

It is a marshy plain, higher than the level of the water, and occupying what was once the bed of the lake. If this state of things continue, the Rhone will entirely fill up the lake. The rate of the advance of the delta may be gathered from the fact that the Roman town, Portus Valesia, which stood on the margin of the lake, is now more than a mile and a half inland, the river having added to its delta this quantity in about eight centuries. The delta of the Mississippi has an area of 12,300 square miles. The river brings down $1\frac{1}{3}$ of its weight of solid matter, or more than 6,000,000,000 cubic feet annually; yet such is the vast size of the delta, that Sir Charles Lyell computes it has been in the course of formation for 33,500 years. The Gauges performs even a greater work of transportation. In the four rainy months, at 500 miles from its mouth, it was found to bear seawards 577 cubic feet of solid matter a second! Its annual discharge has been computed to be 6,368,077,440 cubic feet—an amount of matter equal in weight to sixty Great Pyramids of Egypt, although the base of that immense pile covers eleven acres, and its apex is 500 feet above the level of the plain.—*Cassell's New Popular Educator*.

At London, England, and Bremen the longest day has sixteen and a half hours. At Stockholm, Sweden, it is eighteen and a half hours in length. At Hamburg, in Germany, and Dantzic, in Prussia, the longest day has seventeen hours. At St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tobolsk, Siberia, the longest is nineteen hours, and the shortest five hours. At Tornea, Finland, June 21 brings a day nearly twenty-two hours long, and Christmas, one less than thr. hours in length. At Wardbury, Norway, the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 22,

without interruption; and in Spitzbergen the longest day is three and a half months. At St. Louis the longest day is somewhat less than fifteen hours; and at Montreal, Canada, it is sixteen.—*The School Guardian (London)*.

THE annual report of the Dominion department of Indian Affairs shows that the number of Indians in Canada is 121,520. Ontario has 17,752; Quebec, 13,500; Nova Scotia, 2,059; New Brunswick, 1,574; Prince Edward Island, 314; Manitoba and North-West Territories, 24,522. The general condition of the Indians of the Dominion in all the provinces and in the territories is satisfactory. The amount at the credit of the various Indian bands or of individual Indians for whom the Government held moneys in trust aggregated in principal and interest on the 30th June, 1889, \$3,428,790, showing an increase since the same date the previous year of \$104,555.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN JAPAN.—Rapidly as it is progressing, railway construction in Japan has to meet unusual difficulties, or rather an unusual number of difficulties, owing to the physical geography of the country. One line of 205 miles in length involves the construction of 16 tunnels, 16,000 feet long, and the bridging of 11 rivers. One of these has a velocity in time of flood of 27 feet per second, and in another the brick piers have to be sunk to a depth of 80 feet. A range of mountains is crossed at a height of 1468 feet. Part of another line ascends to a height of 3144 feet, and during five months of the year work is rendered impossible by the snow, and sometimes in the summer months an epidemic of cholera has the same effect.—*The School Newspaper*.