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Note and Comment.

The railway from Geneva to Chamounix is now completed, so that one can now visit the Mer de Glace and return to Geneva in one day.

The citizens of Sidney propose to present the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York with an album containing views of New South Wales bound with solid Australian gold.

Australians are looking forward with interest, if private letters are to be credited, to the innovations which may come as a consequence of the federation of all the continent's political divisions.

Many biographies have appeared of Queen Victoria, but more than ordinary interest will attach to the Duke of Argyll's "Life of the Queen," which is to appear in a popular edition of 6d. for eighty parts.

Of all the colonies New Zealand sent the largest proportion of its strong youth to fight on the African veldt. While Canada has sent one in every 1,228 of its population, and Australia one in every 880, New Zealand has sent one in every 335.

The last mail advices from the Orient say that Mr. Kato, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, has stated that no more illiterate Japs will be sent to America, but that Japan will try to have the obnoxious British Columbia immigration Act withdrawn.

The National Sanitarium Association, it is stated, have at length secured a site in Toronto upon which to build the proposed free hospital for consumptive cases. It contains about ten acres, and lies at the head of Bathurst street, opposite the Convalescent Home.

There are six languages spoken in the British Isles—English, French, Manx, Irish, Gaelic and Welsh. It has been said that of all these Manx is best for courting in. It seems to be the language of love; there are in it 97 different ways of saying "My dear."

A return issued by the provincial board of health shows 2,484 deaths recorded in Ontario during February, as against 1,962 in the corresponding month of last year. Pneumonia and other lung troubles are the chief causes of the great increase. There were 124 cases of smallpox in Ontario on March 15, a considerable falling off since the last report.

Three routes, it is stated, have been surveyed for the contemplated short line of the Canada Atlantic Railway between Montreal and Ottawa. The routes surveyed are one from Glen Robertson to Vaudreuil, another from St. Justine to Vaudreuil, and the third north of both of these, and including a bridge across to the island, and an independent entrance into Montreal.

The largest census district in the Dominion is New Westminster, with an area of 204,000 square miles. The United Kingdom has an area of only 120,849 square miles, which makes the comparison a striking one. Then in Ontario the largest census area is Algoma with 143,517 square miles. Chicoutimi and Saguenay, with 118,921 square miles, is the largest in Quebec province.

Last week there was launched at Belfast the largest steamship in the world. The new vessel is named the Celtic and belongs to the White Star Company. The christening was performed by the Marchioness of Dufferin. The Celtic has nine decks and a capacity for 1,859 passengers. She will carry a crew of 335 men. Her tonnage is 3,600 greater than that of the Oceanic, and nearly double that of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, and her displacement and tonnage are 10,300 over that of the Great Eastern.

Justice Taschereau has issued invitations for a dinner on the 17th inst. which is designed to bring together the surviving members of the provincial parliament of 1865 which voted confederation, seventeen in all. The survivors are Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir William Howland, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir John Carling, Hon. Wm. McDougall, Hon. J. C. Aikins, Hon. J. J. Ross, Hon. J. F. Armand, Hon. A. Vidal, Hon. C. E. B. de Boucherville, Hon. Judge Taschereau, Hon. Judge Caron, Jas. O'Halloran, Joseph X. Perrault, Ed. Remillard, J. D. Brousseau and P. G. Huot.

A London journal calls attention to what might be termed the "elevator disease." It says it looks as though people with weak hearts had, after all, better climb ten flights of stairs than effect the ascent by means of the elevator. Lift attendants have died sudden deaths; people with weak hearts have noticed ominous sensations when in the elevator. We are told the sudden transition from the heavier air at the foot to the lighter air at the top is extremely trying to the constitution. Most people have experienced singular sensations of internal collapse when the lift floor sinks beneath the feet, but none suspected that the results might be so serious.

A remarkable movement towards christianity is said to be going on amongst the Polish Jews. Many of them have been carefully studying the life and claims of Jesus, and are now convinced that He is really the Messiah. They do not, however, wish to connect themselves with any of the Gentile churches, but desire to form a Jewish Christian community. The question has been fully discussed in the Lutheran Synod of Poland. There was, at first, some objection to the establishment of a separate church, but the great majority favoured it and finally it was concluded that, all things considered, it would be better to support the Jewish-Christian movement.

A great congress is to be held in London on July 22nd of this year on the subject of tuberculosis, and the discussion of the experiences obtained in various countries for the cure of consumption and the best methods to adopt to bring about its eradication. The congress will last five days, and it will be supported by delegates from all parts of the world, who will advance any information relative to the subject at their command. The King of England, who has always taken a keen interest in the cure of this malady, will open the congress. One of the leading features will be a museum containing a number of pathological and bacteriological instruments, charts, models, etc.

A reduction and simplification of the commissions on postoffice orders came into effect on Monday. Orders up to \$5 can now be obtained for 3 cents, up to \$10 for 6 cents, up to \$30 for 15 cents, up to \$75 for 25 cents, and up to \$100 for 30 cents. These rates apply also to orders for the United States, which formerly came under the higher tariff charged on orders for points outside Canada, in which there has been no change. This raises the limit for orders to the United States from \$50 to \$100. The Postmaster General, remarks the Orillia Packet, should now introduce some cheaper and handier method of remitting money to the Old Country, preferably by arranging for an exchange of postal notes.

An interesting bit of legislation has just met its fate before the legislature of Utah. A bill was presented whose main object was to put a limit upon the prosecutions against polygamists. Only those persons within the closest bounds of consanguinity to one of the parties to the offense could prosecute the case against the other. As polygamists have no desire to prosecute polygamy, it will be seen that the bill was practically a choking off of cases for offenses against the laws dealing with polygamy. The bill passed both houses of the legislature, the lower house by an especially large majority of 174 to 25. But when placed before the governor for his approval it received his veto. This may have some significance when it is remembered that the governor is a Mormon.

Contractor Reid has lodged with the Newfoundland Land Office claims for 1,000,000 acres, being the balance of lands unselected by him under his railway contract of 1898. By the terms of that deal, he acquired a right to something over 4,000,000 acres, the selections to be completed within three years. Of this he had already selected three-fourths, the remainder being now pre-empted. Until the completion of this selection, the government could not grant to other parties any lands within ten miles of the railway. Now that prohibition is removed, doubtless many other persons will be seeking areas for different purposes. It is said that the aggregate of Reid's grants makes him owner of just one seventh of the usable area of the island—farm, timber and mining lands.