

**'ROUND TABLE TALKS.**

M. L.—I have tried to mount some sea-weed, but feel that my work has not been a success. I thought I followed your instructions for mounting very carefully. Will it be troubling you too much to ask you why the paper wrinkles so badly?

A smoother and stiffer quality of notepaper with greater pressure applied would probably produce better results. The specimen you send, however, is very good.

1. SUBSCRIBER.—A ditch 100 rods long is to be dug by two men. Each man is to get \$50; but the man who digs the deepest part of the ditch gets 25 cents more per rod than the other. How many rods does each dig?

Let  $x$  = num. of rods dug by man that digs deepest.

$y$  = num. of rods dug by other.

$$\frac{50}{x} = \frac{50}{y} + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$x + y = 100.$$

The value of  $x$  from above is 43.85, and of  $y$ , 46.15.

The values are, of course, approximate.

2. To S. D.—Please send a copy of question requiring solution, as we have not a copy of Todhunter & Loney.

M. C. F.—Solutions of all your questions, to be of any use to you, would take up too much space. Send us not more than three of those you wish to have solved and we shall print solutions in next issue.

**CURRENT EVENTS.**

The fifteenth of October is Thanksgiving Day, and a public holiday.

The twenty-fourth of May will in future be observed as a public holiday throughout Cape Colony under the name of Queen Victoria Day, and in New Zealand under the name of Empire Day.

An agent of the British government is visiting the Atlantic cable terminals in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, to study the problem of protecting the cables in time of war.

The whole British navy is to be equipped with Marconi wireless telegraph apparatus.

An international conference at Berlin has decided to treat all wireless telegraph companies as common carriers, and compel all coast stations to receive and transmit telegrams going or returning from ships, without distinction as to the system of wireless telegraphy employed by the ships. The British delegates at the conference refused to support this

decision, our government having granted special privileges to the Marconi company. As a name for messages sent by wireless telegraph, the conference adopted the word radiograms.

Great Britain has addressed to the King of Belgium, who is head of the Congo Free State, a protest against the alleged cruel treatment of natives by the commercial companies in the Congo region. It is said, however, that the reports of cruelties are very much exaggerated, and that the country is, on the whole, well governed.

In Germany, telephoning without wires has been successfully tried at a distance of seven miles. The invention, it is said, will probably be controlled by the government for use in the army.

The British Foreign Office has called the attention of the United States government to two recent seizures of islands off the coast of British North Borneo by United States war vessels, first near the mouth of Sandakan Harbor, on which the capital of the territory is situated, and later in Darvel Bay, farther south. If the Washington government sustains the action of its naval officers, there will be another boundary dispute.

Whether Canada shall have access to the sea, by way of the Lynn Canal and other narrow inlets, or shall be completely closed in for some hundreds of miles by the strip of United States territory, is the most important point now before the Alaska Boundary Commissioners in London. The Canadian contention is that the mountains which Vancouver saw from his ship are those referred to in the treaty as forming the boundary line, where they are not more than ten leagues distant from the coast; and that the line connecting the tops of these mountains should be a direct line from peak to peak, crossing any inlets less than six miles wide. The argument of counsel for the United States is that no mountains exist which come within the wording of the treaty; and that the line must be placed thirty miles inland from all arms of the sea, as the intention was, they claim, to shut out all access to the ocean from what was then known as the Hudson Bay territory. Another point in dispute is whether the Portland Channel of the treaty is the Portland Channel of to-day, or, as the United States claim makes it, another channel farther south. This involves the possession of two islands which command the entrance into Port Simpson, the proposed terminus of the new railway across the continent. Such a compromise as that of the Ashburton treaty, which fixed the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, is impossible, for the Alaska Commissioners have no authority to make a compromise. If the joint commission cannot reach an agreement, the matter may possibly go before the Hague Tribunal.

Under the act which has passed the House of Commons, and is now before the Senate, the new transcontinental railway will be built from Winnipeg to Port Simpson by the Grand Trunk Pacific