

## GEOGRAPHY.

**NEW STATES.**—Two new States were admitted to the American Union on July 4th, 1890, Idaho and Wyoming. There are now forty-four States and six Territories.

**DRAINAGE WORK.**—In Romney Township, Kent Co., Ont., there is now in progress extensive draining work, the estimated cost of which is \$20,000.00 and the result of which will be to turn swamps full of mosquitos and malaria into valuable farms.

**NEW RAILROADS IN CANADA.**—In the year 1890 it is probable that about 500 miles of new railroad will be built in Canada, chiefly in the North-West. This will make our total railroad mileage over 13,000 miles. 9,000 miles are worked by the C.P.R. and G.T.R., 1,250 by the Dominion Government and the remainder by small companies.

**THE RAILROADS OF THE WORLD.**—The next half century will undoubtedly witness a remarkable increase in the extension of the railroad systems of the world. Only a few hundred miles remain to be built to complete a direct line between Europe and India, and, if it were not for political considerations, it would have already been finished. China will undoubtedly build connecting lines, and the Russians have already commenced the construction of a line across Siberia to the Pacific Ocean. In this country, a railroad running south from Mexico, through the Isthmus of Panama, and connecting with the already existing South American systems to Rio Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, will undoubtedly be built in the near future, and it has even been proposed to build a road northward

through Alaska to Behring's Straits and down through Siberia on the other side, connecting with the Russian lines. If this line should ever be constructed, a passenger might travel from New York to London "without change of cars," and only two short ferriages across Behring's Straits and the English Channel, and the earth would then be completely encircled with an iron highway, except for the passage of the Atlantic Ocean.—*Pop. Science News.*

**GREEKS AND JEWS IN ASIA MINOR.**—So great has been the immigration to this Western continent, that we are liable to forget that there are any other great movements going on in the world. In the last twenty-five years there has been a large influx of Greeks and Turks into the western half of Asiatic Turkey. Between the sea of Marmora and the Mediterranean, the Greeks are rapidly taking possession, the Turks retiring before them, while to the south, in Palestine, the Jews are settling in increasing numbers. If this movement continues in like proportion, western Asia Minor will become in a few years a Greek colony, with Greek institutions, and with political aspirations that must prove a serious menace to the Government of the Turks. The Jews in Palestine have increased in the past twenty-five years from 10,000 to 40,000. These men devote themselves mostly to tilling the soil, and make excellent farmers.—*The School Journal.*

**MOUNTAINS OF SALT.**—In Lincoln County, Nevada, are mountains that cover an area of twenty-five miles, containing a salt that is pure and white and clearer than glass. Over