

NATURE STUDY AND OBSERVATION.

Will those who are kind enough to help in the work please notice that reports of observations made should be sent not later than the 25th of each month, to Professor H. G. Perry, Acadia University, Wolfville, and not to the REVIEW, St. John.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Port Nelson is to be the tidewater terminus of the Hudson Bay Railway, and work will be resumed at once upon the line which is to shorten the distance between the grainfields and the Liverpool market by more than a thousand miles. Though grain can be shipped by this route, probably, for only two or three months of the year, the volume of the traffic during those months will be immense. From some parts of Alberta, grain could be shipped more cheaply through Pacific ports, to reach Europe by way of the Panama Canal; but, as there is appreciable danger of such a cargo being injured by heating in the warm and humid climate of Panama the Hudson Bay route will be considered safer.

There are two great tracts of forest in the Dominion, one in the Rocky Mountain region, upon which we are already drawing for our best timber for certain purposes, the other extending from the valley of the St. Lawrence to the shores of Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait. The latter is, as yet, untouched, except along its southern border. It lies in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, measuring about 1,700 miles from east to west, and about 1,000 miles in width from north to south. There are but three larger forest areas in the world—one in the valley of the Amazon, at least 2,000 miles in length; one in Central Africa, supposed to be not less than 3,000 miles long; and one of equal extent in Siberia. All three are practically inaccessible. Canada, therefore, has at present the greatest available supply of timber; and this will probably be true for many years to come.

Another material for the production of paper is suggested. It is a plant found in India, and also in Brazil. If this plant can be extensively cultivated in tropical countries, as is now proposed, we shall not have to cut down our forests for pulp wood.

The Sahara is losing its terrors. Four French military aeroplanes have safely returned after a trip of five hundred miles over the desert.

The first parliament of China is now in session. It was opened with great ceremony and much popular rejoicing. It is probable that the Chinese Republic will soon be recognized by all the great powers, and thus take its place among established governments. The Brazilian government has been the first to extend its recognition.

Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. The rebels are almost in full control of the State of Sonora, and there are very formidable insurrections in other states. Many foreigners are leaving the country.

The first British merchant steamer to carry guns and ammunition in times of peace is now on her way to South

America. She has among her crew officers and men of the royal naval reserves to work her armament should such action be needed.

Heretofore it has been necessary to repeat a telegraph message that came across the ocean, because the current sent through an ocean cable was not strong enough for use on land lines. Now, with the new Gott system in use, it is found possible to send a message from Victoria, B. C., to London, England, without relaying at the cable stations.

The great desire for education which is shown among the blacks in South Africa, where they outnumber the whites five to one, is of the gravest political importance. The educated natives will demand political rights. They must, at least, in the end obtain control of their own affairs. But there is no reason to suppose that native equality or native control under British influences would make South Africa another Mexico.

The "Vaterland," a new German steamship which is to run between Hamburg and New York, is the largest vessel afloat. She is nine hundred and fifty feet long; and will carry over four thousand passengers, and a crew of one thousand two hundred.

A railway car fitted for use as a place of worship has been in use for sometime on Canadian railways, as well as in the United States and elsewhere. In Texas, these railway chapels have been supplemented by a motor car, similarly fitted. It is known as the Motor-Chapel of St. Peter.

The weakness of the central government in the United States is again brought to notice by the renewed anti-Japanese legislation in California. A bill before the legislature of that state denies to aliens the right to hold land unless they declare their intention of becoming citizens. This sounds fair; but it is really directed against the Japanese, who are not legally permitted to become citizens. The United States treaty with Japan agrees that the Japanese shall have equal rights with other foreigners in the country; but the central government, unlike our Federal Government, cannot veto an act of the local legislature, and so it seems quite possible for California to involve the whole nation in a war with Japan.

Two plants have been established in Cape Breton for briquetting coal; one with a capacity of ten tons per hour, and the other double this capacity. The briquets are made from the waste of the bituminous coal, mixed with seven to eight per cent of pitch. It is claimed for this product that there is practically no dust; and that there are no clinkers, no danger of spontaneous combustion and no odor.

We are indirectly interested in the outcome of the Japanese question in California, for the matter of the rights of Japanese immigrants in British Columbia may be raised again, and may not be easy to settle. Public opinion in Japan is strongly aroused. The Japanese government may be compelled to demand that immigrants from Japan be received in both countries on exactly the same terms as white immigrants. Meanwhile the authorities are making every effort to allay the popular resentment.

There is increasing danger of another revolution in Portugal. The monarchists are active, the republicans are divided, serious disturbances have recently occurred in Lisbon, and it is said that Britain may be asked to intervene.

A remarkable strike has occurred in Belgium — remarkable because it accomplished its purpose without violence. Its