

The ruins of a city of the bronze age have been discovered in Sardinia, and are claiming much attention because of the number of artistic objects brought to light. In several instances recent discoveries have given us a higher appreciation of the art work of the ancients, and especially of those who lived around the shores of the Mediterranean.

Sapphires that can hardly be distinguished from the natural stone are now made artificially in France. Some years ago a process of making artificial rubies was discovered, but it has not permanently reduced the price of the natural ruby.

Laws will soon be needed to govern the use of flying machines. The frontier rights of nations, private rights as affected by unpremeditated landings and the discharge of ballast, the question of areas in which no one will be permitted to travel, the elevation at which one may travel above private property without being accused of trespass, and the need of something corresponding to ports of entry, are among the things to be considered.

The United States government will shortly issue a special bulletin to farmers telling how to destroy the common house fly, which is now regarded as the most harmful of insects.

If all goes well with him, Captain Scott hopes to reach the South Pole about December, 1912. Sir Ernest Shackleton, whose expedition was obliged to turn back for want of food, is now in Canada. The proceeds of his lectures in England and elsewhere since his return from the Antarctic regions are said to have netted twenty-five thousand dollars to various charities.

Our neighbors seem unable to determine whether either of the explorers really reached the North Pole. Peary's unwillingness to submit his proofs to the United States congress in advance of an official recognition of his discovery has created an unfavorable impression; and at least one member of the committee in charge of the matter openly declares that he does not believe Peary reached the Pole. The governor of Georgia refused to introduce him to an Atlanta audience. Francke, the educated German who accompanied Dr. Cook part of the way on his journey towards the Pole, but was obliged to turn back on account of his health, has appeared before the Danish scientists in support of Dr. Cook's claim, and made astounding accusations against Peary and his adherents. Meanwhile Cook is said to be ill and poor, and quite unable to continue the fight to establish his claim; and even if someone comes to his aid by bringing from Greenland the alleged proofs which Peary refused to bring, it is probable that they will be found inconclusive. It is sad that so much effort on the part of either explorer should have such an ending.

A Canadian regiment, the Queen's Own Rifles, is to take part in this year's army manoeuvres in England.

Bristol is to be the English terminus for the Canadian Northern Railway's line of steamers. It is believed that their Canadian winter terminus will be at Gaspé. It is also thought that our government has in view the creation of a winter port at Baie Ste. Catharine, near the mouth of the Saguenay.

Vast coal beds have been discovered in the Rocky Mountains near the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The coal is of excellent quality, and its discovery is of immense importance to the Northwest Provinces of the Dominion.

Canada's output of minerals for the past year amounted to more than ninety million dollars, one-seventh of which was silver from the Cobalt district.

A large number of French-Canadian families now living in New England will go to the Canadian Northwest this month to take up land. The number of immigrants from Great Britain is greater than ever before, and the authorities are finding it hard to provide for them as they arrive. Most of them are bringing with them sufficient capital to enable them to live in comfort in their new homes. The stream of immigrants crossing into Canada from the west of the neighboring republic still continues unabated. These people, for the most part, bring with them both capital and experience, and make the best of settlers. German immigrants, also, are coming in increasing numbers, and are now quite numerous in the Central Provinces.

The Canadian Pacific is building a one-rail track in the fruit region of British Columbia, which will be the first mono-rail road in Canada. Mono-rail locomotives are said to have both greater speed and greater safety than the ordinary locomotives. Gyroscopic wheels revolving swiftly keep the cars from toppling over even while standing still on the track; and, by a peculiar property of the gyroscope, cause them to tip to just the right angle when going round a curve.

Selenium has the remarkable property of being an excellent insulator in the dark, and a conductor of electricity when exposed to light. The possibility of using it to produce an electric current by a flash of light is one of the newest discoveries in applied electricity.

A tariff war with the United States has been averted by mutual agreement. The agreement involved concessions, and the concessions were made by Canada, the United States tariff upon Canadian goods remaining unchanged. A surtax of twenty-five per centum ad valorem on all imports from this country was threatened, and might have been imposed if we had refused to change our tariff. This would have seriously affected our trade, and would have compelled us to seek other markets for some of our products. We may suppose that Great Britain would not have been so treated; but we are independent of the imperial government in tariff matters, and must take the consequences of our independence. The concessions asked and granted are not very important in themselves, and were possibly only desired by the United States executive as an excuse for not applying the surtax in our case; but such an excuse was not required in every case, and the surtax, for the present, is not to be enforced against any nation in the world with which the United States has commercial relations.

The approach of Halley's Comet is an event of much interest to astronomers. It has been invisible for some weeks because the sun hid it from us, but it may soon be seen in the morning a short time before sunrise. It is now within the earth's orbit, and will pass between the earth and the sun on the 18th of next month.

Whether the United Kingdom shall have a strong and efficient second chamber, or shall be practically governed by