

CURRENT EVENTS.

In Arizona, where so many remains of a prehistoric civilization have in recent years been found, there is said to exist a wonderful series of ancient waterways that have once been used for irrigation. The region is believed to have been the home of a dense population at a time much more remote than the age of the cliff-dwellers.

The order stating that after fifteen years the English language only would be used as the official language of Malta has been withdrawn, much to the gratification of the small portion of the Maltese people who speak Italian.

Fighting is still going on at the Isthmus of Panama. The Columbian commander, General Alban, was killed in a battle with the insurgents in the harbor of Panama, and there have been other engagements, in which, though the government forces were generally victorious, the revolutionists have shown more strength than was anticipated.

The French company owning the unfinished works of the Panama Canal have offered to sell to the United States for \$40,000,000. It is quite possible that this offer will be accepted, and that the interoceanic canal will yet be constructed by the Panama route, in preference to the Nicaragua route.

The volcano of Colima, Mexico, is again active. This is possibly connected with the fact that earthquake shocks have been felt in various parts of North America within the past few weeks.

According to recent reports, civilization is advancing rapidly among the native races in German East Africa. The people have adopted European dress and manners, even in the interior districts.

Russian engineers are to raise the level of the Sea of Azof by building a dam at Kertch.

A new railway, to rival the Siberian road is proposed. It is to connect Cairo with Shanghai, connecting with the present railway system of India.

Sir Robert Ball, the astronomer, foretells the coming of another glacial period, when great fields of ice will drive all living things from this latitude for thousands of years. This ice age will be brought about by the influence of other planets upon the path of the earth's revolution. It is not, however, to be expected for some thousands of years; so the expectation will not affect the immediate value of property in the temperate zones.

Fishes, according to recent investigators, have a magnetic sense, which resides in the sensitive line or lines running along the sides of the fish, from head to tail. These lateral lines may also, it is held, warn them of the approach of danger, as well as give them the sense of direction.

Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the Emperor of Germany, is about to visit the United States, and great preparations are being made for his reception.

President Schurman, of Cornell University, the distinguished Canadian who was placed at the head of the United States Philippine commission, declares that the

Philippines must ultimately become an independent nation, and that nothing else can justify the presence of United States forces in the islands.

The newly elected head of the government of Cuba, President Palma, has been for twenty-five years a resident of the state of New York, where, since the outbreak of the last Cuban rebellion, he acted as head of the Cuban junta. His feelings towards the United States, it is thought, will lead him to favor the annexation of Cuba to the neighboring republic.

A thousand New Zealand Maoris have volunteered to do duty anywhere in the British dominion, with the object of relieving a like number of British troops for service in South Africa. The Maoris regret that the British government will not accept the services of two thousand native scouts in South Africa, and have long been eager to show their loyalty to the empire by taking some part in the war.

The Boer officer, Commandant Scheepers, who was taken prisoner in October last, has been tried, condemned and shot for the murder of natives and other crimes.

The Boers in the concentration camps are tired of the useless struggle, and are determined, many of them, to help the British to end it. With this object, General Vilonel, a surrendered burgher, has received permission from Lord Kitchener to raise an additional Boer corps of 1,500 men for the British service.

General Viljoen (pronounced Feelyoon) one of Botha's most able officers, has been taken prisoner; and, in a later engagement, DeWet has lost his last field gun.

The premier of Holland has made overtures to our government looking to negotiations for peace. The Dutch premier has been told that his Majesty's government do not intend to accept the intervention of any foreign power; but that if the Boers themselves wish to open such negotiations there is no reason why they should not do so.

The overland telegraph from South Africa northward has been completed as far as Ujiji, on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika. It will be pushed forward down the Nile until it connects at Fashoda with the line now in operation to Khartoum and Alexandria, and will then be one of the longest telegraph lines in the world.

The Canadian canal at Sault Ste. Marie was open to navigation for 246 days last year, during which time 4,204 vessels passed through it.

Canada now ranks third in the list of gold producing countries, with a total output of \$27,000,000 worth in 1900. The total value of all Canada's mineral products for that year was \$63,000,000.

Signor Marconi predicts that the wireless telegraph will be working across the Atlantic in June next.

The Canadian government will ask for appropriations for wireless telegraphy in some places now not connected with cables. It is stated that Greenland, Iceland and the Faroes will soon be connected with Canada by the Marconi system.

The last detachment of the second Canadian Mounted Rifles sailed from Halifax for South Africa on the 28th ult.