

CURRENT EVENTS.

A hitherto unknown species of white bear, of a very small size, has been found in the west-central portion of British Columbia.

Chile announces its intention to acquire sovereignty over the former Peruvian provinces of Tacna and Arica, and Peru is preparing for war.

A new arrangement of all matters connected with the union between Norway and Sweden has been proposed by the Crown Prince. It is feared that disunion now would mean the absorption of the northern part of Norway by Russia, thus giving to the latter country an Atlantic winter port which would be used for other than commercial purposes.

The mother superior of the convent at Chatham, N. B., because of the occurrence of the disease at that place, called for volunteers from among the sisters to nurse small-pox patients, if it should be found necessary to establish a small-pox hospital. Every one of them volunteered.

Among the speakers already secured for the meeting of the American Institute of Instruction, to be held at Portland, Me., July 10-13, are President Eliot, of Harvard; President Carroll D. Wright, of Clark College; Prof. Herbert E. Mills, of Vassar; Chief Superintendent Dr. Inch, of New Brunswick; Prof. Sneath, head of the department of pedagogy of Yale University; Dean Arnold, of Simmons College; Mrs. Schoff, president of the National Congress of Mothers; Miss Abbott, head of the educational committee of the National Federation of Women's Clubs; Arthur Chamberlain, head of the department of manual training of the National Educational Association; Ray Greene Huling, head master of the English School at Cambridge, Mass.; Principal A. D. Call, of Hartford, Conn.; Gov. Cobb, of Maine; Inspector Bridges, Fredericton; Hon. Walter Ranger, State Superintendent of Schools, Vermont; and Hon. W. W. Stetson, State Superintendent of Maine.

The Grand Trunk Pacific is to have two western terminals, one at Port Simpson, and one at Kai Wan Island, some ten miles further south.

The government has chartered the steamer Neptune to go north again with another expedition to Hudson Bay. This year an earlier start will be made, with a view of investigating the ice conditions in Hudson Strait during the spring. The Neptune will carry supplies for the Canadian steamer Arctic, which wintered at Cape Fullerton, on the west coast of the Bay. The two vessels will form a summer patrol, the Neptune probably going north to the entrance to Barrow Strait, where conditions seemed so favorable last August for making the northwest passage that Commander Low regretted his instructions did not allow him to make the attempt.

The Canadian Pacific proposes to build houses and farm buildings on lands which it sells to British immigrants, allowing these, as well as the lands, to be paid for in annual instalments.

There is a report of the discovery of a rich coal area in the north part of British Columbia, along or near the line which the Grand Trunk Pacific must follow.

Recent explorations in British Columbia have disclosed a lake fifty miles in length, never before seen. It will be added to the map under the name of Lake Morice. Several new passes through the Rockies have also been discovered.

As the first step towards releasing the British garrisons at Halifax and Esquimalt, two companies from the military school at Fredericton will be sent to Halifax this month.

A new constitution for the Transvaal provides for a representative assembly, in the election of which the franchise is to be given to every burgher of the late South African Republic, as well as to certain white inhabitants of British birth. This does not amount to full self-government as yet, for the assembly will not have full control of the revenue.

The plague situation in India is becoming worse and worse every year. There have been over a hundred thousand deaths from this cause within the past three months. The terrible scourge has now made its appearance in Chile, where the port of Pisagua has lost almost all its inhabitants from its ravages.

The past month was marked by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in many parts of the world. In India, within an area of seven hundred square miles, every building collapsed or was rendered uninhabitable, and fifteen thousand people were killed.

From his investigation of the records of Arctic explorers, a Swedish authority is led to believe that scurvy is due less to the lack of vegetables than to the use of preserved animal food in which the poison has developed. Explorers and Esquimaux have lived for long periods on fresh meat, retaining perfect health.

The egg of a moa was recently found embedded in the earth in a mining district in New Zealand. It is the second perfect one ever found.

The inconstancy of the power supplied by windmills has caused them to be little used in comparison with other sources of power. The improvements in storage batteries and the cheapening of their cost will, however, overcome this difficulty; and windmills will do a larger share of the work of the future.

A rather funny fight in favor of the use of the Irish language has been going on in Dublin. Two or three hundred persons in one day presented parcels at the post-office addressed in Irish. It is proposed to establish a "language week," during which time all the efforts of the Gaelic League will be directed to filling up the mails with letters addressed in Irish.

Emperor Nicholas has proclaimed religious liberty in Russia, and has remitted the heavy arrears of taxes of the peasantry.