cost of the Panama Canal up to the present time is over two hundred million dollars.

The artificial nitrates made in Norway, and sold in competition with the Chili saltpetre, have proved as valuable a fertilizer as the natural product, and

can be more cheaply supplied. At present, however, the production is so limited that it will not lessen the export from Chili, which approaches two million tons annually.

Mills for spinning yarn from paper have been established in France and Germany. The paper yarn seems to be especially adapted to the weaving of rugs and carpets.

A commencement has been made in the work of transferring the Lapps from Lapland to Labrador, where it is hoped they will flourish and increase.

Not only in Canada, but also in the United States, the Indian population is increasing.

The great pulp and paper works at Grand Falls, Newfoundland, were formally opened on the 8th of October. The mill is said to be the largest in America, excepting one in Maine. Attractive dwellings have been erected, and churches, schools and a library are under construction in the model town built by the company near its works.

The world is steadily approaching a timber famine. Canada and Siberia are the chief sources of supply; and, in Canada, at least, wood is being used up at a rapid rate.

A wonderfully rich mica deposit is reported from the Peace River country. If as rich as stated, it is more valuable than any gold mine in the world. The prospector reports a vein two miles in length, with an average thickness of fifty feet and of unknown depth. Mica of the finest quality is worth a hundred dollars a ton.

King Edward has opened the new Tuberculosis Institute in Montreal, by pressing an electric button in England. Connections had been made by wire, over land and under the ocean. When the contact was made in England, the Royal Standard rose in the air in Montreal, and the doors of the building were thrown open.

The Open Heart.

Would you understand
The language with no word,
The speech of brook and bird,
Of waves along the sand?

Would you make your own
The meaning of the leaves,
The song the silence weaves,
Where little winds make moan?

Would you know how sweet
The falling of the rill,
The calling of the hill—
All tunes the day repeat?

Neither alms nor art,
No toil, can help you hear;
The secret of the ear
Is in the open heart.

—John Vance Cheney, in *Century*.