

CURRENT EVENTS.

A man with an automobile has made a record of travelling more than three hundred miles in less than three hundred minutes.

A special train is to be built in England and sent to South Africa, for the use of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in their journey through the new dominion.

Both our own government and that of the United States are sending out warnings against the dangers of the contamination of food by the common house fly, or typhoid fly, as it is now called. Not only typhoid fever, but other diseases are carried by this pest, which one of the investigators call the most dangerous animal on earth.

Just a year has passed since the American explorers startled the world with their stories of the discovery of the North Pole, and the controversy between them over their rival claims has lost interest. But that interest may be revived, for it is now announced that a forthcoming magazine article will vindicate Dr. Cook and prove his claim to be first discoverer of the Pole.

Walter Wellman, who made two unsuccessful attempts to go from Spitzbergen to the North Pole in an airship, is about attempting to fly across the Atlantic, from a point near Atlantic City, N. Y., and a French officer is arranging for a flight across the Sahara from Algiers to Timbuctoo.

J. D. A. McCurdy, the Canadian aviator, has succeeded in sending a wireless message from an aeroplane.

The discovery that the Germans are strongly fortifying Borkum, one of the Frisian islands, is renewing the fear of German invasion in England; for from this point a German fleet could reach the English coast in six hours.

Earl Grey found no ice on his trip through Hudson Bay, and an account of his journey says that summer sailing on the Mediterranean Sea of Canada was found as pleasant as it could have been on the Mediterranean of the old world.

The people of Canada, two-fifths of whom are of the Roman Catholic faith, are much interested in the Eucharistic Congress now in session in Montreal; which is the most imposing, if not the most important ecclesiastical event that has ever taken place in Canada. The citizens of Montreal, irrespective of creed, are uniting to honour the eminent men who are in attendance, the chief of whom, in rank, is Cardinal Vannutelli, the Papal Legate. It is the first gathering of this kind that has ever been held in America.

The whole telephone system of England will be taken over by the government next year, and run as a public institution, like the post office.

A recent estimate of the United States census brings the population of that country up to between eighty and ninety million people; and an estimate of the coming Canadian census gives the population of Canada as between eight and nine million people. The population of the three prairie provinces is about three times what it was in 1900.

General Baden-Powell, the originator of the Boy Scout movement, is now in Canada. The movement has proved to be of very great benefit in England in training boys to be chivalrous and gentlemanly, and it is rapidly extending its influence here and in the United States.

It is astonishing to learn that spruce of large size, suitable for sawing, is found growing on the delta of the MacKenzie

river, and that Dawson City is a beautiful place where a great deal of interest is taken in gardening.

The hearing of the Newfoundland fishery case before the Hague Tribunal is concluded, and we are waiting the decisions of the arbitrators. There are seven questions to be answered: (1) Must the fishery regulations made by Great Britain, Canada or Newfoundland be subject to the consent of the United States? (2) Have Americans, in fishing on the treaty coasts, the right to employ persons not inhabitants of the United States? (3) Can Great Britain require Americans to report at the imperial custom houses and pay lighthouse and harbour dues? (4) Can Great Britain restrict Americans in certain matters relating to shelter, repairs and supplies of wood and water? (5) What is a bay? (6) Have the Americans the same rights in Newfoundland as in Labrador? (7) Are American fishing boats entitled to the same commercial privileges on the treaty coasts as are allowed to American trading vessels generally?

On the seventeenth of August three hundred years ago, a party of colonists from England, under the leadership of John Guy, founded the first permanent settlement in Newfoundland. The colony has issued a special series of postage stamps to mark the occasion.

The Church of England in Canada is just now celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the first Anglican church service at Annapolis Royal, which was a service of thanksgiving for the success of the British arms in what proved to be the final conquest of Acadia. The opening of the new cathedral in Halifax, one of the finest church buildings in Canada, is one of the features of the celebration.

The Orion, which was recently launched at Portsmouth, is the newest and greatest British battleship, though not so large or so swift as the new armored cruiser Lion. Each is far more powerful in its class than any other ship afloat.

The death of Florence Nightingale, at the age of ninety, recalls not only the story of her wonderful work among the wounded soldiers in the Crimean war, but also the fact that she was the founder of the whole modern system of trained nurses.

Moissant, a young and brilliant Spanish aviator, has flown across the channel from France to England; an interesting point in connection with his journey being that he steered his flying machine by compass, which had not previously been found practicable because of the strong vibrations from the motor.

A submarine telephone cable has been laid between England and France in which there are certain improvements that will make it more efficient than others now in use between the two sides of the Channel, and will greatly extend the distance through which telephonic communication is possible. Wireless telephone communication, however, is making such advances in Europe that we may expect all long distance telephone connection to be wireless before many years.

Hundreds of delegates, from many nations, attended an Esperanto congress last month in Washington, D. C. Dr. Zamenhoff, the originator of the new language, was present, and predicted a greater success for Esperanto in the near future than it had met with in the past.

Lieut. Shirase, the leader of the Japanese expedition which is about setting out for the South Pole, expects to reach there about the last of January, and to be back in Tokio by