

below an altitude of 3,700 feet. The most remarkable feature of the country he finds to be the absence of wind. The summer is warm without wind; the winter clear and cold without wind. Though the days of sudden wealth from placer mining are passed, he thinks the prosperity of the country will continue.

Esperanto is the name of a new international language. Invented by a Russian, in 1887, it has of late made rapid advances. It is already used by some 80,000 persons, principally in the Latin countries of Europe; and there are newspapers published in Esperanto in Russia, Austria, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, England and Canada.

Another Arctic explorer, Lieut. Peary, has returned without having succeeded in his proposed dash for the Pole. He has, however, reached a higher latitude than ever before attained in the western hemisphere, and has rounded the northern point of Greenland, in latitude $83^{\circ} 39'$. Robert E. Peary is a lieutenant of engineers in the United States navy, and a former resident of Portland, Me. With five years' leave of absence, he set out on his last expedition in July, 1898, taking with him the steamer "Windward," which Alfred Harmsworth, the London publisher, had presented to him for the purpose. His work is not to be considered a failure, though he did not reach the farthest north yet visited, the Duke of Abruzzi, in 1900, having been 150 miles nearer the Pole.

Capt. Sverdrup, who sailed for the same region in 1898, under the auspices of the Norwegian government, but whose declared aim was to explore Greenland and the islands north of Canada, not to reach the Pole, has also just returned. He has explored the coast of Ellesmereland, and discovered a great island north of the Parry Islands, which is probably the most northern part of our Dominion. He has also discovered deserted Eskimo encampments, which seem to show that at a comparatively recent time there were settlements farther north than any in existence at the present time. The settlements are supposed to have been abandoned because some change in the ice conditions cut off the supply of food.

The new British armored cruiser "Blake" is the fastest war vessel in the world, having made on her trial trip a speed of over twenty-four knots an hour.

Another exploring party is about to start for the Antarctic regions. The leader is William S. Bruce, Director of the Laboratory of Marine Zoology at Edinburgh.

Venezuela protests against the British occupation of Patos, a small and uninhabited island off the Venezuelan coast, which Great Britain has claimed for many years as part of the Trinidad group.

Russia has begun the evacuation of the southern part of Manchuria, and has handed over to the Chinese the control of the railway in that region.

The jealousy between Norway and Sweden which at one time threatened a disruption of the Scandinavian union, is now apparently giving place to a desire for the union of the three Scandinavian kingdoms, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The remarkable series of earthquakes and volcanic disturbances, for which this year will be noted, still continues. Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli, and three volcanoes in Alaska, as well as those in Martinique and St. Vincent, and two or three in Mexico, are or have been in eruption. Terrible earthquakes have occurred in other places, the most recent being in Japan and the Philippines and in Central Asia. By the latter the town of Ak-Su, in eastern Turkestan, was completely destroyed, and Kashgar, the capital of the district, with many of the surrounding villages, badly wrecked, involving the loss of over a thousand lives.

'ROUND TABLE TALKS.

T. H. S.—A stock of goods was insured for \$30,000 for 18 mos. @ $1\frac{1}{2}\%$. At the end of 12 mos. the policy is surrendered. If the short rate for 6 mos. was 65%, what should be the return premium?

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Interest for 18 mos. @ $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum on | |
| \$30,000 = | \$675.00 |
| 65% of \$450.00 = | \$292.50 |
| 65% | = 292.50 |
| | <u>585.00</u> |

| | |
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| Or, insurance for 18 mos. @ $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ for the | \$90.00 |
| time = | \$450.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| For which return premium | |
| would be 80% | = 360.00 |
| | <u>\$90.00</u> |

W. A.—Is the tamarack a deciduous tree?

Watch it during the next few weeks and determine for yourself. This may not be satisfactory to our correspondent if she wants to tell the *fact*, but it will be worth something if she observes and asks the children to observe.

T. M.—What causes the leaves to change color?

Consult the REVIEW for October during the last few years. It may be said here that the leaves change because they have finished the season's work and are ripe. During the process of ripening chemical changes take place and useful material is drawn into the stem or branch. The change in color is not due to frost, but takes place usually when the cold weather sets in. But one may see leaves turning red in midsummer. This shows that the tree has been attacked by insects or that early decay has begun.