

SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

FOR ATLANTIC PROVINCES OF CANADA

Session of 1914 at Charlottetown, P. E. Island, July 7th to 29th

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CURRENT EVENTS.

The Panama Canal is actually open for business, though the formal opening will not take place until the beginning of next year.

Nothing has yet been heard of the Karluk, the principal ship of Stefansson's expedition, which disappeared last October, being carried off by an ice floe while the leader and some of his assistants were on shore. It is feared that she may never be heard from again.

Sir William Willcocks, the eminent British engineer who built the Assouan dam in Egypt and has more recently been engaged in a similar work in Mesopotamia, has been invited to visit the United States and discuss the flood problems on the Mississippi. His advice is that they should build their dams bigger. The Babylonians, he says, never built a dyke less than a hundred feet wide. He has also given advice in respect to drainage for the prevention of the diseases carried by mosquitoes. At Khartum, in the Nile valley, were found the worst and most malignant mosquitoes, yet the drainage there is so perfect now that a man is fined twelve shillings for every mosquito seen on his place.

A new constitution for the Republic of China has been promulgated. It gives the President much greater powers than he possessed under the former constitution, including the sole control of the army and navy. The rebels under White Wolf seem to have been scattered, and the insurrection is virtually suppressed; but another rebellion is threatened under the leadership of Sun Yat Sen, the former provisional president.

The campaign against opium smoking in China has reached such a point that in one city persons under forty years of age if found smoking the drug are to be shot, and those over forty who indulge in the practice will be sentenced to penal servitude.

In England and Scotland, the crimes of the suffragettes are increasing in violence, and they are now openly threatening the life of the King; yet the government refuses to take the movement as a serious matter, and everybody but the suffragettes themselves recognizes that it is a complete failure.

The Home Rule Bill, which reestablishes the Irish Parliament, passed its third and final reading in the British House of Commons on the twenty-fifth of May, and was sent to the House of Lords. The Lords will probably reject it; but under the new Parliament Act it may become

law without their approval, having been passed three times by the same Parliament.

Prince William, the new ruler of Albania, refused to let his minister of war, Essad Pasha, raise an army to put down the Epirote rebellion; and the latter resigned and joined the insurgents. Essad was arrested and banished from the country, but the insurrection continued, and the situation is serious.

Fortunately the REVIEW's estimate of the credibility of latest rumors is seldom so far astray as it was last month in regard to the Mexican news. Salina Cruz and Manzanillo were not attacked by United States forces, and Zapata has not joined Huerta nor accepted his offer of amnesty. Since the first of May the Constitutionalists or northern rebels have taken Tampico. With this port in the hands of the rebels, and the United States still holding Vera Cruz, Huerta has lost his two chief ports on the gulf coast. A third, however, called Puerto Mexico (Mexico Port,) the eastern terminus of the Tehuantepec railway, is still open; and through this he has received two large shipments of arms and ammunition from Europe, which will greatly strengthen his resources. Hostilities between the United States and Mexico are suspended during the mediation conference, which is being held at Niagara Falls, on the Canadian side of the river.

The South American mediators, who hope to find some way of averting the war between Mexico and the United States, began their conference at Niagara Falls on the twenty-sixth of last month. The United States has sent three representatives to the conference, and Mexico three. It is expected that Carranza will also send a representative: Though the doings of the conference are secret, there is reason to believe that a settlement may be reached; and that peace between the two republics and peace between the warring factions in Mexico may be the outcome. The conference itself is a notable event, as it marks the beginning of South American influence in the affairs of North America.

The sinking of the Canadian Pacific steamer Empress of Ireland near Quebec, on the morning of the twenty-ninth of May, by which over a thousand lives were lost, is the worst marine disaster since the loss of the Titanic. She was outward bound, and, having just dropped her pilot at Father Point, was ready to proceed on her voyage, when she was struck by a coal laden vessel, and sank before there was time to launch her boats. Among the lost were many of the leaders of the Salvation Army in Canada, who were on their way to attend a world congress in London.