

The dispatch of the Dominion steamer Neptune to stop poaching in the inland waters of Hudson Bay has caused the New England whalers who resort there to make a claim of equal privileges with British subjects in the Hudson Bay waters; a right which the United States fishermen now enjoy along the coast of Labrador. The claim is of more importance than at first appears; for the whalers are making more or less permanent settlements among the islands north of Hudson Bay, where there are no Canadian inhabitants but the aborigines, and they might at some time think of holding these islands by possession. A mounted police post has just been established on Herschel Island, in the Arctic Ocean, off the mouth of the Mackenzie River, where also whaling crews make frequent landings.

With respect to the value of the two small islands, Sitklan and Kannaghunut, opinions differ. They are now a part of Alaska, right or wrong; for in the matter of boundary lines it is not true to say that nothing is finally settled until it is settled right. From Sitklan, now the southern point of Alaska territory, Port Simpson lies southeasterly, distant about eleven miles. But the passage that gives access to this port, now so important as the proposed terminus of the new transcontinental railway, is narrowed by Dundas Island, (too far west to appear on the above map), to a width of six and a half miles; and an armed force on the two small islands might command this entrance and close the port.

By the boundary decision, the international boundary line is moved several miles farther inland at the head of the Lynn Canal than it was under the provisional agreement. One of the mounted police posts on the Dalton trail must be abandoned.

It is felt in British Columbia that there should be an all-Canadian route to the Yukon, and the government of that province has offered to help in any reasonable plan for building a railway to supply the need. The ocean terminus of such a railway would probably be at Kitimat, a British Columbia port far enough south to keep clear of United States territory.

Fighting still continues in the Phillipines. The Jolo campaign, just ended, in which the natives suffered heavily, is thought to have been a severe lesson to that turbulent race, and to have checked their efforts for home rule. They seem unable to realize that they are more free under United States government than they were under their native rulers.

St. Pierre and Miquelon, lying at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are of much greater importance to Canadian commerce than the two small islands at the mouth of Portland Channel. They are held by the French; but France does not threaten our very existence as a nation, as does the United States; and the suggestion of Senator Lodge, one of the Alaska commissioners, that the United States acquire these islands by purchase, is alarming.

Canadian newspapers now pass from the office of publication to the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Honduras, British North Borneo, Ceylon, Cyprus, the Falkland Islands, Gambia, Hong Kong, the Leeward Islands, New Zealand, Sarawak, Sierra Leone, the Transvaal, Turks Island and Zanzibar at the same rates and under the same conditions as apply to Canadian newspapers addressed to places in Canada.

A treaty between Brazil and Bolivia settles the question of the Acre Territory dispute by placing the greater part of the territory under the Brazilian government. Brazil pays an indemnity, and cedes a certain area to enable Bolivia to have direct communication with Upper Paraguay.

New Zealand has a new tariff law which gives a preference to imports from Great Britain, and it is expected that the same preference will be extended to Canadian trade and our preferential tariff extended to New Zealand. This is another step in the consolidation of the Empire.

The revolutionists have won in the little West Indian republic of Santo Domingo, and a new provisional government is established there. The United States minister has warned the leaders that periodical revolutions must cease, or the sovereignty of Santo Domingo will be endangered.

There are rumors that the United States will assume a protectorate over Santo Domingo, in the interest of the world at large. It is safe to say that the world at large will not object; and it will make little difference if the Dominicans are inclined to do so.

It is said that the Monroe Doctrine forbids the British acquiring from the French the islands south of Newfoundland. If it was really a British statesman who invented the Monroe Doctrine, he should have invented a limit to it.

Italy is about to conclude with France a treaty of arbitration similar to that between France and Great Britain; which latter, by the way, the President of France has said we owe to King Edward.

Tumut, a small town on the river of that name, about equidistant from Sydney and Melbourne, has been selected as the capital of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Negotiations between Russia and Japan for the settlement of their differences respecting Corea still continue, with the prospect of peace.

The Welsh settlers in Patagonia who applied to our government for aid to come to Canada now intend to settle in South Africa.

A new customs regulation forbids the importation into Canada of handbills and posters depicting scenes of crime or violence.

Holland will negotiate treaties of arbitration with Germany, France, England, Belgium and other countries.

Lord Strathcona predicts that the population of Canada will be doubled in ten years.